

.Preparation for the opening of the 1st course of international senior/ high-ranking military officers training to be opened in March 2008 at the VN NDA.

(Briefing made at the Military attaché Meeting held in The NDA of VN on November 27th, 2007)

By Lieutenant General Pham Xuan Hung

Commandant of VN NDA

Your Excellency deputy Minister of Defence,

Distinguished Military attaches and military representatives,

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Directorate of the NDA of VN, I would like to warmly welcome you to this meeting today, which is the preparation for the opening of the 1st course of international senior/ high-ranking military officers training to be opened in March 2008 at the VN national Defence Academy. First of all, I would like to wish you all good health, happiness and success at work.

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Recently, Vietnam celebrated our first anniversary of our accession to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), which has marked an important change during the process of Vietnam's joining in the international economy, opened a new period for our economy to integrate deeper and better into the global economy and given us a chance to step by step industrialize the country by the year 2020. Moreover, being elected as the non-permanent member of the UN's Security Council has improved our status in the international situation and provided favourable conditions for Vietnam to carry out fast and sustainable development.

To meet the demands of these changes, Vietnam's Ministry of Defence had built up its agenda for the new situation when Vietnam officially became a member of WTO, which attached special importance to the enhancement of international cooperation, exchange and mutual understanding in the military field with other countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On December, 20th 1994, The Vietnamese Government issued the decree number 188/CP on the establishment of the National Defence Academy on the foundation of the High Ranking Military Officers' Training Academy. Today, Vietnam's National Defence Academy is one of the two highest ranking Academies in the countries and the biggest centre for military science training and study of Vietnam's People's Army.

THE ACADEMY CARRIES OUT THE FOLLOWING TASKS:

1. Train operational and strategic level commanders, military science researchers, Masters of Military Science (MA) and Doctors of Philosophy (Ph.D.).
2. Upgrade defence education for important senior officials of provinces, cities, the Party and the government agencies.
3. Research on military science and military art.
4. Conduct international cooperation on training for high-ranking military officers.

With our well-qualified teaching staff and adequate infrastructure, we are absolutely confident that we will successfully accomplished our assigned tasks, including that of international training cooperation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

On May, 2nd 2007, the Minister of Defence, General Phung Quang Thanh officially assigned the NDA the task of opening international training course for international senior/ high-ranking military officers, in which he specified: in the beginning of 2008, the first course will be opened. This is our great honour, of course. but also our big responsibility. To respond to this task, the Academy is trying our best to ensure the best training quality for the first international course which is intended to opened in the beginning of March 2008.

1. AIMS/ OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

- To effectuate the State and Ministry of Defence policies on military foreign relations and defensive cooperation in the new situation.
- To provide international learners with some basic knowledge on Vietnam's politics, economy, culture, national defence and security in order to foster understandings and good feelings towards Vietnam, enhance friendship, solidarity, cooperation and mutual understanding between Vietnam and other countries, contributing to building up confidence and securing peace, stability and security in the region and in the world.
- To study and exchange academic issues on the fields of training-education, national defence and security, contributing to upgrading military knowledge and meeting the need to expand international relations in the region and in the world.

2. REQUIREMENTS

- To grasp thoroughly the viewpoint and foreign policy of the Party and State in conformity with the treaties and commitments between Vietnamese Government and Ministry of Defence and those of the related countries.
- The curriculum must be practical, feasible and close to reality.
- The training programme must be realistic, scientific, up-to-date in order to meet the learners' needs.
- There must be firm and timely instructions and guidance; close cooperation and coordination and good preparation for the opening of the new course.

3. PARTICIPANTS

The course participants are mainly military high-ranking officers and senior civilian officials selected in accordance with the objectives of each country and with the treaties and agreements between the two countries, between Vietnam's Ministry of Defence and those of ASEAN countries, of Pacific Region and of other countries.

Eligible international learners should meet the requirements on health and background knowledge agreed by the Defence Ministry of Vietnam and other defence ministries.

Eligible international learners should also be competent at English to study in English through an interpreter at Vietnam NDA.

4. TRAINING DURATION

- Overall duration of the course: 3 months 92 days
 - + Off class time (holidays, weekends...): 15 days
 - + Flexible time (reserve duration) 2 days
 - + Study tours, excursions and supplementary training (every Saturday) 13 days
 - + Actual training time 62 days
- Opening and closing:
 - + Opening time: 4th March 2008
 - + Closing time: 3rd June 2008(the document of the above information has been forwarded to you earlier)

6. THE ORGANIZATION OF THE COURSE AND TRAINING METHODS

- The course is organized into a multinational class.
- The lectures are given in Vietnamese and translated into English by an interpreter.
- The lectures are closely and appropriately combined with the learners' self-study, in-country study tours, seminars, discussions, reports etc...on specified themes and topics.
- Much importance is attached to self-study methods, and to the encouragement of learners' asking questions and self presentations.
- A graduate paper is required at the end of the course.
- On completion of the course, learners are awarded Graduation Certificates from the National Defence Academy.

7. REGULATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION

1. Respective countries sending their officers to VN NDA should bear the travel cost to VN and from VN back to their countries. During the course, all the expenses including tuition fees, meals, travel ... will be covered by Vietnam.
2. All international learners at the NDA are accommodated in the International Building under the supervision of the International Course.
3. The management and administrative regulations for international are conducted in accordance with the regulation of “Conducting and regulating military foreign affairs” issued on April 19th 1999 by the Minister of Defence.
4. International learners who are accompanied by their spouse and children will have to bear the cost of their families’ accommodation outside the campus and other expenses including those of daily travel and meals.
5. International learners who are also performing other military tasks in Vietnam will have to bear the cost of accommodation, meals and daily travel from their work place to the academy. These learners will have to follow other regulations on studying as other learners.
6. The medical care and medical treatment for international learners during their study in Vietnam are similar to those for Vietnamese military officers, which mean that international learners having medical problems will be treated in military medical centers and hospitals. Those who have special medical requirements will have to pay by themselves.
7. Details of specific regulations and standards for ensuring the studies and living of international learners at the NDA of VN will be later issued by authorized organs of the Ministry of Defence.

8. SOME ANNOUNCEMENT TO MILITARY ATTACHES OF RELATED COUNTRIES.

Schedule:

- Lists of learner candidates should be sent to the NDA of VN before January 10th 2008 via diplomatic notes to the Department of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence of VN).

- The reception of new international learners will start from 7.00 a.m. of March 1st to 20.00 p.m. of March 3rd 2008.

Once more wish you good luck, good health and happiness.

Thanks for your attention.