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# U.S. TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **USTDA AWARDS GRANT TO DEVELOP METHOD FOR SLUDGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL IN VIETNAM**

HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM (September 1, 2009) – Today, USTDA awarded a grant to the Saigon Water Supply Corporation (SAWACO) that will support efforts to protect the Saigon and DongNai river systems, the main water resource of Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC), and improve the health and living conditions of the surrounding communities. The grant will further these objectives by developing a cost-effective method for treating and disposing of sludge produced by SAWACO water treatment plants located in HCMC. The implementation of the USTDA-sponsored plan will create opportunities for the export of U.S. goods and services.

The \$501,377 grant was conferred during a grant signing ceremony held at SAWACO's office in HCMC. The Consul General from the U.S. Consulate in HCMC, Kenneth J. Fairfax, and Mr. Tran Dinh Phu, General Director of SAWACO signed the grant agreement on behalf of the U.S. and Vietnamese sides, respectively.

“The United States and Vietnam share a commitment to protecting our environment,” said Consul General Fairfax. “In this effort, the study funded by the USTDA grant will provide SAWACO with a world-class solution to the treatment and safe disposal of sludge.”

SAWACO is a state-owned entity responsible for operating three larger water treatment plants, as well as smaller satellite facilities, providing water services to approximately six million people in HCMC. Sludge is one of components which need to be treated thoroughly to assure a good environment in the Saigon and DongNai river basins and SAWACO has prioritized the implementation of disposal systems that treat and minimize damage to the HCMC river system. As such, SAWACO is seeking technological solutions and facility designs to treat and dispose of residual solids from their water treatment plants.

According to Sawaco, the Saigon River is a treasure that Sawaco is committed to protecting, Sawaco looks forward to the solution and implementation plan that the USTDA-funded study will provide it.

(MORE)

SAWACO was unanimous in selecting Camp, Dresser & McKee Inc. (CDM) of Cambridge, Massachusetts, to provide the USTDA-funded assistance. In addition to the USTDA grant, CDM will provide additional resources toward the study's completion.

The U.S. Trade and Development Agency advances economic development and U.S. commercial interests in developing and middle-income countries. The agency funds various forms of technical assistance, feasibility studies, orientation visits and business workshops that support the development of a modern infrastructure and a fair and open trading environment. USTDA's strategic use of foreign assistance funds to support sound investment policy and decision-making in host countries creates an enabling environment for trade, investment and sustainable economic development. In carrying out its mission, USTDA gives emphasis to economic sectors that may benefit from U.S. exports of goods and services.

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