

DCET/WEF/CWEA Contingent Completes Clean Water Good Will Trip to Vietnam

(By Jerry Williams, DCET, edited by Steve Rohm, Ecoletter Editorial Staff)

TRIP REPORT – 18 October 2002, Vietnam

PURPOSE: The purpose of the trip was to assess the institutional and professional capabilities of Vietnam to support an operator certification program. However, this was only part of a larger, ongoing effort to establish operator certification in four countries: Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines, (CATSPAW) Certification and Training Support for Professional Associations in Water.

The trip contingent consisted of: Al Goodman – Past President of WEF, CEO Goodman Associates (*see Ecoletter, summer 2001, pg. 17*), Jerry Williams – Department Chair, Environmental Training Center, Delaware Technical and Community College, Rudy Yuwono – Engineer, Indonesia and Setiawan (Iwan) Wangasaatmadjaya – Engineer, Indonesia Regulatory Authority

The trip itinerary consisted of visiting many water and wastewater facilities (mostly water) and meeting with managers, government officials, and educational specialist. The trip was part of a **USAID** effort to outreach to developing nations by providing guidance and assistance in protecting and improving water as these nations progress. The objective of the trip coincided with the CWEA International Subcommittee's mission to outreach to foreign nations in an effort to provide technical assistance via educational materials and support of partner nation's potential WEF/CWEA affiliate organizations as a mechanism to provide the assistance. The CWEA International Subcommittee has an established relationship with the Nation of Bulgaria through their Bulgarian National Association on Water Quality (*See Ecoletter, summer 2001, pg 12*)

FINDINGS: The country of Vietnam has a large network of water systems to provide water to most of the population. There is a national priority to provide water to all of the people. There is a very small effort to clean up wastewater (hotels, hospitals.) However, government officials realize this must be addressed. There is general consensus that an operator's training program will assist the country to address their water and wastewater goals and maintain the infrastructure. Vietnam is prepared to adopt an operator's training program. The following recommendations have been put forth to continue the efforts of this international relationship.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Aid in the development of both undergraduate and post-graduate systems of training environmental engineers/environmental policy analysts and public health officials.

Conduct a future CATSPAW (Certification and Training Support for Professional Associations in Water) meeting with the following goals: develop mission statement and organize goals/objectives; develop general scope of work; develop budget and develop timeline

Each country should identify partners. They should obtain statements of support from partners (i.e., general statement supporting certification and training.)

CATSPAW (or sub-organizations) should begin to identify funding sources and make contact with these organizations to identify requirements/possibilities.

This was an excellent trip. It was well organized and I feel we accomplished the goals of the visit.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 302-855-5900 or awillia2@college.dtcc.edu