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World Bird Festival in Chau Doc

For further information, please contact: Do Bao Quyen Tel: (84-4) 722 3864 Fax: (84-4) 722 3835
quyen@birdlife.netnam.vn

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BirdLife International¹ Vietnam Programme – In an effort to promote an interest in the environment in general, and in birds in particular, a visit was organized to Tra Su forest near Chau Doc, An Giang Province in October 7, 2006 as a part BirdLife's World Bird Festival 2006. The participants included local high school students, members of the press, and employees of the Victoria Chau Doc Hotel.

For the students, it was their first visit to Tra Su, and they enjoyed seeing birds, bats, lizards and snakes close-up. Bird highlights included Asian Openbill Storks, numerous recently fledged Little Egrets, Black-crowned Night Herons, and Oriental Darters.

During a boat trip through Tra Su, the students had time to ask Mr. Hanno Stamm, General Manager of the Victoria Can Tho Resort, and a keen birdwatcher, many questions about birds and nature.

Mr. Stamm commented: *"The idea is to show the younger generation in particular their natural heritage, and to persuade them to think about how it can be conserved. Not only are children our future, they are also the future generation who must understand the need to make greater efforts now to protect Vietnam's environment and bird life for the future. I think that today the young people here became aware of the wonders that exist on their door step, and I hope that this will kindle an interest in their environment"*.

"I do hope to make this excursion an annual event, with the help of Victoria Hotels & Resorts, as we are committed to protecting the environment of our host country" he added.



Tra Su has a roost of Flying Foxes
Photo: Hanno Stamm – Victoria Can Tho Resort



Students, on their first visit to Tra Su
Photo: Hanno Stamm – Victoria Can Tho Resort

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

- 1) BirdLife International is a global alliance of conservation organisations working in more than 100 countries worldwide who, together, are the leading authority on the status of birds, their habitats and their conservation. Further information about BirdLife's work in Vietnam can be found at www.birdlifeindochina.org.