

# Vietnam Alumni: Country Report

Hanoi, June, 2013



# Vietnam Alumni: Late Membership, Quick Adaptation

- Though IATSS Forum was established in 1985, Vietnam only gained its membership in 1996.
- Vietnam IATSS Forum Alumni (VIFA) was established in 1997.

**Membership**

## About VIFA

The President is nominated by all participants.

Total: 48 participants

Mainly from Hanoi capital city with various Background: university, government, business Sector, research institutes, international Organizations, etc.

All members have to join VIFA activities.



# Vietnam Alumni: Late Membership, Quick Adaptation

## Current Alumni Activities

- Inward activities: activities for and among participants of VIFA itself.
- Outward activities: activities for and between participants of VIFA and other individuals or entities.

## ***Inward activities:***



Conduct regular alumni meetings and/or ad-hoc meetings to update alumni information.

Establish a Yahoo-group on the Internet and website (<https://sites.google.com/site/iatssforumvn>) to promote the linkages among members and provide useful information for members.

## ***Inward activities:***

Conduct orientation sessions for new participants before departing for IATSS Forum.

Organize social activities for members



## **Outward Activities**

Every member has responsibility to inform their relatives, friends and colleagues about the Forum and its benefits in order to promote the reputation of Forum and to attract participants for the Forum.

Receive Japanese volunteers and participants from other countries to Vietnam through guiding, traveling with them.

## **Outward Activities**

Invite non-participants to regular activities of VIFA

Exchange information with other international alumni





Dinner with a Japanese family in Suzuka, 2005



Visit Halong Bay



**The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of IATSS Forum, Suzuka 2005**



The 5<sup>th</sup> IAM in the Philippines



Reunion with former IATSS Director in Hanoi Oct 2010

# Vietnam Alumni: Achievements to-date

Promoting the image of IATSS Forum and VIFA

Consolidating relations among members

Maintaining and developing relations with Japanese volunteers and international alumni as well as IATSS Forum staff

# Vietnam Alumni: Achievements to-date

Introducing Vietnam's image and VIFA to international friends

Running a project "Awareness raising of traffic safety for pre-school children at Hoa Mai Kindergarten in Hanoi, Vietnam."

Donation for Japanese earthquake and tsunami victims

# Vietnam Alumni: Future Outlook

- **Strengths:**

- Alumni Members From Diverse Backgrounds.
- Young, Active, Knowledgeable And Energetic Members .
- Good Leadership From IATSS Forum Secretariat In Japan
- Active Contributions of IATSS Vietnam Country Committee



# Vietnam Alumni: Future Outlook

- **Weaknesses:**

- Activities Of Alumni Association Are Few, Not Focused Because Lack Of Clear Vision/Mission .
- Reputation Of The IATSS Forum Doesn't Sound As It Should Be.
- Few Information and Activity Exchanges Among Alumni Associations

# Vietnam Alumni: Future Outlook

- **Opportunities:**

- Japan-ASEAN Ties and Japan-Vietnam Ties In Particular Are More Intensified.
- As Time Unfolds, Alumni Association Will Be A Good Mixture Of Middle-Age Members And Young Counterparts.
- IATSS Forum Secretariat pays more attention to a stronger and sustainable alumni network

# Vietnam Alumni: Future Outlook

- **Threats:**

- Alumni Activities Will Be Phased Out If A Clear Vision/Action Plan Is Not Available.
- Few Tangible Benefits For Alumni Members Other Than Their Member's Responsibilities.
- Financial Resources Are Unstable. Membership Dues Are Neither An Encouraging Nor Sufficient Resource.

# Vietnam Alumni: For a stronger and more expansive community

- **Future Plan:**

- Define clear vision/mission
- Establish close connections with other alumni associations
- Maintain the website on a sustainable manner
- Formulate more projects to get alumni members involved

# Vietnam Alumni: For a stronger and more expansive community

- **Recent Initiatives:**

- President of the Vietnam Alumni Association is a member of the IATSS Forum Country Committee of Vietnam
- Participants of the latest batch after returning home from Japan will be members of the Secretariat

# Vietnam Alumni: For a stronger and more expansive community

- **Recommendations:**

- IATSS Forum should establish close linkages with Japanese business sector in respective member country.
- More funds given to projects implemented by alumni.
- An advocacy plan for IATSS Forum should be designed and implemented internationally to reap benefits of business or career networking.

**Thank you very  
much for your  
attention !!**