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## 49 Fellows and 6 Scholars receive VEF Fellowships and Grants for Cohort 2012

Friday June 15, 2012



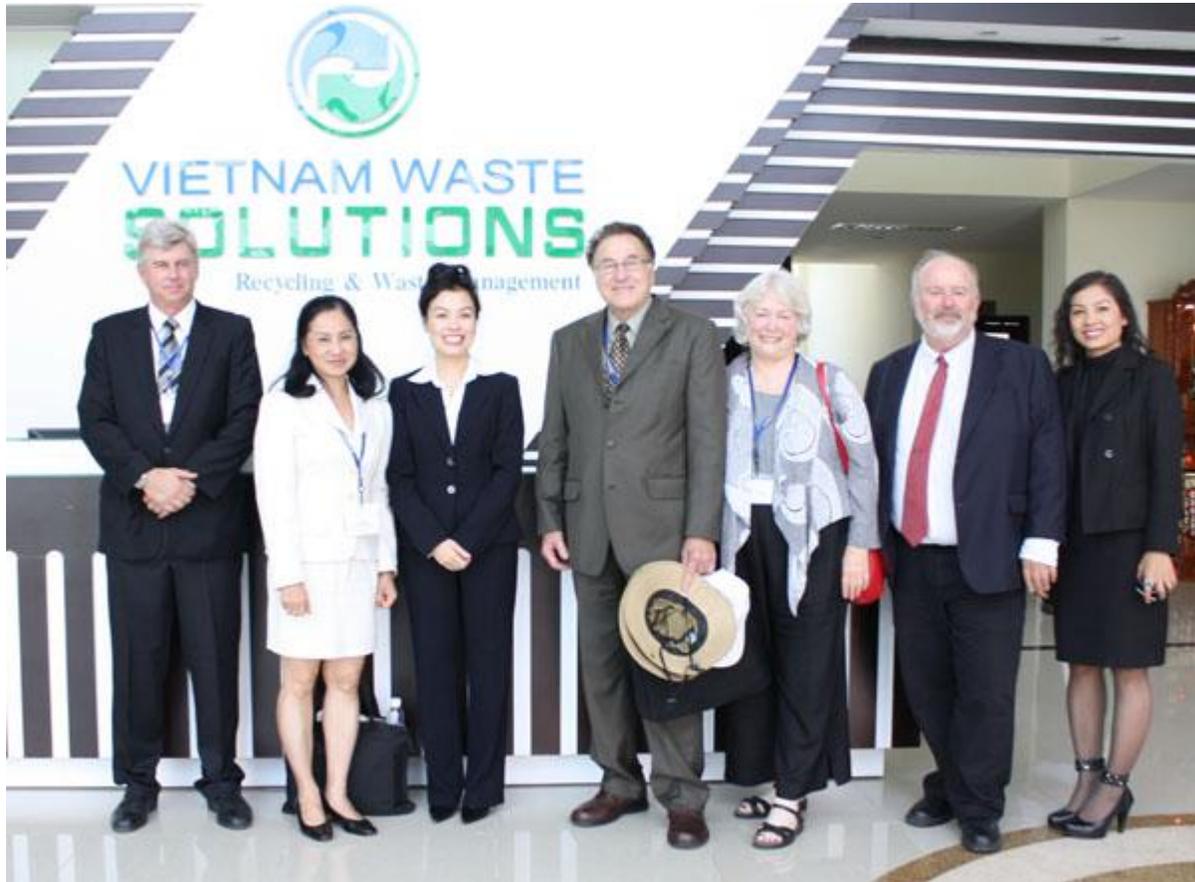
*(TN&MT) – On June 13, 2012, the Management of the Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) together with 49 VEF Fellows and 6 Visiting Scholars visited Da Phuoc Integrated Waste Management Facility – Vietnam Waste Solutions (Binh Chanh District, Ho Chi Minh City) to have an open discussion with press agencies. Da Phuoc Integrated Waste Management Facility is the most modern facility in Vietnam invested by Vietnam Waste Solutions with the capital of 120 million U.S. Dollars.*

VEF announced that 49 new Fellows will begin graduate studies and 6 new Visiting Scholars will undertake professional development programs at 34 leading universities in the United States during the upcoming academic year 2012-2013. The VEF Fellowship Program and the VEF Visiting Scholar Program are two of the outstanding educational programs offered by VEF in its efforts to build the relationship between Vietnam and the United States through educational exchange and capacity building.

Of the 49 new VEF Fellows, 44 will be pursuing doctoral degrees while 5 will be enrolled in master's degree programs at high ranking U.S. universities in various fields of science, technology, and engineering. The fields include biological and biomedical sciences, computer science, epidemiology, food science and technology, forestry, genetics, immunology, plant sciences, statistics, and engineering. The specializations in the field of engineering include aerospace, chemical, civil and environmental, electrical and computer, industrial and systems, materials, and mechanical engineering. With this 10th cohort, VEF has placed a total of 424 Fellows at 84 leading U.S. universities since 2003 when the VEF Fellowship Program began operations.

In addition, this year the 6th cohort of Visiting Scholars will pursue self-designed postdoctoral training programs at leading U.S. universities for up to 12 months, focusing on various fields in science and technology, including biochemistry, computer science, geology, mathematics, mechanical engineering, and molecular biology. With this new cohort, VEF has awarded a total of 38 Visiting Scholar Grants since the Visiting Scholar Program began in 2007.

Dr. Lynne A. McNamara, VEF Executive Director, commented, “We are extremely pleased with this outstanding 2012 cohort of 49 Fellows and 6 Visiting Scholars who will join the ever-growing VEF network of U.S.-educated scientists and engineers, and who will make tremendous contributions to Vietnam. The 2012 cohort succeeded in receiving the VEF Fellowships and Visiting Scholar Grants through a highly competitive selection process based on the candidates’ intellectual and academic merit. Congratulations to the new Fellows and Visiting Scholars and to their families, who have helped them reach this point in beginning a remarkable journey that will help them fulfill their dreams!”



*The Management of VEF and Vietnam Waste Solutions*

To prepare the new Fellows and Visiting Scholars for their transition to the United States, VEF provided a comprehensive Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO) program held this year from June 7-13, 2012, in Da Lat (Lam Dong) and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The extensive PDO included an outdoor experiential learning/team building program that helped strengthen their identity as VEF Fellows and Scholars. The skills and experiences gained from these activities would be useful for upcoming experiences in the United States. Two additional days of lectures and presentations, addressing immigration and visa matters, financial issues, health issues, travel and insurance requirements, cultural adaptation, life in the United States, academic expectations, and maintaining connections to Vietnam helped them prepare for their transition to the United States.

The Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) was established by the U.S. Congress under the Vietnam Education Foundation Act (2000), creating educational exchange activities for Vietnamese nationals to pursue graduate studies and professional development at U.S. universities and for Americans to teach at Vietnamese universities and, thus, building the bilateral relationship between the United States and Vietnam. VEF is governed by a thirteen-member Board of Directors: two U.S. Senators, two U.S. Representatives, three U.S. cabinet members, and six members from the U.S. citizenry appointed by the U.S. President. A Board-appointed American Executive Director oversees VEF operations, conducted through two highly coordinated offices: the U.S. Headquarters in the Washington, D.C., area and the Hanoi Field Office in Vietnam. VEF receives an annual budget of U.S. \$5 million from the U.S. Congress until 2018.