

UPDATE

Bi-monthly Newsletter Reporting on US-Vietnamese Current Events and Culture
Vol. 7 Issue 6 August/September 1997

GSVA Annual Meeting Scheduled

The board of GSVA cordially invites all members and other interested parties to its annual meeting on September 18th. This year we are featuring keynote speaker Robert Van Lccuwan, Executive Director of the World Affairs Council.

Prior to coming to Seattle, Mr. Van Lccuwan spent twenty five years in various parts of the world as a representative of the United Nations. He directed the UN's humanitarian mission in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1996 and served as the chief of mission in Pakistan from 1993 to 1995, in Hong Kong from 1989 to 1993 and deputy representative in Thailand from 1981 to 1984.

During his career, he has directed the UN's humanitarian work with refugees from Vietnam, Cam-

bodia, and Afghanistan. Mr. Van Lccuwan also spent time in Vietnam during the 1960's both as a free lance correspondent and a First Lieutenant in the US Army and has a rich perspective on Vietnam. We're confident you'll greatly enjoy his remarks.

Please note time and venue changes:
Port of Seattle, Pier 69
Second floor atrium.
Thursday, September 18th, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

The evening will also feature a beautiful slide presentation on Vietnam by Beatrice Wolbaum of Vietnam Indochina Tours.

The meeting will be an excellent opportunity to meet with others interested in Vietnam and to learn more about projects in which GSVA is currently involved. There is exciting new information on many fronts.

A light dinner will be served. The event is free of charge. For further information, contact Gary Johnson at 684-4812 or Tyler DuLam at 616-7196. We hope to see you there!

Hanoi Urges Faster Privatization

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet recently issued a directive to speed up the privatization of some state-owned enterprises, according to sources at the Vietnamese ministry of finance. Government agencies were directed to ease the privatization process and persuade citizens to buy shares.

More than 6,300 companies remain in government hands. Only about 10 companies have changed status since a privatization program was launched in 1993. The majority of state-owned enterprises -- SOEs -- have assets worth less than \$1 million.

There are no plans to sell off major companies such as Petroviet-

U.S. Trade Chief Visits Vietnam

Hanoi and Washington took another step forward in their search for economic normalisation with a visit by the Director of the United States Trade and Development Agency (TDA) to Vietnam.

The United States Information Service in Hanoi said in a statement that Joseph Grandmaison's July 14-19 visit illustrated the TDA's wish to become a more ac-

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See Page 3 for details about our Membership Drive.

tive participant in Vietnam.

TDA helps U.S. firms contribute technology and know-how to the development of infrastructure and industrial projects in developing and middle-income countries by funding feasibility studies, orientation visits and other technical assistance.

According to the statement, Mr. Grandmaison intentions were to "discuss with U.S. and Vietnamese business leaders the economic development goals and objectives of the SRV (Socialist Republic of Vietnam) and specific plans to develop projects in infrastructure, transportation and related sectors of strategic importance to Vietnam."

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Norma Mohr Leaves GSVA Board

Past president Norma Mohr has resigned from the GSVA board due to health reasons. Ms. Mohr is a founding member of GSVA and served two terms as president during a critical time in the organization's life. She devoted countless hours working on numerous projects and has really been a mainstay during the past couple of years. Health and humanitarian projects, the Teaching English project, the Seattle/Haiphong Sister City Association, and an upcoming trade mission were all pushed by Ms. Mohr and benefited from her dedication, insight, and perseverance. Norma will be sorely missed by the board. We wish her well and look forward to calling on her for advice and friendship.

Vietnamese Chicken Salad (Ga Xe Phai)

This delicate chicken salad can be eaten on its own as an appetizer, with sticky rice as a main course, or, as the Vietnamese often do, as a side dish to accompany Chicken & Cellophane-Noodle Soup (to be featured in our next issue of Update).

- 2 lbs. Chicken pieces, excess fat removed
- 3 Tbsp. Fresh lime juice
- 3 Tbsp. Fish sauce
- 2 Tbsp. Rice vinegar
- 1 Tbsp. Sugar
- 2-3 "bird" or serrano chili peppers with seeds, finely chopped
- 1 large cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 cup bean sprouts
- 2 cups shredded Chinese cabbage (Napa)
- 2/3 cup Vietnamese coriander or fresh basil or mint leaves, shredded, plus 10 to 12 leaves for garnish
- lettuce leaves
- freshly ground pepper

Poach chicken in lightly salted, simmering water for about 30 minutes, or until juices run clear when flesh is pierced with a skewer.

Remove from the liquid and let cool. Discard skin. Remove the meat from the bones and shred. (There should be about 2 cups.)

In a small, non-aluminum bowl, stir together limejuice, fish sauce, rice vinegar, sugar, chili peppers and garlic. Stir in onion, cover and let steep at room temperature for 30 minutes, or until needed.

Blanch bean sprouts in boiling water for 1 minute. Drain and refresh with cold water. In a large bowl, combine chicken, bean sprouts, cabbage, Vietnamese coriander or basil or mint. Add sauce and toss to mix well. Line a serving platter with lettuce leaves and spoon chicken mixture over lettuce. Grind black pepper over top and garnish with Vietnamese coriander, basil or mint leaves. Serves 6.

Local Agency Provides Vietnamese Adoptions

Adoption Advocates International of Port Angeles provides adoption services for those wishing to adopt orphans from Vietnam. The agency has been working in Vietnam for six years. In Vietnam they work cooperatively with another agency which places two to three hundred children in the US each year.

Most of the children are under one year of age, but there are occasionally older children in need of families. Vietnam requires at least one adoptive parent to travel to Vietnam once paper work is approved and the total trip usually takes two

to three weeks. Most families receive a referral within three months of the time that the dossier of documents reaches Vietnam. Families then travel to Vietnam two to four months after acceptance of the child referred.

There must be twenty years difference between the adoptive parent(s) age and that of the child. There is no upper age limit. Singles, male and female, may adopt. Single males may adopt male children over the age of two years. Childless couples must be open to the placement of a child of either sex. Families with more than five

children will be considered on a case by case basis as will applicants over 55 years of age and those with more than three divorces between the applicants.

Fees are about \$10,000 plus travel costs. The fee for the adoption of a sibling group of any size is \$15,000. Fee reductions for some special needs children may be possible. Congress has also just enacted a \$5,000 tax credit, which can help defray adoption expenses.

For further information, contact AAI at 401 E. Front Street, Port Angeles, WA 98362. Telephone (360) 452-4777 Fax (360) 452-1107.

New Species Discovered In Vietnam

Scientists recently displayed the remains of a previously unknown deer-like animal discovered in the jungles of central Vietnam and said they believed the first live specimens would be found within months.

At a news conference in Hanoi, Pham Mong Giao, one of a team of Vietnamese and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) zoologists, held up skulls of the mammal, named the Truong Son muntjac, and said many could be alive.

"This is a lost world, a place we haven't ventured into in hundreds of years," he said. "We can confirm these animals are living. What we can't say yet is how big the population is."

The animal, whose remains were handed to scientists by forest-dwelling hunters in mountains near the Laotian border, is one of only a handful of designated large mammals to be discovered this century.

It weighs about 30 pounds, about half the size of the common muntjac that inhabits the same area, and has a black coat and very short antlers, about the size of a human thumbnail.

"This is the third new large mammal species scientists have found in Vietnam in recent years," a WWF statement said. "This century less than 10 new large mammal species have been found worldwide."

The region where the Truong Son muntjac was found lies on the slopes of the mountain spine between Vietnam and Laos. It is considered a biodiversity hot spot and has produced some of the most remarkable finds of this century -- all within the last five years.

GSVA Membership Drive

For those members whose membership is past due, we will be sending information regarding your renewal. We urge you to mail renewals in as soon as possible. With the finalization of Sister City status with Haiphong and the other programs with which we are involved, we cannot stress enough the importance of each and every one of our members.

Not only do we rely on you for the financial support that helps create this newsletter, but we also rely on our members to pitch in before meetings to ensure all runs smoothly. Members also contribute with their

ideas at annual meetings and other events. Some even deliver important documents to Haiphong during their own scheduled trips to Vietnam.

Thank you all for an incredibly successful year. We are very proud that our membership has been so supportive. If you have not already done so, this is a great opportunity to join and really make a difference.

Thanks again to all of you. I look forward to seeing everyone at our annual meeting.

Beth Whitman Membership
Coordinator

Privatization from page 1

nam, Vietnam Airlines or Vietnam Post and Telecommunications Corp. The government last year set a goal of having 100 SOEs go public in 1997. So far, only 10 of them are expected to offer public shares.

The new directive calls for the Ministry of Planning and Investment to classify which SOEs that the state will need to retain 100 percent control of and which ones in which the state needs to control only a majority of shares. The list is to be submitted to the government for approval at the end of August, the state-run newspaper Army Daily reported. The prime minister also requested local authorities to submit to the central government a list of SOEs under their control which plan to go public this year and next. The government launched the State Securities Commission late August, but economists say the establishment of a stock market in Vietnam is not likely anytime soon.

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It said he had meetings at the ministries of finance, industry, construction and planning and investment, Electricity of Vietnam, Petrovietnam and the Hanoi People's Committee, primarily to introduce the TDA's programs.

Grandmaison's trip came on the heels of a visit to Vietnam by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in June.

While in Hanoi, Albright signed a bilateral treaty on copyright protection, which was seen as an important step towards a comprehensive trade agreement between the two former foes.

The United States has said that Vietnam must take radical steps to liberalise its trade and investment regimes for a trade agreement to be ratified.

THE GREATER SEATTLE VIETNAM ASSOCIATION



A grassroots, non-profit organization dedicated to helping the people of Seattle create and maintain cultural and business links with the people of Vietnam.

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Gary Johnson, President
Judith Henchy, Secretary

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Khan Tran, Treasurer

UPDATE EDITOR
Michael L. Kunz

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GREATER SEATTLE VIETNAM ASSOC.

P.O. BOX 23282

SEATTLE, WA 98102

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Gary Johnson
1506 North 40th
Seattle, WA 98103

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