

Hanoi, 30 March 2007

For immediate release

## AWARD OF HONOURABLE MEDAL OF FRIENDSHIP TO UNESCO REPRESENTATIVE MR. CHU SHIU-KEE



On 30 March 2007, the President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam has decided to award an Honourable Friendship Medal to Mr. CHU Shiu-Kee, the UNESCO Representative in Viet Nam. This medal, presented by Mr. Le Cong Phung, President of Viet Nam National Commission for UNESCO and First Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, has been awarded to Mr. CHU Shiu-Kee for his contribution to Viet Nam's development in the areas of education, culture, science and communication and information during his four year assignment in Viet Nam.

On this special occasion, Mr. CHU Shiu-Kee was also received by Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung, who expressed his appreciation for Mr CHU Shiu-Kee's contribution to development in Viet Nam and confirmed the strong partnership between the Government of Viet Nam and UNESCO.

Mr CHU Shiu-Kee has in addition been awarded Honourable Medals by the Ministry of Education and Training, the Ministry of Culture and Information, Quang Ninh Province and Thua Thien Hue Province.

From January 2003 to the present, Mr. CHU served as the UNESCO Representative to Viet Nam. During these four years, the UNESCO Hanoi Office expanded considerably its programme and project activities in Viet Nam, as well as the range of partnerships with national authorities and bodies.

Particularly worthy of mention in the area of education are the promotion of all aspects of Education for All, especially support to EFA national and provincial action planning, policies for early childhood, primary, secondary and higher education in Viet Nam. Further strategic assistance has been provided by Mr CHU to Viet Nam's development of a nationwide network of Community Learning Centres (CLCs) to build a learning society in which all people can learn in all places and at all times.

Mr. CHU has contributed to the conservation of tangible heritage and the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage in Viet Nam. This includes support to the planning and

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management of World Heritage Sites and the recognized masterpieces Nha Nhac and the Space of Gong Culture in the Central Highlands. Considerable support has also been provided to the sustainable development of natural heritage and the UNESCO Biosphere Reserves in Viet Nam.

Mr. CHU has given many interviews and contributed articles to the media in Viet Nam. He has written for a wide range of publications, including UNESCO technical guides, manuals, and analytical reports especially with regard to EFA and the 1999 and 2000 UNDP Human Development Reports. He has also been invited to contribute to the International Encyclopaedia of Education, published by the Pergamon Press. He is a member of several worldwide professional networks.

Mr. CHU Shiu-Kee has finished his assignment and will officially leave Viet Nam on 1 April.

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