

Ram Prasad has received a Fulbright award to teach in Vietnam. Beginning January 2012, as a Fulbright scholar Ram will teach a one-semester introductory undergraduate course on energy harvesting, with emphasis on hydro power, at Ho Chi Minh University of Technology (HCMUT). This first course, which will include components of theory, design and lab, will set the stage towards building an extended program of study in the future to include research as an additional component. The on-site delivery of lectures will embrace his personal observations, thoughts, commitment, experience, and understanding of Vietnam, towards arousing keen awareness for harvesting natural energy from the environment. Inspired by the beauty and vastness of the Mekong River he hopes for Vietnam's development of revolutionary environmentally benign technologies to harness the vast amount of hydrokinetic energy that will bring a sustainable energy future to the underprivileged society of the Mekong Delta.

Ram is looking forward to collaborating with fellow faculty and students in Vietnam on our common educational vision, mission and goals. He hopes to travel to a number of institutions across Vietnam for seminars and departmental visits to get better acquainted with teaching methods and laboratory facilities at other institutions, and meet new fellow colleagues in electrical engineering and from other disciplines sharing diverse interests and ideas. He hopes all these interactions will result in a mutually beneficial program for distance education between New Mexico State University and Ho Chi Minh University of Technology and create avenues for bilateral exchange of faculty and students between our institutions.

As a cultural ambassador, it is his belief that by engaging and educating tomorrow's society to recognize and value our cultural differences, we are indeed helping to build the human resources needed in today's increasingly smaller world. It will be an enlightening experience for Ram to participate in the Fulbright program and join a distinguished group of educators, scholars and researchers in our society whose collective ambitions and goals focus upon bridging nations through the mutual exchange of knowledge and sharing of cultures. While in residence, Ram also hopes to learn the Vietnamese language at a level of competence that would make his personal and professional life richer and livelier.