



**EMBASSY
THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
IN THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY**



Oslo, March 9th, 2021

Dear Mr. Arve Gladheim

Thank you for the useful information in your letter dated February 25th, 2021 about Vietnamese seasonal workers. From your letter and from the farmers we have interacted with, we understand that the Vietnamese workers, though not a big number and whose stay here is often short, will have been playing an important part in Gartnerhallen members' agricultural production for many years. We are glad that both the farmers and the workers are on a good term, and appreciate the help the farmers extended to the workers during their undesired stay here.

As you have indicated in your letter, our Embassy always takes care of the workers' well-being as other Vietnamese citizens staying here who are in need. As you are aware in our previous communications, last year more than 700 workers went back safely to Viet Nam with the Embassy's intervention. Truly speaking, we have never done it before here in Norway.

The occurrence of the new coronavirus variants has put undue strains our home country's centralized quarantine capacity, particularly during our Lunar Holidays in February this year. We had requested for earlier repatriation flights which were not responded for objective reasons. Corona situation in Vietnam remains complicated but under control, and we have commenced the vaccine rollout early March.

As for now, we are starting to arrange a series of repatriation flights in March and April this year as requested by us for all Vietnamese citizens stranded so far in Europe to return home. Vietnamese citizens who want to leave Norway for Vietnam can register online to travel with these flights, first in limited number of around 15 people each flight so that the quarantine centers in Vietnam can accommodate.

With the rapid progress of the vaccination in Vietnam and the increased quarantine capacity, we strongly believe that repatriation would not be as big a problem as of last year. We will closely monitor the situation, and will spare no efforts and will

explore any channel, based on our experience in 2020, in facilitating a smooth departure of the workers from Norway upon the completion of their contracts this year, the year of commemoration of the 50th year of Vietnam - Norway relation. Accordingly, we strongly believe that our Government will support the workers in the best manner.

As for Gertnerhallen, we appreciate your efforts in continuing to employ the Vietnamese workers in this crop, and urge you to convince your Government to support our joint endeavor by approving entry visa and work permits to them, which would mutually benefit both countries. By understanding and collaborating with one another, we think that all problems will find suitable solutions.

Sincerely,

A red circular official seal of the Embassy of Vietnam in Oslo, Norway. The seal features the national emblem of Vietnam in the center, surrounded by the text "CỘNG HÒA XÃ HỘI CHỦ NGHĨA VIỆT NAM" at the top and "ĐẠI SỨ QUÁN VIỆT NAM TẠI OSLO" at the bottom. A blue ink signature is written over the seal.

Le Hong Lam
Ambassador