

**WELCOME REMARKS BY ASSOC. PROF. DR. MAI HA
DIRECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION,
VIETNAM MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

10TH VEF ANNUAL CONFERENCE, 2013

Dear Dr. Silvera, Chair of the VEF Board of Directors,

Dr. Nguyen Vu Tung, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Vietnam to the U.S.,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Distinguished guests and friends,

First of all, on behalf of the Ministry of Science and Technology, I would like to send you all our best wishes, on the occasion of the 10th VEF Annual Conference, 2013.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear friends,

It is my honor to attend the 10th VEF Annual Conference, to meet with you, to listen to the achievements of VEF Fellows and Scholars and the untiring efforts of VEF, especially its Board of Directors and associates, without which there would not have been such achievements. I also would like to express my sincere thanks to VEF for its valuable contribution to the cause of education and the development of high quality human resources for Vietnam during the past years.

Dear friends,

The achievements in science and technology are having a profound impact on the development of all countries in the world. Different countries with diverse cultures and customs regarding production are developing at different paces with different levels of advancements.

Let's take a look at decisive factors at the pace of development.

- First: A culture towards development would be a firm foundation for development.
- Second: An environment of healthy or fair competition would be the motivation – the decisive factor for development.
- Third: Creative work and knowledge of science and technology would be the most efficient tool for development.

During the past decade, Vietnam has gained significant achievements in science and technology, which have greatly contributed to the socio-economic development.

In terms of legislation, basically, we have finalized the legislative system for science and technology by developing and issuing important sector laws, which help create favorable conditions for science research activities and science and technology development in the time of global integration.

The Ministry of Science and Technology has been implementing plans and strategies for the medium-term and long-term development of science and technology, deploying national programs, such as the Program for the Development of National Products to the year of 2020; the National Program for the Renovation of Technology to the year of 2020; the National Program for the Development of High Technology to the year of 2020; and the National Plan for Science and Technology Integration.

In terms of infrastructure, 3 Hi-tech zones have been established in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, and Danang, with a network of 17 national laboratories, some excellent research centers, and an infrastructure of communications for science and technology.

During the process of integration, the advantages for science and technology in Vietnam include a quick access to updated information on progress in the world as well as the potential to shorten the gap with other countries. However, there are also considerable challenges that include the inadequacy of high competence human resources, a foundation for healthy competition, and unsound macroeconomic management.

Dear friends,

As a scientist, I fully understand that a real market economy and an environment of healthy competition are prerequisites to economic development. In addition, renovated science and technology along with high quality research and development (R&D) are the most significant factors for the sustainable development of Vietnam.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear friends,

I would like to express my sincerest thanks to the VEF Board of Directors and all of you conference participants for your invaluable support to Vietnam in the cause of human resource development. I wish you health, success, and happiness for the future. I wish the VEF Fellows and Scholars the best results in your studies and research so that you will be the great bridges between the science and technology community of Vietnam and that in the world, for the ultimate goal of Vietnam's

science and technology development to be at the level of our friends throughout the world.

Thank you.