

## **President Annual Report at AGM Meeting on 21/12/2020**

Year 2020 will be remembered as the year when COVID-19 pandemic caused significant human loss and disruption around the world. With travel restriction and everyone's were advised to stay home, the Board of VNF has turned to on-line meeting via the Zoom platform to hold regular Board meeting once a month.

Thanks to the internet, we still keep in close contact with our partners in Vietnam and have delivered the following projects in 2019-2020:

### Recycled Bicycle Project 2020:

We continue to work with Hanh Trinh Yeu Thuong's group to deliver 200 recycled bikes in the Mekong Delta region, these bikes will be given out at various locations and will conclude by the end of this month. For Central Vietnam, sadly with the death of the bike repairer and his wife due to a house fire, we couldn't continue the bikes project in Hue this year. However, we have established contact with a new group in Hà Tĩnh called Recycled Bikes For Kids (RB4K) led by Mr. Trần Quyết Thắng. Thắng has received a lot of publicity and support for his recent efforts in recycling old bikes for poor children. The Board has decided to support this group and provide fund for 100 reconditioned bikes initially. Our Bikes Appeal via Email this year has raised a total of AUD16,200.

### Rainwater Containers Project 2020:

This year in collaboration with our local partner Mr. Huỳnh Ngọc Bảo and the local Red Cross, VNF commissioned another 300 rainwater vats (1000-litre capacity) and delivered to families in Hòn Đất, Kiên Giang with a total cost of VND270 millions (roughly AUD15,500).

In collaboration with our regular partner Hành Trình Yêu Thương (HTYT), VNF delivered another 17 rainwater containers (2,500-litre capacity in cement with reinforced steel mesh of 1.5m diameter x 1.5m height) to families in Giồng Trôm, Bến Tre with a total cost of VND30,430,000 (roughly AUD1,750).

### Bridge Project:

A Facebook Appeal initiated by Director Hai Dinh raised a total of AUD3,258 from two FB fund raisers to replace monkey bridges with small concrete bridges in the Mekong Delta region. VNF is working with local partners to identify suitable location.

(Please note that some projects spread over two financial years so the figures given here for each project might be different from the Treasurer's Financial Report for financial year 2019-2020 only).

### VNF Flood Appeal:

In October 2020, VNF launched an urgent appeal for flood victims in Central Vietnam due to heavy rains, and flooding that lasted for many weeks. We were overwhelmed with the generous support of members and the general public and the total donation for VNF Flood Appeal as of 20/12/2020 is AUD44,432. VNF has been working with four different partners to deliver urgent aids: Chung Tay Vì Cộng Đồng in Saigon, Mr Trần Đức Anh Sơn in Đà Nẵng, Mr Trần Quyết Thắng of RB4K in Hà Tĩnh, and Tuổi Trẻ Newspaper. The

first phase of delivering urgent aids such as food and medicines has completed, we are now providing aids for the long-term rebuilding phase.

End of Year Dinner:

To celebrate its 25 year in operation, VNF held an End of Year Dinner on Sunday 29/12/2019 at the InterContinental Sydney Double Bay. This event attracted nearly 70 participants with many young faces, it was our first effort attract fresh faces and new ideas to VNF.

In September 2020, VNF Board has established the VNF Ambassador program to expand awareness of VNF, especially amongst Gen X and Gen Y. Miss Mai Nguyen-Long has accepted the Board's invitation to be the first Ambassador of VNF.

We welcome one new director Mr. Nguyen Kim Long and bid farewell to Director Tuan Truong who resigned for family reason. We will miss Tuan's enthusiasm and organisation skills.

It has been a difficult yet exciting year for Vietnam Foundation. Our much-anticipated trip to visit VNF projects and representatives in VN was cancelled due to COVID-19. On the other hand, our Flood Appeal has exceeded our expectation with so many supports and donations. Our new website and Facebook page have helped connecting to supporters not only from all over Australia, but also from as far as the USA and UK.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year of 2021.

Dr Lý Gia Nhãn

President

21/12/2020