

IC joins US Senators' visit to Vietnam

Launching Bien Hoa Airport Dioxin Clean-up Project



During the visit of Delegation of nine Senators from the US, led by Vice Chairman of the Appropriations Committee (Senator Patrick Leahy), to Vietnam from April 17-21, 2019, IC's representatives were honored to join the three main events, one in Hue city and two in Bien Hoa, Dong Nai.

Unexploded Ordnance/landmines Program

A 70-minute briefing meeting with the US Senators on Unexploded Ordnance/Mine Action program was held in Hue city on April 19, 2019, with the participation of the US Ambassador to Vietnam, Deputy Chairman of Quang Tri Provincial People's Committee, and a range of INGOs, including IC, MAG, Golden West, PTVN, NPA, CRS, Chuck Searcy. Ms. Nguyen Thu Ha, the Mine Action Program Director of IC-VVAF had about 5 min briefing on IC/VVAF activities with focus on supporting the operations at field/provinces and capacity building at national level.

IC direct partner is Vietnam National Mine Action Center (VNMAC), a coordination agency for the mine action implemented all over the country. IC, under the grant of PM/WRA, has supported Vietnam national authorities in general and VNMAC in particular in development of National Mine Action Program/Strategy, development of Quality Management System, the National Mine Action Standards, the national tracking system for PWD/ERW victims, the recent launching of the Decree and later this year the guiding Circular aiming at building a nationwide unified system in management of mine action in Vietnam.

Bien Hoa Airport Dioxin Clean-up Project

A one-hour ceremony for launching an US-funded project on dioxin contamination remediation at Bien Hoa Airport in the southern province of Dong Nai was organized on April 20, 2019 with the participation of US Delegation headed by Senator Patrick Leahy and the Vietnam Delegation headed by Executive Deputy Prime Minister Truong Hoa Binh. Ms. Virginia B. Foote, IC President and Chairperson joined the event. It is worth mentioning that only IC and UNDP's representatives were mentioned in the introduction speech of Ministry of National Defense (MND).

According to the Viet Nam Air Defense-Air Force Service, USAID and other Vietnamese agencies completed their assessment of dioxin contamination in Bien Hoa, where the US troops kept most of the toxic chemicals used in the war in Viet Nam, providing the fact that around 500,000 cubic meters of contaminated soil there needed treatment.

Signing Memorandum of intent for new partnership on disabilities assistance between US and VN



Memorandum of intent for new partnership on disabilities assistance between US and VN signed

On April 20, 2019, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Office of the Standing Board for the National Committee on the Settlement of Post-War Unexploded Ordnance and Toxic Chemical Consequences (Office 701) signed a memorandum of intent that will improve the quality of life for persons with disabilities in seven targeted Vietnamese provinces of Quang Tri, Thua Thien Hue, Quang Nam, Binh Dinh, Dong Nai, Binh Phuoc, and Tay Ninh. About 200 participants from US, VN including people with disabilities joined the event. Ms. Virginia B. Foote, IC President and Chairperson and Ms. Nguyen Thi Mai Hien, the USAID funded Disability Project Director of IC-VVAF attended this signing ceremony followed by an official welcome lunch. As one of the implementing partners of USAID's Disability program, IC was active in supporting organizing the event including arrangement of simultaneous interpretation with equipment, and photos exhibition. IC also was selected to support taking care of one Senator team during luncheon.

Recognizing the importance and huge impact of assistive devices (AD) on human life especially in the life of persons with disabilities (PWDs), in 2015 USAID signed a cooperative agreement with IC with the funding of \$ 512,795 to implement the 2-year project from 20 July 2015 to September 2017 with the aim to improve persons with disabilities' access to quality assistive devices in the three provinces of Thua Thien Hue, Quang Nam and Binh Dinh in which 500 PWDs expected to receive ADs from the project. In September 2016, USAID has provided more \$ 2,500,000 to IC to extend the project till September 2020 with more 2,500 PWDs receiving ADs. In May 6th, 2019, USAID has given the 2nd extension to IC's Disability Project with the additional funding of \$4,9 million in order to support more 4,000 PWDs with ADs till September 2022. Besides that, USAID expects IC to support strengthening the rehabilitation service system of Vietnam through capacity building for human resource at national and sub-national levels, policy advocacy and information sharing.

As of March 31, 2019, 2,835 people with mobility impairments had received ADs after need assessment, prescription and fitting. Of which 471 received wheelchairs, 862 received prosthetic and orthotics devices and 1,502 received other walking aids under the IC-VVAF's Disability Program.

Learn more about IC's work on this issue by watching [this documentary](#).

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