



## MEDIA RELEASE

### U.S. Department of State launches new partnership with AIP Foundation

*Partnership aims to distribute 25,000 helmets to at-risk students across Vietnam*

*27 May, 2015—Hanoi*

A child motorcycle helmet donation ceremony took place in Hanoi today on the occasion of the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Charles H. Rivkin's visit. Co-organized by AIG Vietnam Insurance Company, this is the first event to take place under the new partnership between AIP Foundation and the U.S. Department of State and is one of many that supports the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of normalized diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Vietnam.

Under the partnership, AIP Foundation will work with U.S. corporate sponsors to organize events and helmet donations for at-risk schools supporting the pre-existing *Helmets for Kids* program. The partnership aims to provide road safety education and helmets to 25,000 children throughout Vietnam.

In 2000, former President Bill Clinton launched *Helmets for Kids* in Ho Chi Minh City. Fifteen years ago at the 20 October Kindergarten, the location of today's ceremony, then-Senator John Kerry launched the program in Hanoi.

Assistant Secretary of State Rivkin participated in a symbolic helmet handover at the event that represents the U.S.-Vietnam shared vision of a safer future for its children. Helmets were distributed to all 671 students and teachers. Distinguished guests included AIG CEO Ms. Susan Loftus; Deputy Executive Chairman of Vietnam's National Traffic Safety Committee (NTSC) Dr. Khat Viet Hung; President of AIP Foundation Mr. Greig Craft; and members of the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham). Representatives from the Ministry of Education and Training, Ministry of Public Security, Hanoi's Department of Education and Training (DoET), and Traffic Safety Committee were also among distinguished guests.

"Today we witness two governments jointly addressing their concerns for children's safety," said Mr. Greig Craft, President of AIP Foundation. "Road deaths are preventable. The 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of U.S.—Vietnam diplomatic relations is an opportunity to highlight—and tackle—these issues across two nations."

"While traveling on roads, children are extremely vulnerable and need protection most. The National Traffic Safety Committee strongly affirms that it's necessary to put helmets on children when on a motorbike. Support from the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Embassy Hanoi, and American companies to Vietnam's National Action Plan for Child Helmet Use launched by NTSC this year demonstrates their commitment to protecting and taking care of children, and helps us reach our development goals," said Dr. Khat Viet Hung, Vice Executive Chairman of NTSC.

AIG is the first to provide corporate support under the new partnership. AIG provided support for the ceremony today alongside donating hundreds of helmets to 20 October Kindergarten. AIG also sponsored the *Helmets for Kids* program at Trung Vuong Primary School in Hanoi during the 2014-2015 school year, donating nearly 2,000 helmets to students and teachers. The helmet donation program is part of AIG's global initiative to "Make the World a Safer Place."

"As an international insurance organization with a 20 year history here in Vietnam, AIG fully supports the life-saving benefits of a helmet. In fact, in Vietnamese, helmet—*mũ bảo hiểm*—translates literally to 'hat insurance.' We are pleased to continue our commitment to provide students with this type of 'insurance' and contribute to the well-being of children in Vietnam," said AIG CEO Ms. Susan Loftus.

#### **About the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:**

The 20th anniversary of normalized U.S.-Vietnam relations marks an opportunity to further deepen our two countries' 2013 Comprehensive Partnership. Its goal is to contribute to peace, stability, cooperation, and prosperity in each country, in the region, and in the world. The recent history of US partnerships with India and Indonesia teaches us that moving beyond bilateral engagement to broader cooperation is necessary and healthy for a maturing relationship.



Economically, annual trade volume increased from less than \$500 million in 1995 to \$35 billion today. The growth in US imports of Vietnamese goods has been faster than growth of our exports to Vietnam. With negotiations on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) nearing conclusion, we hope that Vietnam's participation in this gold-standard comprehensive trade agreement will lead to significant changes in management of the economy and new trade and investment opportunities as barriers fall. Vietnam's membership in TPP simultaneous with its continued progress toward greater transparency and respect for rule of law, may mean that the United States could become Vietnam's number one investor, duplicating its role in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as a whole.

#### **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 road crash prevention programs across Asia and Africa. To find out more, visit [www.asiainjury.org](http://www.asiainjury.org) or connect with us on Twitter @AIPFoundation.

#### **About AIG**

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