

CYCLO EXPRESS

News for UNSW Vietnam alumni

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LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS ALUMNI EVENTS 2006

Two very well attended alumni get-togethers were held in October last year. The formal event in HCMC (our first alumni event organised there) was hosted by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Richard Henry and attended by the Australian Consul General to HCMC, Mr. Mal Skelly. In Hanoi, we had a very relaxed and informal dinner topped off with games and dancing. Some alumni were rather the worse for wear at the end of the evening but this would no doubt only remind them of similar evenings spent in Sydney during their student days.

As this is the first issue for the new year, I would like to wish all our Vietnamese alumni and friends a rather belated but nevertheless very happy and successful year Dinh Hoi. Since the last issue of Cyclo Express, I have seen many of you at the alumni events held in Hanoi and HCMC in October - you will find some pictures in this issue - and I look forward to catching up with more of you at similar events planned for later this year.

The Hanoi Office has notched up its third full year of operations and we are looking forward to continuing our service in Hanoi but also to expanding our presence to include an office in HCMC. This will give us the opportunity to become much more involved with our HCMC alumni and also allow us to further raise the profile of UNSW in HCMC.

I hope you find this issue of Cyclo Express interesting and ask you to send any information or interesting news that you would like to get out to other alumni for inclusion in the next issue.

Wishing you all great success in your careers.

Don Evans UNSW In-Country Manager Vietnam



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THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Below: Alumni seen at events in Hanoi (left) and HCMC.



Training courses

The last six months have seen UNSW secure two large training contracts. One contract with Electricity Vietnam was for forty selected managers to study English for four months (either in Hanoi or HCMC) and then to have two months further training at the UNSW Institute of Languages (UNSWIL) in Sydney. The other contract saw ten weeks English language training delivered in Hanoi to twenty lecturers from the Hanoi and HCMC Universities of Law. This group are currently in Sydney undertaking ten weeks further study at UNSWIL.

MOET-UNSW Scholarships

Recipients of MOET 322 scholarships continue to take up UNSW-MOET scholarships for post-graduate study at UNSW. These scholarships are available to all 322 scholars who have nomi-

nated Australia as their study destination and provide A\$5,000 per year additional living allowance for recipients, evidently making the scholarships very attractive to Vietnamese students.

Faculty of Engineering Articulation Agreement

The UNSW Faculty of Engineering has signed an agreement with the College of Technology, Vietnam National University, Hanoi, whereby students will undertake two years of their undergraduate degree at VNUCOT in Hanoi and then transfer to UNSW in Sydney for the final two years of their programme, receiving a UNSW degree at the end of the four years. The first cohort of students to study under this agreement will commence at VNUCOT in September.

New University Preparation College in Sydney

A group of UNSW alumni have formed a University Preparation College in Sydney (called UPC). April 14th saw the launch of UPC in HCMC, attended by the UNSW In-Country Manager. A large audience heard about UPC from UNSW alumnus Dr. Mai Viet Thuy, the President of the College. The launch was hosted by Dr Luu Tien Hiep, a prominent HCMC UNSW alumnus who will be familiar to many of you. Students completing the UPC course gain direct entry into UNSW Foundation Year and from there can gain direct entry into the UNSW undergraduate degree of their choice - a very effective pathway to UNSW for Vietnamese students.

Postcard from Sydney: Gateway to the world

Hoang Gia Hung is one of many MOET-UNSW scholarship holders undertaking research degrees at UNSW in Sydney. Hung is doing a PhD in Engineering and can be contacted on: hghung@yahoo.com

When I came to Australia four years ago, it is my first time going abroad and I hardly believed that the destination is not just Sydney.

UNSW is one of the largest universities in Australia; it hosts nearly 40,000 students, among them are more than 7,000 from 130 countries all over the world. Thus, I might not be exaggerating to say that you will see a miniaturized world right on UNSW campus. Moreover, living in Sydney, one of the most attractive cities worldwide, provides you with unique experience due to its famous cultural diversity.

What might be the nicest surprise to me is that I am able to travel around the world through my educational and

research work. Academic excellence at UNSW is internationally renowned, thus requirements for research students are at very high level. For example, Ph.D. students in my research group must have quality papers to be published during their study regularly. This, on one hand is very demanding but on the other hand offers you precious chances



to travel to many prestigious international conferences.

Now I am about to finish my study here and my adventure is still going on after that, but UNSW will always be remembered as the gateway to the world for me.

CAMPUS NEWS

AGSM MBA ranked #1

The Australian Graduate School of Management (AGSM) has again been ranked as the leading business school in Australia and among the top 50 business schools in the world in the Financial Times (UK) 2007 ranking of full time MBA programs.

In related news, Professor Chris Adam has recently been appointed Director of the AGSM. He is also the new Associate Dean Postgraduate Programs for the Faculty of Business, incorporating AGSM. Prof. Adam has taught corporate financial strategy, international finance and corporate governance on the AGSM's full-time MBA, MBA (Executive), Hong Kong MBA and executive programs for many years and conducts research on issues in international corporate finance and financial intermediaries. He has graduated eight PhD students in the last nine years.

UNSW Asia to close

The University of New South Wales will close its campus in Singapore, Vice-Chancellor Professor Fred Hilmer announced today. The campus will be closed on 28 June 2007, the end of the current semester.

The decision has been reached after extensive discussions with Singapore's

Economic Development Board and follows lower than anticipated enrolments.

"We have been fully committed to the success of this enterprise, and are disappointed to have to make this decision", Professor Hilmer said. We particularly regret the disruption to students and the consequences for staff. However an intensive review of our operations in Singapore clearly indicates that to continue would involve an unacceptable level of risk to our institution. We are taking the decision to close at the end of the current semester, because to attempt to continue would not be in the best interest of the students," Professor Hilmer said.

UNSW was invited by the Singapore Economic Development Board in 2004 to establish what would have been the first private comprehensive university in Singapore. "The University Council and senior management of the time accepted this invitation in good faith, and after taking extensive expert advice," Professor Hilmer said.

"UNSW Asia was to be the first comprehensive research and teaching institution to be established by an Australian university overseas. This was an initiative with potentially significant benefits to both Singapore and the University. However the lower than anticipated enrolments and current demand have highlighted financial and operational issues that make the operation unsustainable."

"As with any pioneering venture, there

is a fuller appreciation of the risks involved once the venture becomes operational."

"The University's first priority is the welfare of the students currently studying at the University's campus at Tanglin", said Professor Hilmer. "All enrolled students will be offered a place at UNSW's home campus in Sydney, providing scholarships to help with travel and accommodation costs. And we will work with those who are unable to accept a place in Sydney to meet their needs."

Students were informed of the decision today. A team of advisers will work with students on a case-by-case basis to develop the best solution for each student's particular situation.

Discussions with affected staff are also underway, following a general meeting with UNSW Asia staff members.

The UNSW Asia campus currently has 148 enrolled students, with some 100 of these being Singapore residents. The anticipated enrolment for the initial intake in 2007 was 300 students. Second semester enrolments were anticipated at 480 students but it is clear that this target would not be met.

Professor Hilmer said that UNSW looks forward to continuing its cooperative relationships in Singapore and will maintain its presence in Singapore, through activities such as foundation schooling for university entry, research collaborations, University of New South Wales school competitions and joint programmes with Singapore institutions.