

HOME PAGE

POLITICS

BUSINESS

SOCIETY

YOUTH

SPORTS

ENTERTAINMENT

TRAVEL

HEALTH

WORLD / REGION

SPECIAL REPORT

COMMENTARIES

COMMUNITY

EDITORIAL



CONTACT US

VN INDEX

EXCHANGE RATES



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Australia supports environment clean-up efforts in Vietnam



Australian Consul -General Graeme Swift, (L) plants a tree on a traffic island in Ho Chi Minh City

Swift's comment came as he joined about 60 youth mobilized by the Australian consulate in Ho Chi Minh City to plant trees in Phu Nhuan District as part of activities in Vietnam's Clean up the World campaign for this year.

Swift and his staff, students from RMIT University and former overseas Vietnamese students in Australia planted flowering plants and trees on a traffic island on Tran Te Xuong Street shortly after the city's Department of Natural Resource and Environment launched the campaign.

At the launching ceremony, Swift also awarded three winners of a high school writing contest on the environment which the consulate launched late last month to support the campaign.

"Ho Chi Minh City, like every large city, needs to work very hard on its water supply system, on its storm water drains, on its sewage drains, so that overall it has an integrated plan to move water where it needs to, to move waste away and to treat waste properly," Swift said.

"So Ho Chi Minh City needs to look very hard at waste disposal, to make sure that everything that goes into rivers and canals can go in safely.... looking at things like fuel efficiency in cars."

Swift said, "We'll support anything (any environmental protection program) that makes sense, particularly through our aid program that looks overall at Vietnam."

This is the 15th year that the Australian government has supported Clean up the World campaign in Vietnam.

The Clean up the World campaign was started by an Australian, Ian Kiernan, in 1989. This year over 35 million people in 120 countries will take part in the campaign.

The theme for this year's campaign is "Community Uniting to Combat Climate Change", which reflects UNEP's World Environment Day slogan: "Your Planet Needs You-Unite to Combat Climate Change."

Reported by Van Khoa

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To top

Australia stands ready to support Vietnam in all environment protection initiatives, Consul-General Graeme Swift said on Saturday.

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