

Hanoi, March 25, 2006

**To: Mr. Kien Pham
Executive Director
Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF)**

Dear Mr. Kien Pham,

At your request, we had a meeting with Dr. Lynne McNamara, Director of Programs of the Vietnam Education Foundation on February 27, 2006. At the meeting, Dr. McNamara reported that in order to create favorable conditions for VEF Fellows to return to Vietnam upon completion of their studies, VEF decided to sponsor a Quality Assessment Initiative project for Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, and Physics at selected universities in Vietnam. Dr. McNamara requested the opinion of the Ministry of Education and Training on this project.

As a result of the meeting and after reviewing relevant documents, the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) makes the following remarks:

- MOET supports the project implementation in principle.
- However, in order to have the project's assessment results applied widely and effectively in Vietnam, the project should also consider in-country specific characteristics and concrete situations together with international standard assessment criteria.
- The objects of the study are only University of Natural Sciences, VNU-HCMC; University of Technology, VNU-HCMC; Hanoi University of Technology; and University of Sciences, VNU-Hanoi. These four selected universities are located in either Hanoi or Ho Chi Minh City. However, Vietnam has other large universities such as Hue University, Da Nang University, Thai Nguyen University, Can Tho University. Though these universities have not yet produced VEF Fellows, they are still key universities and their training programs and curricula also need to be evaluated. Therefore, the project should have more universities as objects of the study. In the short term, MOET requests to include Da Nang University, Hue University, Thai Nguyen University, and Can Tho University in this project.
- Currently, the General Department for Educational Testing and Accreditation of MOET is implementing an assessment project on universities in Vietnam. Thus, MOET requests VEF to cooperate closely with the General Department for Educational Testing and Accreditation in implementing the project.

MOET would like to inform the above opinions to VEF, and hopes for a close and effective coordination among the project's participants.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)

Professor, Doctor Tran Van Nhung
Vice Minister of Education and Training

Cc: The General Department for Educational Testing and Accreditation of MOET