

Presentation of the photo competition „Our waters, our lives”

a background on the joint project of the Embassies
of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia
in cooperation with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Socialist
Republic of Vietnam and the Vietnam Association of Photographic Artists

Our project was born out of concern because of the difficult situation that climate change has caused in South and Central Vietnam at the beginning of this year. For the drought and saline intrusion made thousands to struggle to have access to clean water every day. Experts already warned several times the nations of the world that if we continue to neglect the consequences of our actions, the next wars will not be fought over oil or gas or any other similar resources but over access to clean water sources.

We are convinced that more efforts are needed to spread awareness in Vietnam and abroad of the grave effects of climate change. We believe that one way to fight this phenomenon is through raising the awareness of young generations to become responsible citizens fully in tune with their environmental footprint and the impact of their actions.

As our countries have been since long involved in finding adequate solutions in sustainable water management, we have decided to engage in a joint project to raise awareness and enhance the consciousness of young generations about environment protection. At this point, I would like to thank the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Vietnam Association of Photographic Artists for having joined us and having supported us with their expertise.

Our project consists in launching an open call for a photo competition on the subject of the effects of climate change on accessibility to clean water and quality drinking water for Vietnamese students between 18-28 years. They don't have to be professional photographers, they are only required to have a say about how climate change is a reality in our everyday life and how it is becoming more and more difficult to get clean water, especially quality drinking water, how people they know have to fight for their livelihood because of the lack of proper water resources, how climate change is having an effect on their immediate environment, on the rivers and seas of Vietnam. It is by this press meeting that we would like to launch this competition and the deadline will be the 15 September this year to send us the photos. The best photos will be selected by the representatives of the organizing Embassies, VAPA and MoNRE.

We plan to award the best photos with a certificate but more importantly we plan to organize an exhibition during October – November 2016 in all concerned countries: in Vietnam, in Bulgaria, in the Czech Republic, in Hungary, in Poland, in Romania and in Slovakia at high level international events with participation of state leaders and leaders of international organizations. We hope that students will appreciate the possibility to be able to express their ideas, to show their photos in seven different countries to an international community will attract a large number of participants.