

CHEVENING VIETNAM ALUMNI

UPDATE November 2011



Cúc Phương Gathering in Brief Group Updates New Executive Committee



Dear Chevening Vietnam Friends,

It is another great honour for me to write to you all again, and this time it is all about your engagement with the new committee team and other members to take our group to the next level.

Over the last few years, our network has grown and become much more solid thanks to your participation and the support from British Embassy and British Council. Many members simply had great fun and true friendship from being part of the network. Many others have benefited a great deal from business and professional networking within the Alumni. As a group, we have been doing various community works as a way of returning the Chevening privilege.

Yet, a lot could have been done and have been done better, and it is time for a change. Please join me in welcoming the new committee team members who are younger and more ambitious. With your more active engagement and participation, I am certain that the new team will be able to take us much further for the benefit of each and every member of the Alumni.

For those who have lost contact with the Alumni and your fellow friends, it is never too late and I strongly urge you to get in touch with the new committee team. You will be pleasantly surprised to see how friendly and supportive our members are. For me personally, it has been a true reward being part of this special group.

Again, a big thank to you all for the kind support and friendship given to me during the past few years. I look forward to catching up with you in our future activities.

Best regards,

Luu Hoàng Hà

Cúc Phương Gathering (8-9 Oct, 2011)

Despite the heavy rain and traffic, we were so happy to rejoin the Chevening Gathering 2011 in Cúc Phương, arguably the most beautiful national park of Vietnam.

We started with some funny and mind twisting games, through which we learnt interesting facts about one another, competed for creative thinking and team-worked to fulfill challenging tasks.

Reveal yourself and know others- Are you brave enough to write down your own secrets and hang them on the wall for everyone to discover? For courageous gamers like us, some of the truths were still too astonishing. Could you guess which Cheveningers who dated 3 girls at one time and eventually got smashed, who loves reading in rest-room, and who is still... a 'boy'?



How not to break an egg dropped from second floor? To do the trick, each team was given very limited supply of basic materials including papers, straws, and sellotapes. Brutal fact was all creative and complex structures were defeated by a very simple design – an egg wrapped in paper. Simplicity was indeed utmost sophistication, and we learnt the important lesson of balancing our sophisticated desires with ways to make them work.

Mạc Lake discovery, climate change self-education and arts performances - Walking around Mạc Lake and answering quiz about climate change was so relaxing and uniquely Chevening. Out of any expectation, team presentations of the game were made in multiple styles, including poems, songs, body language and hip-hop dances.



Need an Ipad to sing... in jungle? Yes, certainly! In the middle of the national park, a superb karaoke performance was initiated. Our music show was supported by two old speakers, keyboard players, and iPads. By the fire, in the moonlight, we enjoyed local specialities, highland wines, and endless chats among Chevening members, old and young from North to South.

The next day we walked the distance of 6 km to explore Cúc Phương and visit the 1000-year-old Parashorea (cây chò chỉ), regardless of rocky pathway and blood sucking leeches. Fresh air and autumn sunlight were ideal for physical exercises, chatting, and singing among long-time-no-see friends. Following the national park's regulation, we 'brought nothing home but photos and left nothing in the jungle but our footprints'. Another round of applause for Cheveningers from Sài Gòn who flew to Hà Nội to join this event!



Groups Updates

At this gathering, we have reviewed our past activities and made several changes for our future. Notably, the Policy Dialogue Group has become Professional Dialogue Group and expanded in size and scope. The Skills Bank Group has temporarily paused its activities to recruit new members. A new group – Arts and Entertainment Group – has been formed to meet the huge demand in this aspect.



Community Group is headed by **Hoàng Xuân Bắc**, Chevening scholar 2006-2007. This group coordinates community activities of Cheveningers including charity, student mentoring and scholarship and book donation activities...In 2010, major accomplishments of the group included donations to Dong Cam project, sponsorships to Ha Noi's excellent law students, donations to flood victims in the Central region. The group will continue similar projects in 2012.

Other members: Hồ Diệu Vân (Sài Gòn), Phan Thục Anh, Phạm Duy Hưng, Ngô Thùy Quỳnh.

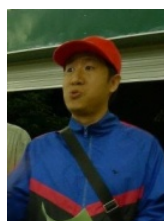
Contact: hoangxuanbac@gmail.com



Outdoor Group coordinates sports activities such as cycling, hiking, diving and rowing... The group is led by **Nguyễn Võ Hưng**, Chevening scholar 1996-1997. Last year, such activities as climbing the mount of Fansipan, cycling to Pù Luông, Ba Bể and Mù Căng Chải have strengthened the sport spirit and the network of Chevening members and friends. A trekking trip to Da Lat is being planned for 2012.

Other members: Ngô Tuấn Dũng, Lê Chí Thành (Sài Gòn).

Contact: nvhungism@yahoo.com



Professional Dialogue Group, which is managed by **Phan Vinh Quang**, Chevening scholar 1997-1998, coordinates activities such as policy information and advocacy, skills and knowledge sharing and professional and career issue discussion in the interests of Cheveningers. Previous activities of the group included coffee, lunch gatherings, informal and formal presentations.

Other members: Nguyễn Đình Cung, Nguyễn Ngọc Anh, Nguyễn Xuân Thành (Sài Gòn).

Contact: quang.starvn@fpt.vn



Communication Group is led by **Ngô Thúy Quỳnh**, Chevening scholar 2005-2006. The group liaises such activities as internal communication, public relations and administration of Chevening Vietnam on Facebook. This year, the group assumes a new task of Alumni engagement to promote networking among more than 300 Chevening members.

Other members: Phạm Tuấn Hồng Hạnh, Lê Ngọc Anh, Nguyễn Đức Hùng.

Contact: ngoquynh@yahoo.com



Arts & Entertainment Group is coordinated by **Nguyễn Hoàng Linh**, Chevening scholar 2005-2006. Pending a detailed action plan, the group aims at hosting Cheveningers' entertainment and arts-related activities.

Other members (to date): Phạm Hoài Đức, Lê Chí Thành (Sài Gòn)

Contact: nguyenhoanglinh@tcvn.gov.vn

New Executive Committee

Proud to be part of Vietnam's Chevening program and the right path Vietnam Chevening alumni are on, eager to nurture a stronger community of our own, we have decided to introduce a new Executive Committee combining younger and experienced Chevening alumni following discussions during the Cúc Phương Gathering.

The Committee consists of five (5) members:

Nguyễn Ngọc Sơn, Chevening scholar 2005-2006, Email: son.nn@vietheart.vn

Hoàng Xuân Bắc, Chevening scholar 2006 – 2007, Email: hoangxuanbac@gmail.com

Lê Quang Phong, Chevening scholar 2007-2008, Email: phongpw@yahoo.com

Lưu Hoàng Hà, Chevening scholar 1998-1999, Email: ha.luu@ldvlawyers.com

Nguyễn Võ Hưng, Chevening scholar 1996-1997, Email: nvhungism@yahoo.com

Son is now assuming the role of Coordinator of the Executive Committee with support from Bac and Phong as Executive members. Hung and Ha with their experience will play the role of mentors and Ha will provide support specifically in external relations. The Executive Committee will work closely with Group leaders to manage all activities of Vietnam Chevening Alumni. The Committee expects to include new members to ensure gender equality and regional and geographical balances.

Tentative action plan of Executive Committee

- (1) Reconnecting with scholars of each Chevening year to strengthen networking among Chevening Vietnam;
- (2) Developing a network of activists to encourage alumni participation in Chevening Vietnam activities;
- (3) Strengthening the Executive Committee and different Groups;
- (4) Facilitating sideline and irregular networking events by alumni of shared interests;
- (5) Improving internal communication;
- (6) Maintaining external relations and public relations, especially relations with donors;
- (7) Organizing 2012 Gathering.

Our sincere thank to Lưu Hoàng Hà for his leadership, passion and efforts for Chevening Vietnam activities over the past few years! We hope to receive his continued support as part of the new executive committee.

Dear Vietnam Chevening Friends,

The Cúc Phương Gathering was really refreshing and exciting, thanks to active participation of our members and the kind support from the British Embassy, the British Council and many other sponsors.

I am a bit nervous when taking the coordinating role for the Chevening Vietnam Alumni, but proud of having the challenge to keep on the momentum developed by Mr. Hà. I do hope to receive support from all of you as well as from other Committee members to be ready for this challenging task.

On behalf of the new Executive Committee, I look forward to staying in touch with you all on a regular basis so that we could together make a stronger and more contributive Vietnam Chevening Alumni.

Best regards,

Nguyễn Ngọc Sơn

Sponsors' Conner

Last but not least, we would like to thank the sponsors for their generous support and contribution to the success of the Gathering.

Platinum Sponsors

The British Embassy



The British Council



Gold Sponsors

Mr. Luu Hoàng Hà
Financial contributor



Mr. Phan Vinh Quang
With Johnnie Walker



Mrs. Trần Thị Hồng Gấm and her husband (Mr. Tân)
With Corn wine from Cao Bằng



Mrs. Phạm Thị Thanh An
With Bitburger beers



Mr. Phạm Hoài Đức
With Dried cuttlefish from Vũng Tàu

