On behalf of the Vietnam Oregon Initiative, it is our honor to announce and affirm the commitment of our state through a proposed 2020 agenda to build on multi-sector partnerships that strengthen mutually beneficial trade, education and security relations. Through the State Partnership Program of the National Guard (which will celebrate 10 years in 2022), import and export exchange through state agencies and the Port of Portland and training and educational programs advanced by Portland State University—Oregon and Vietnam have built a broad network of partners and beneficiaries. In 2019 several successful exchanges occurred that inform strategic activities for the 2020 agenda as follows:

- (April 2019) Nguy Thi Khanh, Goldman Environmental Prize Winner met with Governor Brown to launch a shared climate agenda to advance market-based solutions for advancing energy efficiency and reducing emissions modeled from Oregon’s Climate Agenda
- (May 2019) PSU won a competitive contract for USAID Strengthening Provincial Capacity Program 2019-2024 to work with Vietnam institutional partners (National Academy of Public Administration, University of Economics-HCMC and Startup Vietnam Foundation) to advance capacity development services
- (September 2019) Oregon Secretary of State Bev Clarno, State Treasurer Tobias Read, State Auditor Kip Memott and Senator Dembrow hosted Chairman Hai and the National Assembly Budget and Finance Committee delegation
- (October-November 2019) Governor Brown, General Michael Stencel, PSU Provost Susan Jeffords, Dragonberry Founder Amy Nguyen and Nike leadership met with Consulate General Mr. Nguyen Trac Toan and his staff to share strategic opportunities for 2020 and beyond and celebrate 2019 successes including trade agreements which led to sales of over 1 million pounds of blueberries. See further highlights from 2019 in the attached press release.
- (January 18, 2020) an Oregon delegation attended the Consulate General’s Tet Celebration in San Francisco to celebrate opening doors to partnerships. Our Vietnam Oregon Initiative delegation included Port Commissioner and Bambuza Hospitality CEO Katherine Lam, Deputy Director of the Oregon National Guard State Partnership Program Lt. Col Evan Hessell, Oregon Dept. of Agriculture Trade Manager Eric Garmen, Chrissy Eruiza and Matt Martinez.

We look forward to strengthening partnerships between Oregon and Vietnam in 2020 as part of the 25th anniversary of normalized relations between the U.S. and Vietnam.

Julia Babcock  
Portland State University-Vietnam Oregon Initiative  

Melinda Lepore  
Lieutenant Colonel  
Oregon National Guard-State Partnership Program

Katherine Lam  
CEO Bambuza Hospitality and Port of Portland Commissioner

Enclosure:  
2020 Vietnam Oregon Initiative Proposed Agenda  
2019 Press Release; Year in Review
Vietnam Oregon Initiative 2020 Proposed Agenda

**Background** The Vietnam Oregon Initiative was officially launched in 2015 through a Letter of Intent signed by Oregon Governor Brown and the Vietnam Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The 2020 agenda is a reflection and culmination of delegation exchanges between top leaders from Oregon and Vietnam to inform opportunities, priorities and expand cooperation in 2020 as part of the 25th anniversary of U.S.-Vietnam Normalized Relations across partner organizations.

**Security** including Emergency Management, Disaster Response and Cyber Security:
- Expand training and education programs in cyber security between the National Guard, Portland State University, State of Oregon and Vietnam government (Ongoing)
- The State Partnership Program to support Humanitarian Rescue Mission and long-term investment in facilities, equipment and training for disaster response and incident command (June 2020)
- The National Guard Women, Peace and Security Conference led by Lieutenant Colonel Melinda Lepore, Director of the State Partnership Program (August 2020)

**Trade** specifically focused on advancing import/export in agricultural products, renewable energy and green technology
- The Consulate General is hosting buying delegations interested in products manufactured in the U.S. (Spring 2020)
- Oregon Department of Agriculture to send delegation and specialty products to Vietnam’s International Food Expo (November 2020)
- Portland State University to support Fellowship Program to operationalize the Vietnam Oregon Climate Agenda with focus on energy efficiency, alternative energy and green technology in urban planning, design and transportation (Ongoing)

**Education** through a focus on Youth and Cultural exchange to strengthen relationships across all ages and create a bridge for friendship, shared learning and diplomatic relations
- Bryan Nguyen is serving as a Fulbright Scholar to conduct research on campus sustainability at Danang University of Education (January 2020)
- Build on language and education programs in Oregon to assess opportunities for formalizing family and youth cultural exchange programs (ongoing)

**Human Resource Capacity** to transfer knowledge and best practice in professional development and educational exchange programs to support institutional growth and capacity building services
- Develop training programs and curriculum through the USAID Strengthening Provincial Capacity program led by Dr. Marcus Ingle and Julia Babcock, Hatfield School of Government-PSU (2019-2024)
  - The first annual Learning Summit with the National Academy of Public Administration, UEH and the Start-Up Vietnam Foundation (May 2020)
  - The University of Economics-Ho Chi Minh City (UEH) is sending a delegation to Oregon to learn about capacity development services as part of the USAID Strengthening Provincial Capacity Program (August 2020)
- The Vietnam Zero Waste Alliance supports multiple partner activities including waste reduction strategies, audits, workshops and trainings annually through Pacific Environment under Nicole Portley, based in Portland (Ongoing)
Further, as opportunities arise in delegation exchanges; the VOI agenda will work to align with the 2020 U.S. Embassies themes around the 25th anniversary of normalized relations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January</th>
<th>July</th>
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<tr>
<td>Celebrate Cultural Ties/Tet</td>
<td>Promote Regional Peace and Stability</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>August</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foster Sustainable Development</td>
<td>Encourage Travel and Tourism</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>September</td>
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<td>Highlight Humanitarian Missions</td>
<td>Promote U.S. Agricultural Products</td>
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<td>April</td>
<td>October</td>
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<td>Protect the Environment Together</td>
<td>Promote Civil Society</td>
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<td>May</td>
<td>November</td>
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<td>Promote Continued Reconciliation</td>
<td>Advance Alliances in Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>December</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deepen Trade and Commercial Ties</td>
<td>Improve Public Health</td>
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Press Release – Vietnam Oregon Initiative
PSU College of Urban and Public Affairs (December 2019)

An Oregon delegation made history as the first Americans to witness the legislative process inside Vietnam’s National Assembly Hall Chamber. Across from the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, where millions travel to see the President of Vietnam in his final resting place, our delegation was awakened to new opportunities for U.S.-Vietnam relations. As part of the historic meeting, Oregon guests debriefed with Chairman Hai, Chair of the National Assembly Budget and Finance Committee and Members about their recent visit to Oregon and Washington D.C. on meetings focused on budgeting, auditing and finance with Secretary of State Bev Clarno (pictured below), Senator Michael Dembrow and State Treasurer Tobias Read.

In Vietnam’s comparative analysis of policies that support decentralization of Provinces (the equivalent of states in the U.S.) they are cautious not to fall into the same deficit traps (currently the U.S. is carrying a federal deficit over $1 trillion dollars). Chairman Hai also reflected on troubling policies in the U.S. that their delegation saw as eroding social cohesion including...
lack of gun control and challenging child welfare issues as cautionary tales to inform their thinking on extremes to avoid. At the end of the debriefing session, parties agreed to continue working together, through open dialogue and trainings that can support policies that strengthen federal-state, central-provincial government relations.

The opportunity to engage at the national level of Vietnam’s government arose after decades of cross-sector exchanges (from Portland State University, Nike, Intel and the National Guard) and formalized in 2015 when Governor Brown signed the Letter of Intent with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam to encourage and foster people-to-people exchanges focused on security, trade, and education. In 2020, Vietnam and the U.S. will commemorate the 25th anniversary of normalized relations bringing Oregon partners together to develop an agenda with Consulate General Trac Toan who visited Oregon with his staff in late October 2019.

(Pictured at the World Trade Center in Portland on November 1, 2019 from left to right: Major General Michael Stencel, Nguyen Thi Ngoc Dung-Head of Office of Science and Technology, State Partnership Program Director-Lieutenant Colonel Melinda Lepore, Consulate General Nguyen Trac Toan, Governor Brown, Chief Trade Consul-Thang Tran, Vietnam Oregon Initiative Oregon Business Commissioner Katherine Lam, Portland State University, Dragonberry and Nike representatives October 30-November 1, 2019).

Background of the Vietnam Oregon Initiative; Timeline and Key Accomplishments:

- 2003-ongoing; Dr. Marcus Ingle brought Portland State University faculty delegations to develop service-learning programs at the Center for Educational Excellence at the Ho Chi Minh University of Science.
- 2005-ongoing Dr. Marcus Ingle codeveloped leadership and service learning programs with government officials and universities across Vietnam. Notably Ford Family Foundation sponsored leadership trainings for the Ho Chi Minh Academy—the premier training institution for communist party officials. Ministry of Construction, Ministry of Planning and Investment and other central government institutions have since formed active training programs with Portland State University and State of Oregon partners.
- 2009-2012 The Intel Vietnam Scholars Program sponsored 73 students to study engineering at Portland State’s Maseeh College of Engineering. Notably, the Intel Corporation was recognized by the Secretary of State in 2012 with the Award for Corporate Excellence including its educational programs in Vietnam.
- 2010-2012, Portland State University partnered with UNHabitat to support the creation and adoption of the first Provincial Development Strategy in Vietnam to demonstrate how comprehensive land use planning could attract investment and guide development to more efficiently utilize resources. Since that time, PSU signed an MOU with Quang Nam Province and hosted delegations and fellows to share lessons in green growth, human resource development and forest management (as part of the USFS Green Animates program). In 2012, PSU hosted a UNHabitat delegation from Quang Nam Province including then Vice-Chairman Hai of the People’s Committee and Chairman Giang of Hoi An as part of the EcoDistricts Summit to share the sustainable development work being undertaken together.
- In 2012, the State Partnership Program was launched through Oregon’s National Guard as a military-to-military exchange in support of emergency response, humanitarian aid and cyber and environmental security.
In 2015, PSU worked with the State of Oregon and the U.S. Embassy to launch the Vietnam Oregon Initiative through a Letter of Intent Governor Kate Brown signed in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2015. Under the VOI umbrella, partnerships exist across multiple sectors from security.

In 2019, the Vietnam Oregon Initiative launched a shared Climate Agenda based on Oregon’s Climate Agenda and hosted the National Assembly Budget and Finance Committee and Consulate General delegations.

2019-2024, the Hatfield School of Government was awarded a USAID Contract to work on the Strengthening Provinical Capacity Program as a subcontractor to Chemonics.

In 2020, the Vietnam Oregon Initiative will commemorate the 25th anniversary of normalized relations with multi-sector partner organizations.

For more information visit: https://www.pdx.edu/vietnam-oregon-initiative/about-us

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