



September 2021 Newsletter

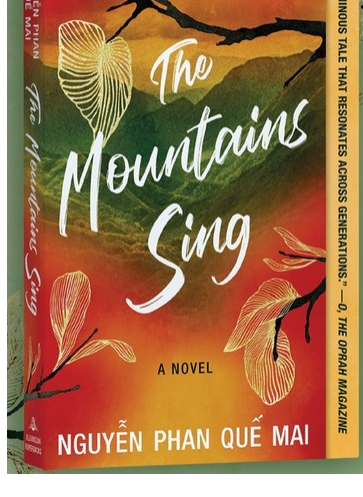
You're Invited: PeaceTrees Vietnam's 26th Anniversary Celebration

We hope you will join us *virtually* on **Monday, October 25 at 5:30pm PDT** to hear from **Dr. Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai**, bestselling author of *The Mountains Sing*. Quế Mai's biography reads:

"Dr. Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai is committed to writing about war and injustice, to call for peace and equality. Her debut novel and first book in English, The Mountains Sing, is an International Bestseller and Winner of the 2020 Lannan Literary Award Fellowship."

Passionate about literary exchanges to foster peace and reconciliation, Quế Mai has spent many years of her life translating poetry and other forms of literature. For her work in translation, she was awarded the Việt Nam Writers Association's Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Advancement of Vietnamese Literature Overseas."

We are honored to welcome Quế Mai and look forward to hearing her speak about her book and about peace and reconciliation. Other special guests for the evening include Ha Pham, PeaceTrees In-Country Director and more! This event marks another successful year of peacebuilding and partnership in Vietnam and PeaceTrees looks forward to sharing updates on our work with the community.



[Register here!](#)

****Register before October 4th to receive a special, celebratory gift box****

Updates from Vietnam

COVID in Vietnam

Although challenging, we thought you would want the most up-to-date information about COVID in Vietnam and how it is impacting our staff and partners. We are grateful to report that PeaceTrees in-country staff and their families are all healthy, but operations in both Quảng Bình and Quảng Trị have been suspended at points throughout August and September due to COVID related precautions. Most kindergartens reopened for the 2021-2022 school year in early September, but to facilitate social distancing, they welcomed half of the students in the morning, and the other half in the afternoon. Unfortunately, Dong Ha, where PeaceTrees' main office is located, recently went under lockdown after more than 25 residents tested positive for COVID.

We are relieved to share that most in-country staff have now received COVID vaccinations, PeaceTrees' office staff are working remotely, and demining teams will resume work as soon as possible. **Vietnam just approved the Abdala vaccine, which is now the eighth vaccine being used in Vietnam. Last weekend, there were over 1 million vaccinations administered in Hanoi.** We hope that Vietnam continues successfully with its rollout of vaccinations and that our friends and partners stay healthy and safe!

Despite the difficulties that COVID has presented, **from last fall-August 2021 PeaceTrees teams have managed to clear an incredible 4,926,318 square meters of land!**



Photograph of EO technician, Hồ Văn Giang, who has worked with PeaceTrees since 2019



Photo of Phan Thị Ngọc, who has worked with PeaceTrees since December 2020

Quảng Bình

In August, PeaceTrees teams cleared over 24 acres and responded to 91 callouts alerting them to explosive ordnance found in surrounding communities. In Quảng Bình, 79% of all explosive ordnance found and removed in August were cluster munitions, which pose the greatest threat to communities because they are designed to detonate when moved. To learn more about cluster munitions, [we invite you to read this report from Mine Action Review, an independent research group.](#)

In the last month, PeaceTrees' Quality Assurance Officer, Trần Văn Tứ, used his expert knowledge to train four new EO technicians. Tứ, who has been working for PeaceTrees since 2009, facilitates IMAS Level 1 certification for new recruits. PeaceTrees is immensely grateful for Tứ's leadership and for the commitment to capacity building PeaceTrees' teams have demonstrated.

Quảng Trị

Quảng Trị teams responded to 113 callouts for suspected explosive ordnance in August and found and destroyed 329 items of ordnance! Projectiles, grenades, and mortars were the most common types of explosive ordnance found!

Following up on the work PeaceTrees does to return land to productive use, our teams visited land that had been cleared in March 2021 and were delighted to see healthy turmeric crops growing! **Your support of PeaceTrees makes agriculture and economic development possible, and for that, we thank you!**



PeaceTrees EO teams clearing a field in Quảng Trị in March 2021

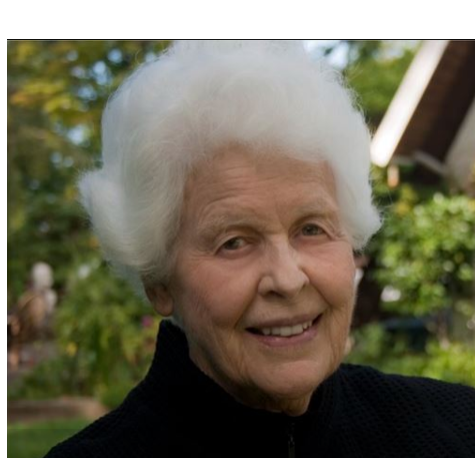


A photo of the same field taken in late August, now growing healthy turmeric crops

Honoring Kay Bullitt- PeaceTrees' Founding Donor and Compassionate Bridge Builder

[On August 22nd, the Seattle community and PeaceTrees lost a shining light](#), Kay Bullitt. Below, read PeaceTrees' co-founder, Jerilyn Brusseau's, reflection on Kay's community and global impact:

"Kay Bullitt was an extraordinary woman, visionary and peacemaker. Kay's steadfast commitment to peace and social justice spread around the world, from civic issues here in Seattle to removing landmines in Vietnam to translating the wounds of war back into trusting relationships with the Vietnamese people."



In 1995, after she sat around the table eating cinnamon rolls with us, she helped us shape PeaceTrees Vietnam. Then, she invited us to her home and invited others to support the launch of PeaceTrees Vietnam, 26 years after my brother Lt. Dan Cheney's death in Vietnam. The vision for PeaceTrees was literally born in Kay's living room..."

[Continue Reading](#)

Community Events

PeaceTrees would like to highlight several events that might be of interest to our community! Click the corresponding links to learn more about the events and who they are hosted by below:

Yellow Rain: Author Talk and Reading with Mai Der Vang hosted by Monica Sok- Sunday, September 26

Join Mai Der Vang, author and editorial member of the Hmong American Writers' Circle, and poet, Monica Sok, in conversation over Mai Der Vang's new documentary book, *Yellow Rain*. This book explores stories of Hmong refugees fleeing Laos in the mid-1970s and the harmful exposure to the chemical substance known as "yellow rain." [To learn more about this free event, hosted by Eastwind Books of Berkeley, click here.](#)

ACRS Virtual Gala- Saturday, October 2

Join Asian Counseling and Referral Services for their annual gala on Saturday October 2nd at 5:30pm. At this year's event, "ACRS will partner with leading Asian and Pacific Islander chefs to showcase their talents while sharing stories of healing and transformation. ACRS services and programs reach over 30,000 people in the Seattle region, promoting social justice and the well-being and empowerment of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other underserved communities." [To learn more about this FREE event, click here.](#)

Kim Thúy, author of "Em" in conversation with Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai- Tuesday, October 5

Our friends at Elliott Bay Book Company are hosting author, Kim Thúy and Dr. Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai in conversation together to discuss Kim Thúy's newest novel, *Em*, "Through the linked destinies of a family of characters, the novel takes its inspiration from historical events, including Operation Babylift, which evacuated thousands of biracial orphans from Saigon in April 1975, and the remarkable growth of the nail salon industry, dominated by Vietnamese expatriates all over the world. From the rubber plantations of Indochina to the massacre at My Lai, Kim Thúy sifts through the layers of pain and trauma in stories we thought we knew, revealing transcendent moments of grace, and the invincibility of the human spirit." [To register for this free event, click here.](#)

Authors & Insights: Ambassador Ted Osius and Jon Decker- Tuesday, October 26

The McCain Institute for International Leadership is hosting a virtual book talk with former U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam, Ted Osius. Osius and White House Correspondent, Jon Decker, will discuss Osius' new book, "Nothing Is Impossible: America's Reconciliation with Vietnam," which helps illustrate how international diplomacy can create a better world. This event will be at 9am PDT, [to learn more and register, click here.](#)

Donate Your Used Vehicle to PeaceTrees

Make your tax-deductible gift to PeaceTrees by donating your unwanted vehicle! PeaceTrees has partnered with non-profit organization CARS to facilitate a vehicle donation program. All vehicles are eligible for donation – even if they are not running! This includes cars, trucks, motorcycles, boats, farm equipment, and even airplanes! CARS has extensive experience with all steps of the vehicle donation process from pick-up to sale. This is a quick, free, and easy way to get an unwanted vehicle off your hands!



Put It In The Rearview. Donate Your Vehicle.

[Give Today](#)

amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

[Looking for a creative way to support PeaceTrees Vietnam from home?](#)

When you are online shopping, consider Amazon Smile and set PeaceTrees as your beneficiary! AmazonSmile is a program that donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases on

Amazon to a charity of your choice. All you need to do is start your shopping at smile.amazon.com. The donation will be made at no extra cost to you, and you will be contributing to PeaceTrees Vietnam's lifesaving work while you shop!



For more information contact us at 206-441-6136 or info@peacetreesvietnam.org

Share this email:



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove®

View this email [online](#).

509 Olive W Suite 1226
Seattle, WA | 98101 US

This email was sent to .
[To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.](#)

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.