

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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Avian Influenza workshop

Hanoi -10 February, 2004 - About 100 participants from international donors, organisations, ministries and agencies attended the seminar on **Preliminary action plan of MARD to control avian influenza epidemic in Vietnam** (please see the attached draft work plan for more detail). This adhoc seminar was organised under the framework of the International Support Group (ISG).

A large number of high level representatives from donor community and international organisations operating in Viet Nam and related ministries and agencies participated and made fruitful comments for the development and implementation of the Action plan of MARD to control avian influenza. The international participants also expressed their concerns as well as committed to share the difficulties with Viet Nam through different types of technical and financial support including equipment, facilities, expertise for emergency, medium and long terms.

At the seminar, Mr. Dau Ngoc Hao, Deputy Director of the Department of Animal Health (DHA) presented the draft action plan of MARD to control avian influenza epidemic in Vietnam. **Objectives** of the action plan are:

- Avoid transmission from poultry to human.
- Control the outbreaks in all poultry species; advance toward to eradicate the disease soonest.
- Avoid environment pollution.

- Protect poultry from the return of AI

Source: ISG Sec

Updated information on Avian Influenza

So far, in responses to the AI many donors supported Viet Nam to control the epidemic through various means and for both emergency and long term. For more detail, please visit newly established website on Avian Influenza in Vietnam developed by the UN at:

<http://www.un.org.vn/benhcum/>
(Vietnamese) and

<http://www.un.org.vn/avian/> (English)

The site covers the following information:

- Global Situation Updates
- Press Releases
- Meetings and Briefings
- Guidelines, Advisories and Other Information
- Useful lines

There is also a map of AI infections (animal & human) in Vietnam as at 3 February 2004.

Source: INGO Resources Centre

Ad-hoc Meeting on Priority Integrated Water Resources Management Issues in Vietnamese River Basins

Under the framework of the ISG Thematic Ad-hoc Group 2 (TAG2) on Support to Hydraulic Works Development, Disaster Control, and Rural Water Supply, an Ad-hoc Meeting on

Priority Integrated Water Resources Management Issues in Vietnamese River Basins was held on 12 February 2004, co-chaired by MARD and ADB.

The main purpose of the meeting was to compare the three river basins, their water resource endowments vs. demand and the priority integrated water resources management (IWRM) issues and challenges in each basin from both the stakeholder and technical perspectives. Its output was a discussion of the implications for existing and future IWRM projects in the three basins.

Participating in the meeting were more than 60 representatives from Government relevant agencies and donor organizations.

Notes from the meeting was completed and sent to all participants for reference. The notes, reports and presentations of the meeting can be obtained from ISG Secretariat.

Source: ISG Sec

World Bank reviews progress of Country Assistance Strategy for Vietnam

Hanoi, February 20, 2004--The World Bank's Executive Board discussed the new Progress Report on the Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) for Vietnam, which is based on Vietnam's Comprehensive Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy (CPRGS). Directors also reviewed the joint World Bank/International Monetary Fund staffs' assessment of the Government's first annual CPRGS Progress Report.

World Bank strategy in Vietnam remains largely unchanged, but mode of delivery adjusted

The World Bank's Executive Board noted progress so far in implementing the strategy laid out in the 2002 CAS. The Executive Directors supported a continuation of this strategy for the remaining CAS period as well as an adjusted program of assistance laid out in the new CAS Progress Report. Under the adjusted IDA lending program, the World Bank is expected to provide Vietnam with concessional finance of up to USD 1.6 billion in 2004 and 2005.

The strategy organizes the Bank Group's support around the three themes of the CPRGS:

- Completing the transition to a market economy;
- Enhancing equitable, socially inclusive, and sustainable development; and
- Adopting a modern public administration, legal and governance system.

Implementation of the CPRGS has led to significant success, but important structural challenges remain.

"The CPRGS continues to articulate a sound set of policies and programs," said **Klaus Rohland, Director of the World Bank in Vietnam.**

However, a number of challenges will be important to address in future years.

- There is a need to align integration with the world economy and restructuring of the state enterprise sector.
- The second challenge is the need to tackle growing inequality in living standards and social outcomes through the use of improved targeting instruments and redistributive mechanisms.
- Thirdly, it will be critical to continue improve the public administration.

For more information on the World Bank in Vietnam, please visit our Web site at www.worldbank.org.vn

Source: World Bank Vietnam

Regional conference highlights human development as key objective of trade policies

Ha Noi, 12 February 2004: Human development should be a chief objective of trade for countries in Asia, stressed participants at today's UNDP Asia Trade Initiative Regional Consultation on Trade and Human Development held in Hanoi. The meeting gathered trade policy-makers and UNDP country office representatives from throughout Asia to discuss ways for the region to respond to recent setbacks and developments in world trade negotiations.

With the participation of 16 countries of the Asia-Pacific, this two-day conference is designed to encourage debate and cross-country sharing of knowledge and experience on ways to utilize international trade to

advance job creation, skills development, technology transfer, and environmental safeguarding in Asia, in ways that most benefit the poor.

The meeting called attention to Millennium Development Goal number 8, which commits nations to strengthening international partnerships for development. "It is the duty of the international community to maintain a high level of awareness of the links between trade and development, and thus collaborate on promoting informed policy choices and on seeking win-win solutions to advance this agenda," said Mr. Murray Gibbs, UNDP Senior Regional Advisor on Trade and Development.

For more information, please contact:

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Source: UNDP

Realizing Economic Opportunities from Mekong's East-West Corridor

VIENTIANE, LAO PDR (16 February 2004) - Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and, Viet Nam will participate in a workshop at Savannakhet, Lao PDR, from 18 to 19 February to discuss ways to realize economic opportunities from the East-West Economic Corridor. Cambodia will also participate as observer.

The workshop, jointly organized by the Lao Government, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), Japan International Cooperation Agency JAICA), and Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will discuss plans to realize economic benefits from the corridor, focusing on developing special economic zones, promoting tourism, and implementing single-stop customs inspection procedures.

"When the improvements of transport facilities are completed and cross-border movements of goods and people are further facilitated, the corridor will change the economic geography of Southeast Asia," says Kazu Sakai, Deputy Director General of ADB's Mekong Department. He will lead the ADB delegation at the workshop.

The workshop will highlight the crucial role of the private sector in developing the corridor. Development partners and entrepreneurs will also attend the meeting.

More at adb.org/media

Source: ADB

ICT development in Viet Nam - Rural Information Component

On February 18 2004, the Prime Minister issued Decision no 224/CP-QHQT which assigns Ministry of Post and Telecommunication to approve and implement the technical assistance (TA) project to prepare the investment project "Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Development in Vietnam". The TA project is worth US\$ 603,000 which will be financed by the Policy and Human Resource Development Fund through the World Bank's Trust fund.

The investment project "ICT Development in Vietnam" is expected to spend 18 to 25 million USD on Rural Information Component. According to the plan, the investment project will use the loan from WB in the period of 2004-2006.

Source: OMARD

Technical Assistance (TA 4194-VIE) for Agriculture Science and Technology (AST) project

From 4 to 13 February 2004, within the framework of the Technical Assistance (TA) for Agriculture Science and Technology (AST) project, ADB fielded this TA project-specific Consultation Mission to work with representatives of Viet Nam Government, external funding agencies and NGOs to discuss (i) the framework for the ensuing loan for the AST Project; (ii) cofinancing possibility from bilateral and multilateral funding agencies; (iii) possible project proposals for financing under the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction; (iv) possible modality for TA's contribution to the activities of the International Support Group (ISG) of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; (v) the Government's proposal to develop an international training center.

The above-captioned TA for AST was approved by the ADB on 9 October 2003 for a grant of \$ 900,000 financed under the Japan Special Fund, funded by the Government of Japan. The objective of the TA is to help the Government prepare a detailed proposal for strengthening the AST system in Vietnam, thereby contributing to the country's sustainable economic growth and reduction in rural poverty.

Source: MARD