

# UPDATE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE GREATER SEATTLE VIETNAM ASSOCIATION

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## VIETNAM DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER VISITS SEATTLE

A Deputy Prime Minister of Vietnam was in Seattle for four days in early February, and the Greater Seattle Vietnam Association was one of his hosts.

The special guest, Deputy Nguyen Khanh, arrived in Seattle Saturday, February 3, to begin a three-city trip to the United States sponsored by the Ford Foundation and the American Council of Learned Societies.

He was accompanied by six other officials of the government of Vietnam, and the Counselor of the Vietnamese Embassy in Washington, D.C. The main purpose for coming to Seattle was to visit the University of Washington, Boeing and Microsoft.

The other cities on Deputy Khanh's itinerary were Washington, D.C. and Boston. Special attention was placed on educational policy and administration, science and technology, and other aspects of domestic and social affairs. Besides his responsibilities as one of three deputies to the Prime Minister, Mr. Khanh also serves as Chair the National Aids Committee and the National Steering Committee for Prevention and Control of Social Evils.

He was a member of the Constitutional Revision Commission that drafted the current Vietnamese constitution adopted in 1992.

### **The Seattle Trip Was Not All Serious**

One day, Sunday the 4th, was set aside for a lighter diversion. The Deputy had told his planners he wanted a drive around the countryside, stopping for a typical American luncheon, if possible, with a typical American family.

That part of the agenda was assigned to the Greater Seattle Vietnam Association (GSVA). Two officers and two corporate members of GSVA escorted the visitors on a

drive south to Yelm, to call on the family who own and manage a large livestock exporting business on the Nisqually River. It is called Schorno Agri-Business. Owner Larry Schorno had just returned from Vietnam where he and his neighbor and partner T.J. Wilcox have been making plans to ship 1,000 dairy cattle to Moc Chau, west of Hanoi. It is part of a project to increase dairy production extensively in the region.

Four generations of Schornos were on hand, including the patriarch who emigrated to the U.S. from Switzerland as an indentured milker. His son Larry's own children were there and several pint-sized great grandchildren. As the group mingled in the Schorno living room overlooking the river, some of the great grandchildren climbed on and off the Deputy's lap. Before brunch a variety of drinks were served, all of them milk from the local cows -- regular milk, non-fat, 2% fat, chocolate and buttermilk.

The brunch specialties included smoked salmon, waffles and rice.

### **Holstein Cattle on Display**

After the meal, Schorno's son Glenn, manager of the family business, brought two Holstein cows up to the driveway where the limousine and vans awaited. Everyone had a chance to pet the animals before driving back to Seattle.

But they didn't go straight back. The group veered off I-5 for an unscheduled stop at the South Center Mall. After about a hour strolling through the corridors and in and out of a few stores, the party returned to their hotel.

During the drive Deputy Khanh said he was pleased that Haiphong may have an opportunity to be Seattle's Sister City. He said Haiphong will be the most important city in Vietnam.

Haiphong is getting a new one billion dollar port on Dinh Vu Peninsula.  
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## SALE OF WORK BY VIETNAMESE ARTISTS TO BENEFIT TEMPLE

Art works from several Vietnamese artists now living in the United States are on display at the Andrew Chinn Gallery until March 23. The collection in a variety of media represents traditional themes and also messages of personal suffering.

The exhibit also includes a private collection of traditional Vietnamese block prints depicting designs and methods passed down through generations of rural life.

Co-sponsors of the exhibit are Wing Luke Asian Museum, the Seattle Public Library, Co Lam Vietnamese Buddhist Temple and two local Vietnamese newspapers.

Proceeds from sale of the work will benefit the Co Lam Vietnamese Buddhist Temple.

The Andrew Chinn Gallery is at 1032 S. Jackson St., suite 203, six blocks east of the Kingdome in the Asian Plaza Shopping Center. Free parking is provided for gallery visitors.

## LIBRARY PROJECT

The Greater Seattle Vietnam Association has announced it intends to open talks with Haiphong on the possibility of a new joint project for expanding English language resources in the main public library there.

Judith Henchy, a librarian at the University of Washington with long experience of cooperative library projects in Vietnam, will visit Haiphong in April for a provisional assessment of its needs.

Henchy said the GSVVA Culture Committee, which she heads, hopes to discuss with a counterpart committee in Haiphong the prospects for several projects.

One of her interests is to collaborate with appropriate persons about creation of a multi-cultural learning center for children. She would be assisted in the projects by Huong Nguyen, a reference librarian at the Seattle Public Library.

## SPEAKING BUSINESS

Professor Francis Albin got the idea for his book when he was in Vietnam in 1994. Albin happens to be a fluent Vietnamese speaker as well as a professor of Business Administration at Highline College in Des Moines, WA.

He was on a tour with business people and became fascinated by the trouble an interpreter had coping with such expressions as "equity capital."

He decided to produce a pocket-sized dictionary to help take some of the pain out of communicating English business terms in Vietnam.

His new book is "Business Vietnamese," containing more than 850 basic English-Vietnamese business terms, published by Paper Tiger Press, P.O. Box 3903, Kent, WA., 98032-0403. It is available, among other places, at Nam Phuong Bookstore, 1032-B, S. Jackson St., Seattle, WA 98104.

## BANQUET TO WELCOME THE YEAR OF THE RAT

The Greater Seattle Vietnam Association wishes all friends and members a most joyous New Year.

Members and guests celebrated Sunday February 18 at a dinner party at the home of Fred Schoen. About 35 GSVVA members and their friends had a banquet of many Vietnamese specialties, including a green papaya salad created by Tyler DuLam.

President Norma Mohr, welcomed the guests, saying she hated to see the Year of the Pig come to an end. "It was such a wonderful year," she said. "The Year of the Pig brought us all together."

She predicted the Year of the Rat will be even better.

# NEW PROJECT BRINGS NEW DEEP PORT TO HAIPHONG

Reports from Hanoi reveal details of a new one billion dollar project for a state-of-the-art deep water port just outside of Haiphong.

The project in the Red River Delta of northern Vietnam will be executed by a consortium of companies from three countries. They are International Port Engineering and Management (IPEM) of Belgium, the A.I.G., an insurance group from the United States, and Thailand's Asian Infrastructure Development Company.

Details were made public by Belgium Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene, who was in Hanoi in advance of his trip to the Asia-Europe summit in Bangkok March 1 and 2.

The new port will be at Dinh Vu, a peninsula down stream from the old port of Haiphong. The initial phase of the project will be construction of an industrial zone of about

815 acres and a 492-yard quay with a capacity of 1.2 million tons a year.

Terminals are expected to have the capacity to accommodate fully laden 10,000-ton vessels in the early stages of the project. Ultimately they will take 30,000-ton ships, with a total handling capacity of at least 12 million tons a year.

Another Belgian company has also signed an agreement to build a food processing plant in Vietnam's southern Minh Hai Province representing an investment of \$42 million. In addition, the Belgian delegation reportedly signed an agreement with Vietnamese authorities on the avoidance of double taxation.

(Details above were reported by the Reuters news agency in Hanoi.)

## SAVE MARCH 28 FOR GSVA BREAKFAST

The Greater Seattle Vietnam Association has announced details for its March Breakfast program.

Speakers will be John Blacksmith of Bamboo Hardwoods and Al Davignon of R.E.M.

Their topic will be "Creating a Market in Vietnam: Two Case Studies."

The date is Thursday, March 28, 7:30 to 9 a.m. at the Board room of the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce. It's the meeting room behind the escalators.

The address: One Union Square, or 600 University Street.

Price: \$5 for GSVA members, \$7 for non-members.

## CHANGING TIMES

The Viet court signed a treaty with France in 1883 that in effect made Vietnam a French colony. That led to a period of uncertainty in which the Vietnamese were more or less uprooted. Chinese classics were no longer studied because they led to nowhere. Vietnamese was considered a vernacular language, not one of culture, and therefore not worth studying. Only a small group of scholars were able to grasp the French language. Poetry soon reflected feelings of desperation and bitterness, the beginnings of rebellion, and the frantic gaiety of a "tomorrow we shall die" philosophy.

So today I will lose my head!  
 Still I must tell the world a word or two:  
 What's seven feet to a body - that's still too short.  
 What counts is a thousand-year will.  
 My blood has forever spoiled the games of kings,  
 Its red spilled over every dream of nobility.  
 Let him chop it clean, whoever my butcher might be!  
 If he wants pay, I will get it to him later.

untitled poem  
 by Cao Ba Quat

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### Greater Seattle Vietnam Association

A grassroots, non-profit, tax exempt, duly incorporated and registered organization dedicated to helping the people of Seattle create and maintain links with the people of Vietnam.

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