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## HIGHLIGHTS

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*Information and experience equal knowledge,  
please share your knowledge with us!*

### 1. POLICY DEVELOPMENT/REVIEW



#### WB calls for more ODA for Viet Nam's development

**Ha Noi, 29/11/07:** Viet Nam is barrelling towards becoming a country with an average income level equal to world standards by 2010, however the World Bank (WB) says continued assistance is still needed in social areas.

The comments were made by WB Country Director Ajay Chhibber at a press briefing on November 29 about a Consultative Group meeting to be held in Ha Noi next month.

WB Country Director Ajay Chhibber forecasted that foreign direct investment flowing into Viet Nam will strongly increase in comparison with the 16 billion USD commitment by international donors in 2007.

However, the capital chiefly targets those sectors that will generate profits, he said.

“Accordingly, WB will continue to increase projects benefiting from the International Development Association (IDA) – the bank’s concessional or low-cost lending arm for Viet Nam to support the country in poverty reduction, health care and education development, particularly in higher education and infrastructure,” the director said.

The chief WB representative in Viet Nam also said he hoped the international donor community will continue to make a strong commitment to Viet Nam in the coming years.

Chhibber said he would inform foreign donors at the Consultative Group Meeting that Viet Nam is still in need of Official Development Assistance (ODA) in many areas for sustainable development.

**Source:** VNA

#### Craft village development plan submitted

**Ha Noi, 10/11/07:** The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has submitted to the Government a plan for developing craft villages from 2008 through 2015 with a vision to 2020.

The ministry envisages investing 9.6 trillion VND (599 million USD) to preserve and develop 1,130 craft villages in 32 provinces and cities, including developing 119 craft villages for tourism services and 229 new craft villages in 2008-15.

The plan will also develop 388 new craft villages for tourism services in 2016-20.

At the Government’s request, the plan is now commented by 64 provinces and expected to be issued by early 2008.

**Source:** MARD-Department of Agro Forestry Processing and Salt Industry- VNA

## Ireland to give Viet Nam 87.5 million EUR till 2010

**HCM City, 09/11/07:** Ireland will give Viet Nam 87.5 million EUR under the Ireland-Viet Nam Country Strategy Plan (CSP) for the 2007-2010 period, Sean Hoy, Head of the Irish Embassy's Development Department said on November 9.

The CSP will be conducted in close combination with Viet Nam's socio-economic development plan in the 2006-2010 period, focusing on poverty reduction and assistance of the private sector.

The programme will give priorities to the disabled, especially children.

Source: VNA

## 2. ADMINISTRATION REFORM



### VCCI to issue on-line certificates of origin

**Ha Noi, 17/11/07:** The Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) said that it will issue on-line certificates of origin (C/Os) for enterprises across Viet Nam as of 2008 in a move to boost the administrative reform.

VCCI has piloted granting C/O certificates to 50 firms in Ha Noi since early of this year, said Tran Thi Thu Huong, deputy head of VCCI's Legal Department, adding that the chamber has organised 10 training courses for local enterprises.

On-line C/O issuance allows businesses to post their data on the website [www.covcci.com.vn](http://www.covcci.com.vn).

Source: VNA

## 3. BILATERAL COOPERATION



### Technical Exchange in Agriculture between Israel and Viet Nam

**Hanoi, Nov 01<sup>st</sup> 2007:** Israel wishes to further the mutual discussions and experience exchange on agricultural technology, to promote the participation into projects related to agricultural technical staff training, in-house vegetable production technology and biotechnology with Viet Nam, stated Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Salom Shimhon.

At the meeting welcoming the delegation of Viet Nam Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development led by Vice Minister Nguyen Ngoc Thuat on 31<sup>st</sup> October, Shimhon highly appreciated the rapid socio-economic development of Viet Nam, as a model for many other developing countries.

Shimhon wishes to have chance to visit Viet Nam again for further strengthening of the various

relation between the two countries, especially in agriculture and rural development.

Vice Minister Thuat lauded the cooperation and assistance by Israel to Viet Nam in agriculture and rural development. In addition, he indicated that the relevant bilateral projects have been bringing practical fruits in Vietnamese agriculture sector.

Vice Minister Thuat stated that Viet Nam is very interested in Israeli agriculture technology and expects to foster the cooperation between the two countries in this field.

On the same date, the delegation took part in an exhibition on Water Technologies and Environmental Control (WATEC - 2007) with the presence of hundreds of well-known companies and scientific research units on water resources protection, sea water filtering for domestic purposes, desalinization, waste water treatment and environmental protection./.

Source: VNA

### Viet Nam, Israel co-operate on high-tech dairy farm project

**Hcm City, 8-11-07:** Representatives from HCM City and Israel on Monday inked a memorandum of understanding on a dairy cow project in the city.

Ambassador Haim Divon, Deputy Director General of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Centre for International Co-operation and Nguyen Phuoc Thao, director of HCM City Department of Agriculture and Rural Development signed the MoU.

Under the plan, a 10ha dairy demonstration and experimental farm will be established near the Centre for Animal Genetics and Seeds Evaluation and Management in the outlying Binh Chanh District.

The project aims include supporting the development of the dairy sector and running dairy farm activities and practices suitable for Viet Nam.

It will also serve as a Centre of Excellence that will combine demonstration, technologies and human capacity-building activities to support intensive dairy farming in the country.

Source: Vietnamnews online

### Quang Tri gives seed rice to Lao province

**Quang Tri, 15/11/07:** Central Quang Tri province presented 10 tonnes of high-quality seed rice to neighbouring Laotian Savannakhet province on November 15.

The assistance is part of a cooperation agreement between the two provinces.

In 2005, Quang Tri province gave 40 tonnes of seed rice to Savannakhet, helping increase rice output for the Lao province.

Source: VNA

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Source: Vietnamnews online

## 4. NEW PROJECTS FOR THE SECTOR



### Viet Nam, Canada cooperate in agricultural extension

**Ha Noi, 13/11/07:** The Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI) of Canada will send volunteers within UNITERRA programme to help Viet Nam promote agricultural extension through 2009.

A memorandum of understanding to this effect was signed between CECI and the National Agricultural Extension Centre (NAEC) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in Ha Noi on November 13.

NAEC Director Tong Khiem said the cooperation is expected to open up opportunities for Vietnamese experts in the field of agricultural extension to exchange information, knowledge, and experiences with other Canadian organizations.

As a non-governmental organization, CICE began its operations in Viet Nam in 1991, focusing on the improvement of living conditions for the poor, particularly those in mountainous and coastal areas.

CECI and NAEC are now jointly carrying out a project to better agricultural extension services at grassroots levels in mountainous districts of central Thanh Hoa and Nghe An provinces.

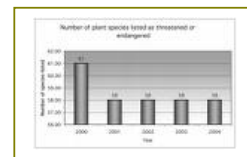
UNITERRA, initiated by CECI and the World University Service of Canada, is an international volunteer cooperation programme that mobilises citizens and organisations from Canada and developing nations. Its mission is to reduce poverty

by contributing to the fulfillment of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

Source: VNA

## 5. ODA PERFORMANCE

### Ministry to monitor and assess ODA projects



**Hanoi, 07/11/07:** The Ministry of Planning and Investment has issued a decision on framework to monitor and assess ODA projects for 2006-2010.

The framework has six programmes, including building a unique database of ODA information in order to put an ODA project monitoring and assessment system into operation.

Other programmes include an electronic gate to monitor and assess ODA projects, the development tools for monitoring and assessment at three levels – project managers, governing body and State managing agency for ODA, and project classification based on assessment.

Also planned are software installations for IT applications in ODA monitoring and assessment at the three levels, and building a national resource centre for project monitoring and assessment from the electronic gate.

The Ministry of Planning and Investment has also presented plans for implementing the framework including ensuring finance for project monitoring and assessment, assessing the impact of selected ODA projects and the results of ODA attraction and use over five years.

The ministry also plans to use the results of the ODA monitoring project to develop a system to monitor and assess public investment.

Source: VNA

### 87 million USD project helps farmers diversify production

**Ha Noi, 14/11/07:** A 87 million USD project has helped poor farmers diversify production to obtain stable growth and increase income, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has said.

The project, jointly funded by the International Development Agency of the World Bank, the French Development Agency and the Vietnamese Government, was carried out in 12 central highlands and central coastal provinces between 1998 and 2006.

At a conference reviewing the implementation of the project held in Ha Noi on November 14, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development stated the project proved a channel of fruitful investment to aid farmers in poor localities offered by the Government and international organisations.

The project has made ethnic minority people in mountainous areas involved in the nation's social and economic activities and also assisted the government in developing poverty reduction and agriculture development programmes, the ministry stressed.

Source: VNA

### ADB to help Viet Nam implement ODA projects

**Ha Noi, 23/11/07:** The Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced on November 23 that it will provide a grant worth of 700,000 USD to help Viet Nam improve its ability to implement official development assistance (ODA) projects.

"The grant will help Viet Nam strengthen its ability to absorb development assistance and improve its efficiency in preparing, implementing and evaluating ODA projects and programs," said Eri Honda, senior project management specialist of ADB's Vietnam Resident Mission, in a press release.

The grant will also support implementation of the Ha Noi Core Statement on Aid Effectiveness, which the Vietnamese government and the donor community endorsed in 2005, she added.

According to the ADB, ODA commitments over the past five years totaled about 11.1 billion USD. Only 7.8 billion USD was disbursed, below the target of 9 billion USD. "Slow project implementation has significant consequences on the achievement of Vietnam's development objectives, as well as on the cost of the investments," said Honda.

Source: VNA

### ODA disbursement expected to reach 2 billion USD

**Ha Noi, 29/11/07:** Viet Nam's disbursed official development assistance (ODA) capital is estimated to reach 2 billion USD this year, a year-on-year increase of 10 percent.

According to the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MoPI), 2007 marks the third year in a row that Viet Nam's disbursement of ODA has exceeded the yearly plan.

The ministry said the country and its donors have so far this year signed various projects with a total committed ODA capital of 3.6 billion USD, up 12.3 percent from 2006.

Asian Development Bank's Country Deputy Director Omkar Shrestha said despite Viet Nam's slow disbursement rate there are strong prospects for Viet Nam's development because of the way it actively negotiates aid from the international community.

Source: VNA

**Bangkok, Thailand, Nov 07:** the 29<sup>th</sup> Summit of Asian Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) and the 7<sup>th</sup> Summit of Asian Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry plus 3 (China, Japan and Korean) (AMAF +3) were held from 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2007. Vietnam delegation was lead by Dr. Cao Duc Phat, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD). In the Summits, Dr. Thira Sutabutra, the Minister of Thailand Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives and Dr. Cao Duc Phat, the Minister of MARD were nominated to be the chairman and vice chairman respectively.

At the summits, the ministers stressed the importance of the agriculture, forestry and aquaculture cooperation within the framework of AMAF and AMAF+3 and requested to strengthen the regional cooperation in this field, especially application of new technology in line with the international standards in order to increase the position and the competitiveness of Asian agricultural products in both region and on the world so that an active and sustainable development Asian community can be formed.

The Ministers ratified key documents relevant to the standard harmonization of excess of amount of pesticide, standards for 3 big fruits (grapefruit, rambutan, and papaw), standard for vaccine, guided to determine and control the seafood safety danger during processing; recognized the Asian laboratory for veterinary testing, strengthened the control of epidemic disease of castle and aquaculture in the region; establishing Asian Shrimp Alliance; ratified the Asian bird flu control and clearance strategy for 2008-2010; kept on the forestry cooperation towards sustainable development, enhanced the forestry laws enforcement; Convention of International Trafficking of Extinction Species, issuing the indicators and Asian parameters on sustainable tropical forestry management, reports on evaluation and monitoring the Asian forestry management, guided Asian to implement the international forum on forestry.

The ministers highly appreciated the cooperation between China, Japan, Korea, international organizations and other countries such as Australia, Germany, ADB, FAO, IRRI, OIE, SEAFDEC and ASEAN in the field of food, agriculture, forestry and aquaculture.

At the Summit, Asian signed the Agreement of cooperation with the International Veterinary Organization (IVO), exchanged letters of cooperation to Southeast Asia Fishery Development Center. The ministers ratified 9 project cooperation proposals within the framework of ASIAN +3 in which there are 3 Chinese proposals, 1 Japanese proposal, and 5 Korean proposals. They also ratified the implementation pro-length of Southeast Asia Rice

## 6. INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION



### Asian cooperation in agriculture

fund so that the phase 2 of the food security information project is launched.

The 30<sup>th</sup> Summit AMAF and the 8<sup>th</sup> Summit of AMAF +3 are planned to be held in Hanoi, Vietnam in October 2008.

**Source:** ICD-MARD

### MARD seeks EU help to upgrade seafood labs

**Ha Noi, 13/11/07:** The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) has asked an EU-funded project to help upgrade some seafood labs in Viet Nam to regional status.

The EU project is aimed at helping member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) improve their testing and examining capacity largely through the construction of food laboratories.

Deputy MARD Minister Luong Le Phuong said the proposal is of vital significance to Viet Nam as ASEAN-standard seafood labs will confirm the credibility and accuracy of the national lab results and local management capacity.

He said ASEAN labs in Viet Nam will also help avoid repeated testing and examinations, thus reducing costs for exporters.

It will help increase the value and export revenues of Vietnamese seafood overseas, he added.

"Seafood hygiene and safety are always given top priority by the Government and the MARD," Phuong said.

The national lab system of the National Fisheries Quality Assurance Veterinary Directorate (Nafiqaved) has met the ISO/IEC 17025 standards. The country now boasts 30 labs that meet international standards.

As a result, Nafiqaved has been recognized as the national authority on controlling the safety and quality of Vietnamese fish and fish products by 42 countries, including 25 members of the European Union.

**Source:** MARD-VNA

## 7. EXPORTS PERFORMANCE



### Viet Nam - new fishing power in Asia, says researcher

**Sydney, 08/11/07:** Viet Nam is now among the major fish-producing and trading countries, said the chairwoman of the Commission of the Australian Centre for International Agriculture, in a paper presented to the Lowy Institute in Sydney on November 7.

In 2004, Viet Nam was the world's 10<sup>th</sup> largest producer of fish and aquatic products, Dr. Meryl Williams said, adding that the country's aquaculture growth is particularly strong, making it

the largest aquaculture producer in Southeast Asia and third in the world in 2004, behind only China and India.

According to Dr. Williams, who was the former director-general of the World Fish Centre until 2004, advances have been greatest in aquaculture in Viet Nam despite its late start and it now comprises more than a third of total fish production.

In 2001, Viet Nam was the world's 10<sup>th</sup> largest fish exporter, selling 1.8 billion USD and the figure reached close to 2.6 billion USD in 2006, she said.

However, Viet Nam's aggregate fish production also masks underlying signs of overexploitation, while adding to the overall competition for Southeast Asia's increasingly pressured fish resources, she noted.

**Source:** VNA

### Catfish- the second largest export commodity of Vietnam aquaculture

**Hanoi, 06/11/07:** According to Vietnam Association of Seafood Exportation and Processing (VASEP), the export turnover of catfish is being the second largest of Vietnam seafood coming after shrimp.

From the early this year now, more than 272,000 tons of catfish have been exported with the turn-over of more than 710 millions USD, increased by 37.2 % compared to the same period in 2006 accounting for 26% of total seafood export value of Vietnam.

To further increase the export turnover of catfish, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) requests Seafood Departments resolutely suspend the operation of the enterprises that violate the seafood safety.

Seafood experts anticipate that with the continuously increasing domestic cultivation and reasonable prices of inputs, the catfish exportation will continue making new record. According to the estimation of aquaculture sector, the target of reaching the catfish export turnover of 1 billion USD for this year is definitely feasible.

**Source:** VNA

## 8. FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

### Foreign investment reaches 15 billion USD

**Ha Noi, 27/11/07:** Viet Nam attracted more than 15 billion USD in committed foreign investments so far this year, and the number is likely to hit 16 billion USD for the year as a whole, a senior official from the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) said at the investment forum on November 26.



These figures, compared to 10.2 billion USD in 2006, and 6.4 billion USD in 2005, meant that foreign investment was growing strongly, said Phan Huu Thang, general director of the MPI's Foreign Investment Agency.

"That is the most practical measurement of our efforts to improve the business environment in Viet Nam," Thang said. Viet Nam was ranked number six in the world for investment desirability, after China, India, US, Russia and Brazil, according to UN Conference on Trade and Development 2007.

Source: VNA

### HSBC hosts seminar on investment in Viet Nam

**Ha Noi, 22/11/07:** The Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corp. (HSBC) is holding a two-day seminar on investment in Viet Nam in Singapore in response to increasing interest from foreign investors.

More than 30 international investors arrived in Singapore to attend the seminar, which opened on November 22. Among them are Aberdeen Asset Management, DBS Asset Management, Alliance Capital and European Investors Inc.

The seminar's agenda includes the future and development of Viet Nam's capital markets, practicalities of equity investment in Viet Nam, government policies and the stock market.

How HSBC can help facilitate investment into Viet Nam was also a topic of discussion.

During the seminar, HSBC has also arranged one-to-one or group meetings between Vietnamese enterprises calling for investment and foreign investors.

Source: VNA

## 9. MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS



### Poultry breeders look for sustainable growth

**HCM City, 12/11/07 :** Vietnamese poultry breeders met in Ho Chi Minh City on November 12 to discuss the sustainable development of the nation's poultry industry.

According to Viet Nam Poultry Breeders' Association President and General Secretary Tran Cong Xuan, there are 2,837 poultry farms across the country that produce around 400,000 tonnes of fowl meat and 4-5 billion eggs a year.

Xuan said that while the poultry sector is only just behind the pork industry in meat output, 70 percent of farms are run by households where the application of new technologies and veterinary standards is not given adequate attention.

To help remedy such limitations to sustainable development of the industry, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development's Husbandry

Department suggested that poultry breeding and concentrated breeding areas be zoned off.

The Ministry also recommended that farm-applied breeding methods be strictly adopted.

Participating in the workshop, US Poultry & Egg Association Technical Director Mark Lobstein said his association would continue aiding the organisation of training courses for poultry breeders and exporters in Viet Nam.

He said the association will also provide Vietnamese breeders in rural and remote areas with test-kits to help them quickly identify any viruses killing their fowls in order to take prompt measures to contain it.

Source: VNA

### Busan International Seafood & Fisheries Expo in South Korea

**Hanoi, 15-18 Nov 07:** as a realization of Decision numbered 3538 QĐ/BNN-TCCB dated 12 November 2007 by Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, a delegation including Mr. To Viet Chau - Vice Director of International Cooperation Department and Ms. Dinh Thi Thanh Huyen - ICD Expert has participated in Busan International Seafood & Fisheries Expo in South Korea and discussed with the relevant agencies of Busan city and South Korea between 14 and 19 November 2007.

South Korea is a potential seafood market of Viet Nam. In the 9 first months of the year 2007, Viet Nam had exported over 180 million USD of seafood to South Korean market.

Busan International Seafood & Fisheries Expo is the biggest annually held expo of South Korea. This year, the expo attracts the participation of 226 companies from 25 nations and approximately 38,000 visitors. In recent years, Busan city and a number of its companies have frequently taken part in the Vietnam Fisheries Exhibition (VIETFISH) held in Ho Chi Minh city.

This year, the Vietnam Association of Seafood Exporters (VASEP) and 05 enterprises named Godaco, Van Duc Food Export Joint Stock Company, Havico Corp, Camimex and Lafoodco are the representatives of Vietnam at the Busan Expo.

The representatives of Viet Nam delegation was invited to cut the inauguration band.

The delegation and Vice Chairman & General Secretary of VASEP were received by Director of Busan Seafood Trade Promotion Agency - cum - Director of the expo during the exhibition.

The delegation also visited and met with Gumcheon International Market, Hollyo Anchovy Seafood Processing Company, Jagalchi Fish Market, Busan Seafood and Fisheries College, Korea Maritime Institute, National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI) and Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MOMAF).

Source: ICD - MARD

Source: VNA

### Vietnam Craft villages Exhibition 2007 opened

**Hanoi, 14/11/07:** The opening ceremony of the 4<sup>th</sup> Vietnam Craft Villages Exhibition 2007 was held in the evening of 14/11 at the Vietnam Agriculture Promotion and Exhibition Center - 2 Hoang Quoc Viet, Cau Giay, Hanoi. The ceremony held coincided with the 62<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the establishment of The Ministry of Agricultural Cultivation, now MARD (14/11/1945-14/11/2007).

The Exhibition lasted until 18/11, with more than 200 showcases where craft products and processed agro-forestry-fishery products were displayed.

Source: MARD

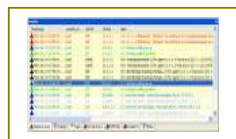
## 10. NEW PUBLICATIONS



Download attachments at:

<http://www.isgmard.org.vn/Information%20Service/Report/Report.asp>

## 11. COMING EVENTS



### CG Meeting 2007 to convene in Hanoi early December

Prime Minister approved the proposal from MPI concerning the contents for organization of the Consultative Group Meeting 2007 (CG-2007), from 6 to 7 December 2007 in Hanoi.

The Business Forum will be held on the eve of the CG as usual. The Prime Minister will join the meeting and make opening speech.

The CG Meeting 2007 will be participated by representatives of about 20 Central agencies and Hanoi City, co-chaired by MPI Minister.

The Prime Minister assigned MPI to take the lead, prepare contents and to coordinate with the WB Office in Hanoi and relevant agencies to organize the meeting.

Source: MPI-TTXVN

### Trade fair to mark Viet Nam's one-year WTO membership

**Ha Noi, 17/11/07:** A Viet Nam-WTO 2008 trade fair and exhibition will be held in Ha Noi from January 12-17, 2008 on the occasion of Viet Nam's one-year membership.

## List of major legal documents issued in Nov. 2007 concerning agricultural and rural development sector.

No	Issuing body, title and subject	Summary of key contents
<b>Government</b>		
1.	Decree No. 168/2007/ND-CP dated 16 Nov. 2007 by the Government concerning the regulation on the minimum salary for Vietnamese laborers working for foreign invested enterprises, foreign agencies and organizations, international organizations and foreign individuals in Vietnam  PM Nguyen Tan Dung: Signed	The Decree specifies the regional minimum salary rates for laborers taking the simplest job in normal working conditions for foreign invested enterprises, foreign agencies and organizations, international organizations, and foreign individuals in Vietnam. To be applied from 1 January 2008 at the relevant regional rates as follows: - 1 million VND/month: to be applied for enterprises operating in urban districts of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh cities; - 900,000 VND/month: to be applied for enterprises operating in rural districts of Hai Phong city; Ha Long city in Quang Ninh province; Bien Hoa city, Long Khanh town, Nhon Trach, Long Thanh, Vinh Cuu, Trang Bom districts in Dong Nai province; Thu Dau Mot capital town, Thuan An, Di An, Ben Cat and Tan Uyen districts in Binh Duong province; Vung Tau city in Ba Ria Vung Tau province; and - 800,000 VND: to be applied for enterprises operating in other remaining regions.
<b>Prime Minister</b>		
2.	Resolution No. 24/2007/CT-TTg dated 01 Nov. 2007 by the Prime Minister concerning strengthening and improving the implementation of legislative regulations on fees/charges, and policies on mobilizing and using people's contributions PM Nguyen Tan Dung: Signed	To seriously implement legislative regulations on fees and charges, and policies on mobilizing people's contributions, the Prime Minister issued this resolution indicating that by 30 Nov. 2007, for any province or city that stills remains fees and charges against the existing legislative regulations, the Chairman of the provincial or city people's committee will have to take the responsibility to the Prime Minister. Any fees or charges that are included in the detailed list of fees and charges shall not be collected until there are written instructions from the responsible authorities; and the rates of other similar fees or charges shall not be applied, either. If any province or city has started collecting these fees or charges, the process must be stopped immediately. It is also requested to closely monitor and check all expenditures made from revenues of service cooperatives; and to give guidance on and make expenditures in a clear and public manner so that the public knows and participates in monitoring the process.
3.	Decision No. 172/2007/QD-TTg dated 16 Nov. 2007 by the Prime Minister concerning the approval of the National Strategy on Natural Disaster Prevention, Control and Mitigation until 2020 PM Nguyen Tan Dung: Signed	The overall objective of the Strategy is to mobilize all available resources to implement effectively the natural disaster prevention, control and mitigation from now until 2020, minimize human and property losses, limit damages to natural resources, environment and cultural heritages; and make significant contributions to sustainable development, national defense and securities. The strategy aims at improving the capacity of forecasting and warning on storms, floods, droughts, salinity intrusion, earthquakes, tsunami and other dangerous hydrological and meteorological phenomena. The focus is to increase the time for forecasting storms and tropical low pressures to 72 hours in advance.
4.	Resolution No. 27/2007/CT-TTg dated 29 November 2007 of the Prime Minister concerning improvements in	In order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of state management in the information and reporting regime in response to the guidance and governance requirements in

	<p>the operations of the information and reporting regime in state administrative agencies</p> <p>PM Nguyen Tan Dung: Signed</p>	<p>the new context, the Prime Minister issued this resolution indicating that the state administrative agencies have to seriously apply the information and reporting regime in accordance with the existing regulations. The performance in operating the information and reporting regime should be considered a criterion for assessing the quality of work of individuals and organizations; any individual or organization that does not follow or not seriously follow this information and reporting regime will be strictly criticized and punished.</p> <p>In addition, a spokesman mechanism should be implemented to provide the public, enterprises and mass media, on a periodical manner, with information on operations of state administrative agencies. This information sharing should be done in various forms to ensure timeliness and accuracy.</p> <p>The list and roadmap of implementing public administrative services should be publicized on websites and responsibilities should be clear for giving instructions on public administrative services delivered by state administrative agencies.</p>
<b>Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development</b>		
5.	<p>Circular No. 88/2007/TT-BNN dated 01 Nov. 2007 giving instructions on how to conduct domestic plant quarantine procedures</p> <p>Vice Minister Bui Ba Bong: Signed</p>	<p>To implement the Ordinance on Plant Protection and Quarantine dated 08 August 2001 and the Decree No. 02/2007/ND-CP dated 05 January 2007 by the Government on plant quarantine, and to ensure the effectiveness and consistency in domestic plant quarantine activities, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development issued this Circular to guide provinces and cities directly managed by the central government on how to conduct domestic plant quarantine procedures, in particular: epidemic control; control of contaminated objects, outbreaks and contaminated areas; management and implementation of solutions; and regulations to be applicable to plant quarantine staff.</p>
6.	<p>Decision No. 89/2007/QD-BNN dated 01 Nov. 2007 issuing the regulation on state management over steam disinfection of objects subject to plant quarantine</p> <p>Vice Minister Bui Ba Bong: Signed</p>	<p>To respond to the state management requirements concerning steam disinfection and to comply with new regulations, this Decision is to substitute the Decision No. 84/2002/QD-BNN dated 24 September 2002, and specifies in details conditions for steam disinfection, procedures for granting and extending certificates or cards on steam disinfection, supervision of steam disinfection, and responsibilities of organizations doing steam disinfection ...</p>
7.	<p>Decision No. 90/2007/QD-BNN dated 09 Nov. 2007 issuing the Regulation on drafting, issuing, checking, reviewing and systematizing legal documents in the agriculture and rural development sector</p> <p>Minister Cao Duc Phat: Signed</p>	<p>This Regulation consists of 6 chapters and 59 articles, specifying the order of steps, procedures and responsibilities of various units in drafting, issuing, checking, reviewing and systematizing legal documents in the agriculture and rural development sector, adding new regulations of the Government, incorporating regulations of the former Ministry of Fishery and those of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and resolving weaknesses of the old regulation issued with the Decision No. 73/2004/QD-BNN.</p>
8.	<p>Decision No. 91/2007/QD-BNN dated 15 Nov. 2007 issuing the additional list of veterinary medicines, vaccines, bio-products, microorganisms and chemicals that are eligible for use in veterinary services in Vietnam, 2<sup>nd</sup></p>	<p>The Decision issues an additional list of domestically produced veterinary medicines, additional list of imported veterinary medicines, additional list of domestically produced vaccines, bio-products, microorganisms and chemicals used for veterinary services, and additional list of imported vaccines, bio-products, microorganisms and</p>

	stage in 2007. Vice Minister Bui Ba Bong: Signed	chemicals used for veterinary services.
9.	Circular No. 92/2007/TT-BNN dated 19 Nov. 2007 guiding the implementation of several articles in the Prime Minister's Decision No. 1405/QD-TTg dated 16 Oct. 2007 concerning conditions for poultry incubation and aquatic fowl production. Vice Minister Bui Ba Bong: Signed	To implement the Prime Minister's Decision No. 1405/QD-TTg dated 16 Oct. 2007 concerning conditions for poultry incubation and aquatic fowl production, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development issued this circular to guide in details the implementation of several regulations on conditions for poultry incubation, aquatic fowl production, duck scavenging, and responsibilities of concerned agencies in the implementation thereof.
10.	Joint ministerial Circular No. 93/2007/TTLT/BNN-BYT-BGDDT dated 22 Nov. 2007 guiding the coordination between the agriculture and rural development sector, the health sector, and the education and training sector in implementing the National Target Program on Rural Water Supply and Sanitation 2006-2010. Vice Ministers Dao Xuan Hoc – Pham Vu Luan – Trinh Quan Huan: Signed	To implement the Prime Minister's Decision No. 277/2006/QD-TTg dated 11 July 2007 approving the national strategy on rural water supply and sanitation for the period 2006-2010, the 03 Ministries – MARD, MOH and MOET – have issued this joint ministerial circular to allocate the responsibilities and coordination among the 03 sectors in implementing the Program from the central to the local level. The Circular specifies in details the responsibility of each sector, the principles of coordination, and the reporting regime in the implementation process.
11.	Decision No. 94/2007/QD-BNN dated 26 Nov. 2007 concerning addition of some plant protection chemicals in the list of eligible plant protection substances in Vietnam Vice Minister Bui Ba Bong: Signed	According to this Decision: 07 active elements with 07 commercial brand names (including 05 active elements with 05 commercial brand names used as disease control agents for plants, 01 active element with 01 commercial brand name used as herbicide, and 01 active element with 01 commercial brand name used as growth regulating agent) are officially registered; and 283 cases (including 126 types of pesticide, 102 types of disease control agents, 40 types of herbicides, 08 types of snail control agents, 06 types of growth regulation agents, and 01 type of rat control) are registered in the additional list of eligible plant protection substances in Vietnam.
12.	Decision No. 95/2007/QD-BNN dated 27 Nov. 2007 issuing Regulation on recognition of new varieties of agricultural crops Vice Minister Bui Ba Bong: Signed	This Decision substitutes the Decision No. 19/2006/QD-BNN dated 21 March 2006 of the Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development concerning the Regulation on testing, trial production, recognition and naming new varieties of agricultural crops; and adds new regulations on the order of steps and procedures for testing, trial production, recognition and naming new varieties of agricultural crops that are selected and created in the country or imported from abroad to include in the list of agricultural crops eligible for production and commercial purposes.
13.	Decision No. 96/2007/QD-BNN dated 28 Nov. 2007 issuing the Regulation on fishing boat registration Vice Minister Nguyen Viet Thang: Signed	This Regulation consists of 5 chapters and 19 articles specifying in details the registrations mandate for registration, order of registration steps and procedures, and responsibilities of concerned agencies. The Regulation is applicable to motorized fishing boats with the total major engine capacity of 20 hp or above, or unmotorized fishing boats with the designed water-line length of 15 meters or above.

Source: ISG Secretariat

**Free legal update services from other sources:**

1. Allens Arthur Robinson - Vietnam Legal Update  
[http://www.vietnamlaws.com/vietnam\\_legal\\_update.aspx?year=2007](http://www.vietnamlaws.com/vietnam_legal_update.aspx?year=2007)
2. Vision and Associates - Vietnam Legal News  
[http://www.vision-associates.com/Legal\\_News\\_Updates\\_2007.htm](http://www.vision-associates.com/Legal_News_Updates_2007.htm)
3. Intellasia News Services - Vietnam laws and legal news  
<http://www.intellasia.com/legal.shtml>
4. Intellasia News Services - Vietnam latest promulgated legal documents  
[http://www.intellasia.com/new\\_laws.shtml](http://www.intellasia.com/new_laws.shtml)
5. The International Support Group  
<http://www.isgmard.org.vn/Information%20Service/Legal%20docs/Legaldoc-list-e.asp>

**Web sites with free online full text legal documents:****In Vietnamese:**

1. Office of the National Assembly >> Law Database:  
<http://www.vietlaw.gov.vn/>
2. Government of Vietnam - Legal Documents:  
[http://www.chinhphu.vn/portal/page?\\_pageid=33,638897&\\_dad=portal&\\_schema=PORTAL](http://www.chinhphu.vn/portal/page?_pageid=33,638897&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL)
3. Ministry of Justice - National Legal Database:  
<http://vbqppl.moj.gov.vn/>
4. Draft laws for public comments:  
<http://duthaonline.quochoi.vn/>
5. Drafts decrees and other legal documents for public comments:  
<http://www.chinhphu.vn>

**In English:**

1. Ministry of Justice - Law Database  
[http://vbqppl2.moj.gov.vn/law/en/index\\_html](http://vbqppl2.moj.gov.vn/law/en/index_html)
2. ASEM Connect Vietnam  
[http://asemconnectvietnam.gov.vn/luatasem\\_out/law\\_page1.aspx](http://asemconnectvietnam.gov.vn/luatasem_out/law_page1.aspx)
3. Ministry of Planning and Investment <http://www.mpi.gov.vn> >> English >> "Legal documents issued by MPI"
4. Doing Business Law Library by World Bank Group  
<http://www.doingbusiness.org/LawLibrary/>
5. Ministry of Finance <http://www.mof.gov.vn> >> English >> "Recent legal documents on financial issues"
6. Phillips Fox - Some Vietnam legislative documents  
[http://www.vietnamlaws.com/vietnamlawsonline\\_freeversion.aspx](http://www.vietnamlaws.com/vietnamlawsonline_freeversion.aspx)

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