



MiVAC Chairman’s Report – AGM - 17 September 2022

Welcome

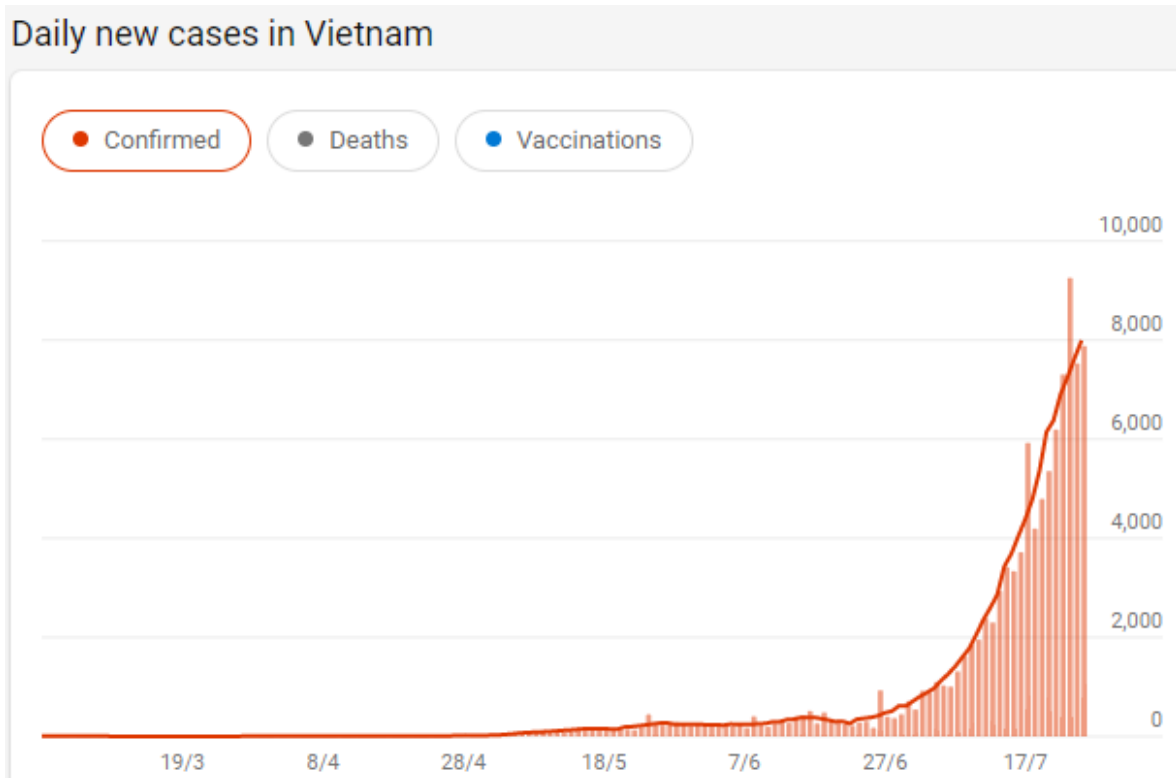
Welcome to all those attending, including those members attending via links.

Sadly, with the delays thanks to COVID, we have had very little project activity during this period.

Vietnam

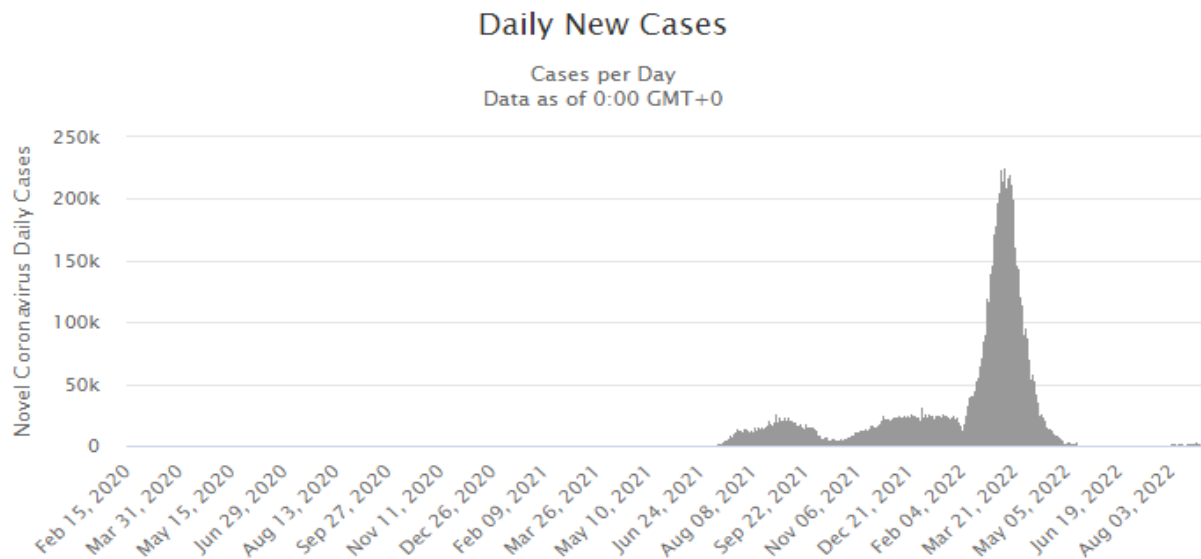
Unfortunately we were not able to commence our water supply project in Vietnam this year due to a combination of high COVID cases there, as well as their wet season, which has just started.

COVID cases this time last year were increasing rapidly. At that stage they were 8,000 cases per day, but rose to a staggering 220,00 cases per day. I’m very glad we did not have any volunteers there during that time!



Source: <https://www.bing.com/search?q=Coronavirus+map+Vietnam>

Current case load graph:



Source: [Vietnam COVID - Coronavirus Statistics - Worldometer \(worldometers.info\)](https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/vietnam/)

Despite the huge number of new daily cases of over 220,000 around March/April this year, the number of current new daily cases has dropped significantly to about 1,500.

Clearly, the last two years have not been a good time for us to go to Vietnam. We have regularly advised both KCF and Dept of Foreign Affairs in Quang Tri that we would delay our arrival to avoid COVID - with our current advice being that we hope to commence in Feb 2023. This means we will also miss their wet season and their Tet festival.

We applied to COMINGO (the Committee for Foreign Non-Governmental Organisations) in Hanoi for a Certificate of Registration of Operation of FNGO's in Viet Nam in December 2020. We need the Certificate of Registration of Operation of FNGO's in Viet Nam in order to commence our work there. The Certificate was finally approved 10 months later in October 2021 – after many emails and more documents being sent.

Our next task is to apply for work permits – for which I have forwarded our applications to Vietnam.

Our proposed project work is in the Ba Tang community near Khe Sanh. GDG has our project up in their web page system – J1014N – WASH in Ba Tang, Vietnam.

<https://globaldevelopmentgroup.org/au/projects/j1014n-ba-tang-wash-vietnam/>

Timor

Last month I attended a Timor Awakening wellness program in Timor – aimed at helping Australian and Timorese veterans. It is organised by the Veterans Care Association of Australia (VCA). I was asked to attend in order to provide advice on several water supply projects – three near Balibo which is west of Dili, and near Same which is south of Dili. (Balibo is the location where the “Balibo 5” journalists were killed in 1975.)

Each of the projects were relatively minor. At Balibo, the existing water supply piping does not have the capacity to supply the Fort and part of the town and needs upgrading. At Same, VCA have built a school for the local children. Their water supply system needs upgrading and some repairs. Their electrical system also needs an upgrade.

Reports including costings have been forwarded to VCA and to the CEO of the Balibo House Trust for their consideration.

Any future involvement in these projects by MiVAC and our members has yet to be discussed with VCA and the CEO of the Balibo House Trust.

Vietnam Project Planning

Initial designs and costings have been completed, and our donor has guaranteed us around \$1M Aus.

Clearly we will need much of the Administrative and Logistics aspects for living and working around Khe Sanh sorted out too. Peter Perry will coordinate these aspects when he gets there.

Member Database

I am pleased to advise that Lee Uebergang has kindly agreed to become our Membership Coordinator, and had already updated our membership database, and has worked diligently with Robyn Walters (a database IT specialist) to create many improvements in our database and its links to our website.

Lee will present his report shortly.

Welcome Lee, and thank you for your efforts – and also to Robyn for her work.

Volunteers

I am pleased to advise that Wayne Walker has kindly agreed to become our Volunteer Coordinator, and had already commenced work on improving our Volunteer Application form, and how it links to our website.

Wayne will present his report shortly.

Welcome Wayne, and thank you.

Volunteers to Vietnam

Peter Perry is planning on heading to Vietnam late February 2023 for about one month.

I am willing to follow Peter and spend say 4 months in Vietnam getting the designs and layouts confirmed, construction materials sourced, and works underway.

We then need a few more volunteers to follow on after me. We should allow a one week takeover/handover briefing at the beginning and ending of each volunteer's time in Vietnam.

Lee Uebergang has offered to follow me for 3 months – on a stand-by basis.

We also need to contact John Salter to find out how he is, and to see if he would still like to/is able to assist.

We also need to get the word out on the various veterans' organisations to seek other volunteers. Wayne will follow up on this.

Funding

- Members – we currently have around 80 confirmed financial and life members on our books,
- External funding - Kadoorie was our main external funder in Laos, and they have agreed to provide funding for us in Vietnam. They have very kindly held over the funding for us while we have been delayed by COVID, and the funding is awaiting our move to Vietnam.
- ACNC have a "Registered Charity" symbol that we can use on our stationery, signboards etc. We need to utilise this as recognition that we are registered.

Newsletters

The Board has been very busy in our own personal activities this year, and we have not issued too many newsletters for quite some time. I feel we should be sending out newsletters perhaps quarterly once projects are underway. I will be requesting that our in-country volunteers submit a short (say 2 pages including photos) newsletter at the end of their time in Vietnam.

IT

Our various types of software and internet programs have successfully managed to confound most of our Board members. However, Robyn Walters has achieved progress in sorting this out for us. So, thank you Robyn.

Senator Bilyk

Tasmanian Senator Catrina Bilyk has kindly agreed to be a referee for MiVAC.

We need to work out how we can best utilise her support!

Thank you's

- Peter Perry – for his drive on things various, including our website, and coordinating first steps in Vietnam
- Lee Uebergang – for his drive in sorting out our database, and a few other matters
- Robyn Walters – for her help on the above
- Lyn Clark – for general assistance
- Merv Hains – for keeping track of our finances, and completing the statements
- Wayne Walker – for getting things underway as Volunteer Coordinator
- All MiVAC members

That concludes my Chairman's Report for 2022.

Brian Boon, MCS

Chairman