

PRESS RELEASE

Review conference on 10 years of Vietnam's national helmet law

15 December, 2017- Hanoi, Vietnam

A review of Vietnam's national helmet law was organized by the National Traffic Safety Committee (NTSC) and AIP Foundation today in response to the 10-year anniversary of the passage of the law. The event was a chance for delegates from ministries, departments, and provincial levels across Vietnam to conduct a comprehensive assessment of achievements, lessons learned, and continuing challenges after 10 years of implementing the national helmet law in Vietnam. Particular emphasis was placed on child helmet use and motorcycle helmet quality standards. The meeting also established next steps and objectives for enhancing the effectiveness of the national helmet law in order to continue to reduce fatalities and injuries in Vietnam.

"The passage of the helmet law in 2007 has also led to financial gains, saving Vietnam an estimated \$3.5 billion USD in medical costs, lost output, and pain and suffering," said Dr. Khuat Viet Hung, Vice Chairman of the National Traffic Safety Committee. "However, the motorcycle crash injury epidemic in Vietnam is by no means solved. We must continue multi-sector collaboration and build from lessons learned in order to achieve success."

The meeting gathered leaders from provincial Traffic Safety Offices, international organizations, embassies, motorcycle and helmet manufacturers, and media. Among the attendees were Nguyen Van The, Minister of Transport and Standing Vice Chairman of National Traffic Safety Committee; Dr. Khuat Viet Hung, Vice Chairman of the National Traffic Safety Committee; Saul Billingsley, Executive Director of the FIA Foundation; and Greig Craft, President of AIP Foundation.

Greig Craft, President of AIP Foundation said: "Vietnam's story provides an example of what is possible when a dedicated government, NGOs, and public and private partners collaborate for a common objective. With concerted effort, strong political will, and the support of local and international partners at all levels, we can succeed."

To mark the historic occasion, AIP Foundation and FIA Foundation jointly published *HEAD FIRST. A case study on Vietnam's motorcycle helmet campaign*. The report provides a global advocacy case study for other countries looking to address road safety issues. The study revealed that an estimated 500,000 head injuries and 15,000 fatalities have been averted due to increased helmet use over the last 10 years. The study also assessed data from Viet Duc hospital in Hanoi and Hai Duong hospital in northern Vietnam. It found that patient cases with severe brain damage reduced from almost 21% in 2007 to 13.6% in 2016.

"Vietnam provides an important case study in government determination, sustained over the long term, to tackle motorcycle deaths and injuries," said Saul Billingsley, Executive Director of the FIA Foundation. "This report shows how to assemble the essential ingredients for success: a clear objective allied to a plan of action, supported by multi-sectoral cooperation; international donor and expert support; active engagement of civil society; mobilisation of communities; and – above all – political courage and commitment."

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About AIP Foundation

AIP Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing road injuries and fatalities in low- and middle-income countries. Since 1999, AIP Foundation has been delivering effective road safety programs in locations across Asia and Africa. To find out more, visit www.aip-foundation.org or connect with us on Twitter @AIPFoundation.

About the FIA Foundation

The FIA Foundation is an independent UK registered charity which supports an international programme of activities promoting road safety, the environment and sustainable mobility. Our aim is to ensure 'Safe, Clean, Fair and Green' mobility for all, playing a part to ensure a sustainable future through:

- promoting research, disseminating the results of research and providing information in any matters of public interest which include road safety, automobile technology, the protection and preservation of human life and public health, transport and public mobility and the protection of the environment;
- promoting improvement in the safety of motor sport, and of drivers, passengers, pedestrians and other road users which works globally to promote safe, clean fair and green mobility.

www.fiafoundation.org

For media contact:

Lily O'Connell, Communications Coordinator, AIP Foundation
18bis/19 Nguyen Thi Minh Khai Street, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Tel: (+84-28) 6299-1409 Ext. 122; Email: lily.oconnell@aipf-vietnam.org