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

ADB pledges to extend its aid, support for Viet Nam

Ha Noi, 13-07-2006: The Asian Development Bank will continue helping Viet Nam by providing the country with more loans to develop transportation, energy, the non-banking capital market and other sectors, ADB Vice President Lawrence Greenwood Jr. said in Ha Noi yesterday.

Greenwood said that the bank would increase low-interest and commercial-interest loans for the country to bring proposed projects into operation.

Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung thanked the Bank for its support and co-operation with the Government over the past years.

"Our government highly appreciate the ADB's support and loans for infrastructure development," the Prime Minister said, adding that other sectors like the non-banking capital market,

administrative reform and anti-corruption efforts were also enjoying the bank's support.

Prime Minister Dung said Viet Nam's average growth rate of 7.5 per cent annually was partly because of the assistance of international organisations like the ADB. The support had motivated the country and its people to develop economically and integrate into the world's trade flow.

Greenwood acknowledged the Vietnamese Government's efforts in fighting corruption and economic growth.

Prime Minister Dung said that the Government would work harder to use loans and financial assistance from banks and other donors wisely. He called for further help from the ADB once Viet Nam joins the World Trade Organisation.

The Vice President also discussed closer co-operation with the Central Bank of Viet Nam's Governor Le Duc Thuy.

Greenwood said his bank would focus on helping Viet Nam build capital markets. The project on developing the bonds market with ADB capital support of US\$ 900,000 was at the centre of the bank's immediate co-operation with the Vietnamese bank, he said.

The project that focuses on the bonds market and three other projects will receive support and loans worth \$2.1 million from the bank this year.

Governor Thuy also informed Greenwood on the road map for reforming the country's banking system until 2010.

Greenwood is on a five-day visit to Viet Nam. He will leave the country on Saturday.

Source: VNS

ADB Vice President Greenwood Visits Viet Nam

Hanoi, 12 July 2006: ADB Vice President C. Lawrence Greenwood Jr. arrived in [Viet Nam](#) today for talks with senior Vietnamese Government leaders and consultations on ADB's assistance to Viet Nam.

During his three-day visit, Mr. Greenwood and other ADB staff are scheduled to hold meetings with newly elected Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, deputy prime ministers, and high-level officials from government agencies, including the State Bank of Viet Nam, Ministry of Finance, and Ministry of Planning and Investment.

Among the issues to be discussed with the Government are Viet Nam's new endorsed Socio-economic Development Plan (SEDP); ADB's Country Strategy and Program for 2007-2010 for Viet Nam; globalization and [regional cooperation](#), given that Viet Nam is soon to become a World Trade Organization (WTO) member; external support for reforms in the financial and banking sectors; and progress in fighting [corruption](#) and achieving good [governance](#).

Mr. Greenwood will visit ADB project sites, including the Luong Son District Health Center under a Rural Health Project and the Provincial Road Improvement Project in Ha Tay province. He will also see projects in Ho Chi Minh City, including the Ho Chi Minh City - Phnom Penh Project and Ho Chi Minh City City Metras Project.

On Friday, Mr. Greenwood will deliver opening remarks at a Training Workshop to Prepare Border Officials on the Initial Implementation of the GMS Cross Border Transport Agreement. The ADB Vice President is also meeting with Leaders of Ho Chi Minh City's

People Committee and the Managing Director of Mekong Enterprise Fund.

Mr. Greenwood, who was appointed ADB's Vice President for Operations Group 2 in December 2005 for a term of three years, supervises ADB's Southeast Asia, East Asia, and Pacific departments and Central Operations Services Office.

Source: ADB

ADB Transfers \$11 Million to Regional Partners in Bird Flu Fight

Manila, Philippines, 12 July 2006: ADB has disbursed more than \$11 million to partner agencies - ASEAN, FAO and WHO - to counter the immediate threat posed by [avian influenza](#) in the Asia and Pacific region.

The funds are from ADB's \$38 million regional project for [Prevention and Control of Avian Influenza](#) announced in March. The project aims to strengthen regional capacity and facilitate regional cooperation to prevent or rapidly control avian flu outbreaks among birds and to help countries manage cases of human influenza caused by the H5N1 virus.

The project will also help prepare the region for a possible pandemic by supporting regional interagency collaboration, regional cooperation in sharing information, and strengthening regional networks. To date, some \$99,000 has been transferred to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, \$2.59 million to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, and \$8.4 million to the World Health Organization.

Besides underwriting the cost of experts, equipment, supplies, drugs and services, the project includes a \$14.5 million avian influenza response facility to provide critical financing to contain outbreaks and meet countries' most urgent needs.

It forms part of \$69.2 million in grant assistance committed by ADB this year for three projects in member countries to help fight avian flu and improve the region's preparedness for an influenza pandemic.

The other two grant projects are a \$30 million regional project for long-term communicable disease control for [Cambodia](#), [Lao People's Democratic Republic](#) and [Viet Nam](#), and \$1.2 million in technical assistance for [Indonesia](#), [Malaysia](#), and [Philippines](#) to combat communicable diseases.

ADB has pledged about \$470 in possible assistance on bird flu. Of this, about \$100 million could be derived from reallocations from existing loans, while some \$300 million could be made available in new loans, if requested by affected countries, complementing World Bank and other donors' resources.

"These funds stand ready to assist our developing member countries in the fight against bird flu, if or when they require them," says Jacques Jeugmans, ADB Principal Health Specialist. In March, ADB made available \$50,000 in emergency funds to [Azerbaijan](#) for protective equipment and supplies to the Ministry of Agriculture, including 5,000 sets of disposable personal protective suits, disposable safety gloves and N-95 respirators, and 500 pairs of protective goggles.

The potential impact of a flu pandemic would be substantial and could cripple economic growth and poverty reduction across the world. Based on WHO best-case estimates that up to 7 million people could die worldwide, a pandemic would cost Asia \$297 billion in one year and throw the world into recession, according to a [recent ADB study](#).

Source: ADB

Supporting Next Phase of SME Development in Viet Nam

Manila, Philippines, 5 July 2006: ADB will further support small and medium enterprise (SME) development in [Viet Nam](#), through a [technical assistance grant of US\\$600,000](#).

The grant will design an ADB investment project to develop the leasing industry, as well as to support the implementation of an ongoing ADB program.

ADB's SME Enterprise Development Program Cluster is supporting the Vietnamese Government's efforts to create an environment conducive to SME development. Actions being undertaken include addressing the country's policy framework for SMEs, institutional coordination, conducting business registration and licensing reforms, and enhancing access to resources for both land use and finance.

A first subprogram for the program was backed by a US\$60 million ADB loan, approved in 2004, along with the concept for a subprogram II assisted by a \$20 million loan. The investment project on leasing is in the pipeline for 2007, for another \$20 million loan.

Under Subprogram I, the Government formulated an SME development action plan, and drafted business licensing reforms and SME accounting guidelines. But their implementation requires further assistance.

The TA will formulate the investment project to complement the policy actions of the Program Cluster, which aims to continue reforms to the business environment for SMEs and develop alternative channels of financial intermediation to banks. The Second Subprogram will be supported through technical support, capacity building, and coordination of stakeholders.

"Viet Nam has made substantial progress in improving its regulatory and business environment," says Jin Cyhn, an ADB Economist. "But the many constraints still facing SMEs mean that their development requires vision, strategic direction, and effective coordination."

Access to finance remains one of the most critical issues for SMEs, while limited access to land use rights certificates reduces their use for collateral purposes. The legal and regulatory framework under which these are issued needs to be formalized and registration procedures for subsequent transactions need to be streamlined and unified.

The Government will finance \$150,000 of the TA's total cost of \$750,000 equivalent in counterpart services and facilities. The TA will be carried out over about a year to May 2007.

Source: ADB

An Introduction of the Inter-Regional Knowledge Sharing Series on Avian and Human Influenza

Hanoi, July, 2006: The World Bank offers a series of inter-regional distance learning seminars that will demonstrate the use of the GDLN as an effective learning/discussion platform whereby institutions, governments, technical agencies, donors, NGOs, and other stakeholders around the world can regularly discuss topics that have a high priority when dealing with Avian and Human Influenza (AHI) preparedness. The seminars will provide for an exchange of knowledge, a review of progress in specific countries, and the sharing of experiences and good practices and lessons that have been learned.

All information, supporting materials and resources that are developed for use in these seminars will be made available to the Bank and its partners for other applications and uses, as appropriate. It is intended that this series will

better enable the Bank and its partners to strengthen their approach to knowledge and capacity building on AHI issues around the world.

More information can be found at

<http://www.worldbank.org/avianflu><http://www.worldbank.org/gdln>

Source: WB

Lam Dong: planting cashew nuts on buffer zone of Cat Tien National Park

The program to plant over 2.900 ha of cashew nuts on the infertile forestland in the buffer zone of Cat Tien National Park will be carried out by the District of Cat Tien from now on to 2010. Leaders of Lam Dong province said (25/6): currently the province is facilitating needed arrangements to transfer the above forest land areas to agricultural cultivation land to provide the farmers (mainly the ethnic minorities) and start planting cashew right in this rain season. In addition to provision of land, the province also provides each household with 2 million VND for plantation.

Source: Labour

Ministry sets rural water supply targets

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development said the country has targeted to ensure 75 per cent of the rural population have access to clean water and 70 per cent of farm households have sanitary latrines by 2010. By the end of 2005, 62% of the rural population was provided with clean water. Most people without access to clean water are those living in rural and remote areas. To achieve the 2010 target, the ministry will encourage the private sector to invest in building water supply plants, overhaul existing water projects and preserve water resources to prepare for drought, flood and storm prone areas.

Source: VNS

Foreign investment hits US\$2.8 billion

Viet Nam posted 339 foreign direct invested (FDI) projects valued at US\$ 2.26 billion recorded to June 23. Foreign investors also registered additional capital of US\$540 million to expand existing projects. HCM City led the way in attracting foreign investment, accounting for 31 percent of the country's total FDI, followed by Ha Noi, Ba Ria-Vung Tau and Hai Duong. Hongkong continues to be the biggest foreign investor in the city, with Korea, the US and Japan following in that order.

Source: Youth

Monitoring and Evaluation Section (M&E Update)

Quarter 2 monitoring using the pilot monitoring systems developed with support from the Vietnam Australia Monitoring and Evaluation Project (Phase II - VAMESP II) is being completed in 42 PMUs and 10 Line Agencies. In MARD the Central Project Office for Irrigation Projects is piloting the monitoring system. 32 Monitoring Champions were trained in early July in preparation for Quarter 2 monitoring. This included 3 staff from MARD.

The aligned monitoring format, developed by a Core Team of government and donor staff aligns GoV and 5 Bank reporting requirements for ODA and other public investments. Government members of the Core Team come from MPI (Departments of Foreign Economic Relations, Public Procurement and Appraisal/Supervision); MOF (External Finance Department); GSO and MONRE. This format is being completed by the Core Team in July 2006, after which they will request that MPI institutionalize the format for monitoring ODA investments.

The portfolio-monitoring tool (PMT) is ready for trial as a β -version - with MPI, MOF, MOT and MARD as well as Nghe An Province - during Q3 2006. A workshop of line agencies and 5 Banks was held on 10 July to review portfolio indicators and explore options for a simple project health rating system using data from the aligned monitoring format.

The M&E Manual has been finalized after extensive consultation with stakeholder ministries and provinces that used the draft version between Q4 2004 and Q1 2006. The final M&E Manual is much more user friendly and the monitoring module is directly related to actual use of the aligned monitoring format. This module also covers organization of monitoring in PMUs and line agencies as well as the practical use of tools for data collection, analysis, reporting and feedback.

Activity Plans for VAMESP II in August 2006

- Translate M&E Manual and prepare for publishing in September 2006
- Hold workshops on findings of pilot evaluations in Quang Ngai and Can Tho
- Convert all monitoring data to aligned monitoring format and related tool (AMT)

- Trial β -version of PMT – with MPI, MOF, MOT, MARD and Nghe An Province
- Conduct pilot baseline evaluation of Customs Modernization Project (MoF)
- Begin programming National Monitoring Tool for MPI and MOF
- Input all historical ODA data (since 1993) into ODA-MIS in FERD/MPI
- Support MPI and GSO to finalize portfolio performance and sector outcome indicators for use in ODA monitoring
- Commence process of institutionalizing aligned monitoring format and related tools and resources
- Maintain and update the M&E website

Source: VAMESP II-MPI

Pig Production Development, Animal-Waste Management and Environment Protection

A Case Study in Thai Binh Province, Northern Vietnam (PRISE Publications. 224p.)

The book “Pig Production Development, Animal-Waste Management and Environment Protection” is the main result of a multidisciplinary initiative funded by the Asia Pro Eco programme of the European Commission (EUR 250,000), and it is co-edited by CIRAD - the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development and NIAH - the National Institute of Animal Husbandry.

During 16 months, four Vietnamese scientific organizations (NIAH, NISF - the National Institute of Soils and Fertilizers, Hanoi Agriculture University n°1, and VTGEO - the Center of Remote Sensing and Geomatics), the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand and two European partners (the Spanish non-governmental organization AIDA and CIRAD from France) joined forces to study environmental pollution due to pig production in Northern Vietnam, through the example of Thai Binh province located in the Red River Delta. Its coverage of the outstanding livestock development issues and environmental externalities ranges from details of on-farm management practices to the balance of nutrients at regional level and the perceptions of society to suggest alternative strategies. It brings together satellite images, background issues and findings to guide researchers and policymakers in their domestic policies on agriculture and livestock with regard to environmental protection. These unique references aim to support the decision makers to balance economy and environment through

innovative organizations, technologies and management options.

Paper book and CD-ROMs are available in both Vietnamese and English version; please contact CIRAD Regional Representative Office in Hanoi for a hard copy or CD-ROMs.

Contact by email: ciradvn@hn.vnn.vn or cirad@fpt.vn

Source: CIRAD

The first meeting of Cau river sub-basin organization

Thai Nguyen City, July 5th 2006: the first meeting of the Cau River Sub-basin Organization (CSBO) has been organized at Da Huong Hotel, Thai Nguyen City. 72 participants from relevant agencies of 6 provinces within the sub-basin, representatives of MARD, ADB and international consultant have attended the meeting. The meeting is chaired by HE Vice Minister (MARD) Nguyen Ngoc Thuat

Objectives of the meeting are:

- to promulgate the Decisions on the CSBO formation and its memberships;
- Introduce and discuss on legal documents related to CSBO's operation and the draft working regulation of CSBO
- Introduce and discuss on the proposed Phase 3 design for CSBO capacity building under ADB TA 3892.
- After listening the presentations, ADB representative and participants from Thai Nguyen, Bac Giang, Bac Ninh, Ha Noi and Institute of Water Resources Planning have had very good comments on and contribution to the CSBO operation and its working regulation.

The Vice Minister Nguyen Ngoc Thuat concluded the meeting as below:

- It is necessary to establish CSBO.
- Key-issues of the Cau river sub-basin are environment, water shortage and water quality that are very much related to economic social development.
- CSBO has to closely connect to the sub-basin planning process.
- It is necessary to have dam operational procedures to regulate flow to solve water shortage in dry season.
- Construction, rehabilitation sub-projects in the sub-basin have to be in the five year plan and

consistent with the sub-basin water resource planning.

- The CSBO Office is very important. In terms of the Office personnel issues, MARD will work with the Home Affair Ministry to solve this issue.
- MARD will discuss with PPCs to have additional budget for CSBO's operation costs.
- The standing office staff has to have good qualification, experience to deal relevant issues happened in the sub-basin.
- It is required to pay attention to irrigation government and PIM issues. How to transfer irrigation responsibility and management in irrigation scheme? It is necessary to organize training courses, study tours to provinces of Vietnam and overseas countries to create good opportunities for staff, leaders to have better view to irrigation management.
- It is necessary to provide the Office with equipment, facilities.
- Adopt the Nam Yen Dung model developed under ADB project to improve irrigation governance and PIM for the irrigation schemes.

The meeting has been successful. Now, CSBO should establish its standing office at Thai Nguyen soon to assist SCBO to implement its functions, tasks and facilitate Phase 3 implementation for SCBO capacity building.

Source: ADB-MARD

The first 6 month 2006 review meeting of the Red River Basin Organization Board (RRBOB)

Do Son, 18 July 2006: The first 6-month review meeting of the Red River Basin Organization Board was organized by MARD at the Forestry Hotel, Do Son, Hai Phong. 43 participants from MARD, Ministry of Fishery and DARDs participated in the meeting. Vice Minister, MARD, Nguyen Ngoc Thuat chaired the meeting.

The following reports were presented at the meeting:

- The first 6 month 2006 working activities of the RRBOB and action plan for next 6 months by Dr. To Trung Nghia, Chief of RRBOB Office
- The working activities of the Day RBO by Mr. Dong, DRBO Office;
- The working activities of the Cau RBO by Mr. Son, CRBO Office;
- Flood control activities in the first 6 month in the Red river basin by Mr. Nuoi, DDMFC;

- Activities against drought in last Winter Spring crop by Dr. Ninh, DWR, MARD.

Main activities carried out by RRBOB in last 6 months are:

- Continuation of implementing the integrated water resources planning in the Red Thai Binh River Basin and flood diversion corridor planning for the Red river;
- Coordination with DWR to implement effective measures for drought protection;
- Coordination with DDMFC to implement activities for flood control;
- Cooperation with MONRE, EVN to develop the multi-dam operational procedures for Hoa Binh, Tuyen Quang and Thac Ba dams;
- Establishment of Day and Cau RBOs;
- Other activities such as publishing newsletters, maintaining website of the Board

After listening the above reports the provincial participants had very constructive discussions. Participants from Hanoi, Hung Yen, Hai Phong, Hai Duong, Bac Giang, Ninh Binh, Nam Dinh, Bac Ninh, Thai Binh presented their challenges and constraints to water resources management in their provinces as well as lessons, experiences gained in last time.

RRBOB is really a forum for the provinces directly to discuss with MARD and other relevant ministries. Vice Minister Nguyen Ngoc Thuat had answers and explanations to each provincial participant.

All participants and MARD fully agreed that it is very necessary for Day and Cau RBOs to have the working regulations soon. In terms of flood control, the flood diversion corridor planning is an urgent issue for many provinces.

The meeting is successful after having a half of day for presentations and discussions.

Source: ADB-MARD

The Netherlands Formalizes US\$8.5 Million Co-Financing Grant To The Natural Disaster Risk Management Project In Vietnam

Hanoi, 06 July 2006: The Netherlands Ambassador, André Haspels, and the Country Director of the World Bank in Hanoi, Mr. Klaus Rohland, today exchanged documents formalizing the US\$8.5 million Dutch financial grant support to the Natural Disaster Risk Management Project in Vietnam. Also present during the ceremony was the Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development, Mr. Cao Duc Phat and senior staffs.

All parties consider the project a milestone in the effort to mitigate loss of lives, and safeguard livelihoods and economic development by minimizing the adverse impacts from storms and flooding that so frequently occur in Vietnam.

The Government of Vietnam contributes US\$12 million and receives a \$86 million World Bank Credit from the World Bank and US\$6 million grants from the Government of Japan, making \$112.5 million the total investment. The Dutch contribution will specifically support the implementation of the project's first phase over the next four years. The key objectives are (i) to develop community disaster mitigation plans and post disaster management plans at the national level, (ii) under leadership of MARD, to improve integrated planning, also at the provincial level, (iii) to improve technical know-how, (iv) to complete a National Disaster Risk Mitigation Strategy, and (v) to prepare the investment plans for infrastructure development.

The Netherlands joined the Vietnamese government's efforts to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development already in 1997, and since provides broad support for the forestry and water sectors, as well as the health sector in Vietnam. The Netherlands also supports the Government of Vietnam to develop good governance, and also assists the Vietnamese business community to establish sustained trade relations with The Netherlands.

Source: RNE

Bird flu under control but foot-and-mouth a problem

Ha Noi, 12-07-2006: Viet Nam has successfully controlled outbreaks of bird flu and carried out vaccinations for more than 131.4 million poultry, director of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development's Animal Health Department Bui Quang Anh said.

In a meeting to review prevention of bird flu and foot and mouth disease, Quang Anh said the country had conducted vaccination at 63 of 64 cities and provinces nationwide, with no poultry being bred in HCM City.

However, foot and mouth disease has appeared in many cities and provinces. Local authorities and residents are trying to stamp out the epidemic.

Many localities report that the greatest difficulty in preventing bird flu and foot and mouth disease epidemics was failure in controlling

the illegal transportation of poultry and domestic fowls across localities.

In addition, the trend of breeding on a small scale still remains the norm, especially in remote areas. Also, transport of poultry and domestic fowls for slaughter to the cities is still popular.

To tackle these shortcomings, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Cao Duc Phat said the ministry would this year focus on steering local agriculture sectors to re-organise their breeding of water-birds to prevent the outbreak of bird flu in the 2006-07 winter-spring rice crop.

The ministry would strengthen close management on imports, business, distribution and supply of vaccines for foot and mouth disease. In particular, Phat said he required localities, which had not passed the 21 days test of foot and mouth disease, to mobilize relevant sectors to take part in fighting the epidemic.

The minister has also required the Animal Health Department to strictly conduct the import of animal vaccines for foot and mouth disease, closely manage vaccine sources supported by the Government and work on methods to stop the spread of fake and low-quality vaccines.

According to the Animal Health Department, vaccine companies have imported more than 5.2 million doses of the foot and mouth vaccine. The Government has also secured 640,000 doses from the national reservation fund for Bac Kan, Quang Tri, Gia Lai, Kon Tum, Lao Cai and Binh Dinh provinces. It is expected that vaccine supply companies will continue to import about six million doses of the vaccine for foot and mouth disease in the near future.

Source: VNS

Australia gives Vietnam a preference in development aids

July 2006: Representative of Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) confirmed that Vietnam continues to be one of the countries in the region that enjoys the preference of aids from AusAid and aids through Australian NGOs will be increased.

This is the pledge of AusAid's representative at a meeting with the delegation of the Vietnamese Committee for foreign NGOs

during its working visit to Australia from 8th-15th of July.

On this occasion, the delegation also met with Australian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, David Spencer, and visited some Australian NGOs discussing about their humanitarian and development aids in Vietnam.

Australian NGOs pledged to continue support for poverty reduction and development projects in Vietnam. They would also organize activities aimed at bettering the knowledge on the relations between the two countries.

At present, there are about 28 Australian NGOs which often support development projects and programs in Vietnam with the total disbursement of 6-7 million USD per year.

Source: VNA

\$70 million credit/\$5 million grant package to improve health outcomes in Mekong Delta inked

Hanoi, July 24, 2006-- State Bank of Vietnam Governor, H.E. Le Duc Thuy and the World Bank Country Director for Vietnam Klaus Rohland today signed agreements for a concessional credit of \$70 million/a grant of \$5 million to support the Mekong Regional Health Support Project.

The credit of US\$70 million aims at improving health services in the Mekong region and to enhance access to and use of these services, especially for the poor. The Grant of \$5 million will provide technical assistance and other capacity building measures through provision of consultant services and training. These objectives will be achieved by: supporting efforts to extend eligibility for and coverage of health insurance to care services for poor and near-poor households; improving the quality and capacity of hospital services in the Mekong region; building the capacity of the region's preventive health system to address long-standing and emerging infectious disease threats as well as new health challenges; improving the capacity of the health workforce to deliver quality health services, especially for the poor and near-poor; and supporting to project management, monitoring and evaluation.

The project comprises five components: (a) Protecting The Poor and Near Poor against Health and Associated Financial Risks; (b) Curative Care Quality and Capacity; (c) Preventive Health; (d) Human Resource Management; (e) Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation.

Source: WB

Note: List of legal documents relating to ARD sector issued in July will be published in the next issue of Monthly Briefing