

ISG Secretariat : Room 209-210 Building A9 - 2 Ngoc Ha, Hanoi – Tel: (84-4) 733 6610 – Fax: (84-4) 733 6624  
Email: [isgmard@fpt.vn](mailto:isgmard@fpt.vn) – Website: <http://www.isgmard.org.vn>

Issue No. 27 - Oct 2005

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### **ISG Plenary Meeting: “Investment for agriculture and rural development”**

**On 22nd September 2005, Hanoi -** Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr. Cao Duc Phat together with Mr. Andre Haspels, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Vietnam and Ministry of Planning and Investment co-chaired the ISG Plenary Meeting 2005 with the theme “Investment for agriculture and rural development sector”

The Meeting attracted more than 200 participants from Government ministries/agencies, donors, international organizations, domestic and international non-government organizations, management officials at central and local levels, researchers/ consultants and domestics/ foreign direct investment enterprises operating in the agriculture and rural development sector and mass media agencies.

The Meeting was organised in two days. The first day (22nd September) is a forum of dialogue for the entire foreign invested enterprises community operating in the

agriculture and rural development sector to express their wills and aspirations with Government agencies charged with State management of foreign investment. The second day (23rd September) the meeting will be listening to a presentation on a summary synthesis of inputs of ideas, comments and recommendations by the Secretariat of the meeting for further discussions with a view to improving the investment environment and the legal framework in the agriculture and rural development sector.

With the afore-said theme of the Annual Plenary Meeting of ISG for 2005, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development would like to listen to and share your points of views and experiences, and to learn lessons and best practices from the participants, to help to strengthen the institutional frame work and capacity of the agriculture and rural development sector to better attract and mobilize resources, to perform the State management function, and to deliver public services in support of FDI activities in the sector.

Minister Phat stated that “FDI should be attracted for the realization of the goal to

create and to develop a strong and highly effective commodity-based agriculture on the basis of promoting comparative advantages and introduction/ application of new technologies, high technologies, and producing highly competitive products when participating in the integration process.” “Ministry of Agriculture and rural development would like to be a good and reliable friend of the investors in the agriculture and rural development sector” he said.

For more information, please contact:  
ISG Secretariat at  
Room 209- 210 A9 building, 2 Ngoc Ha, Hanoi  
Tel: (04) 733 6610  
Email: [isgmard@fpt.vn](mailto:isgmard@fpt.vn) or [isginfo@fpt.vn](mailto:isginfo@fpt.vn)  
Website: <http://www.isgmard.org.vn>

Source: ISG Sec

### CMARD collaborate with CIVIL SERVICE COLLEGE SINGAPORE

**Singapore, 14-16 September, 2005** - The PAR in MARDproject (VIE/02/016) supported a delegation led by the Rector of the College of Management in Agriculture and Rural Development No1 was assigned to visit the Civil Service College of Singapore from the 14th to 16th September 2005.

The objectives of the Mission are, firstly, to formalize the terms of collaboration between the Civil Service College of Singapore - CSC (similar to the role and function of the National Academy of Public Administration in Vietnam) and the College of Management in Agriculture and Rural Development (hereinafter CMARD 1) through the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU); secondly, to identify specific training programs under the MOU for building capacity of MARD civil servants.

#### Outputs of the Mission:

- The Delegation held several dialogue sessions with the leaders and staff of CSC International Division and visited class-in-sessions and knowledge centers.
- The dialogue session provided information on CSC mission, functions, tasks, structures and training outputs;
- The Delegation attended a class-in-session to observe teaching methodology;
- Visits included the library, PS21 Center (PAR knowledge receptacle), and Digital Learning Center in partnership with World Bank.

- The Delegation had a final discussion with the Director of CSC International specific activities within the MOU and immediate action steps to be taken over the next 12 months.
- The CSC Visit culminated with a signed MOU by the respective directors.

For more information please contact:  
Mr. Nguyen Duc Son, Project Manager, PAR in MARD project  
Tel: 84-080 43 097  
Fax: 84-4-733 9117  
Email: [sonnd.vp@mard.gov.vn](mailto:sonnd.vp@mard.gov.vn)

Source: VIE/02/016

### More than VND 60,000 billion to create a breaking through

The Prime Minister has just approved an investment amount worth from VND 60,000 to 62,000 billion for the next 5 years (2006-2010) in order to create a breaking through in poverty reduction to reach the goal that by 2010 land will be allocated for most of poor households without land or lacking of production land or alternative careers will be generated for them.

The Minister of Labors, War Invalids and Social Affairs, Nguyen Thi Hang, says since 2006, poor, handicapped or ethnic minority households with the demand of capital for doing businesses, building anti-flood houses or redeeming production land will be provided with flexible access to credits at a preferential interest rate lower than the market rate from 25%-30%.

To make the poverty reduction process more effective, the Ministry of Labors, War Invalids and Social Affairs has also proposed the Government to revise the Decision 139/2003 in an orientation that extending the beneficiaries of the program to those who have just escaped from poverty. Health policy is expected to increase the using duration of health insurance cards from 1 to 2 years and increase the benefits for each medical examination of the poor.

Regarding the implementation arrangements of poverty reduction programs in the time to come, Minister Nguyen Thi Hang says the Prime Minister has just required establishment of a steering committee headed by one Deputy Prime Minister. Additionally, program management boards will be established at 4 levels. The State will allocate VND 125 billion on monitoring, evaluation and management executed by

ministries and ministerial-level agencies. At the communal level, there will be a staff in charge of poverty reduction who is responsible for directly guiding the people in realization of their works.

According to Minister Nguyen Thi Hang, although considerable achievements have been made in poverty reduction in the past years but under the new poverty standard, there are still 4.6 million poor households by the end of 2005.

#### Key targets for the period 2006-2010:

- Income of the poor group increases by 1.45 times in comparison with 2005
- Poor and specially difficult communes are provided with adequate infrastructures
- 6 million turns of poor households are provided with preferential credits
- 4.2 million turns of poor households get training on agricultural and piscicultural extension
- 1.5 million people benefit from reduction or exemption of career training fees
- 15 million people get medical examination and treatment without paying fees
- 19 million turns of poor pupils/students benefit from tuition fee and school building fee reduction and exemption
- 500 thousand poor households are supported under the slum clearance program.

Source: VNA

### Continue to speed up cooperative economy in agriculture

Mr. Truong Tan Sang, Chairman of the Central Committee on Economics affirms that Vietnam will speed up collective economy development in agriculture so that large volumes of goods can be produced to meet big orders and are more competitive to meet the market requirements, especially when Vietnam joins the AFTA.

In the Reviewing Meeting of 3 year implementation of the Central Resolution 5, 9th Session (2002) on collective economy in agriculture held in Hanoi on September 13th and 14th, Mr. Truong Tan Sang added that Vietnam should establish cooperative unions to contribute to making collective economy

together with State economy become a sounder basis of the national economy.

According to Mr. Cao Duc Phat, Minister of MARD, at the first step, cooperatives have shown an important role in receiving, guiding the transfer and application of technology in production, promoting plant and animal structure transformation as well as rural career diversification and contributing to hunger elimination and poverty reduction.

In the past 3 years, the State has promulgated a large number of incentive policies, which promote cooperative operation such as enterprise income exemption, providing easy access to credits and bad debt writing-off for cooperatives.

At the same time, local authorities also support cooperatives in marketing and expanding agricultural product consuming markets; create favorable conditions for cooperatives to participate in national programs and projects or those implemented by non-governmental organizations or leading some investment projects on agricultural and rural development in their locality.

In order to intensify collective economy in the coming time, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has proposed a large number of solutions such as supporting cooperatives in completing administrative procedures for issuance of land use right certificates, completing bad debt writing-off, and making solution for a permanent end of public debts in cooperatives. The Ministry will continue to support cooperatives in developing trade names, accessing information and markets, etc.

Source: VNA

### ADB to maintain focus on strategic pillars to cut poverty in Viet Nam

**MANILA, 27 September 2005** - The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will continue to focus on three strategic pillars of promoting sustainable growth, inclusive social development, and good governance to cut poverty in Viet Nam, according to ADB's [Country Strategy and Program \(CSP\) update for 2006-2008](#) endorsed by its Board of Directors.

In addition, the CSP retains a geographic focus on the country's Central region, where poverty reduction has been slower than in other provinces, as well as enhancing Viet

Nam's regional cooperation within the Greater Mekong Subregion.

Planned assistance over the period exceeds \$200 million per year from ADB's Asian Development Fund (ADF), a loan and grant facility for ADB's poorest member countries. Final amounts will be determined by technical assistance (TA) projects underway to prepare investment projects.

Likewise, actual size of projects to be funded by ADB's ordinary capital resources will be known only after completion of preparatory TAs, but is estimated to amount to about \$500 million annually. In addition, a total regional lending program is expected to range from \$30 million to \$40 million annually for 2005 and 2006 from ADF resources.

Projects in the pipeline include loans in the agriculture sector to develop forests for livelihood improvement and central region water resources; health and education projects, including HIV/AIDS prevention among youth, teacher development, and secondary education expansion; and industry and trade projects, including small and medium enterprise development and financial sector development.

Viet Nam will also benefit from GMS-wide projects, including the Hanoi-Lao Cai Railway upgrade, a tourism project, southern coastal corridor, and GMS power interconnection.

ADB's technical assistance pipeline will support the lending program's main areas of emphasis, with about \$4.7 million/per year planned in grants for 2006 - 2008.

ADB is supporting the preparation of a results framework for the Socio economic development plan (SEDP), a handbook for socioeconomic development planning, consultation on the SEDP in the central region, and implementing the SEDP in three provinces.

Accordingly, ADB plans its next CSP for Viet Nam for 2006, to be jointly processed with other development partners, including the World Bank.

CSPs define ADB's medium-term development strategy as agreed with the country. A CSP update is usually prepared every year taking into account the continued relevance of the CSP, its implementation, and ADB's operational program.

**Source:** ADB

## World Bank Supports Vietnam With Credits for \$225 Million

**Washington, September 15, 2005** – The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors today approved three credits to Vietnam for a total value of US\$225 million to help bring water and sanitation facilities to rural villages, prevent natural disasters to save lives and property, and improve the way the government provides information to its citizens.

The first two projects, Red River Delta Rural Water supply project and Natural Disaster Risk Management project, are funded through the World Bank's adaptable program loans (APLs). This lending instrument provides phased support for long-term development programs, involving a series of loans that build on lessons learned from previous projects.

### Rural Water

The \$45.8 million credit for the Red River Delta Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project will support the first phase of a Vietnam Rural Water Supply Program. It will help extend access to treated water for 800,000 people and will enable some 600,000 people to have hygienic toilets and improved drainage. It will also help establish Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Enterprises as consumer-responsive planning and implementing entities for water and sanitation services that are financially, technically and environmentally sustainable, thereby contributing to poverty alleviation in participating communes. The project will support initiatives in four provinces – Hai Duong, Nam Dinh, Ninh Binh, and Thai Binh.

### Natural Disaster

The \$86 million credit to finance the first of the two-phased of the Natural Disaster Risk Management program aims to save lives and protect houses, roads, bridges and other assets, particularly of poor communities living in hazard prone areas; and to improve the efficiency of long-term reconstruction efforts. This would be achieved through the provision of funding for: structural and non-structural investments to mitigate the impact of recurring natural disasters; rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure in the aftermath of natural disasters; and capacity building of national and local institutions in preparedness, response, and long-term recovery.

## Information & Communication

The third credit of \$93.7 million will finance the Information and Communication Technology Development (ICT) project which is expected to bring greater availability of and access to information about government policies, services and procedures. The project will increase the effectiveness, transparency and accountability of government agencies, contribute to better provision of public services, while effectively combating corruption.

This project will also improve the ability of citizens, businesses and the public in general, to participate in the information society from a civic or professional perspective. The project comprises three main components: leadership in ICT and modernization of the Ministry of Post and Telematics; modernization of the General Statistics Office, and E-applications for the municipalities of Hanoi, Danang and Ho Chi Minh City.

For information on the Bank's work in Vietnam, please visit: [www.worldbank.org/vn](http://www.worldbank.org/vn)

Source: WB

## Poverty alleviation through livestock development in the Northern uplands of Vietnam

**On 15 September 2005** - Vice Minister of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Dr. Bui Ba Bong and Ambassador of Switzerland in Vietnam, Mr. Bénédicte de Cerjat signed the agreement on project "Poverty alleviation through livestock development in the Northern uplands of Vietnam" Phase I.

The overall Goal of the project is to reduce poverty and to improve the rural economy through livestock development in the northern uplands of Vietnam in order to increase farmer's incomes by strengthening appropriate, sustainable and replicable livestock services and livestock production system.

To achieve the overall Goal, the project will focus on the following objectives:

- To improve the quality and efficiency of livestock planning and service provision at district and commune levels

- To increase farmers' income through the adoption of improved pig production methods and technology and better access to livestock-related services.
- To increase farmers' income through the adoption of improved poultry production methods and technology and better access to livestock-related services.
- To contribute to improved policy formulation through the dissemination of practical field-based methods, learning and experiences (at district, province and national levels).

Phase I of the project is designed to implement in 2 years (2005 -2007) with total grant committed by the Government of Switzerland of CHF 984.000 (equivalent to \$ 756.923 USD). The Government of Vietnam will contribute in kind (office, meeting rooms and staffs)

Source: ICD-MARD

## Promotion of Sustainable Utilization and Management of Natural Forest and Marketing of important Forest Products

**On 30 August 2005** - Vice Minister of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Mr. Hua Duc Nhi and Director of GTZ Office in Hanoi Mr. Guenter W.Riethmacher signed the implementation agreement on project "Program to Promotion of Sustainable Utilization and Management of Natural Forest and Marketing of important Forest Products".

The overall goal is to improve significantly efficiency and sustainability of forest management and forest industry in Vietnam.

Through 3 components are Sustainable management of natural forest; Trade and Marketing of forest products; Policy advisory, the project will be focus on the following objectives

- People in rural areas and employees of state-owned and private forest enterprises apply guidelines and methods for a sustained management of forest in selected provinces.
- Employees in state-owned and private enterprises in selected provinces apply improved processing procedures

- toward sustainable forest utilization and marketing of forest products.
- Consultancy to forest policies is made aiming at supporting sustainable forest management in Vietnam.

The project will be implemented in 3 years (2005 - 2008) with total grant committed by Germany Government of 4.500.000 Euro (Equivalent to \$ 5,641,650 USD). The Government of Vietnam will contribute in kind (office, meeting rooms and staffs).

Source: ICD-MARD

### DANIDA provided veterinary equipment for Avian Influenza vaccination campaign in Vietnam

**Hanoi, 27/9/2005** - The Avian Influenza (AI) epidemic outbreaks in Vietnam and other countries around the world has caused huge economic losses and threatened human's lives. During the past two years great effort has been made by the Vietnamese Government, its institutions and mass organizations to keep the epidemic under control. Support and advice have been provided by the international community to the Government of Vietnam in this respect.

In order to prevent the epidemic from re-occurring the Vietnamese Government issued instruction number 25/2005/CT-TTg dated 12/7/2005 about vaccination for AI control at an estimated cost of more than 300 billion VND. As one of the main bilateral donors the Embassy of Denmark has been quick to respond to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Developments request for support to this massive vaccination campaign, which will be fully launched by 1st October 2005.

At the handing over ceremony today 27th September in Hanoi for 24 Northern provinces and on 3rd October in Ho Chi Minh City for 25 Southern provinces veterinary equipment and communication facilities valuing 300,000 USD will be distributed to the 49 provinces to facilitate effective, efficient and timely execution of the Government order. The support include: 1,670 auto syringes, 295 cooling boxes, 7,600 liters of chemical, 670 sets of re-usable protective clothes, and other vital equipment for vaccination.

This is the fourth time the Embassy of Denmark gives support to AI control in Vietnam totaling more than 800,000 USD

since the outbreak of the disease in 2004. The support is provided through Small Livestock Component hosted by the National Agricultural Extension Centre under the Agricultural Sector Programme Support, funded by Danida.

Source: DANIDA

### New ACIAR projects in Vietnam

**Hanoi, 15 September 2005** – Four new ACIAR (*ACIAR stands for the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research. ACIAR is part of the Australian Government's Development Co-operation Program*) funded projects were approved by the Vietnamese Government in the first nine months of 2005. These projects bring the total number of ACIAR's current projects in Vietnam to 35.

The first project focuses on managing groundwater access in Tay Nguyen, the central highland region of Vietnam, where drought is a serious and constant threat to crop production and human health. Important environmental benefits are expected to flow (pardon the pun) from the project, including improved groundwater reserves, improved water quality, decreased salinity and protection of the forest ecosystem services. The projected social benefits for the highlands population, which has some of the poorest and most ethnically diverse Vietnamese, include improved water security, health and economic benefits.

The project is being implemented by the Australian National University and the National Centre for Development Studies in Australia and the Department of Water Resources Management, Tay Nguyen University and Ho Chi Minh University of Economics in Vietnam.

Vietnamese Project Leader:

Dr Nguyen Thai Lai

Email: [qltnn@yahoo.com](mailto:qltnn@yahoo.com)

Australian Project Leader:

Prof. Jeff Bennett

Email: [jeff.bennett@anu.edu.au](mailto:jeff.bennett@anu.edu.au)

Yields from crops such as coffee, pepper, sugar, groundnut, citrus and durian, which are grown in the central provinces of Quang Nam, Quang Tri, Thua Thien Hue and Nghe An, are falling due to disease. Soilborne fungal agents are a significant factor in this decline. A new ACIAR research project will develop the capacity at provincial level to diagnose fungal diseases, extend information

on these diseases through participatory farmer training, and develop control measures in collaboration with farmers. Communities involved will benefit directly through improved crop yields and consequent economic benefit.

Key collaborators include the University of Sydney and the Royal Botanic Gardens in Australia and Hanoi Agricultural University, Hue University of Agriculture and Forestry, Institute of Medicinal Plants, Nghe An Provincial Plant Protection Sub-Department and Quang Nam Provincial Plant Protection Sub-Department in Vietnam.

Vietnamese Project Leader:

Prof. Nguyen Kim Van

Email: [nkvan@hau1.edu.vn](mailto:nkvan@hau1.edu.vn)

Australian Project Leader:

Prof. Lester Burgess

Email: [l.burgess@agec.usyd.edu.au](mailto:l.burgess@agec.usyd.edu.au)

Market demand for lobster is rising throughout much of the world, despite lobster fisheries being fished at either maximum capacity or being in decline. Meeting this demand in a sustainable fashion is increasingly dependent on aquaculture production. Current lobster aquaculture in Vietnam relies on the collection of wild seed which in turn has high rates of mortality in caged grow-out facilities. There is also evidence that aquaculture is having a detrimental affect on coastal environments. ACIAR has funded a project which addresses these concerns through:

- an assessment of ecological impact seed collection in Vietnam;
- reduction of post-capture losses;
- development of best practice husbandry for grow-out; and
- capacity building and technology transfer.

The project is implemented by the Research Institute for Aquaculture No.3, the Institute of Oceanography, and the University of Fisheries in Vietnam, and the Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries in Australia.

Vietnamese Project Leader:

Dr Nguyen Dinh Mao

Email: [dhtsnt@dng.vnn.vn](mailto:dhtsnt@dng.vnn.vn)

Australian Project Leader:

Email: [kevin.williams@csiro.au](mailto:kevin.williams@csiro.au)

Eucalypts are a potential high-value wood for use in construction joinery and furniture. Poor yields result from growth stresses released upon sawing that cause distortion and splitting in logs, so eucalypts in many developing countries are mainly used for fuelwood, pulp and poles. The ACIAR funded research will focus on genetic and silvicultural controls to reduce these losses. Breeding strategies and management regimes will be examined, beginning with an overview of plantation resources. Levels of control offered by genetic and silviculture will be assessed to increase quality and other critical traits. Breeding strategies for key species will be developed and communicated, enhancing capacity building.

Collaborating Institutions include the China Eucalypt Research Centre, Chinese Academy of Forestry and Guangxi Forest Research Institute, Hunan Provincial Forestry Department, China, Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries, Australia, and the Forest Science Institute of Vietnam, Vietnam

Vietnamese Project Leader:

Dr Ha Huy Thinh

Email: [rcfti@netnam.org.vn](mailto:rcfti@netnam.org.vn)

Australian Project Leader:

Mr Michael Hanson

Email: [michaelhe@sf.nsw.gov.au](mailto:michaelhe@sf.nsw.gov.au)

Source: ACIAR

## Providing information on ODA projects

**Hanoi, 3/10/2005** - The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has launched a database on official development assistance in Vietnam. Project "Database on official development assistance in Vietnam" is one of activities undertaken by UNDP to support the Government program on strengthening ODA management and to realize commitments in Paris Declaration and Hanoi Declaration on assistance efficiency.

In the ceremony, the Ministry of Planning and Investment has officially received the database on ODA which has been collected and developed by UNDP in the past more than ten years. In parallel with launching the database on assistance development (DAD) in Vietnam, UNDP has officially assigned the responsibility to develop ODA reports to the Government of Vietnam.

In his speech at the ceremony, Minister of Planning and Investment Cao Viet Sinh said: "by receiving the transfer of the above-mentioned historical data, we has been officially tasked with the responsibility of on-going maintenance, development and improvement of DAD Vietnam in the spirit of strengthening the leading role of the Government of Vietnam to improve the assistance efficiency".

For more information, please visit: <http://dad.mpi.gov.vn>

Source: ISG Sec

### Worldwide changes necessary in global aid, trade and security to meet the MDGs

#### Viet Nam Sustains Progress on Human Development, says New Global UNDP Report

**HA NOI** –Viet Nam's human development index continued to improve in 2003 according to the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) 2005 Human Development Report (HDR) released in Viet Nam on **September 12, 2005**.

Sustained economic growth has propelled Viet Nam's human development ranking to 108 of 177 countries, from 112 in 2004. The Human Development Index (HDI) -- which combines indicators of economic growth, education and health outcomes -- measures long-term progress in human development.

This year's report, entitled International cooperation at a crossroads: Aid, trade and security in an unequal world, calls for swift and dramatic changes in global aid, trade and security policies to fulfil the promises made when world leaders gathered five years ago at the Millennium Summit.

The Report is being released one week before world leaders, including Viet Nam's Vice President, Mrs. Truong My Hoa, meet in New York for the UN's 2005 World Summit. The Summit is the largest gathering of world leaders in history and a crucial opportunity to review progress toward the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The 2005 HDR applauds Viet Nam for already halving 1990 poverty rates, for reducing child and neo-natal mortality rates and for reinforcing the link between economic growth and poverty reduction.

Yet despite this success, the Report also notes some extreme examples of inequality in Viet Nam: "A single hospital visit costs 40% of the monthly income of people in the poorest 20% of the Vietnamese population. These high levels of household health spending have pushed 3 million people into poverty."

The 2005 HDR presents the challenges for countries like Viet Nam in world trade and dealing with the "perverse taxation" of the world's poorest countries. The US import duty for countries like Viet Nam and Bangladesh is roughly 10 times higher than for most countries in the European Union.

Price distortions from export subsidies also have a direct impact on smaller producers. Between 2002 and 2003, rice grown in the United States at a cost of \$415 a tonne was exported at \$275 a tonne, forcing rival rice exporters such as Thailand and Viet Nam to adjust to this unfair competition.

The Report calls on donor countries to deliver more aid, and for donor and developing countries to reduce transaction costs to increase the effectiveness of aid.

The HDI is a composite measure of three dimensions of human development: life expectancy at birth; knowledge as measured by the adult literacy rate and combined gross enrolment ratio for primary, secondary and tertiary schools and; standard of living as measured by GDP per capita and cost of living via purchasing power parity (PPP).

Global HDI rankings provide countries with an indication of their relative performance over an extended period of time, but year-to-year changes have limited analytical value because of period revisions to the underlying data.

The Report says that 18 countries, with a total of 460 million people, have moved backwards on the HDI since 1990, when the first groundbreaking HDR was published. Yet, there has been some overall progress as people in developing countries have, on average, become healthier, better educated and less impoverished.

*A full copy of the Human Development Report 2005, press kit and country profiles are available at: <http://hdr.undp.org>*

Source: UNDP

## Viet Nam releases its first-ever national progress report on the MDGs

**Ha Noi, September 16, 2005** – Viet Nam released its first-ever national report reviewing its progress toward achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) today. While celebrating Viet Nam's impressive accomplishments toward improved human development, the Report underscores further challenges to reaching the eight MDGs by 2015.

"Viet Nam's achievements in poverty reduction have been recognized by the international community and we are always ready to share experiences with other countries in our poverty reduction work," said Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) Vice Minister, Phan Quang Trung to the audience of government and international officials. "But in order to comprehensively fulfil all the MDGs, Viet Nam needs support from UN member countries, especially in the developed world, from international financial institutions and UN agencies."

A report of this kind provides an opportunity to take stock of the achievements in Viet Nam to date and to refocus on priority areas where work remains in order to reach all the Goals, and also to sustain the progress made thus far. These priority areas, as detailed in the report, include environmental management, the quality of education, growing HIV/AIDS rates among young Vietnamese, the growing gap between rich and poor, between men and women, between rural and urban populations, as well as between Kinh and ethnic minorities.

Unlike past MDG reports written by UN agencies in cooperation with the government, this report was led and written by a government drafting team and coordinated by MPI. The preparation was a highly collaborative process. National consultations, linking both the Report and the five-year-plan, were held across the country, as well as with the National Assembly. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provided technical and financial assistance for the process.

Much of the findings of the government report detail the success of Viet Nam in its progress, especially on goals relating to poverty reduction and child and neo-natal mortality rates. Already having halved poverty, Viet Nam is internationally recognized as moving

in the right direction to achieving the Goals. But both UNDP and government officials recognize that there is still a long way to go until 2015, the year when all countries have committed to reach the MDGs.

"Viet Nam is a world leader in terms of MDG progress and there is every reason to be proud of the accomplishments noted in this report," said UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Jordan Ryan. "But inequality is growing and deep pockets of poverty remain in the most disadvantaged areas. The goal needs to be to reach the MDGs in every village and hamlet across Viet Nam."

Today's ceremony in Ha Noi coincides with the Report's presentation in New York City at the 2005 World Summit. The Summit, which ends today, is the largest gathering of world leaders in history. The international community is gathered to make critical decisions on development, security and human rights issues, including how to achieve the MDGs.

It has been five years since Vietnam joined 188 world leaders in committing to reaching the eight MDGs by 2015. The eight MDGs are: To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; To achieve universal primary education; To promote gender equality and empower women; To reduce child mortality; To improve maternal health; To combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other Diseases; To ensure environmental sustainability; To develop a global partnership for development.

Full document can be downloaded from MPI website at: <http://www.mpi.gov.vn/ttktxh.aspx?Lang=4&manganh=2044>

Source: UNDP

## Integrating watershed and biodiversity management in Chu Yang Sin National Park, Daklak province - project inception workshop

**On 29 July 2005 in Buon Me Thuot City** - Dak Lak Provincial People's Committee in collaboration with BirdLife International Vietnam Programme held a project inception workshop titled Integrating watershed and biodiversity management in Chu Yang Sin (CYS) National Park, Daklak Province. The project is funded by a grant of USD 973,000

from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the World Bank.

This workshop aimed to introduce the project to local authorities, agencies and relevant stakeholders in Dak Lak province, and to create an opportunity for co-operation and information exchange between local agencies and major donor initiatives active in the area. In Dak Lak province, following Yok Don, CYS is the second National Park to receive a GEF grant for biodiversity conservation. The workshop was an important milestone to kick-off the project after a long project preparation process.

With its overall objective of conserving the biodiversity attributes of CYS National Park by integrating watershed management and protection in the area, the provincial leadership, agencies, the donor, CYS National Park staff hope that the project will succeed and greatly contribute to the cause of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in Dak Lak province.

At the workshop, a lot of opinions of relevant stakeholders about their expectations of project achievements have been expressed. With activities during the project period, CYS National Park and the whole CYS landscape will hopefully become an exemplary model of biodiversity conservation and watershed management and poverty alleviation. In addition, the project will support CYS National Park so that it can attain an appropriate position in the protected area system of Vietnam. Some specific expectations have been expressed by participants as follows:

- The CYS landscape and the surrounding protected areas will be nominated as a World Natural Heritage Site in accordance with UNESCO's criteria.
- The CYS landscape will become famous nationwide and well known for its unique biodiversity values.
- CYS will be an attractive and interesting place for foreign investors in researching and conserving biodiversity and protecting watersheds.

Source: WB

## International Agricultural Trade and Sustainable Development in Southeast Asia

The IPC is organizing a seminar in Hanoi, Vietnam on October 31st held in partnership with the National Committee for International Economic Cooperation (NCIEC), the World Wide Fund for Nature Vietnam Programme Office and Macroeconomics Programme Office. This seminar will look at Vietnam's agricultural policy in terms of how development can remain sustainable while satisfying both domestic goals and international commitments.

The seminar will be split into two main themes. Mornings sessions will cover issues in agricultural trade and the progression of multilateral negotiations, with specific attention on Vietnam's accession to the WTO. The afternoon sessions will focus on domestic issues such as, rural development, building local competitiveness into global value chains, and environmental concerns; as well as highlighting projects on sustainable agricultural production.

Trade has been a strong driver for Vietnam's recent economic growth and when it comes to securing its place in international trade, Vietnam sees its membership to the WTO as vital. Yet some of the concessions that will accompany accession, especially with regards to some of Vietnam's state dominated sectors, will be demanding and may cause significant shifts in certain industries and produce considerable political fallout.

Participants in the seminar will include high-ranking Vietnamese government officials and ministers, farm leaders, trade associations, business groups, NGOs with projects in the region, academics from universities in the region and representatives from foreign embassies.

Time: October 31, 2005  
 Venue: Sofitel Plaza Hotel  
 1 Thanh Nien Road, Ba Dinh  
 District, Hanoi, Vietnam

[Click Here to View Seminar Agenda](#)

Source: ISG Sec