



# VIETNAM AGENT ORANGE RELIEF & RESPONSIBILITY CAMPAIGN

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## *Presentation to the Second Congress of the Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange/Dioxin*

**By Claire Tran, Member of the U.S. Delegation and  
National Board Member of the Vietnam Agent Orange Relief & Responsibility Campaign**

On behalf of the Vietnam Agent Orange Relief and Responsibility Campaign in the United States, I express our deepest solidarity on the occasion of the first Congress of the Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange / Dioxin (VAVA). We are honored to be here with you in Vietnam for this historic congress. We know that this congress will result in many gains for the cause of justice and responsibility for all victims of Agent Orange in Vietnam, as well as for Vietnamese abroad and for exposed war veterans and their family members in the US and other countries.

Your commitment to revealing the injustices of Agent Orange and fighting for compensation is an important example to the entire international community. VAVA's success as a grass roots, people's organization fighting for more than 3 million Agent Orange victims is a reminder to the world of the human and environmental costs of an illegal war that continues to terrorize the people and degrade the land even decades and generations after the bullets have ceased.

The Vietnam Agent Orange Relief & Responsibility Campaign is proud to join VAVA and groups around the world in undertaking this important challenge to the US government and US corporations who must take responsibility for the human, environmental and economic damage they have caused. We must continue to educate people on the lasting impact of war, not only for all those who have been affected in Vietnam but also for all those who currently suffer the affects of war today in Iraq and Afghanistan.

As a Vietnamese American, it is truly an honor to be united with and engaged in this struggle of my homeland. Young Vietnamese Americans are becoming more aware and speaking out on the issue of Agent Orange. This awareness will help develop understanding and strengthen relationships between young Vietnamese Americans and Vietnam. Vietnamese American youth also play a crucial role in building a dynamic and broad popular movement in the US to support Vietnamese Agent Orange victims. Recognizing this, our Campaign is actively working to mobilize this community.

On the occasion of this Congress we know that VAVA will become stronger and more strategic in your efforts. We congratulate you on the work of this Congress and look forward to working in partnership with VAVA to achieve our mutual goals of justice, compensation and success!