



For Immediate Release
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President's Advisory Commissioners on AAPI and Dr. Nguyen Van Hanh, ORR Director, at NAVASA Conference in Minnesota

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Tucson Intl Alliance of Refugee Community
Tucson, AZ

Vietnamese Volunteers of Arizona
Glendale, AZ

Asian Pacific Residential Treatment Program
Los Angeles, CA

Cambodian Family
Santa Ana, CA

Southeast Asian Community Center
San Francisco, CA

Unified Vietnamese Community Council
Los Angeles, CA

Vietnamese Voluntary Foundation
San Jose, CA

Vietnamese Mutual Assistance
Association of Connecticut
Hartford, CT

Association for the Advancement of
Vietnamese Americans
Tampa, FL

Vietnamese Association of Illinois
Chicago, IL

Vietnamese Mutual Association
Wichita, KS

Wichita Indochinese Center
Wichita, KS

Vietnamese Catholic Office
New Orleans, LA

Springfield Vietnamese American
Civic Association
Springfield, MA

Vietnamese American Civic Association
Boston, MA

Maryland Vietnamese Mutual Association
Silver Spring, MD

Center for Asian Pacific Islanders
Minneapolis, MN

Project Fine
Winona, MN

Intercultural Mutual Assistance Association
Rochester, MN

Vietnamese Social Services of Minnesota
St. Paul, MN

Montagnard Dega Association
Greensboro, NC

Vietnamese American Cultural Organization
New York, NY

Asian American Community
Services Association
Tulsa, OK

Vietnamese American Association
Oklahoma City, OK

Vietnamese Friendship Association
Seattle, WA

Washington D.C. - The National Alliance of Vietnamese American Service Agencies (NAVASA) is pleased to announce that the President's Advisory Commission, on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders will convene a "Community Roundtable Meeting" at NAVASA's Conference in Minnesota. The roundtable will be held on July 24, 2002 at 2:00 pm at the Red Lion Hotel, 1870 Old Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN. NAVASA strongly encourages interested people to participate in this meeting to voice their concerns on issues affecting the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Dr. John Tsu, Chairman of the Commission will join other Commissioners and the Commission's Executive Director, John Duong, to welcome and address concerns of the audience which consists, in addition to the local general public and government officials, many community leaders from various states nationwide who will come to attend NAVASA Conference.

"We are very excited at the prospect of the Community Roundtable Meeting organized by the President's Advisory Commission on AAPI on July 24 in Minnesota because not only does it take place in a most critical time but it will also draw a record number of community leaders nationwide, many of them represent NAVASA's affiliates. I anticipate a good turnout and good outcome," said Mr. Duc Hong Duong, Chairman of NAVASA.

NAVASA is delighted to welcome Dr. Nguyen Van Hanh, Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). Dr. Van Hanh will be the keynote speaker at the Conference. Appointed by President Bush, he has repeatedly voiced his ardent support to help empower refugee Mutual Assistance Associations (MAAs) and enhance their capabilities to serve people of their own communities. Dr. Van Hanh will also address the President's Faith-Based and Community Initiative.

"The mission of the President's Advisory Commission on AAPI is to better the quality of life of the Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders with focus on the most underserved communities. By coming to Minnesota, one of the states highly populated with Southeast Asian refugees, the Commission hits the bull's-eye," added Philip Tuong Duy Nguyen, NAVASA's Vice-Chairman and also the Executive Director of the Southeast Asian Community Center in California.

Among other honorable guests, the annual conference will have State Senator Mee Moua of Minnesota and Mina Nguyen, Special Assistant to Secretary Elaine Chao, U.S. Department of Labor. Senator Moua is the first Hmong and the first Southeast Asian American elected to state office.

We have garnered a notable roster of nationally distinguished speakers. We want to thank them for their support to NAVASA, their contribution of expertise and time to our conference.

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