



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. Government and AIP Foundation partner to protect children on the roads

MoU signing on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of U.S. – Vietnam diplomatic relations
14 May, 2015—Hanoi

In celebration of the 20th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and Vietnam, the U.S. Department of State and AIP Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi today. The MoU formally launches the Public Private Partnership to raise funds from U.S. and Vietnamese corporations to provide helmets and road safety education to students in provinces across Vietnam.

Attendees at the signing included Ted Osius, U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam; Greig Craft, President of AIP Foundation; Claire A. Pierangelo, Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy Hanoi; Joakim Parker, Mission Director of USAID in Vietnam; and American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) Board of Governors from Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

Under the partnership, AIP Foundation and the U.S. Embassy Hanoi will organize events and helmet donations supporting the pre-existing *Helmets for Kids* program. The goal is to provide educational activities and helmets to 25,000 children from at-risk schools across the country. This partnership is a unique platform combining expertise from the U.S. and Vietnamese governments, NGOs, and the business sector to address a mutual public health concern.

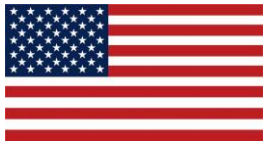
U.S. Ambassador Ted Osius, said, “The United States Government and AIP Foundation share the common goal of promoting essential and life-saving education to children throughout Vietnam. On this occasion, we are pleased to combine efforts, resources, and ideas to contribute to Vietnam’s socio-economic prosperity.”

The Public Private Partnership builds on a 15-year history between the U.S. Government and AIP Foundation. In 2000, Former President Bill Clinton launched *Helmets for Kids* in Ho Chi Minh City and then-Senator John Kerry launched the program in Hanoi.

“Road traffic crashes are the number one killer of young people in Vietnam today, and yet these deaths are completely preventable,” said Greig Craft, President of AIP Foundation. “The 20th anniversary of U.S. - Vietnam diplomatic relations provides a special platform for raising awareness of this critical issue and promoting a safer generation in Vietnam.”

The Partnership further compliments the National Child Helmet Action Plan, launched by the Vietnam National Traffic Safety Committee in January 2015, which aims to significantly raise the child helmet wearing rate across Vietnam through a combination of public education and enforcement strategies.

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About AIP Foundation

AIP Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to preventing road injuries and fatalities in low- and middle-income countries. For more than 15 years AIP Foundation has been delivering effective road safety programs in locations across Asia and Africa. To find out more, visit www.asiainjury.org or connect with us on Twitter @AIPFoundation.

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