



June 2021 Newsletter

PeaceTrees is excited to celebrate 26 years of partnership and peacebuilding in Vietnam! We hope you mark your calendars and join us *virtually* on Monday, October 25, 2021, for our annual event! Updates will be available throughout the summer on our [events page](#), including exciting announcements about our event speakers!



Updates from Vietnam

Despite the challenges that COVID-19 has presented, our demining teams in Vietnam have been productive and busy! On June 2nd, a PeaceTrees Explosive Ordnance Disposal team successfully detonated a 500 lb. bomb in Cu Bai village in Quang Tri Province. A local resident, Mr. Ho Van Bai, found this giant bomb while he was planting trees and immediately reported it to local authorities. When our teams arrived, they concluded that the bomb was too dangerous to move so they evacuated the surrounding area and safely conducted an on-site demolition!



PeaceTrees deminers lining up sand bags at the demolition site to minimize the damage of the planned explosion- June 2, 2021

On May 26, PeaceTrees responded to local calls about two large bombs located in Huong Hoa and Dakrong Districts in Quang Tri Province. The first 500 lb. bomb was located on a rocky hill buried deep in layers of soil, once technicians concluded that it was safe to move, the team spent 5 hours moving the bomb and safely transported it to a secure storage site where it will wait to be destroyed at a later date.



PeaceTrees explosive ordnance technician uncovering the bomb from the rocky hillside



The PeaceTrees demining team removing the large bomb from the rocky hillside

The second large bomb was reported by residents of Cu Bai village and was located just 3 feet below a main road that residents use every day. Our teams evaluated that this bomb was also safe to move and moved it to the same storage site. PeaceTrees is so grateful for the local communities we work with, they help identify explosive remnants of war and alert our teams to their whereabouts!

School's Out for Summer

Although some of our kindergartens had to close early this school year due to a rise in COVID-19 cases, our in-country staff was still able to visit several kindergartens and deliver end of year gifts to the students! We know the last year and a half has been difficult for students, families, and educators and we hope that this fall we can learn together and in-person once again!



A student leaving Ta Leng Kindergarten for the summer with their new backpack and sun hat!



Ha Pham, PeaceTrees in-country Director, visiting students and at the Prin Thanh kindergarten on the last day of school

PeaceTrees Community Cleanup

On Thursday, June 17th, members of the PeaceTrees staff and board joined the [Chinatown-International District Business Improvement Area](#) (CIDBA) for an evening of trash pickup!

After the cleanup effort, some delicious Vietnamese food was enjoyed from [Green Leaf restaurant](#) and [Chuminh Tofu](#). It was a great day in the community and we look forward to more opportunities to make an impact locally!



Meet a PeaceTrees Deminer

This section started as PeaceTrees travel stories, but we have since expanded it and want to help our community get to know the brave and dedicated people who work to clear UXO every day. **This month, we interviewed Hồ Văn Giang, who has been working with PeaceTrees since April 2019!**

Could you please introduce yourself?

I am Hồ Văn Giang, Vân Kiều people. I live with my family in Huong Hoa district, Quang Tri Province. I am on the Site Assessment team at PeaceTrees VietNam. I have been working for PeaceTrees since April 2019.

Could you please tell us about your job at PeaceTrees VietNam?

The job of me and my colleagues is to conduct site assessment towards task dossier from Quang Tri Mine Action Center before transferring to our BAC teams to make clearance plan. The assessment will include defining the site, capturing information from local people and authorities about the site area, the status and purpose of land use, the priority, etc. It aims to assist clearance operations to be deployed proactively and conveniently.

What are the advantages of your work?

Our work in the mountain areas where most of the population are ethnic people who have their own culture. All staff members always work for this and conduct our work appropriately and effectively. We collaborate and communicate with local people, ask for information, educate the community on the risks of mines, etc. I myself am an ethnic minority, so I can communicate well with people in their language, that is also an advantage. Meanwhile, I share my own understanding with my colleagues so we can finish the task effectively.

How do you feel about your work?

The more I do this work, the more I feel the importance of it. The dangerous explosive ordnances are still everywhere in this land, the risk of accidents can happen to anyone. We do hope that with all efforts we have made and will do in the future, more cleared land will be brought back to people and everyone can live safely!



PeaceTrees deminer, Hồ Văn Giang, on site- 2021



Hồ Văn Giang uses a digital camera to take photos for a site assessment- 2021

Community Events:

Below are events happening soon that we think the PeaceTrees community might be interested in attending! These events are hosted by a variety of other groups, and we invite you to follow the corresponding links if you want to learn more.

Dragon Fest Food Walk in Seattle's Chinatown-International District

If you live in the Seattle area, beat the heat **this Saturday, June 26th** and head to Hing Hay Park for the Dragon Fest Food Walk from 10am-4pm. To view the Facebook event and see the participating vendors, [click here](#).

Operation Garden Build with The Mission Continues

The Mission Continues is a nonprofit organization that empowers Veterans to make a visible impact on their community through service projects. Operation Garden Build is on **Saturday, July 10th from 10am-2pm** at the Danny Woo Garden in Seattle. To learn more and register for this in-person event, [click here!](#)

Virtual Book Discussion with Ocean Vuong

The Baltimore Public Library is hosting a virtual book discussion on Ocean Vuong's debut novel, *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*. This event will take place on **Tuesday, July 20th at 4PM PST**. To learn more and register, [click here](#).



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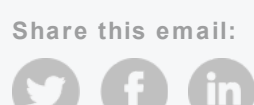
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