



Vietnam Today

Newsletter of the Australia Vietnam Friendship Society
January – February– March 2013

Annual General meeting Held in Adelaide

The Annual General meeting of the Australia Vietnam Friendship Society held in Adelaide on 22nd November 2012 . At the meeting it was recognised that the society was still in the initial stages of operating as a national organisation. Membership issues along with greater involvement with unions, fundraising to assist with projects in Vietnam and cooperation with other organisations with a Vietnam perspective, were considered to be key issues.

The firm relationship that has been built up over the years with the Vietnam International Students Association (VISA) in South Australia may be a model for the rest of Australia. Retiring president of VISA, Hung Dao, has just completed her masters thesis with distinction and after returning home for Tet, could be returning to Australia in 2013 as a Ph D student. Her environmental study of the Mekong Delta for her master's degree was highly commended. Hung has been planning to establish links with similar Vietnamese student associations in some other capital cities of Australia.

Visit of Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin

The Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange (VAVA), a Hanoi based organisation, is sending a high level delegation to Australia from 3rd to 9th March, headed by the organisation's president and Vietnamese legislator, Nguyen Van Rinh, and their director of external relations, Nguyen Minh Y. The main aim of the Australian visit is to raise awareness of the plight of the millions of victims and survivors of Agent Orange in Vietnam who include new generations of deformed children, as well of the devastation on the environment in the affected parts of Vietnam.

The Sydney based organisation, Agent Orange Justice, organised a very successful art exhibition in August 2012 at the Mori Gallery. Agent Orange Justice seeks justice for all those affected by Agent Orange and has a principal interest in situation of Vietnamese victims.

Now they are calling a meeting for the Monday, 4th March in Sydney where the delegation will be able to update Australians on the Agent Orange situation. A list of organisations, including a number of prominent unions, and individuals have been invited to attend, such as the Vietnamese Victims of Agent Orange Trust from Hobart as well as the Artists for Orphans from Kyneton, Victoria. Such organisations will be able to report on their ongoing work and plans.

Agent Orange Justice Meeting

Date: Monday, 4th March 2013

Time: 6.30 pm sharp (Doors open at 5.30 pm)

Venue: Light Horse Gallery, Addison Road Community Centre,
142 Addison Road, Marrickville