

The Fulbright Economics Teaching Program

www.fetp.edu.vn



At the University of Economics, Ho Chi Minh City
In Partnership with the Harvard Kennedy School

Guide to Programs and Courses
2008-2010



CHÍNH THỨC PHẢI BRIGHT-VET NAM

WANG JI LUCA

Table of contents

Welcome	3
Introduction	5
The Fulbright School MPP	7
The Curriculum	9
2008-2010 Course Calendar	10
Fall Term, Year One	11
<i>Tools for analysis and background</i>	
Spring Term, Year One	12
<i>Sectoral Policy Analysis</i>	
Fall Term, Year Two	14
<i>Advanced Policy Analysis, Management and Leadership</i>	
Spring Term, Year Two	15
<i>Policy Research</i>	
Research for Policy Analysis	17
Harvard in Vietnam: Dialogue and Debate	19
Executive Education	21
<i>Vietnam Leaders in Development Program</i>	
<i>Custom Programs</i>	
FETP OpenCourseWare	23
Approaches to Learning	24
Faculty and Administration	26
International Faculty	29
The Harvard Kennedy School Connection	30
Student Life	32
Graduates	33
Admissions Information	34
The Fulbright School in Perspective	36
Guest Speakers	38

Dear Prospective Applicant,

Success creates challenges.

Even as Vietnam's historic socioeconomic transformation continues, Vietnam is confronting complex new challenges for which there are no simple solutions. In contrast to earlier stages of Doi Moi, the Vietnamese economy is today deeply integrated into the global trading and financial systems. For Vietnamese policymakers, this means that every policy decision must take into account rapidly shifting international conditions

As this catalog goes to press, Vietnam is for the first time in twenty years confronting serious challenges to its macroeconomic stability. The public sector must allocate its limited resources more effectively if Vietnam is to retain a sustainable, long-term growth trajectory. The rapid pace of urbanization also poses great challenges. If Vietnam's urban areas are to successfully absorb the current influx of new residents, Vietnam's policymakers and public managers must become far more adept at providing the hard and soft infrastructure needed to sustain smooth socioeconomic development.

These problems, and many others, are placing new, heavy demands on the Vietnamese public sector. At the Fulbright Economics Teaching Program (commonly known as the Fulbright School), we are dedicated to analyzing these challenges and devising innovative solutions to them. Fulbright School faculty and our colleagues from institutions inside and outside Vietnam, including the the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University (Harvard Kennedy School), coordinate closely with the Vietnamese government to produce policy analysis that is timely, practical, and critical.

Through our teaching we aim to provide the next generation of public sector leaders with the skills and experience they need to address the policy challenges of tomorrow.

The year 2008 marks an important turning point for the Fulbright School. We are delighted to announce the establishment of a two-year Master in Public Policy (MPP) program; the first of its kind in Vietnam. It is the result of hard work by Fulbright School faculty and close coordination amongst our partner institutions, the University of Economics-Ho Chi Minh City and the Harvard Kennedy School, and Vietnamese government counterparts.

The Fulbright School MPP draws inspiration from the Harvard Kennedy School's own public policy degree program. However, we recognize that Vietnamese policymakers require a curriculum that takes into account the unique challenges of implementing policies in a developing and transition country. It is for this reason that the MPP program is expressly tailored to Vietnam's development context.

Also new in 2008-2009 is the Fulbright School Vietnam Leaders in Development Program, an intensive executive program for public sector leaders. Through research-based teaching and discussion led by Fulbright School and Harvard Kennedy School faculty, participants analyze the policy problems they face and develop the strategic tools needed to align public policies with Vietnam's long-term development objectives. Senior decision-makers admitted to the Vietnam Leaders in Development Program can expect a challenging learning environment and an engaging and thought-provoking experience that will expand their abilities as leaders and managers.

Students at the Fulbright School are not passive recipients of an imparted body of knowledge but are instead active participants in a knowledge creation enterprise that is unique in Vietnam. In the following pages you will have an opportunity to meet members of the Fulbright School community and learn more about our activities.

Additional information about the Fulbright School MPP, the Vietnam Leaders in Development Program, and our other activities is available on our website: <http://www.fetp.edu.vn>.

We look forward to hearing from you.



A Unique Vietnamese Institution

Founded in 1994, the Fulbright School is a partnership of the University of Economics, Ho Chi Minh City and the Harvard Kennedy School. The School receives core funding from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State. The School is a Vietnamese institution with international stakeholders, operated according to governance principles that are prerequisites for excellence: autonomy, meritocracy, accountability, and high standards.

The Fulbright School creates, transmits, and disseminates knowledge. Our Vietnamese and international faculty possess a sophisticated understanding of Vietnam, which they connect to regional and global trends. Today this knowledge generation project supports three core initiatives: teaching, including the Master in Public Policy program and executive education; research, into complex policy issues confronting Vietnam; and policy dialogue, through discussion with Vietnamese policymakers and participation in the public policy discourse in Vietnam.

The materials employed in our teaching are made available to students and teachers across Vietnam and around the world through FETP OpenCourseWare. The Fulbright School strives to foster a dynamic learning environment, where students and faculty are laser-focused on attaining the highest standards of inquiry and practice.

Through the Kennedy School's Asia Programs unit, the Fulbright School is affiliated with the Ash Institute (Harvard University), a leading center for the study and promotion of innovations in government and public leadership. Our faculty draw upon the Ash Institute's cutting-edge policy research and global leadership network to bring comparative experience to bear on Vietnamese policy issues.

A Conversation with Jay Rosengard



How does your research on Vietnam inform your teaching at FETP?

I am involved in several research initiatives in Vietnam. I am working with a Fulbright School colleague to examine the Vietnamese financial system in a comparative perspective. It is common to compare Vietnam with China, but too often this analysis is shallow and doesn't identify the differences between the two countries. I am also working with the Vietnamese Ministry of Finance on a comprehensive tax reform initiative. At FETP I teach public finance. My research helps me to connect the course content to Vietnam's specific conditions.

Of course, my research in Vietnam also informs my teaching at the Harvard Kennedy School, in degree programs and executive programs. Many Kennedy School students have a keen professional interest in development and my work with the Fulbright School helps me to bring development experience to Cambridge.

What would you like to accomplish moving forward?

I look forward to continuing to pursue my research in Vietnam. I also hope to develop new executive programs for Vietnamese policymakers, to be held in Vietnam and in Cambridge. Organizing programs in Cambridge can make it possible for my colleagues on the Kennedy School faculty to engage with Vietnam.

Two-Year Master in Public Policy Program

The Fulbright School's two-year Master in Public Policy (MPP) Program is the first of its kind in Vietnam. The program's objective is to equip Vietnamese professionals with a strong intellectual foundation in policy analysis, management, and leadership. Through coursework and research, students will learn to assess the key elements and perspectives of public policy, devise actionable solutions, and assess the organizational capacity needed to implement these solutions.

The program's design is informed by the Harvard Kennedy School's pioneering approach to public policy education. Unlike public policy programs abroad, however, the Fulbright School MPP is specifically tailored to the challenges confronting public sector decision makers in a developing economy. Fulbright School faculty review the curriculum on an on-going basis to ensure that it anticipates and responds to the current conditions of Vietnam's economic development.

The MPP is intended primarily for leaders, policymakers, and public sector managers, as well as researchers and university instructors. The program does not teach business administration, but it may be appropriate for some private sector managers, especially those working at the intersection of business and government. Alumni of the one-year program in applied economics and public policy, offered for thirteen years from 1995-2008, are encouraged to apply.

Students who successfully complete all requirements for graduation shall receive a Master in Public Policy degree issued by the University of Economics-Ho Chi Minh City.



A Conversation with Nguyen Xuan Thanh

What are the unique features of the Fulbright School MPP?

Of course, in important respects the Fulbright School MPP is modeled on the Harvard Kennedy School's approach to teaching public policy. Our goal is to equip students with the conceptual and analytical frameworks needed to assess public problems and craft innovative solutions to them. However, in all of our courses we try to account for the unique challenges that confront public sector decision-makers in a developing country like Vietnam. For this reason, although we use case studies developed at Harvard and elsewhere, we also write original case studies based on our research on Vietnam. In these cases we try to explore some of the obstacles that an official in Vietnam confronts trying to affect change in his or her agency. The ultimate goal, of course, is to help our students become more effective leaders.

What aspect of teaching at FETP do you find most rewarding?

As a teacher, one of my goals is to leverage students' own professional experiences in the classroom. For instance, one of the courses that I teach is Project Appraisal. Determining how to allocate scarce public resources efficiently is a responsibility of public sector managers; in this class we learn how to appraise a project from the perspectives of multiple stakeholders—central and local government, business, local people, non-governmental organizations, etc. Of course, many of our students have had first-hand experiences that are directly relevant to this process. I try to ensure that as many of these stories are shared as possible. Oftentimes, at the conclusion of a case study, students will look back on a project he or she was involved in with a new perspective, perhaps concluding that they would have reached a different conclusion. As a teacher of public policy, helping students make the connection between the classroom and the "real world" is tremendously rewarding.

The Curriculum

The Fulbright School MPP is a two-year, fulltime program consisting of three terms of course work and one term of guided research. Successful completion of a master's thesis is a prerequisite for graduation.

The First Year

The first year of the Fulbright School MPP equips students with theoretical foundations and analytical frameworks.

The fall term provides key prerequisites for the program, including micro-and macro-economics, and quantitative methods. Students will be expected to complete several required courses at the University of Economics-Ho Chi Minh City.

The spring term consists of specialized policy analysis courses like development economics, public sector economics, financial analysis, and trade. Students synthesize and connect theoretical principles to Vietnam's specific socio-economic context—a critical element of the program's approach.

The Second Year

The second year consists of coursework in management and leadership, policy analysis, and research methods, culminating with the completion of the master's thesis.

In the fall term, through courses in public sector leadership and management, students move beyond policy analysis and formulation to grasp the skills that public officials need to effectively implement policy. In the analytical framework for public policy course, students will systematize knowledge and skills acquired in earlier courses.

During the spring term second-year students work with a faculty advisor to research and write their master's thesis. The master's thesis may take the form of an extended academic study or a policy analysis exercise. All students are expected to meet regularly with their faculty advisor and to attend occasional workshops with other students.

Over the course of the two-year program, the coursework is supplemented by a range of enrichment activities. Students explore emerging issues in globalization through an innovative seminar series led by Fulbright School faculty and outside experts. Classroom learning is supplemented by field trips, seminars, panel discussions, and intensive use of computer-based resources to access and analyze data. Through the Fulbright School guest lecturer program, leading scholars, policymakers, and executives speak to students on key policy issues.

Year One

Fall Term (9/2008-12/2008)

Tools for Analysis and Background

- Case studies for Policy Analysis (half course)
- Microeconomics for Public Policy
- Macroeconomics – Theory and Policy Applications
- Quantitative Methods
- Philosophy and Theory*
- English*



Spring Term (1/2009-6/2009)

Sectoral Policy Analysis

- Development Policy
- Financial Analysis
- Public Sector Economics (half course)
- Marketing Places (half course)
- Trade: Institutions and Impact (half course)

*Denotes courses taken at the University of Economics-Ho Chi Minh City

Year Two

Fall Term (9/2009-12/2009)

Advanced policy analysis, management, and leadership

- Appraisal of Public Investment
- Analytical Framework for Public Policy
- Development Finance (half course)
- Public Management (half course)
- Leadership in the Public Sector (half course)

Spring Semester (1/2010-6/2010)

- Globalization and Vietnam (half course)
- Rural Transformation (half course)

Policy Research

- Policy seminar series
- Completion of master's thesis



Fall Term, Year One: Tools for Analysis and Background

Case Studies for Policy Analysis (half course)

Uses a case-based, interactive approach to introduce students to basic issues confronting public sector managers. Issues including problem definition, prioritization, and decision-making will be addressed. One primary objective of the course is to familiarize students with a classroom environment that emphasizes discussion and dynamic interaction between teacher and student.

Microeconomics for Public Policy

Introduces the key principles of microeconomics, such as demand, supply, market equilibrium, theory of consumer behavior, production theory, etc. The course also considers key themes in the formulation of public policy like efficiency and equality, cost benefit analysis, market failure, and the economic role of the state in developing, transitional, and integrating economies.

Macroeconomics – Theory and Policy Applications

Covers the fundamentals of macroeconomics and develops analytical skills needed to analyze macroeconomic events with the objective of introducing students to the process of designing and implementing macroeconomic policies in developing countries. Students will apply models to explain the relationships among macroeconomic variables (GDP, price, employment, consumption, investment, government expenditure, tax, money supply and demand, interest rate, and exchange rate), short term economic changes and long-term growth.

Quantitative Methods

Presents commonly used methods for estimating economic relationships among observed variables and for testing hypotheses about those relationships. The objective of the course is to introduce students to the power of statistical and econometric methodologies as well as their limitations. The goal of the course is to help students become sophisticated consumers of statistical data.

Philosophy and Theory

Covers fundamental philosophical and theoretical concepts. Includes an overview of philosophy and the history of philosophy; dialectical materialism; the unifying principles of the theory and practice of Marxism-Leninism; theories of social and economic morphology; the theory of the state and the rule of law and its application in Vietnam. Taught at the University of Economics-Ho Chi Minh City.

English

Students are expected to achieve a level of English proficiency equivalent to level C by the time they graduate. The objective of English training is to ensure that students read, write, and converse at an advanced level on topics related to public policy. The regular participation of international instructors in the MPP program provides a valuable opportunity for students to sharpen their English skills. Taught at the University of Economics-Ho Chi Minh City.

Spring Term, Year One: Sectoral Policy Analysis

Development Policy

Reviews the experiences of successful Asian economies, especially East and Southeast Asian countries from the 1960's up to 1997, emphasizing economic policy and government's changing role in the management of these countries over the past three to four decades. This course also helps students analyze and understand the mix of policies and global changes which led to the regional economic crisis at the end of the 1990s, the varying policy responses adopted by countries in the region in response to the crisis, and their policy implications for Vietnam. Special attention will be paid to the social economic development policies of China, including why certain strategies of the Chinese state have succeeded while others have not, how China has dealt with its failures, and how such strategies may be relevant for Vietnam.

Financial Analysis

Provides students with a firm grasp of the core principles of finance and methods for applying these theories in real-world scenarios through case studies. Key components include financial analysis, the time value of money, cost of capital, capital budgets, capital structure, and firm valuation.

Public Sector Economics (half course)

Considers the role and scale of the public sector, the mobilization of state resources and public sector expenditures. The course focuses on principal policy options for the design and implementation of public finance in open economies, emphasizing the utilization of theoretical and applied techniques for the identification and assessment of the impact of alternative taxation policies on an economy's resource allocation.

Trade: Institutions and Impact (half course)

Applies trade theory to investigate the institutions, such as the World Trade Organization, that help shape trade policies and resolve disputes. Vietnam's trade liberalization process will be examined in the context of the ASEAN Free Trade Area and Vietnam's bilateral and multilateral trade agreements. Empirical evaluations of more or less open trade policies will be reviewed, along with their implications for Vietnam.

Marketing Places (half course)

Prepares decision makers at the provincial level to more effectively leverage local strengths and outside markets in order to design strategies for regional development. Students will build a marketing strategy for attracting investment, talented labor, and tourists to their home province, and will examine how to gain access to foreign markets for their local products. Case studies based on actual situations in different regions and provinces in Vietnam will be used for class discussion and practice.



David Dapice
International Faculty Fellow
Tufts University

I have worked in development in Southeast Asia for more than 30 years as a researcher, consultant, and advisor to governments. The Fulbright School's one-year program in applied economics and public policy is the best program in the region for policy makers I have seen yet. In our teaching, my colleagues and I try to link theoretical principles of economics and public policy to what is happening on the ground in Vietnam. Accomplishing this requires research combining the best available surveys and data with fieldwork to identify real relationships and constraints. Our ongoing dialogue with Vietnamese policymakers at the national and provincial levels helps ensure that my teaching is relevant and current.

Fall Term, Year Two:

Advanced Policy Analysis, Management and Leadership

Appraisal of Public Investment

Provides students with concepts and skills to conduct project appraisal from budget development to the calculation of financial and economic capital costs. Using multiple investment criteria, students will analyze projects from the viewpoints of all stakeholders. Students will also consider the political and social consequences of development projects. It will draw heavily on case studies based on actual investment projects from Vietnam and other contexts.

Analytical Framework for Public Policy

Reviews and summarizes the methods, models, and tools used in the analysis of public policy. The course considers critical issues related to public policy during the first year, enabling students to systemize their knowledge. At this time, students will be equipped with solid methodological grounding needed to undertake the graduation thesis.

Development Finance (half course)

Considers the approaches to developing a well-functioning financial system in order to promote economic development in an open, transitional, and developing economy like Vietnam's. The course will consider the development experience and financial crises of countries in the region in order to draw lessons and implications for Vietnam. Institutional approaches and case studies will be used extensively.

Public Management (half course)

Provides analytical tools for use in the policy implementation process and in managing the activities of public organizations. Key issues include strategic management, performance measurement, organizational networks and structure, process management, leadership and change.

Public Sector Leadership (half course)

Considers the responsibilities and role of leadership in the political, economic, and social context of Vietnam. The factors that enhance or inhibit the ability to implement authority and carry out a position of leadership will be analyzed in detail. Case studies, drawn from both historical and contemporary contexts, will be used to illustrate the successes and failures of individuals occupying leadership positions.

Spring Term, Year Two: Policy Research

Rural Transformation (half course)

Explores the issues and challenges of developing a rural economy. The course will study the experiences of other developing countries, with a focus on issues relating to Vietnam. Field trips will enhance the understanding of real world applications.

Globalization and Vietnam (half course)

Addresses key issues in globalization and their public policy implications for Vietnam as the country continues to integrate. The course includes an overview of the history of globalization and the impact of globalization on the state, firms, and regional and international institutions.

Master's Thesis

As a condition of graduation, all students must complete a thesis of approximately 40 pages (12,000 words) in length. Students are expected to analyze a specific public sector problem and recommend policies and approaches to implement these recommendations. Every student shall be assigned a faculty advisor. During the semester students will participate in policy seminars organized by thesis topic. These groups will meet weekly to provide an opportunity for students to share the results of their research and receive feedback from classmates and faculty.



A conversation with Vu Thanh Tu Anh

Why did you decide to begin your career at FETP?

When I completed my PhD in the United States, I wanted to return to Vietnam. However, Vietnamese universities and research institutes do not offer the kind of professional environment that I wanted. The Fulbright School enables me to combine teaching and research in a way that frankly isn't possible elsewhere in Vietnam. As a fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School I am able to tap Harvard's fantastic resources and participate in a much larger intellectual network.



What do you see are some of the key challenges confronting Vietnamese provincial policymakers?

Much of my research is focused on regional development issues. I try to visit provinces every month. I believe that Vietnamese provinces must learn to cooperate more effectively. To give an example, at present there are plans to develop no fewer than six deep-water sea ports. There is no reason for such massive overinvestment in capacity. Provinces should develop coordinated development plans, not only for "hard" infrastructure, but also, critically, for "soft" infrastructure, especially in higher education.

Another lesson of Vietnam's most successful provinces is the critical role played by the private sector. The Vietnamese private sector is extremely dynamic and is able to take advantage of economic opportunities much more quickly than the state or foreign invested sectors. Provinces should listen to the needs of private businesspeople and strive to foster a supportive environment for businesses to flourish.

Research for Policy Analysis

The Fulbright School believes that effective public policy training requires a sophisticated understanding of policy issues. This conviction drives an ambitious research effort, bringing together Vietnamese and international faculty as well as researchers and policy analysts from leading government agencies and universities in Vietnam and abroad. Fulbright School research generates case studies and policy papers which infuse its curricula with a closeness to practice that is a core component of the School's approach to learning. It also creates intellectual capital, enabling the School to proactively engage in a dialogue with Vietnamese policymakers.

FETP research teams are multidisciplinary and experienced in conducting research in transitional economies. A typical research initiative will be led by a senior Fulbright School faculty member, who works closely with one or more Harvard colleagues. In many cases, Vietnamese policy analysts from government agencies or think tanks join the research team. The School recognizes that statistical data may be unreliable or incomplete and that compiling an accurate picture of a policy problem requires a willingness to work in the field and strong partnerships with Vietnamese government agencies and the private sector. In a globalized world, a country cannot be viewed in isolation, and through its partnership with the Kennedy School, the Fulbright School has access to a significant reservoir of expertise on the economies of East Asia and Southeast Asia.



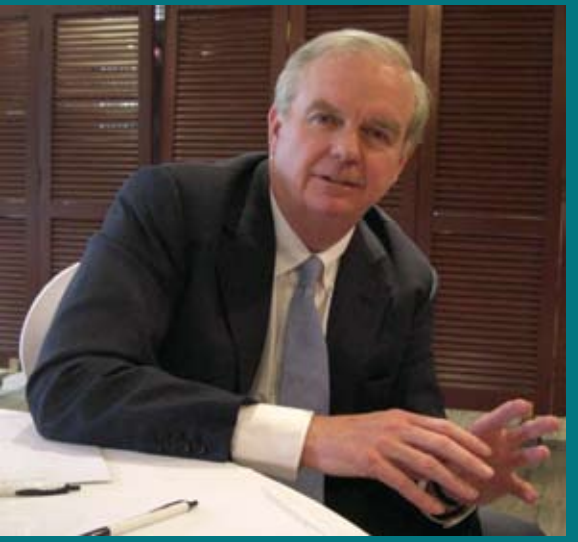
Ms. Ma Thi Huong
Lecturer, Teaching Team Leader
Thai Nguyen University of Economic
and Business Administration
Alumna, Class 7

The Fulbright School's one-year mid career program is ideal for university instructors such as myself. Not only did I acquire a great deal of new knowledge but I also became familiar with a range of teaching methods which are not widely used in Vietnam. Upon returning to my home department I was able to dramatically change what and how I was teaching. Of course FETP OCW puts the Fulbright School's outstanding database of Vietnamese language teaching materials at my fingertips. It is an unparalleled resource.

Research topics are selected for their relevance to Vietnam's public policy problems and are closely aligned with the Vietnamese government's priorities. In 2008-2009, Fulbright School faculty will undertake an ambitious slate of research projects.



The range of public policy challenges produced by rapid urbanization is a key area of enquiry. Ho Chi Minh City and the surrounding provinces are absorbing significant in-migration, attracted by the region's rapid economic growth. At present, however, the region's hard and soft infrastructure is insufficient to absorb this expansion. The stakes are high: international experience demonstrates that poorly managed urbanization can produce serious bottlenecks to long-term socioeconomic development. Barriers to the emergence of more efficient infrastructure development initiatives will be considered. Public finance is a second priority area. Fulbright School researchers will consider both revenue and expenditure issues, with particular emphasis on the current budget deficit and the need to increase the efficiency of public resource allocation. Third, regional and local development will remain a priority in 2008-2009. In this context Fulbright School and Harvard experts will examine land policy, one of the thorniest issues confronting Vietnamese policymakers and a critical barrier to the development of a more vibrant and competitive economic environment. In close coordination with Vietnamese government colleagues, the research team will create a series of case studies to highlight key problems. The need for increased regional (inter-province) cooperation and coordination will also be considered. Finally, the Fulbright School will continue to monitor Vietnam's increasingly complex and imbalanced macroeconomic situation. In order to provide policymakers with timely analysis of rapidly shifting conditions, the Fulbright School will supplement extended policy studies with focused policy discussion papers on short-term economic issues.



Harvard in Vietnam: Dialogue and Debate

Harvard University engages in a policy dialogue with the Vietnamese government that began nearly two decades ago when Vietnam's economic integration was in its infancy. The objective of this dialogue, which combines sophisticated analysis of the regional and global economies with constructively critical analysis of Vietnamese policy, is to expose Vietnamese decision makers to perspectives and insights Vietnamese institutions too often do not provide. Today, the Harvard Kennedy School's views are sought on a range of policy challenges, including Vietnam's socioeconomic development strategy and macroeconomic policy. Harvard's dialogue with the Vietnamese government is inseparable from the Fulbright School and its faculty, some of whom hold joint appointments. Although Harvard and Fulbright School faculty often take positions contrary to government policy, mutual trust and long-standing relationships ensure that dialogue and debate continue. The Harvard Kennedy School works closely with a number of government ministries including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Ministry of Finance, and the State Bank of Vietnam.

In 2008 the Harvard Kennedy School launched an extensive policy analysis and dialogue initiative with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, long one of Harvard's principal Vietnamese counterparts, consisting of regular discussion sessions and seminars, applied research, and a guided policy dialogue program for senior Vietnamese officials to be convened annually at Harvard. In this unique endeavor, Harvard faculty and business leaders will engage participants in structured, research-based discussions of key issues in globalization and their implications for both economic competitiveness and social policy. The transformation of international business systems and the role of supply chains will be examined in the context of Vietnam's industrial policy. The objective of the program is to enhance the ability of Vietnamese policymakers to take advantage of the opportunities of globalization while avoiding the pitfalls. This initiative is made possible by the generous support of the United Nations in Vietnam and the American International Group (AIG).

Over the past two decades many Vietnamese women and men have attended Harvard's graduate and professional schools, while others have spent time as visiting scholars or completed executive education programs. The Harvard Kennedy School Vietnam Program considers these investments in human capital to be an important component of its mission.

A Conversation with Dwight Perkins, Harvard University



What do you believe is the most unique feature of the Fulbright School's approach to teaching?

In my career, I have been fortunate to work in a number of developing countries in the region. Although all successful countries, including Vietnam, invest a great deal in educating students abroad at institutions like Harvard, an American public policy school simply cannot provide a decision maker in a developing country with all the tools he or she needs to analyze, formulate, and implement policy. The Fulbright School combines the best elements of an international public policy school with the fine-grained analysis of Vietnam's specific context that Vietnamese policy-makers need.

What are your current research interests?

For the past year I have been working with Fulbright School colleagues to assess Vietnam's industrial policy. I particularly enjoy this topic because it has so many comparative angles. I believe that Vietnam is in danger of misinterpreting the lessons of East Asia's industrialization in earlier periods. Although Korea succeeded in developing large conglomerates (chaebol), the most successful of these firms were forced to become internationally competitive quickly in order to qualify for government support. Of course, the global economy has changed in important ways as well—today international trading regulations make it difficult for countries to shelter infant enterprises and supply chains stretch across dozens of countries and integrate components produced by hundreds of companies. Vietnam must ensure that its policies are in-line with current reality.

Executive Education

The Vietnam Leaders in Development Program

The Vietnam Leaders in Development Program is an intensive program intended to equip senior Vietnamese leaders with the strategic tools needed to align public policies with Vietnam's long-term development objectives. The Program is directed by a teaching team composed of faculty from the Fulbright School, the Harvard Kennedy School, and practitioners from business and government.

Tailored to Vietnam

The Vietnam Leaders in Development Program was conceived in part as a response to the lack of coordination in the design and implementation of public policy in Vietnam. Every year, the Vietnam Leaders in Development Program curriculum is rebuilt around a framework paper that examines key policy challenges confronting Vietnam. The issues addressed in the paper are inherently multidisciplinary and exceed the mandate of any single government agency. The program is rooted in an appreciation of the political economy of decision-making in Vietnam; participants work with each other and the faculty to devise appropriate responses that are economically sound and attuned to Vietnam's sociopolitical context. Nowhere are the politics of policy more contested than in the allocation of public resources. Strategies for resource mobilization and the optimization of public investment, broadly defined, are considered in depth.

Connected to the world

As Vietnam's integration steadily deepens, every policy decision must take into consideration the international context. The curriculum of the Vietnam Leaders in Development Program assesses international economic and geopolitical factors and their potential implications for Vietnam, providing participants with an opportunity to refresh and update their understanding of global trends. Relevant comparative perspectives, often illustrated by case studies, are integrated into each program, with special emphasis placed on the experiences of the world's most competitive nations and firms. The successes and failures of Southeast and East Asian countries are considered in detail.



Designed for Leaders

Affecting change in large, complex organizations presents unique challenges. Theories of management and leadership are unlikely to be as useful as practical experience. Through dialogue and discussion, faculty facilitators work with participants to systematize and synthesize their first-hand knowledge, distilling practice into guiding principles of leadership. At the end of each program it is hoped that participants will return to their positions with a crisper compass for guiding their organizations, and their country, forward.

The Vietnam Leaders in Development Program is intended for mid- to senior level public officials serving at the national and provincial levels. Executives from state-owned and private firms are also eligible to apply. Participant selection is highly competitive.

Custom Programs

The Fulbright School recognizes that senior officials are often unable to attend fulltime degree programs. The objective of our executive education initiative is to provide public sector leaders with the knowledge and skills they need to exercise their responsibilities effectively. Vietnamese and international faculty from a range of backgrounds jointly teach each course. The insights and experience of the faculty are integrated with up-to-date research into current economic problems in Vietnam. Each course incorporates case studies and a model of learning that places a premium on dynamic classroom interaction. These specialized programs provide participants with a better understanding of global economic issues and equip them with tools to solve problems facing Vietnam.

In the summer of 2008 the Fulbright School will develop a three-day executive program in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and BP. This program will address Vietnam's economic competitiveness from several critical perspectives, including the rapidly shifting international landscape, energy policy, and the infrastructure challenges created by rapid economic growth. Through a series of modules facilitated by Fulbright School and Harvard faculty, the program will equip participants with new perspectives on the Vietnamese and global economies, enhancing their ability to lead their organizations in a period of rapid change. At the beginning of each module the facilitators will present relevant findings from a framework paper and/or other tailored materials such as case studies drawn from Vietnamese or international contexts. The facilitators will then lead participants in a results-oriented discussion, with participants called upon to share their analysis of the subject matter from the perspective of their area of expertise.

The Fulbright School regularly organizes executive programs targeted to provincial level policymakers in a particular region. FETP begins these executive education engagements with a period of intensive research into the target province or region to identify the major issues and challenges it faces. Faculty develop cases based on these insights, incorporating studies of how other regions have responded to similar issues. In addition to tailored analysis, these courses seek to provide participants with an array of analytical skills to help them become more effective policymakers, including the basics of project appraisal and public finance. At the end of a course it is hoped that participants will be able to look at their province in a different light and to formulate the growth strategies most appropriate for it.

The Fulbright School typically organizes executive education programs in collaboration with government agencies, international donors, and the private sector.

FETP OpenCourseWare

If Vietnam is to compete successfully in the global marketplace, it must tap global sources of knowledge. This observation informs FETP OpenCourseWare. Inspired by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's OpenCourseWare Initiative, FETP OpenCourseWare is not a long distance learning project. Rather it is a resource for people working or studying in policy-related fields to expand their knowledge of Vietnamese policy issues and the forces of globalization.

Through FETP OCW, anyone with access to the Internet can download our teaching materials and policy research. Use of FETP OCW has increased rapidly over the past five years, a trend that reflects that dramatic expansion of Internet access in Vietnam. All teaching materials (including syllabi, lecture notes, reading lists, problem sets, and select readings) are governed by the Creative Commons license that enables users to modify materials for their own use. For this reason, FETP OpenCourseWare is a particularly valuable resource for educators. University instructors are encouraged to adopt FETP's curricular materials in their own courses. Students may use FETP's materials to guide independent study.

The benefits of OpenCourseWare are reciprocal. User feedback contributes to the Fulbright School faculty's ongoing curriculum development process. By providing a forum for FETP researchers to publicize their analysis, it is also a means of advancing our goal of contributing constructively to public discussion of policy issues in Vietnam.



Approaches to Learning

The Fulbright School pioneers advanced teaching methods in Vietnam. Courses are not taught “off the shelf.” Instead course materials are tailored to Vietnam’s conditions by connecting theoretical models of policy analysis to research on actual problems, resulting in a curriculum that teaches students as much about Vietnam as it does about the world. The case method is central to the Fulbright School’s educational philosophy. By forcing students to grapple

with problems similar to those they will encounter when they graduate, they acquire the skills they need to become more effective policymakers and leaders.



The Fulbright School faculty foster an interactive classroom experience, emphasizing student-teacher interaction and group problem-solving exercises. Many courses in the MPP program are taught by senior Vietnamese faculty; others are co-taught by Vietnamese and international faculty. Teaching assistants, often recently returned from study abroad or in the process of pursuing an advanced degree, provide additional instruction. Teaching team members hold office hours daily to provide students with an opportunity to seek extra help with difficult concepts or exchange ideas on topics of interest. Every year an impressive roster of guest lecturers from the public and private sectors and major multilateral institutions speak to Fulbright School students and faculty on contemporary issues in economic development.

Fulbright School courses are taught in Vietnamese or in English with consecutive interpretation. In order to ensure that all Fulbright School students can take advantage of foreign-language publications, the School continuously translates materials into Vietnamese, including leading text books, timely and cutting edge articles, and case studies. Indeed, the selection and translation of teaching materials is considered a critical component of the curriculum development process; great importance is attached to quality of these translations. Subject to copyright restrictions, FETP translations are made available to the public on OCW.



Journalist
Saigon Giai Phong newspaper
Class12

Today in Vietnam the press has an important role to play. We must inform the public about how globalization and economic integration are affecting their lives and businesses. At the same time we must facilitate the public debate about policy issues. As a journalist, if I am going to play these roles effectively I need an understanding of economics, trade, and finance. The Fulbright School one-year program has provided me with this knowledge, as well as with an appreciation of the development strategies of other countries in the region, like China.



Mr. Tran Minh Sanh
Chairman, People's Committee
of Ba Ria-Vung Tau Province
Alumnus, Class 3

Having completed the applied economics and public policy program at the Fulbright School, I believe the program to be practical and well-suited to the demands of Vietnam's continued integration and development. The knowledge I acquired in the one-year program has been extremely beneficial in my current work. Based on my own experience, I wholeheartedly recommend study at the Fulbright School as a means to gain new knowledge which will serve you well in your career.

Faculty and Administration



Without question FETP's greatest strength is its outstanding faculty, a diverse group of Vietnamese women and men from the academy as well as government service and the private sector. Fulbright School faculty are instructors at Vietnamese universities including the University of Economics, Ho Chi Minh City and the University of Technology of Ho Chi Minh City. Many hold advanced degrees in public policy and economics from foreign institutions. Other instructors are retired government officials and executives at Vietnamese and international firms. These practitioners' perspectives complement the academic training of younger faculty, resulting in an approach to teaching which combines theoretical and practical insights. A team of fulltime Vietnamese faculty manage and teach many of the courses in the MPP program.

Administration

Chau Van Thanh*	Lecturer of Economics; Dean of the Faculty
Nguyen Thi Kim Chau*	Registrar
Ben Wilkinson*	Kennedy School representative

Fulbright School Faculty

Vu Thanh Tu Anh*	Lecturer of Economics; Director, Research
Nguyen Xuan Thanh*	Lecturer of Public Policy; Director, MPP program
Phan Chanh Duong	Lecturer of Management
Huynh The Du	Lecturer of Banking & Finance [on leave, 2008-2009 academic year]
Tran Thi Que Giang	Lecturer of Finance
Cao Xuan Dung	Lecturer of Economics
Jonathan Pincus*	Lecturer in Development

Professional Staff

Tran Thanh Phong
 Tran Thanh Thai
 Nguyen Quy Tam
 Nguyen Mong Thu
 Truong Minh Hoa
 Dinh Nguyen Duy Uyen
 Vo Thanh Binh
 Matthew Heller



Researcher and Analyst,
 Technology & Entrepreneurship

*Indicates membership in Management Committee.

Adjunct Vietnamese Faculty

Nguyen Thi Song An	University of Economics
Nguyen Trong Hoai	University of Economics
Truong Quang Hung	University of Economics
Phan Thi Thu Huong	University of Economics
Nguyen Minh Kieu	University of Economics
Nguyen Huu Lam	University of Economics
Nguyen Bao Linh	University of Economics
Tran Tien Khai	University of Economics
Dang Van Thanh	University of Economics
Nguyen Dinh Tho	University of Economics
Vo Van Huy	University of Technology
Nguyen Quynh Mai	University of Technology
Cao Hao Thi	University of Technology
Nguyen Thien Tong	University of Technology
Le Cong Tru	Nong Lam University
Nguyen Van Phuc	Open University
Nguyen Tan Binh	Open University
Phan Hien Minh	Tax Department, Ho Chi Minh City
Nguyen Thi Thanh Loan	Statistic Department, Ho Chi Minh City
Diep Dung	Industrial Promotion Corporation

Teaching Assistants and Case Writers

Nguyen Hoai Bao	University of Economics
Le Nguyen Hai Dang	Thanh Viet Investment Fund Management Corporation
Nguyen Ho Phuong Chi	Banking University
Luong Vinh Quoc Duy	University of Economics
Hoang Thi Hong Van	University of Technology
Nguyen Vu Quang	University of Technology
Vo Tat Thang	University of Economics
Lai Van Tai	University of Technology
Nguyen Thi Bich Ha	Dong A Bank



Mr. Dao Ba Son
Secretary
Management Board of Saigon Hi-tech Park
Alumnus, Class 10

In addition to the valuable substantive knowledge I gained from the Fulbright School, the most important thing I learned was the various methods and analytical tools for approaching new information to solve practical problems. In our world, where old theories are being fundamentally changed by new knowledge, this is the biggest contribution the Fulbright School made to my professional development. In particular, I found the case method to be an amazingly and stimulating way to learn. At first it was, to be honest, quite foreign to my classmates and I, because we were accustomed to the traditional lecture style prevalent at Vietnamese universities. We quickly overcame our initial hesitation, however. The case method has helped me to better analyze and develop solutions to the problems I confront in my work.

Mr. Tran Huu Uy
Expert
Post Office, Thua Thien-Hue Province
Alumnus, Class 11

Recently, the term “Globalization” has appeared frequently in the mass media, with both proponents and opponents. Developing countries, especially the small ones, seem to be largely at the mercy of the forces of globalization. One central lesson that I took away from the Fulbright School is that globalization is both a modern and a historical trend, but it is not irreversible. Fundamentally, globalization is a political process, brings with it many choices, including opportunities and challenges. Hence, countries, and even provinces, should carefully and closely examine it in order to formulate and implement the best policies for maximizing the benefits and minimizing the negative impacts from this process.



International Faculty

The program's international faculty are professors and Fulbright scholars from universities around the world, led by a core group of International Fellows.

International Fellows are professors and lecturers from foreign universities who visit the Fulbright School regularly to conduct research, teach in executive courses, and lecture in the MPP program. International Fellows work closely with Vietnamese faculty, and help shape the program's curriculum; many have devoted significant portions of their careers to the study of Vietnam. Several International Fellows are key participants in Vietnam's policy dialogue. Their knowledge and track record of productive engagement with policymakers affords them the ability to analyze Vietnamese policy challenges with a constructively critical voice.

International Fellows

Dwight Perkins	Harvard University
David Dapice	Tufts University, Asia Programs, Harvard Kennedy School
Clifford Shultz	Arizona State University
Brian Quinn	Boston College School of Law
Ari Kokko	Stockholm School of Economics
Vu Minh Khuong	National University of Singapore
Jay Rosengard	Harvard Kennedy School
Jose Gomez-Ibanez	Harvard Kennedy School
Arn Howitt	Harvard Kennedy School

The Harvard Kennedy School Connection

The Fulbright School's partnership with the Harvard Kennedy School provides an important connection to global knowledge. Because one of the cornerstones of the Kennedy School's connection to Asia is its long experience working with institutions in the region to develop public policy training programs, FETP has access to a significant body of experience with respect to both institution building and curriculum development. The Fulbright School's activities are inspired by the on-going success of the Kennedy School's China Public Policy Program, which together with Tsinghua University has developed a high-level executive education program for Chinese policymakers.

As Vietnam's socioeconomic transformation continues, Vietnamese policymakers must grapple with vexing new policy problems for which there are often no local precedents. In this new environment, the experiences of other countries in addressing similar challenges can be extremely valuable. Through the Kennedy School Ash Institute, Fulbright School faculty and Vietnamese civil servants can tap into a global network of public sector leaders and access cutting-edge research on innovations in government and public leadership. The Ash Institute's teaching programs and conferences provide an opportunity for Vietnamese policymakers to share experiences with peers from the public sector around the world.

The flow of people and ideas between Ho Chi Minh City and Cambridge, Massachusetts ensures that FETP courses remain innovative and current. FETP regularly sends its faculty to Cambridge to serve as research fellows at the Kennedy School's Asia Programs unit or to attend executive programs. Faculty from the Harvard Kennedy School teach in the MPP program and lead faculty seminars in Ho Chi Minh City.

Over the past 15 years a significant number of Vietnamese have completed Master's and PhD programs in Public Administration, Public Policy, and International Development. Harvard Kennedy School graduates hold important positions throughout the Vietnamese civil service as well as in academia, and the private sector. This alumni cohort is an invaluable resource, as many have maintained close ties to the Fulbright School. The School's research initiatives often involve the participation of Harvard Kennedy School alumni.

FETP has also sponsored Vietnamese to study at other schools and faculties at Harvard including the Law School, the Business School, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, and the School of Public Health.



Mr. Cao Duc Phat
Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development
Formerly Deputy Party Secretary of An Giang Province
Harvard Kennedy School MPA 2, 1995

Modernizing the public sector and attracting talented individuals to it is necessary to preserve and build upon the successes we have achieved. My Kennedy School education has proven invaluable to me in working on the challenges facing Vietnamese agriculture whether deregulating to increase incomes in rural communities or increasing the competitiveness of Vietnamese agricultural products in the global marketplace. The Fulbright School combines the Kennedy School approach to public policy education with a sophisticated knowledge of the Vietnamese economy. I believe it is playing an important role in preparing the next generation of policymakers.



Student Life

Students quickly discover that their classmates are one of the Fulbright School's most valuable resources. Student interaction is an integral part of the Fulbright School experience and providing an environment conducive to this exchange is a core element of the School's educational mission. Students learn from each other through sharing of experiences inside and outside the classroom, forging bonds which endure long after graduation. Oftentimes attending FETP provides students with their first opportunity to meet people with similar professional interests from other regions of the country.

Located in the heart of Ho Chi Minh City, the Fulbright School campus is the center of student life. A wireless network lets members of the Fulbright School get online from anywhere on campus. The open stacks library houses an up-to-date collection of books, reports, and periodicals relevant to the classes and topics studied.

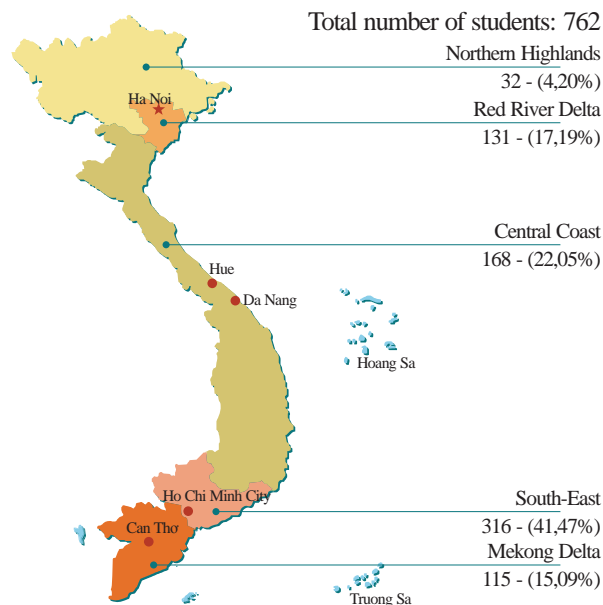
When classes end for the day students often linger on campus to work on group assignments, discuss issues raised in their courses, or just enjoy each others' company. The School organizes weekly sporting events for students, such as soccer or volleyball. Occasional student-faculty tournaments always attract large turn-outs. The opportunity to live in Vietnam's most dynamic city is another attraction of FETP. Students occasionally organize weekend outings to local recreational areas.



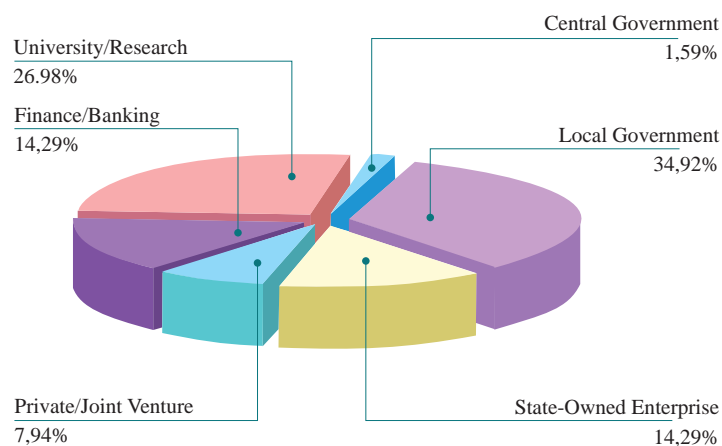
Graduates

Attending the Fulbright School is a transformative experience. Graduates, the majority of whom return to their home provinces, are often promoted or given new responsibilities immediately. They speak of their increased confidence, knowledge of new conceptual frameworks and sources of information, and greater understanding of economics and the tools of economic reform. A growing minority find new employment opportunities after graduation, often in the private sector, and some go on to pursue additional advanced study abroad. Students with a teaching background frequently incorporate portions of the FETP curriculum into their own courses, upgrading the quality of economics and policy instruction at their home institutions.

One-Year Program Students by Regio



One-Year Program Students by Profession



Admissions Information



Master in Public Policy

The MPP program seeks highly motivated individuals with professional experience who desire a public policy education with a focus on economics as part of their professional growth. It is designed primarily for government managers and policymakers. Private sector executives working at the intersection of government and business are welcome to apply but every applicant must possess a proven commitment to and interest in the public sector and policy issues. Applicants typically come from central and provincial government agencies, state enterprises, private business, banking and other financial institutions, Vietnamese universities and research institutes, and the media. Students are selected through a highly competitive admissions process based on test scores, work experience, and application essays. In recent years FETP has admitted approximately one in seven applicants.

FETP is committed to a classroom that represents all Vietnamese. It makes a conscious effort to ensure a diverse student body and actively promotes the recruitment of women, ethnic minorities, and students from underrepresented regions.

The MPP program is a demanding and unique educational experience. Students must adhere to the highest academic standards to complete it. Graduates receive a degree issued by the University of Economics, Ho Chi Minh City and endorsed by the Harvard Kennedy School. Additional information regarding FETP academic policies is available online.



One-Year Program Graduates

Graduates of the one-year core program offered by FETP between 1995 and 2007 are encouraged to apply to the MPP program. In recognition of the fact that these individuals have already completed some of the coursework required in the MPP program, they will be given the opportunity to commence their studies at the beginning of the second year (September 2009). To become eligible for this track, alumni must satisfactorily complete an applied economics examination that assesses their knowledge of three core subjects: microeconomics, macroeconomics, and quantitative analysis. Alumni candidates who pass this examination will be considered for admission to the second year. Alumni who do not attain a satisfactory score in one subject will also be eligible for admission on the condition that, if admitted, they re-take this subject congruently with the second-year program coursework. Candidates who do not attain a satisfactory score in two or more subjects will be required to apply to the full two-year program.

Scholarships

All applicants who are admitted to the MPP program receive a full scholarship, including tuition fees. During the first year students receive a cost of living allowance; in the second year students are expected to cover their cost of living.

Executive Education Programs

Please see the FETP website at <http://www.fetp.edu.vn>



The Fulbright School in Perspective

Innovation and talent are the lifeblood of the Fulbright School. Our educational programs and the research which drives them are constantly evolving to keep pace with reality outside the classroom. Exceptionally gifted individuals are the key input in this enterprise. To attract these women and men we are building an institution built on merit, laser-focused on attaining the highest standards of quality, where there is no ceiling on success.

Like Vietnam, the Fulbright School is in transition. From a teaching program focused on economic theory, we have evolved into a unique Vietnamese institution that analyzes policy from many perspectives. This evolution continues. The establishment of Vietnam's first Master in Public Policy program marks a major step in this evolution, but more remains to be done. Fulbright School faculty and their international colleagues from the Harvard Kennedy School and elsewhere are committed to expanding the breadth of the Fulbright School's policy curriculum, augmenting its economic focus with the insights of other social science disciplines. Priorities include enhancing the program's treatment of several critical development challenges for Vietnam, including rural transformation, health and education, and social safety nets.

The goal of this experiment in institutional innovation is to create a center of excellence in the analysis of public policy and the education of policymakers. While we have moved closer to this objective, more remains to be done. This effort is not without urgency. We believe that the creation of institutions capable of participating in the policy dialogue with an independent and constructively critical voice will be of importance to Vietnam's continued modernization and the emergence of an equitable, prosperous society. No single entity can fulfill this role, and partnerships with other Vietnamese institutions, first and foremost the University of Economics-Ho Chi Minh City, are an invaluable component of our education and growth.

Ari Kokko
International Faculty Fellow
Stockholm School of Economics

I teach the economics and policy implications of trade at the Fulbright School. In my courses I try to link theory and comparative experience to the specific challenges confronting Vietnam. This means that I must update my lectures continuously...As a teacher, Fulbright School students are ideal. Because they are expected to question received wisdom and challenge each other and their teachers, discussion is lively and enlightening, beginning in the classroom and frequently continuing in the halls and in my office well after class.

Hon. Pham Xuan Tho
Presiding Judge
Economic Court,
People's Court of Ho Chi Minh City
Executive Program Participant



I am fortunate to be a regular participant in Fulbright School's law and economics executive courses and seminars. Unlike other law programs with which I am familiar, the Fulbright School approach combines the insights of international scholars with a genuine understanding of Vietnam's current economic conditions. As a practitioner, I value insights which I can apply in my work, and I have been consistently impressed with the relevancy of the Fulbright School's programming.

Guest Speakers

The FETP guest speaker program provides students and faculty with an opportunity to learn from and exchange views with a wide range of Vietnamese and international policymakers, business leaders, and public intellectuals. In recent years guest speakers have included:



Duong Trung Quoc



Pham Chi Lan



Nguyen Dinh Cung



Harriet Fulbright

FULBRIGHT

Dr. Nguyen Si Dung, Vice Chairman of the Office of the National Assembly
Dr. Le Dang Doanh, Senior Advisor to the Minister of Planning and Investment
Professor Kenichi Ohno, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies
Madam Pham Chi Lan, former member of the Prime Minister's Research Commission
Dr. Dang Hung Vo, Vice Minister of Natural Resources and Environment
The Hon. Michael Michalak, United States Ambassador to Vietnam
Mr. Duong Trung Quoc, historian
Dr. Dang Phong, economic historian
Mr. Nguyen Ngoc, writer
Senator Chuck Hagel
Ms. Harriet Mayor Fulbright
Dr. Nguyen Dinh Cung, Central Institute for Economic Management
Dr. Pham Duy Nghia, Vietnam National University Faculty of Law



Village School Teacher, by Pham Luc, 2003
Donated to the Fulbright School collection by the artist

FETP has been made possible by over a decade of core funding from the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, United States Department of State. Support from the United Nations in Vietnam, the Ford Foundation, and the American International Group, Inc. is gratefully acknowledged.

All questions concerning admissions should be sent to:
Fulbright Economics Teaching Program
232/6 Vo Thi Sau, District 3, Ho Chi Minh City
Tel: 08-932-5103, Fax. 08-932-5104
E-mail: admissions@fetp.vnn.vn