



Indochina Resource Action Center

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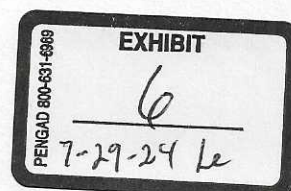
Le Xuan Khoa's Bio Data

Le Xuan Khoa is currently President/Executive Director of the Indochina Resource Action Center (IRAC), a Washington-based national organization whose mission is to assist the Indochinese in the U.S. in their transition from dependent refugees to a viable Asian-American community. Since its inception in 1979, IRAC has served as a voice and a resource to all Indochinese ethnic groups in the U.S. As a voice, IRAC is a leading advocate for refugee protection and human rights, both in first asylum camps and in home countries. As a resource, IRAC serves as a national clearinghouse for information on Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam, and a technical assistance center for the empowerment of the Indochinese-American community.

Dr. Khoa has been active in refugee affairs since he came to this country in 1975 as a refugee himself. He spent the first three years as a researcher with a consulting firm in Washington, D.C., to conduct a series of surveys on refugee resettlement across the nation. Survey results were used by the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR/DHHS) in their annual reports to the U.S. Congress. In 1978, he became Associate Director of the Indochinese Mental Health Program at the Eastern Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute in Philadelphia, PA. When the program ended in 1980, he returned to D.C. to join the Center for Applied Linguistics where he developed a set of orientation materials for both refugees and American sponsors. In 1981, he was hired by the Indochina Refugee Action Center as Deputy Director and became Chief Executive of this organization one year later. Under his directorship, the Center changed its name from Indochina Refugee Action Center to Indochina Resource Action Center (better known as IRAC) to take a more active role in refugee advocacy, leadership, and community development.

For the past seventeen years, Khoa has worked with numerous public and private institutions and has spoken and written on a wide variety of issues on refugee protection and assistance. He is chief editor of *The Bridge*, a quarterly publication produced by IRAC since 1984. He has testified many times before the U.S. Congress (both House and Senate) on refugee policies and programs. He has also attended many international meetings on refugee protection, human rights, and durable solutions to the Indochinese refugee problem. Many Senators and Representatives and international policy-makers have praised Khoa for his resourcefulness on both domestic refugee resettlement issues and international solutions to the Indochinese refugee problem.

In the area of leadership and community development, Khoa has been instrumental in the development of close relationships with a broad spectrum of refugee Mutual Assistance Associations (MAAs) and community leaders. He has designed and coordinated scores of training and technical assistance programs in different regions of the country since 1982, with the participation of over 400 refugee MAAs. Khoa has an intimate knowledge of refugee community organizations and has earned the trust of a majority of the MAA leaders. He is known and respected beyond his own ethnic group for his fairness and impartiality in dealing with ethnic differences. One of Khoa's major



tasks in the next several years is to prepare a new generation of Indochinese Americans who are knowledgeable and capable in community leadership.

In addition to many awards from different ethnic groups recognizing his extraordinary services to the Indochinese communities, Khoa was selected and honored by the Citizens' Committee for Immigration Reform in April 1984 as one among several nationally prominent refugees and immigrants who have made significant contributions to the United States. In August 1988, he was selected by the Board of the Asian and Pacific American Civil Rights Alliance (APACRA) as the recipient of the Civil Rights Award for 1988. He is currently Vice-President of the Asian Pacific American Chamber of Commerce and serves as Board member of the American Council for Voluntary International Action (InterAction); National Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Forum; Federation of American Cultural and Language Communities; and National Institute Against Prejudice and Violence.

Dr. Khoa was formerly Deputy Minister of Culture and Education, then Vice-President of the University of Saigon, Vietnam, where he taught Oriental Philosophy for 15 years before coming to the U.S. in 1975. He completed his post-graduate studies at the University of Paris (Sorbonne), France, in 1960.