

VUFO-NGO Resource Center
Agent Orange Working Group
Terms of Reference
December 2004

Description

The Agent Orange Working Group, formed in July 2004, is one of several working groups organized under the VUFO-NGO Resource Center. The group was initiated by international NGO members of the Resource Center. Participation is open to INGOs, Vietnamese counterpart agencies, international organizations, and other interested local and foreign personnel.

Participants in the Working Group approach the issue of Agent Orange from a broad variety of perspectives, including scientific research, assistance to people with disabilities, resolution of war legacies, environmental toxics and remediation, the arts and humanities, and US-Vietnam relations. They have in common an interest in sharing information and experience in order better to understand and respond to issues related to the wartime use of Agent Orange and other toxic substances in Viet Nam.

Objectives

1. To share information and views on international NGO projects and various Vietnamese and international initiatives relating to Agent Orange.
2. To enhance participants' understanding of the range and complexity of issues relating to Agent Orange.
3. To enhance communication and create space for relevant groups inside and outside Vietnam to meet and discuss current events and the changing environment around Agent Orange.

Functions

The Working Group proposes to undertake the following activities:

1. Hold bi-monthly or quarterly meetings in Hanoi, with presentations from Vietnamese and international experts
2. Maintain a contact list of projects and activities.
3. Circulate information about events around the world.
4. Encourage cross-sectoral exchange and cooperation among scientists, policy analysts, artists, disability advocates, support groups and associations and so forth.

Coordination

The Working Group is currently facilitated by the Fund for Reconciliation and Development. This role may rotate on an annual basis. The Working Group facilitator maintains close liaison with the Resource Center to share information on meetings and other activities.

For further information, please contact:

Andrew Wells-Dang
Regional Representative, Fund for Reconciliation and Development

Tel. (090) 424-5641
E-mail: andrew@ffrd.org