



BIOGRAPHY

Michael W. Michalak

Former United States Ambassador to Vietnam
Appointed August 2007

Michael W. Michalak retired from the Foreign Service at the end of 2011 after over 30 years of service. A career Foreign Service Officer with extensive knowledge and experience in Asia, was sworn in as the United States Ambassador to Vietnam on August 10, 2007 and served there until March of 2011 when he took on the position of Special Advisor to the Private Sector Host committee for APEC 2011 USA. Since retirement, Ambassador Michalak has begun a consulting business in international trade and government relations and spends several months a year in Vietnam and Japan. He also joined the advisory board of Tan Tao University in Long An province Vietnam. Most recently he has begun a new career as the Regional Managing Director and Senior Vice President of the US-ASEAN Business Council resident in Singapore. Prior to these positions, Ambassador Michalak served as the U.S. Senior Official to APEC, Bureau of East Asia Pacific Affairs and was also Deputy Chief of Mission in US Embassy Tokyo.

In his over 30 years of service with the U.S. Department of State, Mr. Michalak has worked in Tokyo, Japan; Sydney, Australia; Islamabad, Pakistan; Beijing, China; as well as Washington, D.C., where he was assigned to the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, the Office for Japan and the Office of Chinese and Mongolian Affairs. He was part of a group award for valor for his actions in time of crisis when the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad was burned down. He also spent four years working for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland.

Born in Detroit, Michigan, Mr. Michalak received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Physics from Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan, and Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., respectively. He received a second Master's degree in Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He speaks Chinese, Japanese and is still struggling with Vietnamese.