

Speech of Mr. Hoang Nam – Deputy Director of Quang Tri DoFA

10th anniversary of Project RENEW & opening ceremony of the Visitor Center

(Dong Ha, 5 Aug, 2011)

Mr. Nguyen Duc Chinh, standing vice chairman of Quang Tri Provincial Peoples Committee

Mr. Đôn Tuấn Phong, Director of People's Aid Coordination Committee (PACCOM)

Mr. Chuck Searcy, International Advisor of RENEW, Representative of Humpty Dumpty Institute, former representative of VVMF, Mr. Jonathon Richard Guthrie, NPA Country Director

Distinguished guests! Ladies and gentlemen!

Firstly, on behalf of Quang Tri DoFA and Project RENEW, I would like to wish you all good health and express my gratitude for your participation in the 10th anniversary commemoration of Project RENEW and the opening ceremony of the Mine Action Visitor Center.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The fierce war has not only played heavy havoc with Quang Tri during the wartime but also left behind devastating consequences to the people and the land, years after the war and up till now. The CM/ERW is the cause of humanitarian issues to the community and affected various socio-economic aspects of Quang Tri province.

Right after the war ended, the local military, authorities and people have immediately implemented clearance activities for reconstruction work. However, due to limited resources, Quang Tri is still the most contaminated province of Vietnam in term of CM/ERW – approximately 80% of the province remains contaminated (compared to the average contamination nationwide of 20%), there have been more than 7,075 casualties since 1975, accounting for 1.2% of the provincial population. In which, 2,635 of the victims were killed, and 31% of the victims has been children.

Since 1996, with the support from the government and its internal efforts, Quang Tri started to receive international funding through cooperation programs with Non-government Organization to implement mine action activities.

As part of that joint efforts, 10 years ago, under the direction of Provincial Peoples Committee, Bureau of Foreign Affairs (now DoFA), and the Vietnam Veteran Memorial Fund initiated Project RENEW, with a mission of developing a comprehensive, integrated management model to deal with ERW issues and the humanitarian impacts of this problem effectively and sustainably.

Started as a pilot model, Project RENEW has made steady progresses and obtained considerable achievements in the field of dealing with war consequences to meet up with poverty reduction requirements and socio-economic development of the province and

become an example for mine action project, which was highly appreciated by the central ministries, local authorities and international communities.

In review of 10 years of cooperation and development, please look up on the screen

RENEW presentation Film (10 min)

Distinguished guests! Ladies and gentlemen!

In achieving the accomplishments as of today, we would like to thank you the central government and ministries for their support to the project in the past time. Especially, we would also like show our gratitude for the attention and direction and Provincial Peoples Committee, Project Steering Board, directed led by Mr. Nguyen Duc Chinh, standing vice chairman of Provincial Peoples Committee, head of Project Steering Board.

Thank you VVMF, the first NGO to initiate the Project with us and the person, who have accompanied with the Project in the past 10 years, Mr. Chuck Searcy, International Advisor, former VVMF in-country representative

Thank you Norwegian Peoples Aid, the co-donor of the project and will be the main partner of the project since 2012, and Mr. Jonathon Richard Guthrie, NPA Country Director

Thank you TMC, HDI, GWHF, UNICEF as well as other organizations and individuals for the effective cooperation with programs of the Project.

On this occasion, we would like to extend our thanks to The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The US Department of State, The Taiwanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other individuals and organizations for their funding to the Project. Special thanks to the donors who have travelled a long way to participate in this important event:

The first donor to help initiate Project RENEW – a Vietnam veteran who fought in Quang Tri and is now the President of E*Trade Penington Venture, Mr. Christos Cotsakos.

The donor for construction of Quang Tri Province Mine Action Visitor Center, Ms Sally Benson and Steve Nichols, President of Chino Cienega Foundation, a US-based family foundation.

We also would like to thank many other donors, who can not participate in our anniversary for various reasons. Our thanks also go to departments, districts, agencies and people in the project areas for their support and assistance to the project. Thank you the expatriates, Project RENEW local staff for their tireless efforts to contribute in the successes of the project today.

Wish you all good health, happiness, and successes. Thank you very much.