

Memorandum on the Inauguration of the Viet Nam – UK Network

Viet Nam – UK Relations are at a new level with the UK-Viet Nam Strategic Partnership signed in 2009. Together with official diplomatic channels and fora, people-to-people ties between our two nations have also been strengthening with a number of active and dynamic friendship associations and organizations.

The establishment of the UK-Viet Nam Strategic Partnership and the following annual Action Plans opened a new chapter in the bilateral relationship between Viet Nam and the UK. In this connection, there is a need to further expand and enhance the existing network of friends of Viet Nam in the UK by the creation of the Viet Nam-UK Network (the Network hereinafter).

As agreed at its initial meeting, the Network will comprise all existing organizations that are working to promote Viet Nam – UK friendship and cooperation with the initial organizational form, structure, principles and membership as follow:

- **Name:** Viet Nam-UK Network - Mạng lưới Hữu nghị Việt - Anh.

- **Format:** An open network with existing organizations continue to function as normal but connected within the Network to create the synergy and coordination needed for further strengthening their own activities.

-**Membership:** open and inclusive for existing friendship organizations and their members, and residents of the UK who would like to contribute to the development of relations between the peoples of the UK and Viet Nam. Hence organizations-members could be Britain-Vietnam Friendship Society, Medical and Scientific Aid for Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia (MSAVLC), the Vietnamese Association in the UK, UK Trade Union's Friends of Viet Nam, APPGV, VietPro, etc, besides individual members.

- **Committee:** comprised initially of no more than 10 members: prominent individuals, leaders of member organizations, and representatives from the Embassy of Viet Nam. The Steering Committee works on the voluntary basis and shall adopt the Charter of the Network as well as its annual plan of activities. There shall be two Honorable Presidents, one Executive Chairman, two Vice Chairman and some members.

- The Network has a **Secretariat** as its supporting team at the Embassy of Viet Nam.

- **Funding:** initially from the Embassy's budget and contribution from donors.

- **Operation:**

- The Committee would review and approve the annual plan of activities based on ideas and initiatives from the Network's members.
- Possible activities: meetings, roundtables, speaking events on different occasions, including anniversaries and visiting delegations, other events held at the Embassy or elsewhere such as receptions or cultural, education, economic and trade promotion activities, etc.
- The Committee will be asked by the Embassy of Viet Nam to provide consultation and advises for the Embassy and the Government of Viet Nam on issues related to the bilateral relations between the UK and Viet Nam, Viet Nam's branding and image promotion, as well as Viet Nam's development issues. The Network will be a key actor of the Viet Nam – UK Strategic Partnership and seek to promote friendship and mutual understanding.
- The Network will develop its own organisation, programme and future activities as it moves forward.

Network's Steering Committee

- Two Joint Honorary Presidents: Mr Len Aldis and Ambassador Vu Quang Minh
- Executive Chairman: Mr. Ben Chapman
- Two Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Warwick. Morris (in charge of membership) and Mr. Peter Lacy (in charge of finance)
- Treasurer: Mr. Peter Lacy
- Accountant: An Embassy staff
- Permanent Secretary: Mr. Do Hoang Linh

Ambassador of Viet Nam to the UK

Executive Chairman



Vu Quang Minh



Ben Chapman

In the presence of the H.E. Secretary General of the VCP, Mr Nguyen Phu Trong and British Ambassador to Viet Nam, HE Dr. Antony Stokes LVO.