

# THE FIRST MEETING OF MINE ACTION PARTNERSHIP GROUP (MAPG)

Ha Noi, March 15<sup>th</sup> 2017

## 1 MAPG holds first meeting



**PANO - The Mine Action Partnership Group (MAPG) convened its first meeting on March 15 in Hanoi under the co-chair of Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment Nguyen The Phuong and US Ambassador to Vietnam Ted Osius.**

Participants at the meeting came from various ministries, sectors, and localities of Vietnam and organizations both at home and overseas. After listening to reports from the Ministry of Planning and Investment and the Vietnam Mine Action Center on the organization and operation of the MAPG as well as the activities of the National Mine Action Program (known as Program 504), delegates discussed and raised a number of practical issues relating to the group itself and to bomb and mine clearance activities.



*Deputy Minister Nguyen The Phuong opening the meeting. Photo: Huu Duong*

According to Deputy Minister Nguyen The Phuong, Program 504 has helped Vietnam improve its institutional capacity and human resources, develop advanced technology for UXO decontamination activities and expand international cooperation in dealing with the aftermath of post-war unexploded ordinance (UXO).

US Ambassador Ted Osius confirmed that the United States is willing to share experience with Vietnam, and ready to learn from Vietnam's experience and share it to the rest of the world.



*US Ambassador Ted Osius addressing the event. Photo: Huu Duong*

Representatives from the Canadian Embassy raised an issue that captured attention of a large number of participants: care for UXO victims. The representative from the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs agreed with the Canadian opinion and stressed that attention should be paid to the care for UXO victims as equally as to other mine action contents such as methods of UXO detection and clearance.

Opinion-raisers also discussed the issues of education and dissemination of UXO dangers, gender impacts on the implementation of the mine action program, management of the MAPG, coordination among authorized agencies involved in UXO clearance in Vietnam, and more.



*Delegates listening to reports at the meeting. Photo: Huu Duong*

Concluding the meeting, Deputy Minister Nguyen The Phuong affirmed that the MAPG is an open forum for interested partners to join and share experience in UXO clearance and to support Vietnam's efforts in this field. He said that in the coming time, the group would work on a number of contents, including the proposal for a Government's decree on the management and implementation of UXO consequence mitigation activities; issuance of regulations for the operation of the group; building of a UXO database; strengthening of information sharing; and building of an action plan for the period from now to 2020.



*Delegates in a joint photo at the event. Photo: Huu Duong*

The MAPG made its debut in October 2016 as an initiative of the Vietnamese Government with an aim to exchange information on UXO, build trust and mutual understanding among partners with common concern, and improve transparency and coordination of resources so as to best facilitate the implementation of Program 504.

**REPORTED BY HUU DUONG**

<http://en.qdnd.vn/foreign-affairs/multilateral-relations/mapg-holds-first-meeting-479073>

## **2 US and Vietnam co-operate to reduce impact of unexplored ordnance**

**dti**news  
DANTRI INTERNATIONAL

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US Ambassador, Ted Osius, and Vice Minister of Planning and Investment, Nguyen The Phuong on Wednesday co-chaired the First Annual Donor Forum of the Mine Action Partnership Group (MAPG), a gathering of Vietnamese mine action agencies and

international stakeholders dedicated to making Vietnam safe from the impact of explosive remnants of war.



*US Ambassador to Vietnam, Ted Osius speaks at the first gathering of Mine Action Partnership Group in Hanoi on March 15*

Addressing the gathering, Osius said the goal is to make Vietnam impact free and allow its citizens, its children, to walk the earth in safety and free from fear.”

At the direction of PM Nguyen Xuan Phuc, the MAPG was established to create an open dialogue between Vietnam and international partners on strategies, policies, and measures related to Vietnam’s Mine Action Programme (Programme 504). Each year, a member of the donor community will co-chair the form with Vietnam. As a long-standing partner in mine action, the US, represented by Ambassador Osius, was named co-chair for this first working year.

At yesterday’s donor forum, participants discussed the MAPG’s organisational structure and the 2017 work plan. Also, the co-chairs encouraged international stakeholders to continue their active role in reducing the impact of unexploded ordnance.

“We have always welcomed partnerships with other donors. With the UK, we have co-funded projects to build national capacity. With Japan, we support clearance efforts in Quang Binh to provide farmers with peace of mind. Ireland and the UK help us build expertise at the Quang Tri Legacy of War Co-ordination Centre. The private sector is teaching farmers how to effectively use land cleared through our projects. We willingly share experiences, such as with the Republic of Korea, who will soon become a major contributor. All of this is to say, the international community can make a difference in Vietnam, in many ways, big or small,” said Osius in his opening remarks.



SOURCE:DTINEWS.VN

<http://www.dtinews.vn/en/news/017004/49965/us-and-vietnam-co-operate-to-reduce-impact-of-unexplored-ordnance.html#>

### 3 Mine action programme helps tackle post-war aftermaths

Vietnam



*Illustrative image (Source: VNA)*

**Hanoi (VNA)** –The National Mine Action Programme for 2010-2025 has helped survivors of war-time bombs and mines return to normal life and raised public awareness of bomb and mine risks, said Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment Nguyen The Phuong.

Phuong made the statement at the first meeting of the Mine Action Partnership Group (MAPG) in Hanoi on March 15.

The National Mine Action Programme for 2010-2025 (also known as Programme 504) aims to minimize the economic and health impacts of bombs, mines and unexploded ordnance

(UXO) in Vietnam.

The programme has helped Vietnam improve its institutional capacity and human resources, develop advanced technology for demining activities and expand international cooperation in healing the aftermaths of post-war bombs and mines, the deputy minister noted.

Speaking on behalf of the MAPG, US Ambassador to Vietnam Ted Osius said Vietnam has worked hard to clear contaminated areas and the US has been Vietnam's partner in this effort since 1993.

The US is willing to share experience with Vietnam in this field, and ready to learn from Vietnam's experience and share it to the world, he added.

Ambassador Stefano Toscano, Director of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) said the establishment of the MAPG marked a milestone in an effort by Vietnam to coordinate with international communities to cope with post-war bomb aftermaths.

The centre, which supports the Vietnamese Government and relevant agencies, hoped to continue receiving supports and donors from partners in the effort.

According to the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, more than 800,000 tonnes of unexploded bombs and mines are buried across 21 percent of the country, mainly in the central provinces of Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Thua Thien-Hue and Quang Ngai.

Wartime bombs and mines have killed about 42,130 people and injured 62,160 others to date.-VNA

**SOURCE:VNA**

<http://en.vietnamplus.vn/mine-action-programme-helps-tackle-postwar-aftermaths/108730.vnp>

## 4 US provides 12 million USD to tackle post-war aftermaths in Vietnam



**The Hanoitimes - US Ambassador to Vietnam Ted Osius and Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment Nguyen The Phuong co-chaired the conference on healing the aftermaths of post-war bombs and mines.**

This is the first meeting of the Mine Action Partnership Group (MAPG) in Hanoi on March

15.

Speaking at the meeting, Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment Nguyen The Phuong said that the National Mine Action Programme for 2010-2025 has helped survivors of war-time bombs and mines return to normal life and raised public awareness of bomb and mine risks.



*US Ambassador to Vietnam Ted Osius speaks at the meeting.*

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The programme has helped Vietnam improve its institutional capacity and human resources, develop advanced technology for demining activities and expand international cooperation in healing the aftermaths of post-war bombs and mines, Deputy Minister Phuong noted. According to the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, more than 800,000 tonnes of unexploded bombs and mines are buried across 21 percent of the country, mainly in the central provinces of Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Thua Thien-Hue and Quang Ngai.

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The US is willing to share experience with Vietnam in this field, and ready to learn from Vietnam's experience and share it to the world, the diplomat added.

In 2016, the US funded nearly 12 million USD for Vietnam to tackle post-war aftermaths. According to Ambassador Stefano Toscano, Director of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, the establishment of the MAPG marked a milestone in an effort by Vietnam to coordinate with international communities to cope with post-war bomb aftermaths.

The centre, which supports the Vietnamese Government and relevant agencies, expected to continue receiving supports and donors from partners in the effort.

**SOURCE: LAN HUONG-KINH TED T**

<http://hanoitimes.com.vn/social-affair/2017/03/81E0AFEF/us-provides-12-million-usd-to-tackle-post-war-aftermaths-in-vietnam/othi.vn>

## 5 Mine action programme helps tackle post-war aftermaths



### THE VOICE OF VIETNAM

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**SOURCE:VNA**

<http://english.vov.vn/society/mine-action-programme-helps-tackle-postwar-aftermaths-345574.vov>

## 6 The meeting of mine action partnership



**(LDXH) In the morning of March 15, 2017 in Hanoi, the first meeting of Mine Action Partnership Group (MAPG) was co-organized by the Ministry of Planning and Investment and the Steering Committee of the 504 Program.**

The meeting was co-chaired by US Ambassador, Ted Osius, and Vice Minister of Planning and Investment, Nguyen The Phuong with participation of more than 100 representatives from ministries, agencies, organizations, provinces attended the conference.

Giving speech at the conference, Co-Chair of MAPG group, Deputy Minister of Ministry of Planning & Investment, Mr. Nguyen The Phuong expressed thanks to governments, international development partners, NGOs for sharing their experiences, knowledges, finance and efforts to support Vietnamese Government in implementing the 504 program. At the same time, Phuong highly appreciated the contribution from United States Department in companionship as well as the technical support of the International Center (IC) in this significant event.



*US Ambassador, Ted Osius and Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment Nguyen The Phuong took photo with attendees.*

Since the end of the war, Vietnamese Government and local authorities have made efforts to overcome the consequences of landmine / UXO in order to contribute for the development of social-economic and to ensure safety for the people. Beside the efforts of Vietnamese Government, mine action have been supported of many countries, international development partners, INGOs. However, due to limited resources, the implementation has not been doing properly and the information system did not meet the requirements.

The establishment of MAPG group is an initiative of Vietnamese Government and international partners to overcome this situation and to meet the requirements of international integration as well as the new trend of development cooperation. MAPG group is an open forum for stakeholders to exchange and update information, to build the trust and common understanding, to increase transparency and accountability to attract and make sure that domestic and international resources are used effectively and actively. Contributing to the efforts of Vietnamese Government in the success of 504 Program.





*1<sup>st</sup> meeting of Mine Action Partnership Group (MAPG)*

H.E. Mr. Ted Osius, Ambassador of the United States in Vietnam said, during the past 40 years, Vietnam has worked hard to clear contaminated areas. Since 1993, The United States has been Vietnam's partner, contributing close to one hundred million dollars. Even in a country as heavily impacted as Vietnam. Learning from our international experience, from the lessons we have learned in Quang Tri, that it is possible to make Vietnam impact free. However, it take a long time as well as the efforts from all parties to specify and clear mines, explosive remnants as well as educate local people about the dangers that are stalking every day.

During the past time, the U.S. together with the Government of the UK, Japan, Ireland and so on have collaborated on national capacity building projects; capacity building for Vietnam National Mine Action Center as well as support demining activities in Quang Binh province. The collaboration with international organizations at the conference play an important role to promote peace and prosperity as well as bring a better future for future generations.





*Delegates attending the conference*

Ambassador Stefano Toscano, Director of the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) said : Mine action partnership group in Vietnam is a sustainable initiative, by cooperated between GICHD and Ministry of Planning & Investment, established under Decision no 767/QD-BKHDT issued on June 3, 2016. This marked a milestone in an effort by Vietnam to coordinate with international communities to cope with post-war bomb and mine issue. The partnership will create an enabling environment for open forums with stakeholders on strategies, policies, organizations, plans to mobilizing and coordinating international financial support resources to implementing the program effectively.

At the meeting, delegates also shared and exchanged comments contributing to the MAPG's organisational structure; the report of 2016 implementation program and the oriented activities in 2017.to participants and Ministry of Planning & Investment as well as Vietnam National Mine Action Center (VNMAC)

Hà Giang

<http://laodongxahoi.net/hoi-nghi-doi-tac-ve-khac-phuc-hau-qua-bom-min-1306062.html>