

Opening speech of Ambassador Andrej Motyl at the first ever screening of the documentary movie about Dr. Alexandre Yersin “It’s not a life that doesn’t move” by Stéphane Kleeb

12th of June 2014
Hanoi National University

Prof.....

Doctors and Medical Staff, Friends

And last but not least dear Students of Natural Sciences from diverse Hanoi Universities,

This evening has two purposes

- *First it is the only third world wide showing of a Swiss Documentary, finished in recent weeks, on the life of a humble, quiet, hardworking and tremendously brilliant Swiss Scientist, who became also French, but died as a Vietnamese, more precisely as a “Nha Trangeese”. Dr. Alexandre Yersin, exactly 120 Years ago, liberated the humanity of its worse Scourge, by identifying the Plague Bacillus, which today carries his Name.*
- *The Film was mainly financed by the Pharma Company Roche and the Watch Company Titoni, but also the Tropical and Public Health Institute Basel and EPFL. Thank you very much Roche and Titoni and the other sponsors.*
- ***But the evening is not only about the movie or about Dr. Yersin, it is mainly** to celebrate and motivate you, the Vietnamese Students of Natural Sciences. You are not only the future of the Vietnamese Science, but also of Vietnams Economy. If your Creativity, innovative spirit is not linked to the needs of the Economy, Vietnam might not grow as successfully as it did in the recent decades. You, with your Teachers are the **future heroes** of Vietnam, propelling it where it belongs, to the group of the most dynamic and successful nations.*
- *We are showing the Film on Yersin not in order to celebrate him - he never wanted to be celebrated. The Movie is much more meant to remind us, - how Yersin, **through his talents, interdisciplinary thinking, sense of practical applicability of his knowledge and his discoveries**, his empathy and desire to serve to others, - could contribute to human knowledge as much, as he did.*

- ***Yersin's curiosity, his joy of comparing things he knew, with things he wished to understand and then trying to make the new combination work for humans and natures' purposes, his perseverance, when he failed and his modesty when he achieved great deeds, invite us to tackle and enjoy life as he did. By working hard, by always trying to do better, Yersin is an inspiration and I hope dear Students, that the film will motivate you to enjoy your hard work, to accept, that the compensation for your sweat will take some time, but that there is no more wonderful compensation in human life, than working on the unanswered questions including problems of our world and to contribute to their solution.***

*Dear Professors, Students, Guests, dear Friends. Our across the globe respect for Yersin is the proof, that we, despite some external superficial differences, have the same DNA, that we have the same values and the same ambitions, thus that we are one human race, which should struggle like Yersin did, to make each other's life more bearable or rather to show how beautiful life in reality is. Let us learn from Yersin and from each other.
Thank you!*