

NEWS UPDATE

VIETNAM MINE ACTION DONOR MEETING, DEC 5TH, 2011, HANOI, VIETNAM

Compiled by Thao Griffiths, Country Director, Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation (VVAF)

Below is one article covering the Vietnam's Mine Action Donor Meeting of December 5th, 2011 on the Washington Post (note: there's one error in the article. The conference was NOT sponsored by the UN. The conference was organized by the Executive Office of the National Mine Action Steering Committee, with technical support by the Geneva International Center for Humanitarian Demining – GICHD, and the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation - VVAF). For more press clippings, please see the file of press clippings attached.

Vietnam says 100,000 killed or hurt by land mines, other explosives since end of Vietnam War

The Washington Post with Foreign Policy

WORLD

Where World News and National Security Intersect



By Washington Post, Published: December 5

HANOI, Vietnam — More than 100,000 Vietnamese have been killed or injured by land mines or other abandoned explosives since the Vietnam War ended nearly 40 years ago, and clearing all of the country will take decades more, officials said Monday.

“The war’s painful legacy, which includes hundreds of thousands of tons of bombs and unexploded ordnance, continues to cause painful casualties every day,” Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung told a U.N.-sponsored conference on ways to deal with the problem.

Dung said 42,132 people have been killed and 62,163 others wounded by land mines, bombs and other explosives since the war ended in 1975. The United States used about 16 million tons of bombs and ammunition while allied with the former South Vietnam government, which was defeated by northern communist fighters who reunified the country.

U.S. Ambassador David Shear told the conference that the United States has provided \$62 million to help Vietnam cope with “this painful legacy.”

“Our efforts to help Vietnam deal with this difficult problem have helped build the mutual trust and understanding between the U.S. and Vietnam that has allowed our bilateral relationship to flourish,” he said.

Bui Hong Linh, vice minister of labor, war invalids and social affairs, said explosives remain on about 16 million acres (6.6 million hectares) of land, or more than one-fifth of the country.

He said only 740,000 acres (300,000 hectares) or 5 percent of the contaminated area has been cleared and a recently approved government plan calls for clearance of an additional 1.2 million acres (500,000 hectares) that would cost \$595 million in the next five years.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia-pacific/vietnam-says-42000-people-killed-by-bombs-ordnance-left-from-vietnam-war/2011/12/04/gIQAL9xeUO_story.html



Prime Minister H.E. Nguyen Tan Dung delivered the opening remarks and stayed for the first half of the conference



Group photo of the VN Mine Action Donor Meeting, Dec 5th 2011, Hanoi



The Ambassador of the United States of America H.E. David Shear delivered the remarks



After delivering the remarks, the Ambassador of Norway H.E. Ambassador Ståle T. Risa exchanged views with Vice Minister of Labor, Invalids, and Social Affairs H.E. Bui Hong Linh



Vietnamese delegates at the Vietnam Mine Action Donor Meeting, Dec 5th, 2011



International development partners at the Mine Action Donor Meeting, Dec 5, 2011