



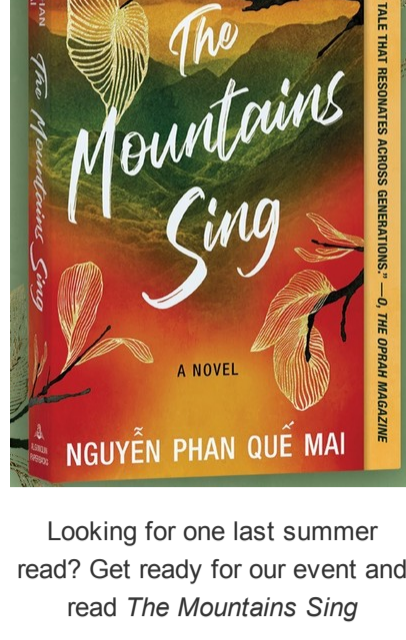
August 2021 Newsletter

Keynote Speaker for PeaceTrees 26th Anniversary Celebration

PeaceTrees is honored to welcome bestselling author, Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai, as the keynote speaker for our 26th Anniversary Celebration! Quế Mai's international bestselling book, *The Mountains Sing*, is a multigenerational novel that follows the Tran family. This illuminating story is set against the backdrop of the Vietnam war and touches on messages of peace, reconciliation, and hope. We hope you will join us *virtually* on **Monday, October 25 at 5:30 pm PDT** to hear from Quế Mai and other speakers and celebrate another year of peacebuilding and partnership! [To register for this exciting event, click here.](#)



Author and PeaceTrees keynote speaker, Nguyễn Phan Quế Mai



Looking for one last summer read? Get ready for our event and read *The Mountains Sing*

August: National Make-A-Will Month

Did you know that August is national Make-A-Will Month and that 70% of Americans do not have an updated will? To help ensure Vietnam is entirely clear of explosive ordnance in the future, we encourage you to include PeaceTrees in your estate planning!

By including PeaceTrees in your estate planning you will automatically be included in the **PeaceTrees Friendship Circle**, a group that was created this summer to honor our most steadfast supporters and friends.

To learn more about legacy giving with PeaceTrees and more ways to join the PeaceTrees Friendship Circle, we invite you to visit our website.

[Learn more!](#)

Updates from Vietnam

Ooc Village Kindergarten Complete

PeaceTrees is delighted to announce the completion of the **Ooc Village Kindergarten in Quảng Bình Province!** This kindergarten is the second PeaceTrees project in Quảng Bình and has played an important role in the continued growth and success of our Quảng Bình operations. Through this project, Minh Hoà District partnered with an international organization on a socio-economic development project for the first time. The Ooc Village Kindergarten received more financial support from the local government than any other PeaceTrees project so far, which confirms that PeaceTrees' work in central Vietnam is trusted and appreciated by local communities. This project was originally conceived by a group of Citizen Diplomats during their trip with Professor Christoph Giebel in 2019. PeaceTrees is so grateful for the support this project received, and for each of the more than 100 donors who made this project possible. We look forward to welcoming the 29 kindergarten-aged students of Ooc Village to their new school this September!



The newly completed Ooc Village Kindergarten



Some supporters of the Ooc Kindergarten with Ha Pham on their Citizen Diplomacy trip where the project was initially conceived

PeaceTrees In-Country Staff Vaccinated

In early August, 172 members of the PeaceTrees staff, including office staff and EOD technicians, received their first vaccination against COVID-19! PeaceTrees is so grateful for the continued health of staff and their families and hopes that the vaccine rollout in Vietnam continues successfully!



A pair of PeaceTrees EOD technicians after receiving their first vaccination



A PeaceTrees EOD technician receiving her first vaccination

500 lb. Bomb Discovered in Ho Le Village

On the morning of August 9th, PeaceTrees received a call from the Quảng Trị Mine Action Center about a piece of explosive ordnance found in Ho Le village in the Huang Hoa district. While construction crews were excavating ground to be used for a wind power plant, they discovered a large bomb and immediately called the provincial mine action hotline. A PeaceTrees EOD team responded immediately, and upon arrival determined the bomb was an MK-82 and weighed over 500 lbs. After an on-site assessment, the teams determined that it was safe to move and transported it to a secure storage facility for future demolition.



PeaceTrees EOD technicians measuring the bomb and preparing it for removal



PeaceTrees EOD team safely removing the bomb

Quảng Bình Teams Clear Cluster Bomb from Busy Road

On July 28, PeaceTrees received a call from Quảng Bình province about a suspected piece of Explosive Ordinance (EO) found in the Chien Thang residential area. Mr. Hoang Ngoc, a local resident from Bo Trach District, found half of a cluster bomb in the middle of a popular village road while he was on route to his rubber plantation. Because of the Explosive Ordinance Risk Education that PeaceTrees' teams are conducting in Quảng Bình, Mr. Hoang Ngoc knew that this cluster bomb was dangerous and immediately called the EO-reporting hotline. A PeaceTrees team responded immediately and, after careful evaluation, deployed an on-site demolition.



PeaceTrees EOD technicians preparing for an on-site demolition



Mr. Hoang Ngoc pointing out the cluster bomb he discovered to an EOD technician

PeaceTrees is so grateful for Mr. Ngoc and other Quảng Bình and Quảng Trị Province residents who use their explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) to keep themselves and their communities safe!

Meet a PeaceTrees Deminer

In effort to introduce our community of supporters to those who carry out our work on the ground every day, PeaceTrees has started interviewing our EOD technicians so that you can get to know these brave individuals better! **This month we interviewed Phan Thị Ngọc, who has been working with PeaceTrees since December 2020.**

Could you introduce yourself?

My name is Phan Thị Ngọc. I'm a new member of PeaceTrees Vietnam, I am a technician for the Quảng Bình operations.

How did you become a technician for PeaceTrees?

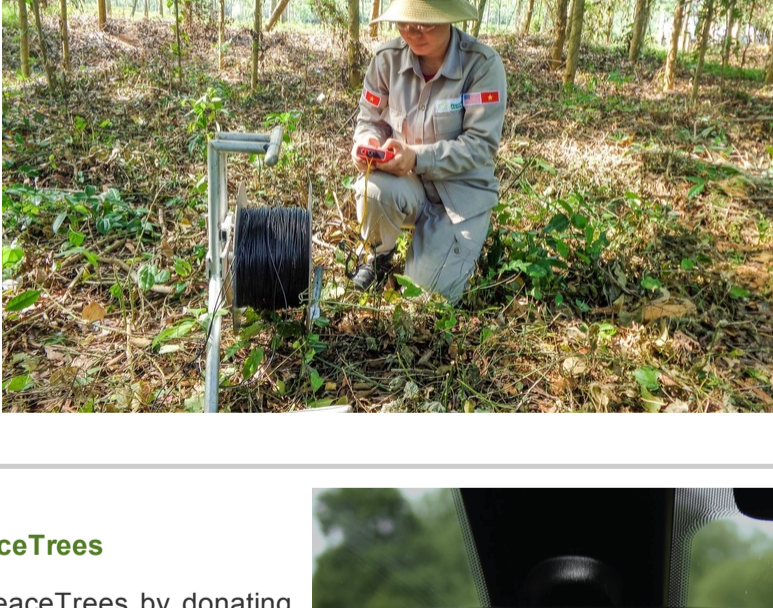
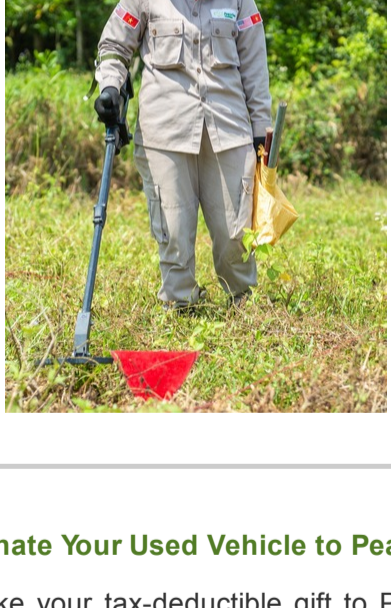
In 2020, PeaceTrees Vietnam expanded clearance operation to Quảng Bình province with the PeaceTrees Quang Nam Quang Binh project, funded by the U.S. Department of State. Knowing the recruitment need and job description, I find that this work is very special and so meaningful. Its goals are to remove UXO to bring safety to people, reduce the risk of UXO accident, assist socio-economic development for my hometown. I decided to apply for the Technician position. After successfully passed the test, interview and training course on International Mine Action Standard (IMAS) level 1, I proudly joined PeaceTrees Vietnam Quang Binh Project.

How do you feel about doing work that can be so dangerous?

When I was a little girl and herding the buffaloes on the field, I used to see unexploded ordnances and feel so scared. But when I started to do this job, I had well-trained knowledge and skill so when I see UXO, I no longer feel scaring. Instead, I can face with them confidently and carefully. In our work, we always put safety first.

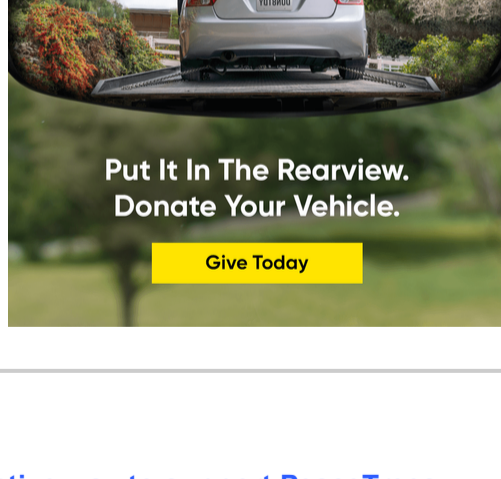
What has been your most memorable experience on the job?

At the beginning of this year, we conducted clearance at a site of 16.29 hectares in Loc Ninh commune, Dong Hoi city. As the result: there were 232 unexploded ordnances found, 87.5% of which were sub-munitions. The clearance eradicated the threat of UXO on that land and brought back a safe place for people to live and do farming. In May 2021, coming back Loc Ninh commune, we were so glad to see people having planted and built houses on the cleared land. Their joyfulness and safe always are the happiness of people doing this work like us.



Donate Your Used Vehicle to PeaceTrees

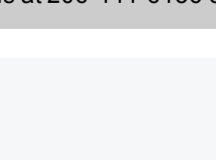
Make your tax-deductible gift to PeaceTrees by donating your unwanted vehicle! PeaceTrees has partnered with non-profit organization CARS to facilitate a vehicle donation program. All vehicles are eligible for donation – even if they are not running! This includes cars, trucks, motorcycles, boats, farm 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!



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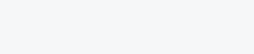
[Looking for a creative way to support PeaceTrees Vietnam from home?](#)

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

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