

**SEVENTH DELEGATION FROM VIETNAM –
25 May – 4 June 2003**

The year 2003 marks the tenth anniversary of the Council's exchange program with the International Youth Development Cooperation Centre (CYDECO) in Vietnam. It was therefore a very great pleasure for the Council to welcome Mr Doan Van Thai, Director-General of CYDECO as leader of the seventh delegation from Vietnam. Mr Thai's visit was also an opportunity for the Australian Political Exchange Council and CYDECO to cement this highly successful exchange program through the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding.

The program was developed with consideration for the delegations' interest in youth and education, and involved travel to Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, Ballarat and Daylesford.

Delegation Members included:

- **Mr Doan Van Thai**, Secretary of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union (HCMCYU), Director General of the International Youth Development Cooperation Centre (CYDECO) – **Delegation Leader**
- **Mr Bui Sy Tung**, Permanent Deputy Director of the Vietnam Youth Institute
- **Ms Pham Thi Thanh Tra**, Member of the Standing Committee of the HCMCYU, Secretary of the Provincial Youth Union of Yen Bai Province
- **Mr Pham Van Moi**, Member of the Standing Committee of the HCMCYU, Secretary of the Hai Phong Youth Union
- **Mr Nguyen Trung Hieu MP**, Member of the Executive Committee of the HCMCYU, Secretary of the Provincial Youth Union of Soc Trang Province, Member of the National Assembly
- **Ms Tran Thi Tam**, Deputy Editor-in-chief of Newspaper for Children and Pioneers

Sydney

The delegation arrived in Sydney on Sunday morning and enjoyed a sightseeing tour before meeting with the Consul-General, **Mr Tho Nguyen Van**, and Vietnamese students from the University of New South Wales, for informal discussions on educational opportunities in Australia for international students.

The formal side of the program commenced the following day with a meeting with the **Hon Henry Tsang MLC**, Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier on Trade and Investment and assisting the Minister for State Development, representing the Premier; the **Hon Patricia Forsythe MLC** (Canada 1987), representing the Leader of the Opposition; lunch hosted by the President of the Legislative Council, the **Hon Dr Meredith Burgmann MLC**, and **Mr John Mills MP**, Chairman of Committees; a meeting with **Dr Simon Longstaff**, Executive Director, St James Ethics Centre; and a briefing and tour of the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) studios.

Australian Political Exchange Council

Canberra

Highlights of the Canberra program included meetings with the **Hon John Anderson MP**, Deputy Prime Minister, Leader of the National Party, Minister for Transport and Regional Services (USA 1985); the **Hon Alexander Downer MP**, Minister for Foreign Affairs (USA 1986); **Mr Kevin Rudd MP**, Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs; **Mr Martin Ferguson MP** (arranged by his adviser **Ms Denise Spinks** (Vietnam 2002)); **Senator Andrew Bartlett**, Leader of the Australian Democrats (Germany 1995); **Mr Tony Nutt**, Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister (USA 1989; UK 1995); **Mr Peter McConnell**, Youth Adviser to the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs; a courtesy call on the President of the Senate, **Senator the Hon Paul Calvert**; morning tea hosted by the **Hon Graham Edwards MP**, Vice Chairman of the Australia-Vietnam Parliamentary Friendship Group; lunch hosted by **Senator the Hon Eric Abetz**, Special Minister of State, and attended by members of the Australian Political Exchange Council and the Australia-Vietnam Parliamentary Group, and lunch with the **Hon Neil Andrew MP**, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Delegates also met with **Mr Tim Gartrell**, Assistant National Secretary (USA 2002), and **Mr Linus Power**, National Organiser, of the Australian Labor Party; **Mr Bruce Edwards**, Manager, Parliamentary and Policy, Liberal Party of Australia (Japan 1992); **Mr Cleaver Elliot**, Clerk Assistant (Procedures) in the Senate for a briefing on the Australian Parliament; **HE Mr Vu Chi Cong**, Ambassador, Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and Vietnamese students at the Australian National University; attended a briefing on the Australian electoral system by the **Australian Electoral Commission**; and dined with Council Member, **Mr Paul Neville MP** and former delegates including **Mr Norm Kelly** (China 2001) and **Mr Daniel Clode** (Vietnam 2001).

Melbourne

The Melbourne program included a meeting with **Mr Robert Doyle MP**, Victorian Leader of the Opposition (Japan 1996); a briefing on youth employment policies by **Mr Peter Anderson**, Director of Workplace Policy, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Japan 1995); a visit to Melbourne Juvenile Justice Centre; a tour and briefing at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT); and dinner hosted by **Professor Peter Thompson**, Director General of RMIT International Pty Ltd.

The signing of the new Memorandum of Understanding by the Chairman of the Australian Political Exchange Council, the **Hon Dame Margaret Guilfoyle DBE** and delegation leader and Director General of CYDECO, **Mr Doan Van Thai**, place at Parliament House at a luncheon hosted by the **Hon John Lenders MLC**, Victorian Minister for Finance; and Consumer Affairs; Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council. Other former delegates to witness the occasion were the **Hon Louise Asher MLA** (USA 1995), the **Hon David Davis MLC** (USA 2000) and **Mr Ted Baillieu MP** (Japan 1993).

A dinner with Council alumni provided an opportunity for informal discussions and networking. Those who attended included **Ms Melissa Horne** (Germany 1999), **Mr Stuart Eaton** (Vietnam 2002), **Mr Russell Wood** (Vietnam 2002), **Ms Meredith Dickie** (Germany 1997), **Cr Emanuele Cicchiello** (Vietnam 2003) and **Mr Gordon Noble** (Germany 2001).

Ballarat and Daylesford

The Ballarat and Daylesford programs were very generously arranged and hosted by **Ms Catherine King MP** (Japan 2002) and involved a Civic Reception with **Cr David Vendy**, Mayor of Ballarat; a visit to Sovereign Hill, dinner hosted by **Ms Catherine King MP**; a meeting with the Mayor of Hepburn Shire, **Cr Warren Maloney**; a visit to Daylesford Secondary College; a tour of a working farm hosted by **Mr Brian Mobb**, Chairman, Australian Angus Beef Association and sightseeing activities.