

# CYCLO EXPRESS

News for UNSW Vietnam alumni

Issue 2: April, 2006



## LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS

### UNSW - MOET Scholarships



*Dr Truong Duy Phuc, Head of the Management Board of Project 322, MOET and Professor John Ingleson, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, UNSW, sign the UNSW-MOET scholarship agreement at the October Alumni reception in Hanoi*

**A**t the Hanoi Alumni reception in October last year, UNSW and the Board of Project 322, MOET, signed an agreement for UNSW to provide additional support to MOET scholars under scholarships to be called The UNSW-MOET Scholarships. These scholarships cover partial tuition and an additional living stipend for holders of MOET 322 scholarships wishing to undertake post graduate research degrees in Australia. Three scholars have commenced their degrees in Semester 1, 2006 and several more are expected to follow in Semester 2. These scholarships will be offered for students commencing research degrees up until 2009. More information can be obtained by contacting the UNSW Hanoi Representative Office (see contact details in this newsletter).

### Hanoi Representative Office Website

**T**he UNSW Representative Office now has its own website. Alumni can visit the site to register or change their contact details and can also submit a CV if they are interested in providing consulting services for UNSW project work in Vietnam. Have a look at: [www.unsw.edu.vn](http://www.unsw.edu.vn)

**A** lot has happened since our first issue in August 2005. In this issue you can read the latest news on UNSW Asia, find out what the local office has been doing and get some information on our alumni events planned for HCMC and Hanoi in October - yes, this year will see our first alumni event organized in HCMC. You can also read about one of our alumni, Dr. Luu Tien Hiep who graduated in Engineering in 1967 and then completed a PhD in 1973. Dr Hiep was a member of one of the earliest groups of Vietnamese students to study at UNSW under the Colombo Plan. His profile gives an insight into what it was like to study at UNSW in the 60's. I'm sure younger alumni will be interested in comparing their experience with Dr Hiep's.

I look forward to seeing all of our alumni at the events planned for Hanoi and HCMC in October. If you know of any alumni not registered with this office, please encourage them to do so.

**Don Evans** UNSW In-Country Manager Vietnam



## ON CAMPUS NEWS

### UNSW Asia

**U**NSW Asia, UNSW's new international teaching and research university in Singapore is set to open in semester 1, 2007. Professor Greg Whittred has been appointed President of the new university. Professor Whittred is a Professor of Accounting and has been Dean of the Faculty of Commerce and Economics at UNSW Sydney since 2002. In that time he has expanded relationships with leading business schools in the Asian region and worked closely with the Faculty's extensive network of alumni to strengthen links with industry.

The first UNSW Asia foundation year students are currently studying in Singapore and will commence their undergraduate degrees in 2007. UNSW Asia will offer undergraduate and graduate programs in a range of areas and applications are now open for 2007 entry. Alumni interested in finding more information can contact the UNSW Representative Office in Hanoi or visit [www.unswasia.edu.sg](http://www.unswasia.edu.sg)

### In other related news

**U**NSW has won the education category of the 2006 Trailblazers Awards in recognition of the establishment of UNSW Asia as Singapore's first foreign university. The awards honour Australian enterprises that have achieved a strong presence in overseas markets.

### New VC for UNSW Sydney

**M**r Fred Hilmer AO has been appointed the new Vice-Chancellor and President of UNSW. Mr Hilmer will officially start in the role in June.

UNSW Chancellor Mr David Gonski AO (who is also newly appointed) said that the appointment follows an extensive search and selection process, and has the enthusiastic support of the University Council.

Mr Hilmer will succeed Professor Mark Wainwright AM, who will retire once Mr Hilmer officially takes up his appointment.

**STOP PRESS** - Professor Greg Whittred, President of UNSW Asia will be giving a seminar about UNSW Asia at the Melia Hotel, 44B Ly Thuong Kiet, Hanoi on Tuesday May 16 commencing at 5pm. For further information contact the UNSW Representative Office in Hanoi.

## UNSW ALUMNI PROFILE

Name: Luu Tien Hiep  
Position: Deputy Director, Lotus College, HCMC  
Qualifications: PhD Engineering. 1973



thus coming back to my first interest because I had received a good education from UNSW and saw an efficient education management system at work.

2. What was HCMC like when you left to go to Australia?

*I left Saigon in 1962. It had a quiet, not so bustling appearance. However*

*people could feel political and military turmoil were brewing.*

### UNSW LIFE

3. What were your impressions of UNSW?

*I could have written pages after pages on this topic. Outwardly NSW University of Technology (the old name of UNSW) was not really impressive, there were just a few buildings and there were "huts" (single storey wooden house). The Round House was the most impressive building on the Kensington campus. In terms of buildings, Sydney Uni were far superior. However we took consolation among engineering staff and students that UNSW had better and more dynamic engineering programs.*

*In my 12 years associated with UNSW I saw its vitality and huge development. Sydney City was also developed at the same rate. I think this was the results of the post-war Australian economy.*

*In spartan buildings lay the rich-*

*ness of human and material resources UNSW provided. I had my own locker of glassware to do Chemistry I Lab! In my Chemical Engineering classes there were students from: Thailand, Indonesia, Singapore, Ghana.*

4. What were your favourite places to hang out?

*Of course the Library, then the Roundhouse. Frankly I went to the beaches only a few times a year!*

5. What was your most memorable moment?

*Actually there were two: getting married to my present wife, and waking up almost intact in a hospital in a Gosford Hospital after a car accident in which my small car was written off. Until now I still do not know the cause.*

6. Where were your lectures held?

*At the "Old" Main Building, Heffron Lecture Theatres Block and then mainly at Applied Science Building when it was built.*

7. What good excuses did you have for skipping classes?

*Lecturing style was sleep-inducing or soporific, mainly in the first year when the classes were big.*

8. Are you still in touch with UNSW friends and what are they doing now?

*Only with Vietnamese friends.*

### PROFESSIONAL LIFE

9. How did you land your first job?

*I applied from Sydney to teach at the now HCM University of*

*Technology - HCMC National University. I was accepted immediately maybe because of my education background and qualifications. After nearly a year I was promoted to the position of its Vice-Rector in charge of academic affairs.*

10. How did you spend your first month's salary?

*I can't remember, meaning it was not special.*

11. What is the most positive aspect of your job?

*I have been always in the education: teaching and management. The most rewarding has been trying to applied what I'd learnt or observed from Australia and having seen positive results coming out of it.*

12. When was your last long vacation? Where did you spend it?

*I don't think I have a week-long vacation since my coming back from Australia in 1974. I promise myself to have such long vacations from now on.*

13. Who is your inspiration?

*I don't think I have anyone. However if stretching "who" further, Internet and my command of English are mine.*

14. Where would you like to be in fifteen years from now?

*Sorry, I'll be too old by then. However thinking of a time span of 5-10 years, I'd like to see or better to work in a Vietnamese University which is approaching UNSW in some aspects.*

## LOCAL NEWS AND EVENTS (Cont) UNSW Sydney staff and faculty visits

The end of last year and early 2006 have seen visits from several Sydney staff and faculty to Vietnam. Visitors have included staff from the International Office and faculty members from Engineering, Science, Commerce and Economics and Built Environment. Visits were made to several Vietnamese institutions including Vietnam National University, Hanoi; The Hanoi University of Technology; HCMC University of Technology; HCMC University of Natural Sciences; the International University HCMC and the University of Architecture, Hanoi. These visits have led to the establishment of relationships which are expected to grow and mature over the coming years.

## First UNSW alumni event planned for HCMC

Quite a number of HCMC alumni have asked why there has been no alumni event organized in HCMC. They will be pleased to learn that there will be a cocktail reception for alumni and friends of UNSW in HCMC on October 25th. HCMC alumni are very enthusiastic party-goers and this event is expected to be the first of many alumni events and activities in HCMC.

There will also be a dinner organized for Hanoi alumni on

October 21st. Both these events will be hosted by the Deputy Vice Chancellor (International and Development), Professor John Ingleson. Details and invitations will be sent out in due course.

Last year's event in Hanoi was very well attended. Some photographs of the event have been included in this issue of Cyclo Express.



Alumni and friends of UNSW at the October reception held at the Sofitel Metropole Hotel in Hanoi