

VEF seeks candidates for fellowship programs in U.S.

By Binh Nguyen - The Saigon Times Daily

HCMC - U.S. scientists and professors have been in Vietnam for almost 10 days to interview and select candidates for the 2012 Fellowship Program in the U.S., organized by the Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF).

The VEF, which is an initiative of the U.S. Congress, said up to 45 new fellows would be selected from 76 qualified finalists that the U.S. scientists and professors had interviewed before they complete their Vietnam visit on Friday as planned for this oral exams as well as presentations at Vietnamese universities and institutes.

Lynne A. McNamara, executive director of the VEF, told reporters in HCMC that the new fellows would begin graduate programs in the fields of sciences, engineering, mathematics, medicine and technology at top research universities and institutions in the U.S. in autumn next year.

Over the past years, the VEF Fellowship Program has placed 385 Vietnamese fellows at 82 top U.S. graduate institutions, mostly for doctoral degrees. Among its other programs, the VEF Visiting Scholar Program also provides opportunities for Vietnamese nationals to attend post-doctoral programs at U.S. universities from five to 12 months.

McNamara said for the 2012 Fellowship Program, the VEF would be able to fund up to 45 best candidates like in previous years though there had been always more qualified applicants. The selected fellows would need five to six years to finish their doctoral programs stateside, and the holder of a bachelor's degree would need more time to complete the Ph.D. programs than those with a master's degree.

"The majority of our fellows want to pursue the Ph.D. and we give priority to individuals interested in the doctoral degrees because we see them as not only gaining extensive research but also having the more opportunities to be in the leadership positions when they return to Vietnam with the Ph.D.," McNamara told the Daily.

The VEF provides a grant of US\$27,000 to the U.S. universities for each fellow of the first two years and these U.S. universities also supplement the chosen fellows so that all required tuition fees, medical insurance and monthly stipends will be supplied in order to cover all living expenses for them.

McNamara said in the third year and beyond, the universities should fully support the students, particularly through their assistantship system. "That means that the student works as a research assistant."

Editor-in-Chief: Tran Thi Ngoc Hue; Deputy Editor-in-Chief: Pham Huu Chuong.

Managing Editor: Nguyen Van Thang.

Editorial Office: 35 Nam Ky Khoi Nghia St., Dist.1, Ho Chi Minh City. Tel: (84.8) 829 5936; Fax: (84.8) 829 4294.

All rights reserved. Developed by Mat Bao Company.