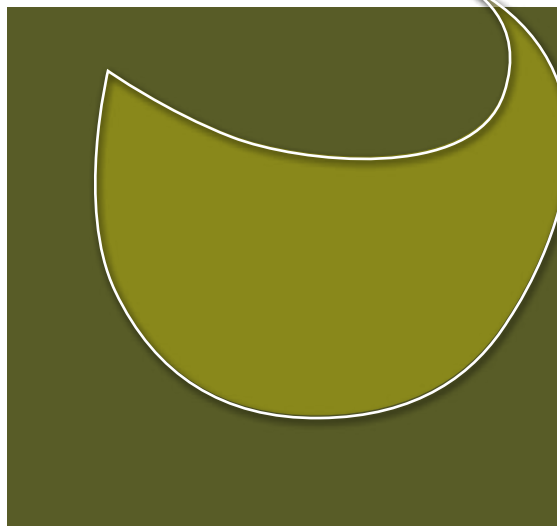
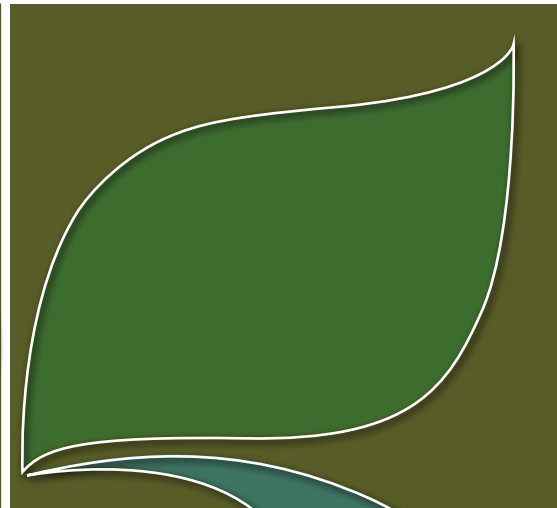


Australia-Vietnam 1973 - 2008





## Message from Ms Bettina Cooke – Counselor (Education)

I have the pleasure to welcome all VGAC members to the new edition of Kookaburra Chatter. It has been three years since my first days in Vietnam and I am glad to see the development of the club during my posting here. I am happy to learn that many alumni are now holding important positions in Vietnam and helping to shape Vietnam's future. AEI Vietnam hopes that the upcoming Australian Alumni Awards will be a prestigious program and a way for VGAC to spread its reputation and promote outstanding Australian alumni who are contributing towards the development of Vietnam. We wish the Australian Alumni Awards a successful event!

2008 marks the 35th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Australia and Vietnam and there have been a series of events to commemorate this anniversary. Significant events for education and training this year include. Australia was delighted to host a visit by Deputy Prime Minister cum Minister of Education and Training, Prof. Nguyen Thien Nhan, AEI organised the Experience Australia Day in Hanoi and HCMC and AEI to-

gether with AusAID launched the 2009 round of the Australian Scholarships Program in Vietnam. Nearly 10,000 Vietnamese students are now studying in Australia and this continues to demonstrate the strong interest of Vietnamese people in pursuing an Australian qualification. They are the future pool of VGAC members that will steer your Club's activities upon their arrival back home. I believe that VGAC has been and will continue to be a bridge that connects people between our two countries.

Over the years, VGAC has proven to be the largest and most active alumni network in Vietnam. There are potential business and cooperative areas that VGAC is able to explore. I encourage the Club's members to contribute as actively as you can to building your steering committee and a stronger than ever representative body.

Above all, AEI Vietnam would like to assure VGAC of our continuing support to the club. Personally, I wish VGAC an exciting year ahead and stronger growth in the future.



## Message from VGAC National Chairman

It was great time for VGAC in 2007-2008. Members received many various benefits, information through VGAC's seminar, networking, charities, and sport activities. With positive feedbacks from members, we keep going more events until mid 2009, as committed. I would like to take this opportunity to thank members, sponsors, especially the Australian Education International for their kind support in VGAC's activities.

In 2008, Viet Nam and Australia celebrate 35th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries. VGAC is delighted to co-organise with Australian Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh city to launch the most prestigious so far attempted by VGAC, The Australia Alumni Award – AAA. The program's objective is honored Vietnamese graduates whose talents and contributions have enriched and benefited our community in various fields such as arts, technology, business and general science. Nomination award opened on July 18th 2008. People from general public of Viet Nam and Australia including alumni, government, education institutions, industry and business are strongly encourage nominating successful Alumni.

I hope that we will discover more successful alumni and recognize valued contributions to the two countries.

Let's wait and see

Last but not the least, we always welcome more new members to join our VGAC committee in order to help our club organizing more activities for our members. If you have time and ambition to join, please contact Ms Cam Van, VGAC national coordinator, Tel: 08 8256561, email [vgac@vnn.vn](mailto:vgac@vnn.vn), for further assistance.

I would like to wish you happiness and success.

Nguyen Phi Dung  
National Chairman

# Committee member of VGAC Ho Chi Minh and Ha Noi chapter



## Nguyen Phi Dung – VGAC National Chairman

Dung studied in Australia in 1992 and graduated from Deakin University – Melbourne in 1997 with a Bachelor Degree in Marketing and Management.

He has been one of the VGAC joiners and founders and very active in various VGAC activities from 2000 until present.

With his enthusiasm for VGAC for its expansion, development, and a vision as a bridge to attract overseas students coming back Vietnam for working and living, Dung undertook as HCM Association President for the period from 2002 to 2005 and caught up with HCM Management Co-workers to establish VGAC activities and he has proved to be a worthy leader of VGAC.

In 2000, Dung set up a new company called SHD Co., Ltd - Training & Recruitment Consultancy and supported many overseas students from Australia and other countries to successfully selected in Management Trainee Program in which the program will train them to be a good manager in the future at foreign companies.

His expectation is together with HCM Management Co-workers to build the VGAC's image as a professional organization with more successful members and strong contribution to Vietnam economic success in the new decade, and his dream/ plan has been gradually realized.



## Nguyen Hong Ha – HCM Chapter Chairwoman

Ha graduated from UniSA - Adelaide in 1996 with a Bachelor degree in Business Management, ADS scholarship

- **1997 – 1998:** Student Services Manager, Bourne Griffiths Australia, based in Vietnam
- **1998 – 2001:** Marketing and Recruitment Manager, IDP Education Australia

- **1999:** Certificate of Compliment for Best Practices, CEO Award
- **1999:** Participated in VGAC Committee
- **2001 – 2003:** Deputy Director, Business Development, AEI Vietnam
- **2003 – 2005:** Director, Operations and Study Abroad, VUS-ETSC
- **2005 – current:** Managing Director, StudyLink International
- **2007 – current:** HCMC Chapter Chairwoman, VGAC



## Bui Minh Thanh – Ha Noi Chapter Chairman

Thanh got Master degree in Education Management from RMIT, Australia in 1997. He then continued his teaching career in Institute of Police, Hanoi. In the years 1999-2006, Thanh hold important positions in some foreign companies such as Human Resource Director. In 2006, he founded MOON Ltd, and worked as CEO for this company. He has joined VGAC since Oct, 2006 as chairman.

## Nguyen Nhu Chuong

Chuong graduated from UTS, Sydney in 1999. He became one of VGAC's CM in 2001 after one year joining in VGAC.

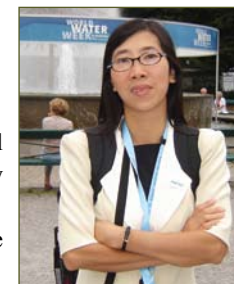
- **1999-2000:** Legal Assistant - Unilever Vietnam
- **2000-2004:** Deputy Director for Public Relations and Project Development
- **7/2004:** Awards from Australian Embassy for significant contributions for AEI
- **7/2004:** Head of Student Recruitment, and promoted to Head of Student Recruitment and Marketing, RMIT Vietnam
- **2007 - current:** Kim Long Construction Pty Ltd as Chairman and Director of business and marketing



## Hoang Thi Thu Huong

Master of Applied Science in Soil and Water (2001), Adelaide University

Lecturer, Institute for Environmental Science and Technology, Hanoi University of Technology (since 2001)  
Join VGAC from 2003, and become committee member since 2006



## Nguyen Thi Huong Thu

Thu graduated from RMIT University in 2006 and joined VGAC since 2003.

- VGAC Coordinator - VGAC, Ho Chi Minh city
- Manager for Public Relations Group - VGAC Ho Chi Minh city
- A member of AUSCHAM and RMIT Alumni Group in Vietnam

## Nguyen Hai Son

Son graduated from Macquarie, Sydney in 2002 with double majors in Finance and Accounting. He returned to Vietnam in 2003, and become CM at VGAC from the beginning.

- 2002-2003: Assistant Presenter, Asia Pacific Research Institute, International Relation Department, Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia.
- 2003-2005: Senior Tax Consultant, Tax & Legal Services, PricewaterhouseCoopers VN Ltd., Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 2005-2007: Relationship Manager, Corporate Banking, HSBC Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.
- 9/2007-12/2007: Compliance & Control Project Manager, HSBC Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.
- 1/2008- current: Business Process Management Manager, Business Transformation, HSBC Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.



# Committee member of VGAC Ho Chi Minh and Ha Noi chapter



## Vu Anh Tuyet

Environmental Engineer,  
University of New South Wales  
(2007)

Program analyst, Bill Clinton  
Fund  
Join VGAC 2007 to enjoy exciting  
and helpful activities of VGAC

## Dang Thien Anh

After having finished her high school in HCMC, Thien Anh enrolled in a short term of English Course at Melbourne, RMIT at the end of 1997 before coming back Vietnam to get the Bachelor of Commercial, majoring in Marketing. She joined VGAC in 2001 and became CM in 2002



After having accumulated enough hands on working experience, Thien Anh decided to expand her professional knowledge by getting a scholarship at Macquarie University to pursue her Master of International Business.

- **2002:** To be the top among graduates at Faculty of Commerce, Van Lang University
- **2002-2003:** Client Service Officer, Venus Communications
- **2003:** Client Service Officer, ACNielsen Vietnam
- **2004-2005:** Executive Secretary to the CEO, Quang Dung Co., Ltd
- **2006:** Master of International Business, Macquarie University International Scholarship. It is a great honor to deliver the speech on behalf of graduates at the Graduation Ceremony on April, 2007
- **07/2007 - current:** BOD's Special Projects Manager, QD.tek

## Tran Anh Quang

- **2003 - 2005:** Master of Commerce (Marketing), Deakin University
- **2006 - 2007:** Research Executive/Project Manager, ACORN Marketing Research Consultants Vietnam. Handled a lot of projects for Toyota, Yamaha, Suzuki, KFC, Microsoft, Nokia...
- **2007 - current:** Freelancer, Marketing Services and consulting (property, FMCGs, Beverages...)



## Tran Thi To Thanh

Economics, University of New South Wales  
CMs of VGAC Hanoi, PR Manager,  
Senior Manager, Research and Consulting Dept, CB Richard Ellis (Vietnam) Co., Ltd

## Vivian Do

Vivian has been in Sydney for 11 years. She graduated from UNSW in 2001, and UTS in 2005. She returned to HCMC in 2006, and become a VGAC member.

- **3/2000 - 7/2000:** University Work Experience, Financial Analysis Publication
- **5/1999 - 2/2001:** Customer Service / Bookkeeper (During



Tertiary Studies), Australian Opal Jewellery

- **12/1999 - 9/2000:** Cashier (During Tertiary Studies), ThaiKee Supermarket
- **10/2000 - 4/ 2006:** Account & Marketing Executive, Direct Flights International (Western Union)
- **6/ 2006 - Current:** Client Services Manager, HR Advisory Services, Navigos Group

## Trinh Huyen Anh

Ms. Trinh Huyen Anh held a Bachelor Degree in 1996, University of Economics, majoring in Banking and Finance. She completed the Master Degree in Business Administration at RMIT, Melbourne, Australia in 2006.



- **7/1996 - 8/1998:** Administrative Officer, Investment & Construction Development Company
- **9/1998-9/2000:** Inventory Controller, Swire Pacific Cold Storage
- **10/2000 - 4/2004:** Assistance to Manager, Nalco Pacific
- **5/2007- 8/2007:** Office Manager, Indochine Counsel
- **8/2007 - current:** HR Manager, Ho Chi Minh Securities Corporation - HSC
- **12/2007 - current:** Relationship Manager, VGAC
- **4/2008 - current:** Associated Lecturer for HR subjects - Training and Consulting Center - ASK, Business Administration Department, University of Economics, Ho Chi Minh City



## Bui Xuan Hung

Business Management, University of Monash  
Vice Chairman of VGAC Hanoi  
Siemens Ltd, Vietnam

## Australian Alumni Award Launch



The University of South Australia is a modern, innovative, vibrant and successful institution committed to educating professionals, creating and applying knowledge, and serving the community. Around 33,000 students contribute to the energetic cultural and intellectual life of our University community. Our diverse student population includes more than

9,000 international students studying on campus and at our offshore locations.

UniSA is internationally recognised for offering professionally relevant and career focused programs. It's the experience student's gain while studying with us that makes the difference.

Incorporating industry experience into your study is one of UniSA's highest priorities and most of our students have the chance to gain extensive practical experience during their studies.

Since 1999, UniSA and members of our academic staff have received four prestigious Australian Awards for University Teaching, national awards in recognition of our distinct teaching and learning initiatives and approaches. Your teachers at UniSA are people who are experts in your field of study and who can provide the support you need to succeed.

Other achievements include being the first Australian university to have both its' on and offshore Business programs accredited by the European Quality Improvement System (EQUIS). UniSA is consistently ranked in the top five Australian universities for research grants won in partnership with industry.

As the capital city of South Australia, Adelaide is the centre of the state's economic, cultural, political and social life. Above all, Adelaide is a welcoming and friendly place in which to live and learn, and there is a comfort and a convenience about Adelaide that is rarely found in larger cities. Adelaide has all the beaches, the restaurants and cafés, the shopping and the nightlife of the eastern capitals with none of the hassles. Adelaide also boasts the largest fresh produce market in the southern hemisphere, where specialty foods from around the world abound. The city is well planned with parklands, bicycle paths, wide streets and good public transport. There is a thriving arts scene, international sporting events and less rain than in any other Australian capital city. Adelaide is also the most affordable city on the Australian mainland, which makes it a great destination for students.

My name is Pham Bao Nguyen Anh. I'm currently working as an Investment Associate at Viet Capital Securities Company (VCSC).

I came back to Vietnam in July 2007 with a Master degree from The University of New South Wales, Australia. Although I did not spend a long time in Australia, I still have a very good impression about this peaceful country and I did not feel regretful about my decision.

I used to work for another securities company before VCSC but just in this workplace I can once again feel the exciting environment that I used to have. Most of the staffs come back from Australia so everyone has an open mind towards problem solving, colleagues are really helpful and knowledgeable, so it's not surprising that you can significantly improve your skills for just a short time.

Overall I feel satisfied with my education and my career path up to this moment.



## Sky's the limit for new pilot

Having grown up with the need for speed, Debra Tran has recently become the first ever female Vietnamese-Australian qualified pilot.

Initially a law student at the University of Adelaide, Debra's passion for adventure was heightened after she met a group of University of South Australia (UniSA) aviation students dressed up in their uniforms.

"But it wasn't only that, I found the instructors at the university's Parafield Aviation Academy really inspiring," Debra said. "I've always loved working on cars and racing motorbikes and the idea of being able to fly myself was really exciting."

So despite initial reservations from Debra's parents she transferred from law to UniSA's Bachelor of Applied Science (Civil Aviation). At the same time Debra also studied Japanese language with the aim of providing herself with a competitive edge upon graduation.

Debra says that the hard work that has gone into gaining her pilots licence has been very rewarding and has thoroughly enjoyed the learning and practical experiences.

"It's really exciting and well worth it," she said.

"The most exciting part was the flying training but the program also combined the practical knowledge with the theory, like basic aerodynamics, aircraft systems, meteorology, navigation, and flight planning.

"The first time flying without an instructor is an amazing feeling."

Three years on, Debra has successfully completed her formal qualification and has a solo license and private pilot's license under her belt.

Debra is one of about 670 Vietnamese students studying in Adelaide and says after exploring the options available to her in regard to learning how to fly, the course in Adelaide rates as one of the best in Australia.

"Many people come from overseas and interstate to study here in Adelaide because the course has such a good reputation," Debra said.

Mark Osborne

Education Adelaide

# The Australian Alumni Awards



Vietnamese Graduates from Australia Club



Australia-Vietnam 1973 - 2008



AUSTRALIAN CONSULATE-GENERAL  
AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT



The Australian Alumni Awards is the first of its kind in Vietnam of the Vietnamese Graduates from Australia Club (VGAC). It is designed to acknowledge the contributions to Vietnam made by thousands of Vietnamese who have studied or are studying at Australian schools, universities and technical colleges.

The Australian Alumni Awards not only promotes the inspiration for talents, dedication, creativity and hard-work, but also reinforces exchange and cooperation in various aspects of the society.

The Australian Alumni Awards is regarded as one of meaningful activities to celebrate the 35th year of diplomatic relations between Vietnam – Australia.

## Award Categories

### 1. Australian Alumni Award for Culture, Arts and Education

This award seeks to recognize outstanding talent, originality and cultural flair in the fields of fine arts, theatrical arts, dance, music, drama, literature, film production, media, writing, editing, publishing and education.

### 2. Australian Alumni Award for Sustainable Social Development

This award seeks to recognize an individual whose actions have contributed to the development of a prosperous, democratic and safe Vietnam. This can include the work of an individual in a professional or volunteer capacity that contributes to democracy, justice and good governance, basic services and/or humanitarian work.

### 3. Australian Alumni Award for Entrepreneurship

This award seeks to recognize innovative and entrepreneurial business people in Viet Nam. This can include new or well established business people who have achieved success in their field of work, in any profession.

### 4. Australian Alumni Award for Research and Science

This award seeks to recognize significant achievement in any field of research and innovation which contributes to current knowledge. This includes all areas of current scientific research and can include contributions to technological advancements we enjoy today.

### 5. Friendship Award

This award seeks to recognize an Australian citizen who has significant contribution to the relationship between Vietnam and Australia and/or to the development of Vietnam in any field. It can be an Australian or Australian-Vietnamese who works in any profession.

## Eligible Nominees

**Categories 1 – 4:** Eligible nominees are Vietnamese citizens who studied or are studying their TAFE, College or Higher Australian education more than six months at the time they are nominated. Nominees do not have to be working in the particular discipline from which they graduated, but it is essential to display an on-going high level of achievement in the award category.

**Category 5:** Eligible nominees are Australian citizens who are working and living in Vietnam at least 12 months at the time they are

nominated. Nominees can be Australian or Australian-Vietnamese who demonstrate an on-going contribution to the relationship between two countries in any field.

## Nominations

Nominations for the awards will open on 19 July 2008. People from the general public in Vietnam and Australia, including alumni, government, education institutions, industry and business are strongly encouraged to nominate successful alumni! An Australian alumnus can nominate himself/herself for an award.

## The award night

On 21 November 2008, VGAC and the Australian Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City will host the Australian Alumni Awards Dinner in Ho Chi Minh City. The ceremony is expected to be colourful and spectacular exhibiting outstanding alumni talents.

Further information about the award and the nomination or to nominate an Australian alumnus will be available soon in VGAC website [www.vgac.net](http://www.vgac.net).

For more information please contact Ms Dang Cam Van, VGAC National Coordinator, Tel: +848 825 6561 or +84 904 165 859, Email: [vgac@vnn.vn](mailto:vgac@vnn.vn).

Interested Australian universities, businesses are encouraged to contact Ms Dang Cam Van at [vgac@vnn.vn](mailto:vgac@vnn.vn) to arrange a sponsorship package.

# Celebrating the 35th Year Diplomatic Relationship between Vietnam and Australia



The official function to celebrate the 35th anniversary of bilateral relations, February 2008



CMs of HCM chapter join the official function to celebrate the 35 anniversary of bilateral relations

On 26<sup>th</sup> February 2008, Australia and Vietnam celebrated their 35th anniversary of diplomatic relations. Bilateral relations were established in 1973, and since this time the relationship has grown from strength to strength. Today this relationship spans across many areas including trade, education, aid development and cooperation, culture and tourism, to name but a few.

The people-to-people links between Australia and Vietnam are especially strong. A great example of this is the number of Vietnamese students choosing to study in Australia. A testament to Australia's reputation as a high quality provider of education is the increasing number of Vietnamese studying in Australia – this year, in excess of 10,000. By living and studying in Australia, these students have the chance to develop personally and professionally and upon their return to Vietnam, have the skills and drive to help Vietnam develop further.

The Australian Embassy in Hanoi and Consulate-General in Ho Chi Minh City have embarked upon an expanded suite of cultural events and activities to celebrate the 35th anniversary of bilateral relations. Unprecedented numbers of Vietnamese people have attended Australian cultural and other events, thus demonstrating the great friendship between our two countries and the bright future which lies ahead.

One of these cultural events was a logo competition which was open to Vietnamese people. Many high quality applications were received from Vietnam and abroad, and the winning image has been used to badge our cultural events this year. A photo competition was also held; open to Australians and Vietnamese, to capture special moments over the last 35 years which demonstrate the friendship between the two nations. A collection of about 60 photos were selected and were exhibited to large crowds in Hanoi and HCMC, as well as several provinces in regional areas.

The Australian Consulate-General has also supported music and drama performances throughout the year, so that Australian culture may be introduced to the Vietnamese people. More recently, in May, the inaugural Australian Food and Wine Exhibition was held as well as the 'Experience Australia' Day, organised by the Australian Education International office in HCMC. Both events were highly successful and continue to generate positive views about Australia.

The bilateral relationship between Australian and Vietnam is broad-based with strong foundations and has the flexibility to develop into even more areas. The Vietnamese graduates who studied in Australian can be especially proud of their contribution to the Australian-Vietnamese relationship.

## Australian Alumni Award Launch

On 18 July 2008, the Australian Alumni Award launched at the Australian Consul-General's Residence. The launch was witnessed by many journalists and reports from major newspapers in Ho Chi Minh City. It was covered in Thanh Nien, Saigon Tiep Thi, Phap Luat, Vietnam Business Forum, Saigon Times Daily and Vietnamnet Bridge. HTV 9 afternoon news also broadcasted the launch on Saturday 19 July 2008.

For more information about the award and nominations please visit VGAC website [www.vgac.net](http://www.vgac.net).



Mr. Mal Skelly – Australian Consul General is making speech before AAA launch



Mr. Nguyen Phi Dung – VGAC nation chairman make welcome speech and thank to AAA's sponsors



Mr. Mel and Mr. Dung is open the cover to introduce the trophy of AAA



Mr. Mal and Mr. Dung hold the trophy



with sponsor: Ms Bettina (AEI) Mr. Quang (Unilever), Mr Chatchawan (Standard Chartered Bank)



Committer members of HCM chapter

## VGAC AIDS TO Da Nang FLOOD VICTIMS



*VGAC representative in front of the altar of Mrs Nguyen Thi Dong who died in the flood and left a 4 month old child.*



*VGAC representatives donated Mr Huynh Ngoc Thinh, an old man, who had lived on his own and fled from the flood by the help of neighbors.*



*VGAC representative donated a family of 2 people: an old mother (Mrs. Tran Thoi) taking care of her mental man.*

From early October to late November 2007, there had been 5 constant floods – the following over the previous one - struck Central Vietnam in general and Danang in particular. Especially, the flood on November 12th and 13th in Danang was considered as the most severe inundation within 43 years since the flood of Dragon year, 1964. In spite of being more or less, affected by the flood, VGAC Danang chapter members also contributed their part of salary or in such various forms as kinds of food, stationery and so on – in the sense of “The luckier assist the less ones.” Like the previous relief to the victims of Xangsane typhoon in Danang last year, this year, VGAC members in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi once again subscribed a sum of 8 million dong to Danang flood victims.

By LE TAN THI  
VGAC Da Nang Chapter

## VGAC AIDS TO HUE FOOD VICTIMS



*VGAC appeal charity for VN centre flood victims at the Australian education exhibition.*

The location chosen for the humanitarian aids funded by HCMC VGAC is Quan Hoa Village, belonging to Quang Thanh commune, Quang Dien district, Thua Thien Hue province. As a new resettlement village, Quan Hoa is located right on the bank of Tam Giang Lagoon. The village consists of 116 households with 520 residents. People here live upon fishing, fish rising, and rice cultivation. Because of its location, Quan Hoa is prone to flooding during the rainy season.

In this 2007, Hue has suffered from four constant floods. But, in the village, there was only one single flood but lasting for more than 1.5 months. The local people had to struggle with the floods during 45 days because water of the previous flood hasn't gone down yet, the next has come. Though there was no human casualty, a lot of production tools (fishing boats, nets, etc.) have been lost or damaged. Having no harvests on fishing and farming production, people have encountered with more and more difficulties.



*Representative of Hue chapter is giving present to food victims*

Based on information collected, HCMC VGAC donated on December 18, 2007 VND 8,500,000 to flood-prone families in Quan Hoa Village, via their clubmates of Hue VGAC Chapter. To the original plan, VND

500,000 would be given to each household. However, it was known that there were more people suffered from the natural disaster and were thirsty for helps, the plan was changed. In spite of 17 households as previous plan, now up to 34 ones could receive aids with each portion was VND 250,000.

After more than one hour traveling by car, we reached Quan Thanh commune. Welcoming us friendly were the representatives of Quang Dien district and Quang Thanh commune leadership. Because of no big road to the village, we walked on a very narrow passage built a bit higher than the Lagoon's water level. Water was still covered everywhere. The sight was desolate and deserted. Waiting us was the village leader who looked forward to lead us to village yard where the residents had gathered there already. After some words to introduce VGAC mission and explain the reason to come here, we started delivering the fund. Each family was called orderly to receive the support and then to sign their name. Because some of them were illiterate, they didn't know how to sign. We had to help them to leave their finger-prints. We received a lot of deep thanks and honest handshakes from the receivers. Looking at their eyes, we found optimism expressing. These thanks, handshakes and happiness, we think all should be sent back to VGAC.

Chairman of Hue VGAC Chapter  
Nguyen Thanh Binh



*Representative of Hue chapter is giving present to food victims*

## Open Tennis Tournament



*Exchanges before the competition*



*The competition*



*Mr. Bill Tweddell awarded medal to the winner*

January 2008, the friendship tennis tournament organized by Vietnamese Graduates from Australia Club took place in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City in a very fantastic and friendly atmosphere. Players in this tournament include former graduates from Australia, who came to enjoy a relaxing weekend and to get around with new people. Supported by lovely weather and excited audience, players produced excellent efforts to demonstrate their maverlous skills and tactics which made the games so fantastic and heartening. The tournament ended in great success with a tightened network founded among Australian alumni.

# SEMINAR “PROFESSIONAL JOB IN INTERNATIONAL WORKING ENVIRONMENT”



4 guest speakers are sharing their experience in working in VN for newly graduated students from Australia Universities

On 12th Jan 2008, Vietnamese graduated from Australia Club (VGAC) co-operated with Son Hung Dung Training and Recruitment Consultancy Company (SHD) to organize “Professional job in international working environment” seminar. Hundreds of Australian alumni were attracted to join this seminar. British American Tobacco Company, Dutch Lady Company and Holcim Company are sponsors for this seminar.



Students approach the recruit company at the seminar

Australian alumni gave a lot of questions to employers in the seminar. “Do we lose opportunities to work oversea when we work in Viet Nam? How about working environment in Viet Nam? Etc” Alexis Pham, 25 year old, Director of Management trainee project in Asia of BAT, graduated from Singapore, repatriated to work for Management trainee project of BAT with great salary. After 2 years, her payment was increased

250%. She affirms that alumni will not lose their skills when they work in for foreign company in Viet Nam.

However, Australian alumni still wonder about opportunity to become official staffs after they finish management trainee program. Ms. Bui Xuan Nhu, HR Resources Manager of Dutch Lady Co said “Employers don’t like Australian alumni leave us after finished our projects. We give advantage policies to help them identify with us”.

Mr. Nguyen Phi Dung, VGAC National Chairman Director of SHD Company said “Local graduates can meet only 40% of the demand for qualified employees. So we have a lot of opportunities for Australian alumni”. Apart from professional working environment, they also stay in touch with their family and friends. Those are the main reasons for decision of coming back Vietnam for job of many alumni “There are many opportunities for Vietnamese in general and alumni in particular in Vietnam, so why not come back to work” according to Ms. Que An – HR Manager of Dutch Lady Viet nam and overseas student graduated from Australia.

“Professional job in international working environment” Seminar will be organized annually to help alumni find suitable jobs in Viet Nam.



The attendees constantly make questions to guest speakers

Now living and working in Viet Nam, the Vietnamese graduates from Australia have never stopped their learning process. Some continue to study at higher degree level, some do research in universities and institutes. Yet most practically our graduates keep updating their knowledge & skills through attending numerous professional workshops for specific interest and such activities have become a significant part of VGAC agenda in 2008.

Initiated & contributed by VGAC own members who are experts in different fields, a number of seminars and workshops were held since 2006, that invited experienced and knowledgeable guest speakers from overseas universities and industries. The workshops and seminars in 2008 reflect growing demand of professionals in catching up and moving ahead of market trends, at the same time really widen horizons of our members in areas they are interested.



On 16 March 2008, StudyLink International – owned and run by one of the members, has delivered a Postgraduate Education Seminar, providing graduates with updated information on furthering education opportunities in advanced countries, together with scholarship information, including US, UK, Australia and Singapore.

Graduates also benefited from updating and discussing market information in the area of real estate and how investment in this area may shift, in a series of workshops held in April 27th 2008, by



Kim Long Real Estate Company, which is owned and run also by one of the VGAC members.

Another beneficial workshop regarding Personal Income Tax and Changes on May 11th 2008 was held at HSC company and presented by Phuoc and Partners. The workshop gives thorough insights into the current personal income tax regulations in 2008 and 2009, informing graduates relevant framework that they can rely on to structure their financial plans.



VGAC looks forward to holding regular seminars on “hot” and beneficial topics, with the support of our network, companies & overseas institutes. We welcome all expressions of interest and contribution of thoughts to roll out more and more quality professional activities as such.

For proposing a seminar/workshop, please contact VGAC Coordinator at 84 8 825 6561 or email [vgac@vnn.vn](mailto:vgac@vnn.vn)

Nguyen Hong Ha - VGAC HCMC Chair

## Online Exchange HR Consultant for Vietnamese overseas students studying in Australia



In order to help Vietnamese overseas students in Australia getting knowledge of Viet Nam's employment market, career opportunity, working environment and working experience before returning home. On 24 November 2007, VGAC HCMC Chapter organised an online exchange about Career Opportunities between five senior HR specialists who are also VGAC members and Vietnamese students studying Australia.

**Mr. Huynh Du An** – CEO - Euro Auto Corp, BMW Authorized Importer

**Ms. Pham Bich Thuy** - Human Resources Development Manager - Asia Commercial Bank (ACB)

**Ms. Huynh Ngoc Anh** - Human Resources Development Director - Empower Securities Cooperation – EPS

**Mr. Nguyen Huu Huy Quang** - Learning & Talent Manager – Unilever Viet Nam



## AusCham gives Vietnamese Youth a Flying Business Start!

In November each year, the Australian Chamber of Commerce (AusCham) awards one young Vietnamese entrepreneur \$5000USD to begin their business dream, as part of the AusCham Young Starters Business Grant initiative.

And they are now calling for applications!

“Today there are so many young Vietnamese, local and Viet Kieu, who have extraordinary ideas and abilities in the business field.” said Leigh Anderson, Executive Manager of AusCham, “This grant is just one way AusCham can help to support these ideas and in turn, the business and community links between Australia and Viet Nam.”

The AusCham Young Starters Business Grant is awarded to a Vietnamese national aged 18 and 30 who has a business dream or idea and needs financial support to make it happen.

The Award ceremony will take place at the AusCham Australian Business Awards, this year held on **8<sup>th</sup> November 2008** in HCMC. Complimentary tickets will be issued to all Young Starter Finalists

### Selection of the recipient of the AusCham Young Starters Business Grant

The AusCham Business Awards Committee will interview a group of finalists from the initial applications taking into account all relevant factors, but with particular regard to the innovation of applicant's ideas, knowledge and understanding of their idea and business field, and the actual or potential link of the idea with Australia. There are no categories for this award.

Finalists will then be judged on their business plans and ability to prove to they can turn their business dream into a business reality.

*For more information on how you can turn your business dream into reality, visit [www.auschamvn.org](http://www.auschamvn.org) or contact AusCham Executive Manager, Ms. Leigh Anderson at [execmanager@auschamvn.org](mailto:execmanager@auschamvn.org).*



*Australian Alumni is talking to attendees at the Australian Education Exhibition's seminar about the chance to be approached the advanced Australian education.*



Sharing experience in studying, living and working in Australia is one of VGAC's meaningful activities.



*Australian Alumni is talking to attendees at the Australian Education Exhibition's seminar about the chance to be approached the advanced Australian education.*



*VGAC members is sharing with students about the general life in Australia before their departure.*

# Australian Scholarship

Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) is responsible for planning and implementing Australia's development cooperation program.

This year Australia is providing AUD 104 million in development assistance to Vietnam. A significant part of the aid program is devoted to providing tertiary scholarship programs to promote sustainable development and excellence in education in the Asia-Pacific region.

In Vietnam, AusAID scholarships focus on post-graduate studies in priority areas such as rural development, governance and health. Since 1992, over 2,500 Vietnamese students have obtained Australian educational qualifications through AusAID-funded scholarship programs. Many scholars are now in senior positions in Vietnamese government, business and society. This includes Deputy Prime Minister Dr Pham Gia Khiem.

Australian Development Scholarships (ADS) is a scholarship program based on equity and merit. AusAID provides 150 ADS scholarships, at a total value of A\$16 million, each year for Vietnamese students to study at post-graduate level in Australia. This represents approximately one fifth of AusAID's annual bilateral aid budget. More than one third of ADS awards are reserved for Priority Public Institutions, which include twelve key government ministries and agencies that are important to furthering the development of Vietnam.

Vietnamese scholars are also well placed to benefit from new, regionally competitive Australian Leadership Awards (ALA) targeting future leaders across government, business and the community. There are two streams of the ALA Program – Scholarships and Fellowships. In 2008, Vietnamese students received 16 ALA Scholarships for postgraduate study and 128 ALA Fellowships for short courses and work placement in Australia.

Realizing the importance role of alumni to further the impact of our scholarship programs, AusAID supports alumni networks to enable alumni to work together on issues of shared concern and to extend the education, research and professional development experience beyond the Australian experience.

Amber Cernovs  
Second Secretary  
Education/Health  
AusAID Hanoi

## Son Dang

Bachelor of Commerce – Accounting  
Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam

### Vietnamese student balances study and fun

“I think I am more employable because I studied at Macquarie, because of its reputation in business and because its graduates have good starting salaries,” says Son Dang.

“My brother and sister are studying at Macquarie too. We did our research and found that Macquarie is the best for business.”

Son and his siblings have moved from Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam and have enjoyed studying at Macquarie, but it is not always easy.

“The program can be tough and challenging at times, but interesting too. Sometimes you have to put the effort in to gain a reward,” says the Bachelor of Commerce – Accounting student.

“I think what I am learning now will be helpful in the future, and the lecturers are friendly.”

Son has also studied overseas in Canada and believes, “studying overseas will give me an advantage when looking for a job back home. People who have studied abroad are sought after because they have been in a professional environment and have strong English skills.”

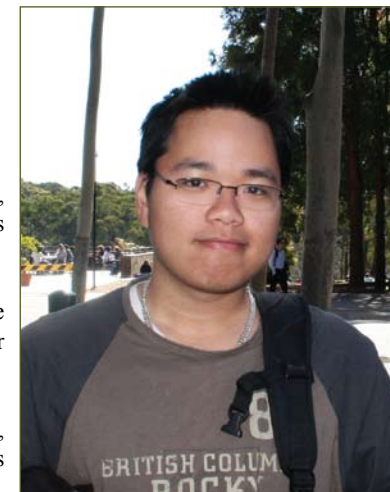
As well as studying, Son feels students should have a balanced lifestyle. “Some students when they come to Australia study all the time and do not meet anyone, it's important to make new friendships with people from around the world.”

“I was very involved in the Vietnamese Association, and then I became President of the Macquarie club, then President of all New South Wales Vietnamese Associations.”

Anyone is welcome to become a member of the club which is free to join and currently has over 150 members. Son and a dedicated team of student members organise sports activities, cruises, barbecues and once a year there is an intervarsity cultural night with Vietnamese food, culture and dance.

“It's nice when you are so far from home to reconnect with your culture and remember where you are from.”

*fatsoncan@yahoo.com - <http://www.vsansw.org>*



## Thank you, Sponsors!

Support comes to us in so many ways, all of which are very important. We would not be able to achieve as much as we have over the events without our sponsors.

VGAC will continue to build our strong nationwide-network of Vietnamese alumni from Australian Universities and colleges through wide range of activities including annual Galas, workshops, social gatherings, and charity programs.

Thank you very much to all our sponsors, your sponsorship is greatly appreciated!



### VGAC – HA NOI CHAPTER

C/o Australian Education International (AEI) - Vietnam  
Australian Embassy  
8 Dao Tan, Ba Dinh, Ha Noi  
Tel: +84 4 831 7755 - Ext: 423  
Fax: +84 4 831 7709  
Email: [vgachanoi@hn.vnn.vn](mailto:vgachanoi@hn.vnn.vn)

### VGAC - HCMC CHAPTER

C/o Australian Education International (AEI) - Vietnam  
Australian Consulate - General  
Ground floor, 5B Ton Duc Thang Dist.1 HCMC  
Tel: 08 825 6561  
Fax: 08 825 6559  
Email: [vgac@vnn.vn](mailto:vgac@vnn.vn)

[www.vgac.net](http://www.vgac.net)