



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 20, 2005

I send greetings to those gathered for the 2005 Vietnam Education Foundation Fellowship Conference, hosted by the National Academies. Congratulations to this year's Fellows.

Scientific and technological advances have revolutionized our world, and the United States is a better place because of the students who come here from Vietnam to study these and other fields in our universities. This conference is an opportunity for fellows to share experiences, help further scientific progress and discovery, and strengthen the relationship between Vietnam and the United States.

In June, I was pleased to welcome Prime Minister Khai to the White House, and I look forward to visiting Vietnam in the future. The Vietnamese economy is growing, and we are making great strides in our shared desire to help those who suffer from HIV/AIDS. We look forward to expanding our bilateral relationship to lay the foundation of peace, prosperity, and security in Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific region.

I appreciate the Vietnam Education Foundation and all those committed to furthering mutual understanding and respect between our nations. Your efforts contribute to a safer and more peaceful world.

Laura and I send our best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Barack' followed by a stylized flourish.