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Ceballos Joined U.S. Delegation to Vietnam

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[Ceballos Joined U.S. Delegation to Vietnam](#)

Summary: Michael Ceballos, assistant professor of biology, joined an international committee discussing environmental and engineering changes involving the Mekong River.

MORRIS, Minnesota (December 8, 2015)—Michael Ceballos, assistant professor of biology, was invited to join a delegation from the United States to the U.S.-Vietnam Joint Science and Technology Committee Meeting (JMC). This meeting, which took place in Ho Chi Minh City and Can Tho, Vietnam, November 11–December 4, was organized in part by the U.S. Department of State Office of Science and Technology. Through his participation in the meeting, Ceballos hoped to expand his own research and contribute to international cooperation with countries of the Mekong Basin in science and technology.

The JMC addressed international environmental issues and government policies regarding the Mekong River, which is an instrumental resource for countries in the region including Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. The Mekong River provides hydroelectric power, irrigation, transportation, and drinkable water to more than 60 million people. With the United States as a mediator and advisor, the countries of this region came together to discuss international concerns about the river, including climate changes and human engineering developments that have affected the river's flow.

“I'm honored to have been invited to participate in this U.S. State Department envoy to Vietnam,” says Ceballos. “I am grateful that the organizers consider the experiences and input from a biology professor from a small university in the middle of west central Minnesota to be valuable.”

The delegation also included 12 other professors from across the nation, including representatives from Arizona State University; Auburn University; University of California, Berkeley; University of California, Los Angeles; and University of Virginia. They joined approximately 30 other delegates comprised of government officials and military representatives from both the United States and Vietnam.

Ceballos used this opportunity to expand his research in Southeast Asia; while there, he searched for additional opportunities for American students to conduct international research. Ceballos hopes to accompany two to four Morris students to Vietnam in January 2016 in order to explore opportunities for research and student training initiatives along the Mekong River.

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