

NAWA educational fairs in Vietnam

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A delegation of sixteen Polish universities joined the representatives of the National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA) for a five-day promotional, educational mission to Vietnam. I was the only representative of the Jagiellonian University. Vietnam, a country located in Indochina, with a population of almost 100 million, is a potential target for Polish higher education institutions to search for young talented minds willing to pursue their tertiary education in Poland.

Our visit started in the capital city of Hanoi on 26 September 2019, where the Polish delegates met representatives from universities based in Hanoi. The meeting was held at Hanoi University. It had the character of round-table talks, commencing with a brief presentation of NAWA. Then representatives of the Polish universities had the chance to introduce themselves, followed by the presentations of the Vietnamese institutions of higher education. During the time of networking we talked to our potential partners.

This busy day ended with a dinner at the residence of the Polish Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Barbara Szymanowska, located next to the National Assembly House Hanoi, new Vietnamese Parliament building. The Ambassador also invited Vietnamese students studying the Polish language in Hanoi as well as Vietnamese alumni of Polish universities.

The second day of our stay in Vietnam commenced with a visit to the “Polish-Vietnamese Friendship High School,” which had received 20 computer monitors

from the Polish Embassy in Vietnam, and to the Group Adamed for didactic purposes.

Later we visited Amsterdam High School, one of the most prestigious schools in the country, where we met the schoolmaster and showed our educational offers to encourage young Vietnamese to add Poland as one of their destinations to continue education. Finally, we went to the VNU University of Economics and Business, where we held meetings with students.

On the last day of our stay in Hanoi, 28 September, we attended an educational fair *Study in Europe* along with representatives of other European countries. Each institution had its own stand. The fair gathered large numbers of Vietnamese young people who wanted to get to know different possibilities of studying at European universities. We did our best to show Poland as an attractive destination for higher education.

In the afternoon, the Polish delegation moved to the former capital of southern Vietnam, Ho Chi Min City, known as Saigon. There we participated in a similar fair *Study in Europe*, this time in Vietnam’s largest city and huge economic centre. The fair was followed by round-table talks and meetings in secondary schools in Ho Chi Min City.

Our visit to Vietnam was very successful thanks to the excellent organisation by the National Agency for Academic Exchange and thanks to the support of the Polish diplomats in Vietnam, who accompanied us in all of the events. It was evident for us that it is worth seeking potential students in such distant countries like Vietnam.



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