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**Workshop for a Livestock Sector
Strategy for Avian Influenza Control
and Eradication in Viet Nam**

Background

Following the great success of control efforts against avian influenza in recent months, and the confidence that the international community has shown in Beijing in Viet Nam's commitment to HPAI control, MARD, in collaboration with FAO, has identified the need to quickly proceed with detailed strategy planning for the livestock sector.

During 2005, the Government in collaboration with UN Agencies developed a plan for six-month emergency phase of avian influenza control and this is now coming to an end with a very satisfactory outcome, with no outbreaks of disease in poultry for more than two months and no human cases recorded for over three months. The intention was for this to be followed with preparation and planning for a longer-term capacity building support (18 months).

In January 2006, the Government, with support from the World Bank and UN Agencies developed an Integrated National Plan for avian influenza control which identified the elements for a medium-term

response. A draft strategy outline has been developed which elaborates on these elements.

The workshop

Hanoi 27 and 28 February - The workshop was held under the authorization of the Minister of MARD, to get comments and recommendations from consultants and experts from MARD, FAO and other related agencies to:

1. Review progress with HPAI control in Viet Nam and its impact on producers and consumers.
2. Consider the outcomes of epidemiological, poultry production and socio-economic studies that have been undertaken, draw conclusions and identify gaps in knowledge.
3. Consider the draft strategy that has been developed and the assumptions on which it has been based.
4. Identify options for modifying the strategy, taking into account disease control needs, socio-economic effects (especially on poor farmers) and long-term goals for the poultry industry.
5. Make recommendations for finalising a strategy and identify the technical issues that need to be addressed in the forward planning process.

The workshop was regarded as an important step in elaborating the livestock component of the Integrated National Plan.

For more information, please contact visit websites of Department of Animal Health and Food and Agriculture Organisation at: <http://www.mard.gov.vn/DAH/index.htm> and <http://www.fao.org.vn>

Source: ISG Secretariat

Vietnam will allocate 280 billion VND for sea dyke upgrade

The Vietnam Government has agreed to allocate 280 billion VND to repair, strengthen and upgrade sea dykes in provinces from northern Quang Ninh to central Quang Nam, localities seriously hit by storms and floods annually.

Under the Prime Minister's Decision No. 322/QD-TTg, signed on Feb. 16, on the basis of the allocated budgets and capital mobilised from local sources, relevant agencies and services will cooperate with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to select dykes and embankments which must be repaired and upgraded, complete required investment procedures and guide the implementation to ensure the quality and process of the project for effective flood prevention in 2006.

Last year, natural disasters killed 379 people and caused damages estimated at 5.2 trillion VND to the country, with transport projects, irrigation works, agricultural production and the aquaculture sector suffering the greatest damages.

Source: Disaster Management Working Group - Viet Nam
NDM-Partnership Secretariat

ADB will support Vietnam more than US\$ 226 million in 2006

On January 24th, Executive Board of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced that ADB would increase the assistance amount for Vietnam in 2006 up to US\$ 226.56 million in comparison with US\$ 213 million in 2005.

According to ADB, "better operational capacity of Vietnam" helps improve the

receiving capacity of assistance capital from ADB.

ADB supports focus on hydro-power projects, improving living quality in the central highlands, HIV/AIDS prevention, supporting the development of junior secondary teachers and education, supporting trade sector, development of small and medium enterprises and financial sector, etc as well as regional integration with neighboring countries such as China, Lao, Thailand and Cambodia under the framework of the Mekong sub-region cooperation.

Source: MPI website

World Bank funded projects to improve water services in rural areas and mitigate natural disasters impact in Vietnam

Hanoi, March 2, 2006 - State Bank of Vietnam Governor, H.E. Le Duc Thuy and the World Bank's Acting Country Director for Vietnam Mr. Rakesh Nangia today signed agreements for preferential credits of totally US\$197.8 million to support three projects in Vietnam: Red River Delta Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project, Natural Disaster Risk Management program, and the Customs Modernization Project.

These are the first ones to be funded by the World Bank's adaptable program loans (APLs). This lending instrument provide phased support for longterm development programs, involving series of loans that build on the lessons learned from the previous ones in the series.

The US\$45.9 million loan 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.

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

Source: ICD-MARD

Japan's grass-roots assistance to project of the "Construction of Irrigation System in Yen Hai Commune"

Hanoi, 27 February 2006 - the signing ceremony of the project for the "Construction of Irrigation System in Yen Hai Commune" under the grass-roots assistance of the Government of Japan was held between Ambassador of Japan to Vietnam Norio Hattori and the Chairman of Yen Dong Cooperative Vu Nhat Tien.

The construction of irrigation system will adjust necessary water for the cultivated land in rainy and dry seasons, and thus to raise the productivity and to improve the local residents' living condition.

This project will increase the agricultural productivity and make contribution to improve considerably living environment of about 3500 residents in Yen Hai Commune.

This 88,128 USD project is undertaken at the request of the Yen Dong Cooperative for the construction of irrigation system in order to raise the agricultural productivity of Yen Hai Commune, Yen Hung District. The Government of Japan provides necessary funds for the construction of this irrigation system.

Source: Embassy of Japan in Vietnam

Inauguration ceremony Japan's grant assistance for the project of Upgrading bridges in Central Vietnam, Phase 2

Quang Nam, 1 March 2006 - the inauguration ceremony of the project of "upgrading bridges in central Vietnam, phase II (2/3) under the grant assistance of the Government of Japan was held in Quang Nam Province.

Bridge is an important transport infrastructure. However, in rural areas of Vietnam, most of bridges were simply designed and made of wood so they are easily destroyed by flood and typhoon, causing obstacles in the residents of daily lives and the development of the regional economy.

Thus, it is certain that the construction and upgrading of these bridges will not only activate the development in rural area but also the economic development of Vietnam. In addition, it is indispensable for the poverty reduction and hunger elimination which is being paid special attention by the Government of Vietnam.

With this view, the Government of Japan already extended assistance for the construction and upgrading of 29 bridges in northern mountainous region, 37 bridges in the Mekong Delta, 29 bridges in central region of Vietnam. Following the construction of the above-mentioned bridges, the construction of 8 bridges, which are inaugurated this time, makes the total number of bridges upgraded under this program to 103 bridges with the amount of grant up to about 10,2 billion yen.

Source: Embassy of Japan in Vietnam

Regional Development and Government Support to SMEs in Vietnam

Hanoi, 28 February, 2006 – Central Institute for Economic Management (CIEM) in cooperation with Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) held a workshop on "Regional Development and Government Support to Small and Medium Enterprises in Vietnam".

The purpose of the workshop was to present findings and recommendations as of the report, which is intended to examine the pattern of regional development in Vietnam, and to explore the effects of various government policies that may be used to promote provincial growth and development. The first part of the report sets the stage by providing a brief summary of the macroeconomic developments in recent years. The second part examines the provincial growth pattern through econometric analysis of a data set on provincial growth during the period 1996-2001.

The third part of the report therefore examines the effects of provincial policy on private sector performance.

Please visit ISG website at: <http://www.isgmard.org.vn> for detailed report.

Source: ISG Secretariat

Landmark UN disaster relief fund to be formally launched

The United Nations will formally launch a landmark US\$500-million fund to jump-start relief operations in future natural and man-made disasters and save thousands of lives that would otherwise be lost to delay under the current under-funded mechanism.

So far, 19 states have pledged \$188 million to the Central Emergency Response Fund, a key reform sought by Secretary-General Kofi Annan to ensure swifter responses to humanitarian emergencies, with adequate funds made available within three to four days as opposed to up to four months or more under current arrangements.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs is urging more governments, the private sector, and individuals to speedily donate the outstanding amount since CERF is entirely dependent on voluntary contributions. The existing mechanism, the Central Emergency Revolving Fund, only has \$50 million in resources.

Underscoring the importance, UN officials note that under the current system it took four months between the lifting of access restrictions in Sudan's strife-torn Darfur region and the commitment of funds to the relief appeal. In the meantime, the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) climbed to

1.6 million and mortality rates rose above emergency levels.

In the case of locust swarms infesting the African Sahel area in 2004, a US\$9-million appeal by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in February to spray larvae and prevent their spread was inadequately funded. That summer, the locusts multiplied throughout eight countries and FAO had to revise its appeal upwards to \$100 million.

Up to two thirds of the CERF can be allocated to rapid response with the other one-third devoted to addressing under-funded emergencies.

For more details go to UN News Centre at: <http://www.un.org/news>

Source: UN News Centre

Belgium enterprises want to invest in Vietnam agricultural sector

Representatives of 30 Belgium enterprises and 3 European universities (Ghent, Wageningen and Trondheim) came to visit Vietnam from 20 to 22 February to seek business opportunities.

The field under survey by Belgium enterprises is agriculture, in which Da lat attracts most attention of those enterprises. Belgium investors say that Vietnam is processing a great deal of know-how to produce high quality products.

According to Mr. Marc De Duck, first commissioner of East Flanders Executive Council, the reason why Belgium enterprises want to invest in agricultural sector, domestic techniques and aquaculture, etc is partly because Vietnam will be in need of investment in this field in the time to come. On the other hand, that is strength of Belgium investors. As a result, they can become ideal partners when investing in Vietnam.

Marc says, through the field visit in Da Lat in 21st February, Denis Plants Company of East Flanders will sign first cooperation agreement with a Vietnamese partner in Da Lat (Lam Dong) with the goal of producing 1.3 million plants/year. It is expected that by this project in the following year Denis Plants will bring to Belgium market 1 billion plants.

Specifically, during this year, East Flanders will implement an agricultural project including training activities on a large scale. This project is indicated from a long-term cooperation between Ghent University and Can Tho University. The main objective of the project is to provide shrimp farm owners with training to help them understand international standards and to develop high-quality trade-name in aquatic product processing sector, which is of key dominance to Vietnam.

Source: VnExpress

List of legal documents issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

From 01/01/2006 to 20/02/2006

1. Decision No. 01/2006/QD-BNN dated on January 6th 2006 on issuance of the list of animal foods and materials to produce animal foods which are legally imported in Vietnam
2. Decision No. 02/2006/QD-BNN dated on January 10th 2006 defining functions, tasks and organizational structure of Agricultural Science and Techniques Institute in the North Central Coast.
3. Decision No. 03/2006/QD-BNN dated on January 12th 2006 on announcement of the list of veterinary medicines which are legally circulated, limitedly used or completely banned in Vietnam
4. Decision No. 04/2006/QD-BNN dated on January 12th 2006 on announcement of the list of vaccines, biologic and microorganic products and chemicals which are legally circulated in Vietnam.
5. Decision No. 05/2006/QD-BNN dated on January 12th 2006 on announcement of the list of veterinary medicines and materials to product veterinary medicines which are legally circulated in Vietnam by December 31st 2006
6. Decision No. 06/2006/QD-BNN dated on January 23rd 2006 on issuance of the list of proceeding and decision forms applicable in administrative punishment in the veterinary sector
7. Decision No. 07/2006/QD-BNN dated on January 24th 2006 on issuance of projection cost norm in the agriculture and rural sector
8. Decision No. 08/2006/QD-BNN dated on February 6th 2006 defining functions, tasks and organizational structure of Agricultural Science and Techniques Institute in the Northern Uplands
9. Decision No. 09/2006/QD-BNN dated on February 8th 2006 defining functions, tasks, mandate and organizational structure of the Irrigational Projection Institute in the South.
10. Decision No. 10/2006/QD-BNN dated on February 10th 2006 defining registration procedures for production, import, circulation of veterinary medicines and materials to product veterinary medicines, biologic and micro-organic products and chemicals used in veterinary medicine production.
11. Circular No. 11/2006/TT-BNN guiding implementation of the policy to support migration, resettlement of Vietnam-China border communes under the Decision No. 60/2005/QD-TTg dated on March 24th 2006 signed by the Prime Minister.
12. Instruction No. 12/2006/CT-BNN on prevention and control of brown plant hopper (rầy nâu) which may damage Winter-Spring crop in the Mekong River Delta
13. Inter-ministerial Circular No. 01/2006/TTLT-BYT-BNN dated on January 4th 2006 by Ministry of Health and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development guiding the cooperation mechanism in implementation of state management functions on food hygiene and safety.

Source: ISG Secretariat

List of projects will tentative be approved and signed in 2006

No	Project No.	Projects title	Donor	Types		
				Grants (USD)	Loans (USD)	Total (USD)
1	BNN-TL-05-031	Rural Water Supply and Hygiene	UNICEF	6,445,000	0	6,445,000
2	BNN-TL-05-032	Viet Nam Coastal Strengthening	WB	0	0	0
3	BNN-HH-04-048	Establish the Monitoring and Evaluation's System in Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	SDC	1,379,070	0	1,379,070
4	BNN-NN-05-033	Emergency Recovery Avian Influenza Consequence	EC	12,537,000	0	12,537,000
5	BNN-NN-05-034	Emergency Recovery Avian Influenza Consequence	AuSAID	3,000,000	0	3,000,000
6	BNN-LN-05-035	Community - Base Management of Pu Luong - Cuc Phuong Limestone Landscape	WB/GEF	304,000	0	304,000
7	BNN-NN-05-036	Strengthening Strategy Development and Improvement Agricultural Biotechnology in Viet Nam	FAO	400,000	0	400,000
8	BNN-NN-05-037	The Biogas Support Project for The Animal Husbandry Sector in Vietnam - Phase II	SNV	20,450,000	0	20,450,000
9	BNN-HH-05-038	Post-Graduate Training for Hydrological Engineer of MARD	RNE	0	0	0
10	BNN-LN-05-039	Extension for Project: Afforestation I and III in Bac Giang - Lang Son - Quang Ninh Provinces.	Quick Win Fund/Germany	3,000,000	0	3,000,000
11	BNN-NN-05-040	Vietnam Food Supply-Chains Competitiveness Program Phase I Livestock Competitiveness Enhancement Project (LICEP)	WB	0	55,000,000	55,000,000
12	BNN-NN-05-041	Strengthening the Management of Public Health Emergencies in Viet Nam - with focus on the Prevention and Control of Diseases of Epidemic Potential including Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)	Donor community	13,000,000	0	13,000,000
13	BNN-NN-03-039	Agricultural Diversification Project 2	W B and AFD	5000000	86,000,000	91,000,000
14	BNN-NN-05-042	Strengthening Capacity of Supervise Bovines Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) and Infectious Diseases from Animal to Human	SDC	1,200,000	0	1,200,000
15	BNN-LN-05-043	Strengthening voices for Better Choices	IUCN	350,000	0	350,000
16	BNN-HH-05-044	Vietnam and Spain Co-operation Program	TBN	0	0	0
17	BNN-NN-01-015	Strengthening for National Plant's Gene Bank	JICA	8,000,000	0	8,000,000
18	BNN-TL-05-045	Study on Groundwater Development in the Rural Provinces of the Southern Coastal Zone.	JICA	2,000,000	0	2,000,000

19	BNN-TL-02-053	Protection of Riverbank and Dike System from Erosion by Kago Mat (Japanese Gabion)	JICA	9,000,000	0	9,000,000
20	BNN-NN-05-046	Development Study on Community-based Rural Agroprocessing Promotion Program	JICA	3,000,000	0	3,000,000
21	BNN-NN-05-047	Study on Parasites in Sheep Liver	USDA	100,000	0	100,000
22	BNN-HH-05-048	Agricultural Market Information	CIDA	3,920,000	0	3,920,000
23	BNN-HH-05-049	Community - Base Agricultural Extension and Training in Mountainous Districts	JFPR, Japan approved ADB	900,000	0	900,000
24	BNN-NN-03-023	Project of Agriculture Science and Technology	ADB	0	40,000,000	40,000,000
25	BNN-HH-04-049	Master Plan Study on Improvement of Infrastructures and Living Conditions in Four Northern Mountainous Provinces	JICA	3,000,000	0	3,000,000
26	BNN-LN-03-019	Forests for Livelihood Improvement in the Central Highlands Sector Project	ADB	0	40,000,000	40,000,000
27	BNN-TL-04-046	Central Region Water Resources Project	ADB	0	74,286,000	74,286,000
28	BNN-TL-04-041	Phan Ri - Phan Thiet Project	JBIC	0	56,000,000	56,000,000
29	BNN-LN-03-006	Forest Development in Son La and Hoa Binh Provinces	KFW	2,632,770	9,904,230	12,537,000
30	BNN-NN-05-001	Increasing the agricultural productivity of degraded rainfed production systems in Vietnam	FAO	334,500	0	334,500
		Total:		99,952,340	361,190,230	461,142,570