



TIEC GAZETTE

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Newsletter of the Texas International Education Consortium

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TIEC News

Vietnam's Expanding Educational Needs Present Opportunities for Texas Universities

TIEC President Dr. Ronald Aqua visited Vietnam in mid-January to explore opportunities in international education for Texas public universities.



TIEC President Dr. Ronald Aqua (seated left) signed a memorandum of understanding with Dr. Thi Chim Lang Nguyen, Vice Rector of Baria-Vungtau University. Also attending were (standing from left): Dr. Luan Duy Nguyen, TIEC Representative in Vietnam; Hon. Michael W. Michalak, U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam; Viet Dzung Ba Tran and Dr. Huong Le Thi Nguyen, both of the Ministry of Education and Training.

"Texas and Vietnam share a definite connection," he said. "One of the largest communities of Vietnamese-Americans is in our state. Vietnam has a strong interest in improving its educational system using the American model—and the United States is becoming increasingly involved in helping the country achieve those goals."

Illustrating this shared interest was Dr. Aqua's first stop, a conference in Hanoi organized by the U.S. Embassy, Vietnam National University, and the Vietnam Ministry of Education and Training. U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam Michael W. Michalak was among the hosts for educators representing universities, government agencies, and non-profit organizations.

Among the topics examined at the conference were improving English language proficiency in Vietnamese higher education, preparing Vietnamese



TIEC signed a memorandum of understanding with Vinashin Maritime and Petroleum Works. In attendance were (from left) Hang Thu Pham of Vinashin; Chairman and CEO Binh Thanh Pham of Vinashin; President Ronald Aqua of TIEC; and Anh Quoc Nguyen of Vinashin.

students for study in the United States, and appropriate international models for new universities in Vietnam.

Following the conference, Dr. Aqua met with Vietnamese educators in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City to discuss potential projects in higher education, as well as opportunities in primary and secondary education.

Noted Dr. Aqua: "People at the Ministry of Education and Training, existing educational institutions, and programs that are still in the planning stages were all interested in hearing about the assistance that TIEC can provide."

Dr. Aqua's meetings yielded two memoranda of understanding to explore opportunities in English language programs, professional training, student and faculty exchanges, and curriculum development. TIEC signed the memoranda with Vinashin Maritime and Petroleum Works in Hanoi and Baria-Vungtau University in Vungtau City.

TIEP News

Ceremony Brings Congratulations and Praise

Students from far regions of the globe—Japan to Saudi Arabia—praise their experience learning English at the Texas Intensive English Program (TIEP).

"My teacher's clear explanation about writing has improved our writing skills," said Kotone Ishikawa of Japan. "I didn't like to read until I got here, but I studied a lot of books. Her class was amazing."

"At TIEP, I learned how to communicate in an academic context," said Nasser Busbait of Saudi Arabia. "A year ago, I didn't know how to write an essay in English. Over the past 12 months I have written many essays, and I am now prepared to write more essays at the university."

Kotone and Nasser were speakers at TIEP's end-of-semester student recognition ceremony in December. Kotone studied at TIEP for one semester and has returned to Japan. Nasser studied at TIEP for three semesters and has begun degree studies at Oregon State University.

Following are additional excerpts from their presentations:

Kotone: "I've been focused on music after high school, so I didn't have any opportunity to study language. This was a great opportunity for me to study abroad."

Nasser: "I also have learned how to communicate orally, becoming more confident and more prepared for the university. Every two weeks at TIEP I gave a speech."

Kotone: "Thank you for my classmates. Most of the students in my class, they've taken a lot of semesters and they taught me things I didn't know, how to use computers and give presentations."

Nasser: "I have had many classmates from many countries in the world. I learned about their customs, religions, and other aspects of their culture. I even tried their food. For example, I have tried food from Brazil, Taiwan, Korea and other countries."

Since 1965 TIEP, a program of the Texas International Education Consortium, has helped more than 30,000 students and professionals from 125 countries achieve academic, professional and personal goals by providing the highest quality English language instruction

Videos of the full presentations by [Kotone Ishikawa](#) and [Nasser Busbait](#) are available for viewing on [YouTube.com](#).



Nasser Busbait of Saudi Arabia studied English in Texas for three semesters at TIEP.