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## HIGHLIGHTS

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

### 1. POLICY DEVELOPMENT/REVIEW

#### Mid-term CG meeting for Vietnam

**Ha Long, June 1, 2007:** The one-day mid-year Consultative Group (CG) Meeting for Vietnam closed, with donors expressing their continued support to Vietnam and congratulating the Government on its stewardship of the economy.

A wide range of topics were discussed including the country's future economic prospects, the monitoring and evaluation of the Socio-Economic Development Plan 2006 - 2010, the next steps in the fight against corruption, the implementation of WTO commitments, and mechanisms through which to ensure better and faster utilization of Official Development Assistance. The meeting also discussed three major challenges currently confronting Vietnam, namely, the provision of water and sanitation services, HIV/AIDS, and traffic safety.

Delegates welcomed the Monitoring and Evaluation framework for the Socio-Economic Development Plan 2006-2010, noting that a meaningful use of the results framework will require intensive efforts to improve existing data collection mechanisms. They recommended greater use of high-quality national surveys, including a well designed labor force survey.

Delegates observed that in order for Vietnam to achieve the Millennium Development Goals on

water and sanitation, substantial challenges need to be overcome. Especially rural sanitation is in need of improvement.

Donor delegates appreciated the significant achievements in improving the legal and regulatory framework in managing ODA projects over the past six months. However, noting a slower than planned implementation of development projects, donors and the Government of Vietnam highlighted the need to further strengthen aid effectiveness and align their procedures. H.E. Deputy Prime Minister Pham Gia Khiem stated that "our Government is very much interested in the harmonization of procedures between donors and the Government of Vietnam with a view to shortening the timeline for preparation and implementation of ODA programmes and projects."

Source: WB-Pres Release

#### MPI finds way for higher growth rate in 2008

**Thanh Hoa, 14/06/2007:** Every resource would be mobilised and every effort would be made to improve the competitive edge and the performance of the economy in 2008, said Minister of Planning and Investment Nguyen Hong Phuc.

Minister Phuc made the remark at a national conference of the planning and investment sector in Thanh Hoa province on June 14 to map out a socio-economic development plan for 2008.

Under the development plan, the country targets a GDP growth of 8.6-9 percent over 2007; a total export revenue of 55.2 billion USD or a 18 percent year-on-year increase; and about 1.65 million new jobs.

According to the Ministry of Planning and Investment, to achieve these targets, ministries, sectors, localities and economic groups have to take all necessary measures to speed up economic growth, while improving the effectiveness, sustainability and competitiveness of the economy in the international integration process.

On the implementation of the 2007 tasks, Minister Phuc said that in the first half of this year, the socio-economic development saw a rather high growth rate, but it was still below the set target. To attain this year's target of 8.5 percent, the country has to strive for a 9 percent growth rate in the 2nd half of the year.

Source: VNA

## 2. INNOVATIONS IN THE SECTOR

### Workplans for 2008 of MARD's organizations and the whole sector must be developed based on the log-frame

**Hanoi, 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2007:** at the MARD's leaders meeting on preparation for developing workplans for 2008, Minister Cao Duc Phat gave his direction as follows:

1. All the departments, Enterprises Management and Innovation Board, Ministry Office; Centers, Project Management Boards within MARD speed up the development of workplan 2008. The workplan must include the general plan of the subsector under his management and specific workplan of his organization.

The departments are proactive in guiding their affiliated units and sub-departments to coordinate them in developing the subsectors' general workplan.

2. Workplans of the MARD's organizations, the Ministry and the whole sector for the year 2008 must be developed based on the log-frame: overall objective, specific objectives, solutions, activities, progress, resources, indicators for evaluation and monitoring, enclosed specific explanation and necessary tables.

3. Department of Planning completes frame of workplan 2008 before 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2007 to guide other organizations to make the unified workplans for 2008.

4. Department of Planning and Department of Finance considers the Ministry's funds from the allocated capital for basic construction and development in order to notify its organizations to develop appropriate plans, especially possibility to allocate funds for key tasks on quality management, food safety, international integration, administrative

reforms, capacity strengthening from central to grass-root level.

5. Minister assigned tasks for the related organizations as follows: (i) Department of Construction is to issue a written guidance for project management boards, project owners to develop their workplans 2008 and these workplans will be incorporated in the Ministry's workplan. (ii) Department of Forestry Protection takes the clue in incorporating the national parks' workplans 2008, (iii) International Cooperation Department takes the clue in incorporating workplan on SPS of the whole sector.

6. Timing

The workplans 2008 by the MARD's organizations must be completed and reported to the in-charge Vice Ministers before 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2007 and sent to Planning Department before 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2007.

Department of Planning incorporates the workplans and submits to Ministry to report to the Government latest on 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2007. A meeting with provinces is to be held in order to unify requirements and methods to develop provinces' workplans for 2008 in unification with the sector's general workplan.

In order to support the planning, studies, policies and responding to the requests by MARD, Center for Informatics and Statistics is requested to dress statistics, review and rearrange staffing for statistical works; propose to the Ministry for reestablish statistical system between it and departments; between it and localities; review statistical indicators of the sector for MARD leaders to work with the General Statistics Office.

Source: MARD

## 3. NEW PROJECTS FOR THE SECTOR

### Contribute ideas for Project of Vietnam Agriculture extension service - phase 2007 - 2015

**Hanoi, 30 May 2007:** MARD held a workshop " Ideas to build up a log frame for Project: Vietnam Agriculture extension service phase 2007 - 2015". Participants of the workshop included provincial agriculture extension officers, local and oversee scientists, other departments and offices of government. The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Bui Ba Bong, MARD Vice Minister.

The National Agriculture Extension Centre pointed out 7 goals for the development in phase 2007 - 2015. The priority is to complete the framework of structure and management of Agriculture extension system from grassroots to national level; to strengthen materials facilities and reinforce capacity for agriculture extension officers; to specify key agriculture extension programs which are suitable for agriculture and rural development; to set up and develop the agriculture service; to encourage agriculture extension methods which are suitable for

particular customer and resort area; to draw the participatory of social resources as many as possible.

**Source:** Agriculture newspaper

### Trust fund for forests (TFF) support enables 90 million USD forestry project for the Central Highlands

**Hanoi 14 June 2007:** A ceremony at MARD today marked a significant development for the forest sector in Vietnam. The signing of a co-financing agreement between the Trust Fund for Forests (TFF) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) will enable the start of the eight-year Forests for Livelihood Improvement in the Central Highlands Project (FLITCH).

The FLITCH Project will address the problems of forest loss, degradation, and rural poverty in the Central Highlands by instituting sustainable forest management practices over one-third of Vietnam's forest estate. It will do so by (i) building capacity and upgrading forest sector governance, management and incentive regimes in Dak Lak, Dak Nong, Gia Lai, Kon Tum, Lam Dong, and Phu Yen provinces; (ii) increasing forestry-based livelihood opportunities and reducing poverty in 60 communes; (iii) creating an enabling business environment; (iv) strengthening supply and market chains, and (v) the use of credit enhancements to facilitate investments by potential investors and lenders in the forestry sector in Vietnam.

The total estimated value of the FLITCH is US\$ 90.66 million. The ADB will provide a loan of US\$ 45 million and the TFF will provide a grant of up to USD 15.57 million; the Government of Vietnam will contribute US\$ 18.29 million; and in-kind contributions from project beneficiaries are estimated at US\$ 11.80 million.

Established on 23 June 2004, the TFF is a financing mechanism managed within MARD and contributed to by the governments of Finland, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland with technical support from Germany. The TFF aims to harmonise the requirements of donors and align with the government's planning and administrative systems in order to support urgent priorities of the forestry sector specified in the Vietnam Forest Development Strategy (2006-2020).

Grant support from TFF will cover costs for training and capacity building; establishment of Commune Development Funds to support forestry related income generating and livelihood improvement interventions; and technical assistance for the extension of sustainable resource development and management in the forest sector to small scale farmers and households to ensure effective livelihood improvement and community support in sixty communes in the project area.

The successful implementation of FLITCH will contribute to Vietnam's Development Goals by (i)

improving the condition and value of country's forests; (ii) removing hunger and halving poverty among 80,000 of the country's poorest households living near these forests; and (iii) improving protection of critical watersheds and globally significant biodiversity.

**Source:** FSSP Coordination Office

### World Bank approves US\$309m in credits for Vietnam's reforms and development

**Washington DC, June 21, 2007:** The World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) has approved credit packages for four projects for Vietnam, worth a total of US\$309.4 million to support the country's reforms, and social and infrastructure development. IDA is the World Bank's fund for low-income countries.

The credit packages from IDA approved today will finance the Sixth Poverty Reduction Support Operation, the Second Higher Education Project, the Ho Chi Minh City Investment Fund for Urban Development Project, and provide additional funding for the Mekong Transport and Flood Protection Project.

The sixth Poverty Reduction Support Credit (PRSC), worth a total of 175 million USD, provides resources directly to the government budget in recognition of Vietnam's outstanding performance in economic growth and poverty reduction. Part of a series of annual operations, PRSC 6 helps strengthen policy actions to promote business development, to preserve social inclusion, to better manage natural resources and the environment and to improve governance. Co-financed by 11 donors, this operation and the broader PRSC cycle support Vietnam's efforts to become a middle-income country by the end of the decade.

**Source:** WB

## 4. ODA PERFORMANCE

### World Bank operations praised as new Country Director for Vietnam announced

**Hanoi, June 28, 2007** – Newly appointed World Bank Country Director to Vietnam, Mr. Ajay Chhibber, made a courtesy visit today to Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung.

During the meeting, Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung expressed his appreciation of the World Bank's contribution to the development of Vietnam, and discussed how World Bank operations can best benefit the country in the future.

Prime Minister Dung spoke high of the World Bank's analytical and policy advice activities, as well as its supported programs and projects. He also acknowledged the World Bank's role in co-chairing of Consultative Group meetings for Vietnam, jointly

with the government, a format he said should continue in the future. The Prime Minister stated that the Government will exert greater efforts to effectively use ODA, which he said is not only Vietnam's responsibility to the World Bank and other donors, but more importantly to the people of Vietnam.

Source: WB

## 5. INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

### The government supports VND 33.7 bill for some provinces to overcome drought consequences.

**Hanoi, 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2007:** The Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung issued decision no. 736/QD-TTg to allocate VND 33.7 bil from the central standing budget of 2007 to support provinces to recover from drought consequences (electricity, fuel for pumping machine, dredging intakes and main rivers ....), of which Thanh Hoa: VND 7.2 bil, Ha Tinh: VND 6 bil., Dac Lac: VND 6 bil., Binh Dinh: VND: 6.8 bil., Binh Thuan: VND 3 bil., Tien Giang: VND 3.7bil., Ha Giang: VND 1 bil.

Prime Minister requested chairmen of mentioned above provinces to be responsible for management, utilization of allocated fund for proper purposes and in complying with legislations.

On 12<sup>th</sup> June, Prime Minister signed Decision no. 745/TTg-KTTH allocating advance funds for constructing some urgent works and projects, under which Binh Thuan received VND 100 bil. (of which VND 60 bil. for completing the resettlement project for 2 communes named Phan Lam and Phan Son; and VND 40 bil. for site clearance compensation arising from Phan Ri- Phan Thiet project).

Ministry of Planning and Investment and Ministry of Finance was assigned to allocate an additional capital from the central budget plan for 2008 to the mentioned provinces.

Source: MARD

### Prime Minister decided to allocate additional funds for urgent irrigation works

**Hanoi, 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2007:** Responding to the requests by Ministry of Planning and Investment (no. 2332/BKH-KTNN dated 9<sup>th</sup> April, 2007) and by Ministry of Finance (no. 5797/BTC-DT dated 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 2007) on supplementing finance for urgent irrigation works, Prime Minister issued Notification no. 668/TTg-KTTH dated 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2007 as follows:

1. Ministry of Planning and Investment is assigned to coordinate with Ministry of Finance and MARD to give priority to allocating funds from the annual state budget for completing the investment allocation for 15 urgent projects of rehabilitating, improving, drought protecting, dredging, and

reparing irrigation works as mentioned in the request of MPI.

2. To complete their projects, following provinces are allowed to get advance finance from the state budget of 2008 allocated to MARD with the total number of VND 183 bil. : Phu Tho province: VND 45bil., Vinh Phuc: VND 15 bil., Ninh Binh: VND 50 bil., Ha Nam: VND 31 bil., and Nam Dinh: VND 9 bil.

3. MPI is assigned to take the lead, in coordination with MARD and Red River delta provinces to study and make a list of investment irrigation projects in the region to arrange government bonds when necessary.

Source: MARD

## 6. INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

### Farmers' week to be held in central region

**HCM City, 12/06/2007:** "Farmers, production and world economic integration" is the them of a week to be held in the central region and the Central Highlands from June 22-27 by the Viet Nam Farmers Association.

The event, the first of its kind in Viet Nam, will include a 200-booth fair with the participation of farmers from 12 provinces in the regions.

During the week, a seminar on rural economy, integration and development and performances of traditional arts will also be held.

The event will also be sponsored by the Trade Ministry, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Dac Lac People's Committee and the National Committee for International Economic Cooperation.

Source: VNA

### Viet Nam needs foreign trade legal frameworks

**Ha Noi, 11/06/2007:** Viet Nam needs to move towards strengthening its legal trade frameworks to put forth proper non-tariff measures and take advantage of trade incentives from other ASEAN countries.

That was the conclusion of a seminar on non-tariff measures (NTMs) and other commitments under ASEAN free trade area tariff reduction framework (CEPT/AFTA) held by the Trade Ministry in Ha Noi on June 11.

According to the ministry, non-tariff barriers (NTBs) will be applied more strictly in the relationship between Viet Nam and other ASEAN countries due to import tax rates in the bloc already being reduced to between 0-5 percent.

To date, ASEAN countries have applied NTMs to Viet Nam on additional customs fees, regulations on exclusive rights on import, state-owned enterprises' business rights and technical standards.

Source:VNA

## 7. EXPORT PERFORMANCE

### Netherlands to get stronger taste of Vietnamese tea

**Ha Noi, 13/06/2007:** A delegation of Viet Nam's leading tea makers has paid a five-day trip to the Netherlands with ambitions to expand exports into new markets, which was made in response to the Government's recent call on tea enterprises to expand export markets, intensify trade promotion, raise quality and promote trademarks.

The delegation's presentation on Vietnamese tea products and drinking culture on June 8 attracted a number of Dutch tea making giants, including Elink Schuurman Thee BV, Steinweg BV and Herman Kuijper BV.

Vietnamese tea was the hot topic for Dutch businesses as they discussed possibilities to import more Vietnamese tea products into the country as well as boost exports to other markets via Rotterdam, the world's largest seaport.

However, not all the talks left a good taste in the mouth as the limitations of the Vietnamese tea industry were also pointed out. These related to credibility in implementing export contracts, product diversity and control of chemical residue in line with EU regulations.

Tea is an important export for the country. This year alone 37,000 tonnes of tea worth 34 million USD have been shipped abroad. This is a year-on-year increase of 10.1 percent and 6.1 percent respectively, according to the General Statistics Office.

By 2010, the country plans to export 140,000 tonnes of tea worth 190 million USD.

The industry's major earners are black, green and jasmine tea which are mainly shipped to Pakistan, mainland China and Taiwan, Russia, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Germany, Poland and the United States.

Last year saw Vietnam export 105,000 tonnes of tea, including around 65,300 tonnes of black tea, over 27,000 tonnes of green tea and nearly 3,800 tonnes of jasmine tea, totalling 111 million USD.

Source: VNA

### Coffee exports to top 1 billion USD

**HCM City, 05/06/2007:** Viet Nam is expected to export 900,000 tonnes of coffee in the 2006-07 crop this year, earning an export value of more than 1.2 billion USD, according to the Viet Nam Coffee and Cocoa Association (Vicofa).

The figure represents an increase of 374 million USD or about 30 percent in export value compared with the last crop in 2005-2006.

Van Thanh Huy, Vicofa chairman, attributed the export growth to the producers' interest in meeting world demand.

Coffee experts credited the export spurt on the industry's efforts to improve the quality of coffee, especially Robusta, and by raising competitiveness on the global market.

In the first quarter of this year, Dac Lac province, the country's biggest coffee producer, exported 115,000 tonnes of coffee, posting an export value of 168 million USD, an increase of 95.6 percent from the same period last year.

Source: VNA

### Dak Lak fetches 370 million USD from exports

**Dak Lak, 25/06/2007:** Central Highlands Dak Lak province recorded an export turnover of 370 million USD in the first half of this year, fulfilling 93 percent of the target of the whole year.

The figure brought the province to the leading position in the Central Highlands region in terms of export value, according to the Chairman of the provincial People's Committee.

The growth is mainly fueled by an increase in prices of key staples like coffee, pepper, cashew nut and rubber.

Key export items which enjoyed high growth include coffee (234,000 tonnes); rubber (4,600 tonnes); and pepper (1,350 tonnes).

Source: VNA

### Development of wood processing sector discussed

**Ha Noi, 08/06/2007:** Viet Nam is targeting 2.5 billion USD of export turnover of wooden products in 2007 and the first five months of this year has brought in nearly 1 billion USD, a 22.7 percent year-on-year increase, according to the Trade Ministry.

The figure was reported at a national conference on wooden products for export, in Ho Chi Minh City on June 8.

With the industry now firmly rooted in the country's top ten list of export earners, the number of wood processing companies has mushroomed to more than 2,000. There are also now 700 wood product export businesses in the nation with close to 100 of them being foreign owned.

The conference heard that problems surrounding the industry include a lack of training facilities, especially in the south of the country where many of the businesses are located, and a lack of land for the planting of new harvestable forests for raw materials.

The national programme to plant 5 million ha of forests, launched 10 years ago, has focused on state forestations in the northern region, where there is a lack of wood processing factories capable of industrial scale production, they said.

Source: VNA

### Viet Nam's wood industry on the rise

**Ha Noi, 05/06/2007:** The Vietnamese processed wood industry is booming with exports being recorded at 937 million USD for the first five months of the year, an increase of 21 per cent year over 2006.

The Viet Nam Timber and Forest Product Association attributed the surge in export revenues to a greater number of added value products and design centred pieces being shipped overseas.

Highlighting the industry's surge, the country has now become home to three industrial zones in Ho Chi Minh City, the Central Highlands and Ha Noi that specialise in wood processing.

With an average growth of around 40 percent a year, Viet Nam has emerged as a top four exporter of wooden products in Southeast Asia, following Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand.

Source: VNA

### Viet Nam joins in improving Southeast Asian rice quality

**Ha Noi, 14/06/2007:** Viet Nam will hook up with Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos, and Thailand in an endeavour to raise the image and quality of rice - Southeast Asia's staple food.

A cooperation agreement to this effect is being mulled over by the five countries, which belong to the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS), said the Vietnamese Trade Ministry.

The chief content of the agreement will be the transfer of farming techniques and the sharing of information in order to raise the competitiveness of their rice in the world market.

Viet Nam already signed a rice export agreement with Thailand. The two countries plan to meet in Ha Noi in July to discuss the implementation of the accord.

This year, Viet Nam is forecast to ship abroad around 5 million tonnes of rice; Thailand, 8 million tonnes; Cambodia, about 300,000 tonnes; and Myanmar, around 100,000 tonnes.

Source: VNA

### Agro-forestry export value up 29 percent

**Ha Noi, 07/06/2007:** Viet Nam's agricultural and forestry exports reached a value of 3.7 billion USD in the first five months of this year, 29 percent higher than the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Of the five-month total, the value of agricultural product exports reached 2.7 billion USD, a year-on-year increase of 32 percent, and forest

product exports were worth 1 billion USD, an increase of 21 percent.

The increase came from a solid growth of pepper, coffee and wooden product exports, the ministry said.

In May, the export value of the country's agricultural and forest products was 765 million USD, 20 percent higher than last May, including 546 million USD from agricultural exports and 203 million USD from forest product exports.

The ministry said that coffee accounted for the largest portion of the total export value of agricultural products at 42 percent, with a value of 1.1 billion USD in the first five months of this year.

Coffee is the first agricultural product to reach an export value of more than 1 billion USD.

The strong growth in coffee exports was due to the high and rising price of coffee, especially at the end of May.

The export value of rubber, cashews and pepper also rose in the first five months of this year compared with the same period last year, 433 million USD for rubber, up 8 percent; 197 million USD for cashews, up 12.5 percent; and 110 million USD for pepper, up 27 percent.

Meanwhile, the export of rice - usually a strategic agricultural export for Viet Nam - declined in value and volume in the first five months.

The decline resulted from difficulties in leasing ships for transporting rice, an increase in freight charges and bad weather hindering the loading of rice bags onto ships.

Rice exports were 1.8 million tonnes and valued at 580 million USD to the end of May, a decline of 21 percent in volume and 8 percent in value from the same period last year.

The ministry expected tea exports would not reach its 2007 target, even though export volume and value increased in the first five months, because the quality of exported tea has yet to improve.

The country exported 38,000 tonnes of tea, a year-on-year increase of 13 percent, valued at 35 million USD, up 8 percent.

Source: VNA

## 8. FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

### Vietnamese businesses develop rubber industry in Laos

**HCM City, 22/06/2007:** Businesses under the Viet Nam Rubber Industry Group have invested in growing rubber trees on 10,343 ha in Laos under a cooperative programme between the two governments.

The programme aims to put 100,000 ha under rubber trees in Laos, said Ngo Quang Minh, Deputy Head of the Investment Cooperation Board of the group.

These businesses plan to expand the acreage of rubber trees plantation to 58,600 ha in the near future to help fulfill the target.

Source: VNA

### Vietnamese company joins Lao furniture-maker

**Vientiane, 19/06/2007:** The Sai Gon-Vientiane Import-Export Company (SAVIMEX) of Viet Nam will pump 1 million USD in order to gain a 52 percent share of a furniture making firm in Laos.

The company signed the contract with the Lao furniture-maker in the Champassak province.

The joint venture is part of SAVIMEX's long-term plan to develop its production lines and has set aside 16 million USD in capital for the purpose.

Source: VNA

### Viet Nam, Laos provinces get to work

**Vientiane, 06/06/2007:** Viet Nam's Binh Duong province and Laos's Champassak province are looking to expand on their cooperative work in order to successfully implement earlier signed agreements.

A delegation from Binh Duong province led by Vice Chairwoman of the People's Committee Tran Thi Kim Van had a working session with Champassak authorities on a recent visit to Laos.

At the meeting, the two sides agreed to accelerate preparations for a project to plant 30,000 ha of rubber trees in Champassak with the aid of Binh Duong.

Source: VNA

## 9. MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS

### Conference to boost Viet Nam-Laos investment

**Quang Tri, 11/06/2007:** A conference will be held at the Lao Bao Special Trade Economic Zone in the central province of Quang Tri from June 17-19 to boost Viet Nam-Laos investment.

During the conference, representatives from ministries and agencies will make presentations on investment environments, preferential treatments and policies in their respective countries in general and at Viet Nam's Lao Bao Special Trade Economic Zone and the Densavan Economic Zone of Laos in particular.

Four Vietnamese companies investing in Laos and four Lao companies investing in Viet Nam will also report on their business at the conference.

Source: VNA

### Launching ceremony and planning workshop of the International Cooperation network of ARD held

**Quang Ninh, 14-15 June 2007:** The Launching ceremony and planning workshop of the

International Cooperation network of ARD was held in Tuan Chau, Quang Ninh. The event was chaired by Dr. Bui Ba Bong, MARD Vice Minister and Chairman of the Network Steering Committee. The workshop was successful with completion of the draft work plan for the network for 2007-2010. It is now under revision and expecting approval from MARD. The second workshop on network operation mechanism will be held mid July 2007.

Source: ISG

## 10. NEW PUBLICATIONS POSTED ON ISG WEBSITE

### List of reports newly posted on ISG website in the month

1. ODA to Agriculture – by DFID 2004  
<http://www.isgmard.org.vn/Information%20Service/Report/Report.asp>

### List of new publications posted on ISG website

1. [ISG Monthly Briefing-June - 2007](#)
2. [RWSS Partnership News Briefs](#)

## 11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The official website of the **Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Partnership** has been completed and launched online at <http://www.rwssp.org.vn/EN/>

2. Secretariat Office for the **Partnership for Avian and Human Influenza (PAHI)** established and in operation.

Following Decision 579/QD-BNN-TCCB dated 6 March 2007 by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, the PAHI Secretariat Office has now been established and come into operation, serving as a secretariat for the Partnership and for bodies and groups established within the Partnership, and to support coordination and facilitation of Partnership activities.

The Secretariat is supervised by a Management Group with representatives from MARD and Ministry of Health. MARD International Cooperation Department is responsible for operational management and financial resources. Core financial support to the secretariat is channeled through the Government of Vietnam – United Nations Joint Program. Other financial resources may be provided to the PAHI Secretariat from national or international sources and would be subject to specific funding agreements.

For more information about the PAHI, please contact Secretariat Office Room # 202, Building A9, MARD, 2 Ngoc Ha, Ha Noi; Tel. (84 4) 733 2609 Fax (84 4) 734 6595; email: [trangdt.pahi.htqt@mard.gov.vn](mailto:trangdt.pahi.htqt@mard.gov.vn) (Ms. Dao Thu Trang, Manager of the Secretariat)

## 12. LIST OF LEGAL DOCUMENTS ISSUED IN JUNE 2007

NO	ISSUING AGENCY, TITLE OF THE DOCUMENT	BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS
<b>By the Government</b>		
1.	Decree 99/2007/NĐ-CP dated 13 <sup>th</sup> June, 2007 by the Government on management of structures construction cost	8 chapters and 38 articles: regulates that the cost estimation of structure construction is made based on the workload defined according to the technical design or construction technical drawings, needed activities, unit prices, necessary cost norm to conduct the construction. As for the small-scale structure with only the technical- financial report, the total investment is as well as the cost estimation. The investment owner has to verify the cost estimation before giving approval...
<b>By the Prime Minister</b>		
2.	Decision 93/2007/QĐ-TTg dated 22 <sup>nd</sup> June, 2007 by the government issuing the one-stop mechanism and inter- one stop mechanism at the administrative state agencies in provinces	Under this decision, the simply, clear, transparent, and lawfull administrative procedures are the first principle in implementing one-stop mechanism and inter- one stop mechanism. Besides, the administrative procedures, charges, fees, documents, timing frames for addressing the requests by individuals, organizations must be transparent; receiving the requests and giving feedbacks must be taken place at the same door; ensuring that administrative procedures must be conducted in fast, convenient manner and with the coordination involvement of the related units and state administrative agencies.
3.	Decision 80/2007/QĐ-TTg dated 1 <sup>st</sup> June, 2007 by the Prime Minister regulating the process of inter-operating Hoa Binh reservoir, Tuyen Quang reservoir, Thac Ba reservoir in the flood season.	The decision regulates that before discharging flood at the Hoa Binh reservoir and Tuyen Quang reservoir which may result in the exceeding of the water level in the Da river part in Hoa Binh town and the water level in Lo river part in Tuyen Quang town in comparision with the regulated level, the managers of Hoa Binh Hydraulic Electricity Company and Tuyen Quang Hydraulic Electricity Company have to notify the PPCs and the Steering Boards on Flood Control and Storm of these two provinces from 6 hours to 10 hours earlier commencing from the time when the water levels thereof reach the regulated ones (Hoa Binh reservoir: +24m, Tuyen Quang reservoir: +27m) in order to ensure enough time for these provinces to move residents and have to report to the Central Steering Committee on Flood control and Storm.
<b>By the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development</b>		
4.	Decision 52/2007/QĐ-BNN dated 5 <sup>th</sup> June, 2007 approving the planning of vegetable,fruit and oramental plants development by 2010 and vision 2020.	Continuing the program of developing vegetable, fruit and ornamental plants based on the exploitation of weather and diversified ecological advantages in different regions (tropical, temperate, subtropical). In combination with improving miscellaneous gardens, conducting intensive farming and new planting towards extensive production and using advanced technologies, familiar with environment; The planning sets out targets and methods to achieve by 2010 and vision 2020.
5.	Directive 53/2007/CT-BNN, dated 6 <sup>th</sup> June, 2007 on strengthening the implementation of Directive 32-CT/TW by the Central Secretariat (IX) regarding the strengthening of the Party leadership in the law advocacy and education, raising the awareness of legal enforcement of officials and people.	The law advocacy and education in MARD has gained initial achievements after 3-year implementation of the Directive 32. The Ministry's officers and staffs increase their awareness of the importance of this work. In order to continue the implementation of the directive 32, the Ministry specifies 6 measures to be done to strengthen the Party's leading in the law advocacy and education, raising the awareness of legal enforcement of officials and people.

	Decision 55/2007/QĐ-BNN dated 12 <sup>th</sup> June, 2007 releasing HS codes on plant protection chemicals exported and imported in Vietnam	HS code for plant protection chemicals, including: 1. Plant protection chemicals allowed to be used in Vietnam 2. Plant protection chemicals limited to be used in Vietnam 3. Plant protection chemicals prohibited to be used in Vietnam
7.	Decision 56/2007/QĐ-BNN dated 12 <sup>th</sup> June, 2007 supplementing 12 species of plants in the list of plants that are protected and assigned for DUS test.	12 plant species are added to the list of plants under protection. The decision also specifies the responsibility of testing the difference, identity, and stability of these species.
8.	Directive 57/2007/TT-BNN dated 13 <sup>th</sup> June, 2007 amending, supplementing the Circular 99/2006/TT-BNN dated 6 <sup>th</sup> Nov. 2006 by MARD guiding the implementation of forestry management regulations attached to the Decision 186/2006/QĐ-TTg dated 14/8/2006 by the Prime Minister	Amending the Circular 99/2006/TT-BNN dated 6 <sup>th</sup> Nov. 2006 by MARD guiding the implementation of forestry management regulations attached to the Decision 186/2006/QĐ-TTg dated 14/8/2006 by the Prime Minister. - Item 1.1, Article 1, Part II (regulating the defining the boundaries for forestry management units and planning land for forestry). - Sub-items a, b, of item 2.2, Article 2, Part II (Criteria of poor forests, the poor forests under allowable improvement; measures, process, and procedures to improve forest) . - Item 7.3, Article 7, Part II (Regulating on agro-forestry and fishery production in the protection forests)
9.	Decision 59/2007/QĐ-BNN dated 19 <sup>th</sup> June, 2007 amending and supplementing some articles of the Decision on checking-upon acceptance of forest planting, forest planting for protection, protecting forest, attached to the Decision 06/2005/QĐ-BNN dated 24 <sup>th</sup> Jan. 2005 by MARD.	Following articles are amended: - Article 5, Article 6, Article 7, Article 8, Article 9, Article 11, Article 12
10.	Decision 60/2007/QĐ-BNN dated 19 <sup>th</sup> June, 2007 amending the contents of some chemicals in the list of allowable plant protection chemicals, attached to the Decision 23/2007/QĐ-BNN dated 28 <sup>th</sup> March, 2007 and exceptionally including some bio-original chemicals into the list.	193 types are included exceptionally in the list of plant protection chemicals that are allowable in Vietnam (including 126 types of pesticides, 41 types of disease chemicals, 12 types of growing promotion, 13 types of snail killing, and one type of inducement chemicals which have biological origins).
11.	Inter-circular 61/2007/TTLT-BNN-BTC dated 22 June, 2007 guiding the mechanism of managing and using the state budget allocated for the activities of forestry protection agencies; and paying for expenses of organizations and individuals who are mobilized to prevent forest cutting and destroying, forest fire protection and fighting.	The circular regulating performance funds of forestry protection agencies at different levels, including funds for administrative management and professional performance. The circular also specifies on the payment for the facilities and individuals and organizations who are mobilized for preventing forest destruction, fire fighting and preventing.
12.	Decision 62/2007/QĐ-BNN dated 28 June, 2007 amending and supplementing some articles of the decision regulations on Licensing to Protection Activities of Hydraulic Structures attached to the Decision 55/2004/QĐ-BNN dated 1 <sup>st</sup> , Nov. 2004 by MARD	Article 7, article 8 of the decision 55/2004/QĐ-BNN dated 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov., 2004 by the Minister of MARD regulating the competence to grant, withdraw, extend, suspend, restore licenses to the activities within the scope of hydraulic works protection and regulations on the agency to receive, appraise the dossiers applying for license.

Source: ISG

**News**

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**Partnerships**

**TAGs**

**Experiences**

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**MARD Structure**

**DARD Structure**

**Development Forum**

**Feedback**

'ISG could serve as a catalyst in achieving an open exchange of information and showing the benefits related to information sharing...'

**ISG objectives:**

- Coordinating with international donors, including NGOs on up-coming projects and programmes
- Building partnerships
- Fostering Vietnamese ownership of foreign supported projects; and
- Acting as a facilitating mechanism in policy dialogue and coordination at vertical and horizontal levels (donors, ministries and provinces).

**5 Key Areas:**

- KEY AREA 1: Facilitation of policy dialogue
- KEY AREA 2: Support coordination of foreign-funded programs and projects
- KEY AREA 3: Information collation and dissemination
- KEY AREA 4: Capacity building and management processes
- KEY AREA 5: Monitoring and evaluation

**Ongoing key assignments:**

- [Sector strategic planning \(5 Year Plan 2006 - 2010\)](#)
- [Policy Advisory Briefings \(PABs\)](#)
- [Provincial Dialogue Platforms \(PDPs\)](#)
- [Piloting an M&E system for ODA programmes/projects](#)
- [Integrated database in sector international cooperation](#)
- [Supporting formulation of RWSS Partnership](#)
- [Development of sector FDI management system](#)

**Coming special events:**

["Announcement on Forestry Partnership Forum and Forestry Investment Forum in May 2007" \(New\)](#)

**ISG Steering Board**

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**Special event:**

["Announcement on Forestry Partnership Forum and Forestry Investment Forum in May 2007" \(New\)](#)

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