

<p>To: Professor Dr. Ruben C. Umaly Director Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Secretariat (SEAMES) Darakarn Building 920 Sukhumvit Road Bangkok 10110 Thailand Tel: 391-8475 Fax: (66-2) 381-2587</p>	<p>From: Thao X. Tran 4400 Spruce St., Apt. B-4 Phila, PA 19104 USA</p> <p>Tel: 215 222 4829 e-mail: trantx@dolphin.upenn.edu</p>
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Phila, March 5, 1997

Dear Dr. Umaly:

Do you still remember me? I'm Thao. I was dean of the Department of English & TEFL at Hue College of Education. Maybe the following detail will refresh your mind: I helped with the translation at the International Conference for Vietnamese universities presidents held in Hue, Vietnam, in 1995.

I remember telling you that I was applying for a Fulbright scholarship to the US. And now I'm here at the University of Pennsylvania, doing a doctoral program in higher education administration! I've been here for almost two years now, and I'm now planning for my writing of the dissertation. My dissertation proposal topic is "Quality Assurance and Accreditation Process for Vietnamese Higher Education Institutions."

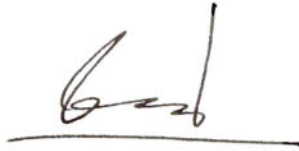
To study the issue in depth I think countries in Asia like China, or Thailand would present good examples for Vietnam, as I myself think Vietnam should learn from countries in the area, sharing similar cultural and societal values and conditions. I'm planning a field trip to one or two institutions in one/both of these countries to do a comparative study. I'm sure it would help to get the idea of what's been done and how it should be approached.

I'm writing for your advice as to where to obtain such information or data, or which universities should be on my list. If possible could you help me contact people and places relevant to my field and topic before I could make the field trip? I think I could spend about a week in each country. And I'm planning to make the trip possibly this summer, depending on my schedule and the availability of the funding for the trip. I'm so sorry that I left all the cards of the professors who lectured at the conference. Fortunately, your card is with me!

Any information from you is very much appreciated.

Thanks for your time and attention. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Thao Xuan Tran', written over a horizontal line.

Thao Xuan Tran

PS. I checked my data bank just now and there's this other name :

Wichien Kunchong, secretary to the Minister of Education, Bangkok, Thailand.

Unfortunately, I don't have the full address. Do you know of her? (I hope my memory doesn't fail me: it's a Mrs., isn't it?) Do you think she can help, too?

What I want is to contact for information on the topic first before I actually go and talk to these people, because I don't think I can afford to stay long.

Do you know of any professors in China you can refer me to?

Any other countries in the area you think would present good examples for Vietnam?