

TOUR COST AND CONDITIONS

The tour cost is approximately \$3000 and includes international airfare, transportation, room and some meals in Vietnam. Participants are expected to fly together from the US to Vietnam.

To apply or for more information please contact: VietnamTour@cc-ds.org or write Committees of Correspondence, 522 Valencia St., #1, San Francisco CA 94110. Phone (415) 863-6637.

Who may apply:

All members of CCDS and friends are invited to apply. Participation is open to all who seek to address and act upon the goals of the study tour. Some financial aid may be available.

Deposit:

A \$200 deposit will reserve a place on the tour, pending acceptance of the application. A full refund will be given to those canceling their reservation no later than 60 days prior to departure (Oct. 30, 2008).

Join CCDS:

Help us work for a progressive agenda of peace, jobs, equality and democracy building toward a socialist future. The annual membership is \$36 (\$18 for unemployed, seniors, youth, and others with low income; \$48 for households). Send your check with name, address and contact information to Committees of Correspondence, 545 Eighth Avenue, 14th Floor NE, New York NY 10018. Phone (212) 868-3733; email: national@cc-ds.org.

Socialist Education Project

A program of CCDS, inquire for more information.



Committees of Correspondence
545 Eighth Avenue, 14th Floor NE
New York, NY 10018



Study Tour VIETNAM



The Legacies of War and Vietnam's Socialist Development

Dec. 29, 2008 - Jan. 12, 2009

hosted by
Vietnam Women's Union
and
Socialist Education Project

Committees of Correspondence for
Democracy and Socialism

BUILDING US-VIETNAMESE FRIENDSHIP AND SOLIDARITY

As part of our solidarity with peoples creating alternatives to society based solely on profit, this tour will focus on studying how the Vietnamese are working to build socialism. There will be discussion and site visits with a range of Vietnamese organizations and individuals. We will focus on women's involvement in the revolution and also on challenges posed by the socialist oriented market economy, which has led to rapid economic development and tremendous gains in poverty alleviation but also to a growing gap between those with money and without.

The group will learn how Agent Orange continues to affect the people and land of Vietnam. We will build US-Vietnamese friendship concretely by helping to hold the US government and chemical manufacturers accountable for the incalculable damage done by Agent Orange, used by the US military in large quantities during the war.

TOUR PROGRAM

The program will be a quest for understanding of Vietnam's present and future political, economic and social objectives. Meetings with representatives of the Vietnam Women's Union and the Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin are an important part of the program. We will also visit a factory, a rural area, a university, historical sites and major tourist attractions, where there will be ample time to experience the breathtaking beauty of Vietnam.

For many US leftists, the Vietnam War was a defining experience that still shapes their perspective. The war brought home the imperialist character of US global policy and propelled them to a lifetime commitment to work for a society built on peace and justice.



Workers at seafood processing factory with US activist.

THE ITINERARY

Hanoi -- situated on the Red River, the ancient and modern capital of Vietnam has a population of 3.5 million. The program includes meetings with the Women's Union, the Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin, a discussion on politics and economics with Vietnamese experts, and a seminar on global capitalism. We will visit a pagoda and take in the legendary water puppet show as well as the ethnology museum and Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum.

Halong Bay - a day trip will feature a boat ride on the beautiful bay and a visit to the magnificent crystalline caves.

Danang - this bustling seaport is the site of "China Beach," the principal landing area for US forces during the Vietnam War (referred to by the Vietnamese as the "American War").

Hue - this cultural and historic center was Vietnam's capital from 1802-1945 and is the site of the Citadel, scene of a major battle during the Tet offensive in 1968. The group will visit a university to discuss pressing issues in education with staff and students.

Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) - along with a city tour, the visit will include the War Remnants (Crimes) Museum, a factory, agricultural area, and a side trip to the famous Cu Chi tunnels, built by Vietnamese fighters during the "American War," where we will chat with veterans.

THE VIETNAM WOMEN'S UNION

The tour will be hosted by the Vietnam Women's Union (VWU). The 11-million woman strong VWU represents the interests of Vietnamese women and leads the struggle for women's equality and full emancipation. The VWU is a mass organization with 10,331 local women's unions in communes and towns throughout the country; the VWU is organized at the national, provincial, district and commune levels.

The VWU was founded in 1930 and played a key role in the national liberation of Vietnam from French colonialism, Japanese occupation and US imperialism. Since full liberation of the country in 1975, the VWU has played a major role in rebuilding the country and improving the lives of women and girls.

ACHIEVEMENTS BY VIETNAMESE WOMEN AND THE VWU

As a grassroots organization involved in every aspect of women's lives, the VWU has a wide and varied program, including gender equality and leadership, women in labor, ending domestic violence and trafficking in women, economic development and micro-credit programs, and HIV-AIDS prevent and treatment. In many areas, the VWU contracts with local governments to provide services in education and public health.

Since 1975 Vietnamese women have made decisive contributions to the development of socialism in Vietnam. Through the efforts of the VWU, women have achieved leadership in all spheres. Women comprise 26% of the members of the National Assembly and hold many positions as political and economic leaders. The VWU successfully gained passage of the Law on Gender Equality.

THE VIETNAM ASSOCIATION FOR VICTIMS OF AGENT ORANGE/DIOXIN

The group will also meet with the Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin, which speaks for three million victims of Agent Orange. This chemical was sprayed over the people and land of Vietnam from 1961-71. The Dioxin contained in Agent Orange causes cancers, reproductive disorders, immune and endocrine deficiency, and nervous system damage, along with severe physical and developmental disabilities to the children and grandchildren of those exposed.