



Press release

**Denmark in your eyes writing contest has found its winner  
& Launching of Vietnam -Denmark Alumni Network**

*Hanoi, 13 June 2016*

**9<sup>th</sup> grade student wins “Denmark in your eyes” writing contest**

9<sup>th</sup> grade student from Nguyen Sieu high school in Hanoi Pham Tam Dan won “Denmark in your eyes” creative writing contest. Ambassador of Denmark to Vietnam Charlotte Laursen and Chairman of Vietnam – Denmark Friendship Association (VIDAFA)/ Minister for Environment and Natural Resources Tran Hong Ha announced the result of the contest at a cozy award ceremony at the Danish residence on Monday 13 June.

This is the first time the writing contest “Denmark in your eyes” is organized by Danish embassy and VIDAFA to celebrate the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vietnam – Denmark diplomatic relations.

Pham Tam Dan will be awarded 02 weeks scholarship at the prestige Niels Brock Business School in Copenhagen, Denmark.

“I was generally impressed by the quality of the contestants’ imaginative and at the same time knowledgeable contributions to our writing contest ‘Denmark in your eyes’ - but the way Ms. Pham Tam Dan captured the Danish soul of trusting one another touched us all in the selection board. I hope that Ms. Dan will enjoy her stay at Niels Brock Business School in Copenhagen and that the embassy will have a chance to repeat such competitions in the future.”, said the Ambassador of Denmark Charlotte Laursen.

## **Launching of Denmark-Vietnam Alumni Network**

On 13 June 2016, to celebrate the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vietnam – Denmark diplomatic relations, the Embassy of Denmark in Hanoi announced the establishment of Denmark – Vietnam Alumni Network.

“We hope that the Denmark-Vietnam Alumni will help to foster the development of long lasting and diverse relationships between Vietnam and Denmark through people-to-people contacts and will conduct activities relevant for the alumni members within education, research, culture, career-development opportunities, etc.”, said Ambassador Charlotte Laursen at the ceremony.

Activities for the Alumni Network include but are not limited to events in the culture, education and business areas for example: education fairs to attract Vietnamese students to Denmark, meetings or events at companies in Vietnam for recruitment and branding purposes; business talks or mini seminars organized in companies and/or at universities; networking events; etc. The alumni network will also have access to a global, professional network through the Danida Fellowship Centre.

## **Background**

### **45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vietnam – Denmark diplomatic relations**

In 2016, Vietnam and Denmark will celebrate the 45th anniversary of diplomatic relations. There is a series of activities throughout the autumn, including high-level government visits, partnership-seminars, exchanges by the National Assembly and the Danish Parliament, as well as “Danish Weeks” in Hanoi and Hochiminh city in October- November.

### **“Denmark in your eyes” writing contest**

This is the first time the writing contest “Denmark in your eyes” is organized by Danish embassy and Vietnam-Denmark friendship Association to celebrate the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Vietnam – Denmark diplomatic relations. The contest encourages students of 9-12 grades at 03 school Nguyen Sieu/Doan Thi Diem/Vinschool in Hanoi to participate. Within 2 months (April-May 2016), applicants are expected to submit photo(s) either captured by the applicant or from other sources and an essay in English written by the applicant that explains why the chosen photo(s) inspires and links the applicant to Denmark. There have been 50 applications. Apart from the grand prize, the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 03 encouraging prizes are awarded to other students.

*(See attached document for the winner’s essay in English and Vietnamese)*

## **Denmark – Vietnam alumni network**

The launch of the Denmark-Vietnam Alumni Network coincides with the establishment of a Danida Fellowship Centre (DFC) initiative establishing a global DFC Alumni platform. The DFC platform opened on May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016 ([www.alumni.dfcentre.com](http://www.alumni.dfcentre.com)). The DFC Global Platform encourages and supports the establishment of local (national) alumni networks. The Denmark-Vietnam Alumni Network is hence close coordinated and linked to the establishment of the global network. Ghana and Vietnam are from the outset chosen as pilot countries for establishing national networks.

*For information about Denmark and Vietnam and the Embassy of Denmark in Vietnam please visit: [www.vietnam.um.dk](http://www.vietnam.um.dk) or follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/dkvietnam>*

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