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GZ 215-95653 VNM-VGU

*To whom it may concern*

BETREFF **Reference for Mr Boris Johan Dongelmans**

Mr Boris Johan Dongelmans carried out freelance work for the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) from August 2009 until May 2010 on the basis of a service contract. He was responsible for coordinating the work of German experts on a feasibility study which subsequently formed the basis of an application for a World Bank loan for the establishment of the “Vietnamese-German University (VGU)”. He also acted as a liaison to the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and to the World Bank. Based in Vietnam, he engaged in direct and close cooperation with the German expert group’s coordinator, who was in Vietnam only intermittently.

The “Vietnamese-German University (VGU)” is being established by the Vietnamese government in cooperation with the German *Land* of Hesse. The BMBF is providing substantial funding for this project. The BMBF also agreed to put numerous German experts at MOET’s disposal in order to carry out a comprehensive feasibility study, which formed an essential core element of the loan application for US\$180 million that was submitted to the World Bank by the Vietnamese government.

Mr Dongelmans’s responsibilities – coordinating the work of the German experts together with the above-mentioned advisor and liaising with MOET and the World Bank – required strong planning and organizational skills, communication skills, familiarity with the Vietnamese mentality and the Vietnamese higher education system, and loyalty towards the BMBF. Mr Dongelmans fulfilled all these criteria in an exemplary manner and made a significant contribution to the successful completion of the feasibility study, on the basis of which the World Bank loan was approved in early July 2010.

Mr Dongelmans not only implemented the agreed work objectives to our full satisfaction; his excellent intercultural skills made him particularly adept at dealing with unexpected problems that arose during the negotiations. He always had the BMBF's best interests in mind when supporting the Vietnamese government.

We would like to thank Mr Dongelmans for his extraordinary commitment and his successful work and wish him all the best for his professional future.



Dr. Christian Stienen  
Head of Division for Cooperation with Asia and Oceania