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Director's Message

Dear Friends of VIPP,

It gives me great pleasure to greet you as the new Director of the Visiting International Professional Program. It is an honor to join Michigan State University and to lead a program with an outstanding history of providing exceptional professional education to practitioners and experts from around the globe.

First and foremost, I wish to thank the International Studies and Programs senior administrators and the VIPP staff for their confidence in my ability to lead VIPP into the future. I promise to work with all of them – and all of you – to continue to keep VIPP at the forefront of professional education.

I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a bit more about myself and to speak of my vision for VIPP as I move into my position as Director. My interest in global learning and exchanges began years ago. As a doctoral student in Comparative Politics at the University of Washington, I did my fieldwork in South Korea, a learning experience that transformed how I viewed others and myself. During my sixteen years as a university faculty member, I wanted my students to develop their global awareness through the Model United Nations, study abroad, and cultural exchanges. Prior to my arrival at VIPP, I served as the Associate Director of the Asian Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh. My experience working in a Title VI National Resource Center strengthened my belief that universities are places that change how people view the world and their place in it.

My vision for VIPP includes growth and change. VIPP's future growth will build upon our past success, expand our program offerings into new regions of the globe, enhance our already impressive range of professional programs, and deepen the ties between VIPP and our global family.

With this growth comes the opportunity for constructive change. Sustainable growth requires a solid foundation, so VIPP is reorganizing itself internally so as to fulfill our mission better and more efficiently. VIPP will soon have a "new look" as we change our webpages, newsletters, and how we communicate with others about our program. And, you can expect to see new faces and make new friends as we deliver extraordinary and innovative professional education opportunities to people from around the world.

Our world's situation is changing rapidly and as such, so is the significance of professional expertise. During my tenure here, I hope to have the opportunity to open new horizons that will result in the deepening of mutual understanding and learning among VIPP, Michigan State University, and the peoples of the world.

I am excited to join VIPP and to be a Spartan – Go Green! Go White!

Dennis Hart, Ph.D.
Director, Visiting International Professional Program





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U2 360° at Spartan Stadium by Brandon Leversee

The internationally popular Irish rock group, U2, one of the highest-grossing bands of all time, performed in Spartan Stadium on June 26th, the second concert in the stadium's history. Lead singer Bono had been forced to cancel a scheduled concert last year after having back surgery, postponing the event to Sunday night. The widely anticipated concert did not disappoint MSU fans. The 360-degree stage resembled a gigantic spacecraft with speakers. More than 70,000 people attended, filling the stadium to capacity. After a year in the making, the stage was finally set for the band to put on a show.

As soon as Bono stepped on stage the place went wild and didn't settle down until the concert ended two hours later. The band played some of its more popular songs, including "Mysterious Ways," "I Still Haven't Found What I'm Looking For," and "Elevation," as the crowd swayed and sang in unison. Using the full 360-degree stage to their advantage, Bono, lead guitarist The Edge, and bass guitarist Adam Clayton performed with passion. A spectacular show, the music could be heard anywhere on campus.

Of his visit to East Lansing, Bono said, "We're very glad to be here in MSU right now. What makes this country so beautiful is not just landscape. Your country is a beautiful idea."



VIPP Celebrates GPEP Graduates



▲ Group photo of GPEP Graduates, their families, instructors, and VIPP staff

Sunday, June 5th, 2011, VIPP celebrated the graduation of 16 of our Chinese and Korean participants from their Global Professional Education Program (GPEP). The ceremony was held at MSU's University Club. Congratulatory remarks were given by VIPP Director Dennis Hart, Assistant Director Sandy Holy, *continued on page B* ■

Upcoming Event:

The University is closed on July 4th for the American Independence Day. Why not celebrate responsibly with an outdoor barbeque and some fireworks?

VIPP Welcomes EMRA Participants

On May 29th, VIPP welcomed 14 participants from Enerji Piyasası Düzenleme Kurumu, the Turkish Energy Management Regulatory Authority (EMRA). The participants will be staying in the United States for ten weeks and visiting the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in Washington D.C.; the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Chicago, Illinois; and Hydro One, *continued on page B*



▲ Participants from the Turkish Energy Management Regulatory Authority sitting down to dinner during their tour of New York City.



GPEP Graduates (cont.)

Public Utility Institute Director Janice Beecher, and MSUglobal instructor Shayla Crockett. Following the certificate presentation ceremony, headed by VIPP Academic Advisor Kiwon Kang, valedictory speeches were given by graduates Qingmei Lu, from Beijing University of Technology, China, and Zhong Sun, from Beijing Normal University, China.

The graduates came from vastly different walks of life with fields ranging from insurance, trade and securities to agriculture and civil engineering. All however came other in the pursuit of a global education.

The graduates who spoke all expressed how difficult yet rewarding it was to relocate to the United States for anywhere between six months and a year to pursue further study, but all expressed that they would miss Michigan State University and VIPP when they returned home.

VIPP would like to welcome the graduates into the ever-expanding family of VIPP alumni and promises that while we may be half a world away from each other, we will never forget you, and once you are a part of VIPP, you never leave. ■

EMRA (cont.)

Ontario's energy delivery corporation, housed in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

In the coming months the participants will be taking courses on energy engineering and the United States political systems and policy making with respect to public utilities. Additionally they will be making trips to visit a wind farm in northern Michigan, a Michigan hydroelectric power plant, and the Michigan Utility Commission. This program, as well as Turkey's efforts over the last several years to promote solar, wind, and hydroelectric power, are synchronous with Michigan State's commitment to being a "green" University, promoting clean and renewable energy solutions. In recent months Turkey has begun construction on several power-generating dams and a state-of-the-art hybrid energy facility capable of providing energy using both renewable and conventional sources. This program marks the fourth year that the Visiting International Professional Program and the Enerji Piyasasi Düzenleme Kurumu have worked together, strengthening the bond between our two countries and continually supporting and promoting VIPP's goal to be culturally, professionally, and scientifically global. ■

MASK: Secrets and Revelations

The MSU Museum is featuring MASK: Secrets and Revelations, a multi-themed exploration of what masks can hide and what they can reveal. Masks are an evocative manifestation of human identity and spirituality. They are nearly ubiquitous, with cultures and societies around the world having incorporated them into their traditional practices. Masks continue to have a vital place in many societies. The exhibit will place a significant part of the museum's international collections on public display. The MSU Museum holds hundreds of masks in its collections, many of them never before being on public display. MSU Museum holdings are notably strong for West Africa and Central Africa, Papua New Guinea, and Mexico. As objects of art and culture, they are diverse in shape and form and in context. (credit: MSU Asian Studies Center)

This exhibition, sponsored by many MSU departments including the Asian Studies Center, features over 200 of the MSU Museum's extensive collection of masks from peoples and cultures around the globe. The idea being not so much to celebrate the masks in themselves but to celebrate the ideals they represent. The ideals of a common global heritage of artistic, musical, and traditional practices. "Whatever its shape and whatever its purpose, the mask changes the face, makes it stronger, exaggerates the features or conceals what the face would otherwise reveal—perhaps our true intent, perhaps our frailty as human beings," observes Gary Morgan, MSU Museum director and exhibit curator. The exhibit runs through January 2012

