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HIGHLIGHTS

1. BILATERAL COOPERATION (p 1)
2. NEW PROJECTS FOR THE SECTOR (p1)
3. ODA PERFORMANCE (p3)
4. INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION (p3)
5. EXPORT PERFORMANCE (p4)
6. FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (p5)
7. MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS (p6)
8. NEW PUBLICATIONS (p7)
9. COMING EVENTS (p8)
10. MONTHLY LEGAL UPDATE IN ARD (p8)

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

1. BILATERAL COOPERATION



Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in aquaculture

Hanoi, 19/10/07: MARD Minister Cao Duc Phat and Mr. Cadmiel Mutemba, Minister of Fishery of Mozambique signed the Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in aquaculture. The MoU contents include:

Exchange of information and statistics of fishing; sharing experience and research results in aquaculture cultivation and exploration; cooperation in training of managers, researchers and technicians; encouragement of direct cooperation between the two countries' enterprises in terms of investment and transfer of technology in aqua-cultivation, processing and exports of fish products...

During the visit from 15-20 October in Vietnam, the delegation from Mozambican Ministry of Fishery visited several researches, processing facilities and training centers in the areas of aquaculture in Vietnam.

Source: MARD

Viet Nam, Hungary cooperate in agriculture

Ha Noi, 29/10/07: Vice Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Bui Ba Bong and visiting Hungarian State Secretary for the Ministry of

Agriculture and Rural Development Benedek Fulopp signed a plan of action in Ha Noi on October 29.

The Hungarian State Secretary's visit to Viet Nam from October 28-November 1 was aimed at working out detailed programmes for the Framework Agreements on Agriculture Cooperation between the two ministries signed in May 2004.

Earlier the same day, the two sides held talks on cooperation programmes on cultivation, husbandry, forestry, irrigation and fisheries.

According to Vice Minister Bong, Viet Nam has yet to fully tap agricultural resources, so the country needs foreign assistance, especially from countries with developed agricultures like Hungary.

Source: MARD-VNA

2. NEW PROJECTS FOR THE SECTOR

ADB OKs \$15M Loan to Aid Poverty Reduction Program in Viet Nam



Manila, Philippines, 11 Oct 07:

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a new loan of \$15 million to assist poverty reduction efforts in Viet Nam in coordination with a number of other development partners.

The loan supports the implementation of Viet Nam's Poverty Reduction Program within the framework of a multi-donor funded and World Bank-led Sixth Poverty Reduction Support Credit (PRSC6). The annual PRSC program started in 2002 as a tool for

donors to strengthen the coordination in supporting Viet Nam's comprehensive reform agenda.

In Viet Nam, donors are supporting the government to accelerate reforms in accordance with its Socioeconomic Development Plan 2006–2010 (SEDP), which is considered the national poverty reduction strategy. The main objective of the Socioeconomic Development Plan is to reduce the poverty incidence to 10%–11% by 2010. The country has already made significant strides in reducing the poverty incidence, which was higher than 58% in 1993 to below 20% in recent years.

Over the last 20 years, Viet Nam's economy has been transformed significantly. It has become one of the fastest growing economies in Asia, with an average gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 7.5% over the last decade. GDP per capita increased from \$288 in 1993 to \$716 in 2006, with a marginal increase in inequality.

There are also considerable disparities in poverty and poverty reduction across regions. Certain areas in the northern and central regions have a poverty incidence of over 30%. These regions are home to nearly 57% of the poor in Viet Nam.

The loan is expected to help boost efficiency, accelerate economic growth and create jobs, as well as improve the quality of education, access of the poor to health services, promote a reformed social protection system and gender equality. The loan will also help secure land ownership and address the resettlement and compensation process and promote sustainable management of natural resources. The assistance will also help promote transparency and accountability in public financial management and modernize public administration.

Source: ADB

France and ADB Support Rural Infrastructure Rehabilitation in Viet Nam's Central Region

Manila, Philippines, 25 Oct 07: France and Asian Development Bank (ADB) are assisting Viet Nam in rehabilitating and upgrading vital infrastructure in one of the poorest regions of the country to improve livelihood opportunities and the standard of living of the rural population in the area.

The [Integrated Rural Development Sector Project](#), estimated to cost \$168.2 million, will receive a \$90 million loan from ADB's [Asian Development Fund](#). Agence Française de Développement will extend a \$52 million loan and a \$1.3 million grant for the project. The balance will be covered by the Government of Viet Nam.

The project will target critical rural infrastructure that have deteriorated over past decades due to war, natural disasters and budgetary constraints that have limited maintenance. The project is expected to boost agricultural productivity and employment opportunities, as well as improve access

to public services such as health and education. It will also reduce the exposure of the rural population to natural disasters.

The project area, comprising 13 provinces in the Central Region, has been identified by ADB and Viet Nam as a region of special focus for development investment due to its high poverty incidence. Surveys of the rural population and detailed consultations have shown that one of the main contributors to the high levels of poverty in the project area is the limited and deteriorating rural and coastal infrastructure, which has curtailed access to markets, inputs such as irrigation water, and public services.

See more at:

<http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2007/12230-vietnamese-rural-projects/default.asp>

Germany helps Viet Nam kick-start training center

Ha Noi, 09/10/2007: A woodwork training and development center funded by the German government was inaugurated in Ea H'Leo district, the Central Highlands province of Dak Lak, on October 9.

The center will run as a public private partnership (PPP) between the Vietnamese-German Forestry Program and the Truong Thanh Furniture Corp at a cost of 420,000 USD over its first 2 years.

The Vietnamese-German Forestry Program will provide technical assistance, including machinery and equipment, technology transfer and the training of trainers. Assistance in developing a training program will also be on offer. The Truong Thanh Corp. is being charged with running the daily operations of the center.

The center will hold short-term training in modern woodworking technology for workers, technicians and management staff of wood processing enterprises in the region.

Kicked off in October 2005, the Vietnamese-German Forestry Program aims to improve the efficiency and sustainability of forest management and forest industries in Viet Nam.

Source: VNA

HCM City approves cow breeding project

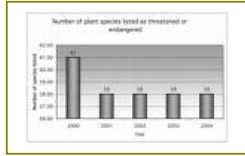
HCM City, 27/10/07: The Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee has approved a plan by the Ho Chi Minh City Farmers' Association to help poor farmers boost their incomes.

The three-year project will give cows and offer breeding technique training to poor farmers in the communes of Long Phuoc, Binh Loi and Binh Hiep in district 9, Binh Chanh and Cu Chi districts, respectively.

The 1.95 billion VND (120,000 USD) project is funded by US Heiter International, a non-profit organisation.

Source: VNA

3. ODA PERFORMANCE



ODA could hit yearly mark in 2007

HCM City, 18/10/07: This year's target to disburse an average of 2 billion USD of Official Development Assistance (ODA), out of 10.9 billion USD planned for the 2006-2010 period, may be achievable, according to a senior ministry official.

"If that should happen, then this is the first time Viet Nam has fulfilled the ODA disbursement goal set out for each year in the five-year plan," said Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment (MPI) Cao Viet Sinh.

He added that the current hurdles lay in delays in the project preparation stage and low capacity of project management units that underwent an overhaul after the Project Management Unit 18 scandal.

"There is an urgent need to sign those agreements early on projects already in place," Sinh said.

The MPI's figures show that ODA funds pledged by donors in the first nine months of this year number 2.097 billion USD, with 1.968 billion USD in loans and 129 million USD in non-refundable aid. In the same span of time, a total of 1.438 billion USD in ODA funds has been disbursed, which meets 76 percent of the 2 billion USD targeted for this year. Of these, loans represent 1.242 billion USD and non-refundable aid, 196 million USD.

Most of the loan agreements signed this year were mostly centred on industrial, healthcare, educational and environmental projects, particularly those funded by the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.

Source: VNA

4. INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION



China-ASEAN trade volume likely to reach 190 billion USD

Ha Noi, 20/10/07: China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have seen fast growth in bilateral trade with the volume being expected to reach 190 billion USD this year.

The figure is expected to top 200 billion USD in 2008, two years earlier than the two sides' expectation, China's Xinhua news agency cited Zhang Xiaoqin, secretary general of China-ASEAN Expo Secretariat, as saying.

China and ASEAN are now each other's fourth largest trading partners, Zhang said, adding that the China-ASEAN trade volume was 160.8 billion

USD last year, while in the first eight months of this year, the bilateral trade hit 127.95 billion USD.

Besides pushing the development of good trade, China and ASEAN countries have also sped up cooperation and investment on service trade since the two sides signed the negotiation on service trade in January this year, according to Xinhua.

Source: VNA

The US helps Vietnam to improve the country's standard system

Hanoi, 16th Oct. 2007: The US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) selects the National Standards Institute of United State to be its counterpart for the implementation of a new program for Vietnam in order to promote the cooperation and trading between the United State and Vietnam in complying with the appropriate regulations and standards.

The National Standard Institute of United State will cooperate with USTDA and Vietnam's Standards and Quality Management Agency to implement the cooperation program which focuses on addressing the difference in the standardization of both countries, to help Vietnam's businessmen to acknowledge generally the benefits of the standards and specifications for a market economy.

According to Mr. Henry Steingrass, Regional Director of South and South East Asia of USTDA, the program will strengthen the transparency, opening and unification in the Vietnam's standard system for being in conformity with the WTO's standards and in complying with the Frame Work Agreement on Trade and Investment between the United State and Vietnam.

One of the program's priorities is to provide the Vietnam's Standards and Quality Management Agency and the leaders of State and private enterprises with necessary tools for the trade standardization integration process./.

Source: VN agency

Work cut out on WTO targets

Ha Noi, 20/10/07: A workshop designed to help State agencies and businesses comply with World Trade Organisation commitments was held on October 19 in the capital.

As a member of the WTO, Viet Nam must fully abide by its laws, regulations and standards, representatives were told.

The director of the Multilateral Trade Assistance Project Viet Nam II (MUTRAP II), Tran Thi Thu Hang, said: "The biggest challenge facing Viet Nam, the legal framework is now complete. However, businesses need to be given detailed advice about what WTO membership will mean for them."

Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Viet Nam director Le Quoc Bao said there was a desperate need for greater cooperation between State agencies and businesses on how best to meet WTO commitments. So far this has not been done well, he said.

When asked, only 30 percent of businesses were even aware that they would have to make changes to meet WTO regulations, said Bao. Far fewer understood what was required of them, he said.

The Government has established an Inter-department Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade to give advice when disputes arise.

Source: VNA

5. EXPORTS PERFORMANCE



Agricultural product exports to fetch 10 billion USD

Ha Noi, 17/10/07: The export turnover of Viet Nam's agricultural products is estimated to top 10 billion USD by the end of October, said Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Diep Kinh Tan.

The figure is predicted to continue increasing by the year-end and early 2008, Tan said at a seminar entitled "Improving Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises' Capacities in Preserving and Processing Agricultural Products among APEC Member Economies," in Ha Noi on October 16.

The seminar offered small- and medium-sized businesses from Viet Nam and other APEC members the chance to share experiences in preserving and processing agricultural goods.

Source: VNA

Over 111,000 tonnes of cashew nuts exported

Ha Noi, 22/10/2007: More than 111,000 tonnes of cashew nuts have been exported so far this year, earning more than 466 million USD.

Viet Nam, currently the world largest cashew nut exporter, has shipped the product to more than 40 countries and territories. The US took 40 percent of Viet Nam's cashew nuts, followed by China (20 percent) and the European countries (20 percent). Other markets include Japan and the Middle East.

This year, Viet Nam's export cashew nut prices averaged 4,184 USD per tonne, an increase of 192 USD over last year.

Source: VNA

Viet Nam increases cashew exports to EU

London, 10/10/2007: About 40 Vietnamese cashew exporters and English edible nut importers gathered in London on October 9 to discuss how to increase Viet Nam's cashew exports to the European Union (EU).

According to the Viet Nam Cashew Association (Vinacas), the EU market currently accounts for 25 percent of Viet Nam's total cashew kernel export, while the US makes up 30 percent and China, 27 percent.

In 2006, Viet Nam exported 126,000 tonnes, earning 503.8 million USD, year-on-year increases of 16.5 percent and 0.45 percent, respectively. The country hopes to export 135,000 tonnes at 560 million USD in 2007. Viet Nam 96,000 tonnes of cashew kernel, valued at 400 million USD, in which 30,000 tonnes were shipped to European markets, in the first eight months of this year alone.

At the workshop on "Cooperation between EU and Viet Nam for cashew promotion", Niel Hyde, Chairman of London-based Combined Edible Nut Trade Association (CENTA) and Managing Director of Bond Commodities Ltd., spoke highly of the development of Viet Nam's cashew industry over the past 15 years.

He said that with the cashew output of 350,000 tonnes per year, Viet Nam has now topped India as the world's largest exporter.

Source: VNA

Viet Nam, Laos cooperate in producing high-quality wood

Vientiane, 16/10/2007: Viet Nam's Savimex Company on October 15 signed an agreement with a wood processing company in Laos' Champasak province on producing high-quality wood products for domestic consumption and exports.

Under the agreement, Savimex will provide modern equipment and upgrade production facilities in order to turn out wood products that meet the ISO 9001 Standard such as sawn and barked timber, planks, and wood for home decoration.

Source: VNA

Agro-products given advantages of both market and prices

Hanoi, 15 Oct 07: Experts say from now on to the end of 2007 and up to early next year, national key agro-products for exports will see more advantages in terms of both market and price. The volumes and export prices of several commodities such as rice, coffee and rubber tend to increase significantly.

Source: VNA

US to increase cotton exports to Viet Nam

HCM City, 16/10/2007: The US will boost cotton exports to Viet Nam – a big potential market for the material, the Cotton Council International (CCI) said at a workshop in Ho Chi Minh City on October 15.

At the workshop on US cotton production, the CCI said Viet Nam's cotton import volume from the US currently accounts for 28 percent.

The US exported 3.6 million tonnes of cotton in 2006, ranking second after China in the world, the CCI said.

According to the Viet Nam Textile and Apparel Association, the nation needs around 200,000 tonnes of cotton per year but the domestic cotton sector can only supply 15,000 tonnes.

Source: VNA

6. FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT



Viet Nam brings in 11.26 billion USD in FDI

Ha Noi, 25/10/07: Viet Nam brought in 11.26 billion USD in FDI during the first 10 months of 2007, a year-on-year increase of 36.4 %.

According to a report by the Foreign Investment Department under the Ministry of Planning and Investment, 1,144 new projects brought in 9.75 billion USD.

The Republic of Korea (RoK) topped the list of 50 foreign investors in Viet Nam with registered capital of 2.44 billion USD, followed by the British Virgin Islands, with 1.73 billion USD and Singapore, 1.37 billion USD.

During the ten-month period, Japan pumped the largest amount of money, 315.35 million USD, into its existing projects in Viet Nam, followed by Taiwan, 312.58 million USD; RoK, 239 million USD and Hong Kong, 176.7 million USD.

According to a survey by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Viet Nam ranks 6th among the top ten most attractive foreign direct investment destinations.

In October, the Italy's Piaggio group invested 45 million USD into a scooter factory in northern Vinh Phuc province, while Taiwanese Compal Electric Group poured 500 million USD into a laptop factory in the province.

The country set a target of 13 billion USD in FDI for 2007.

Source: VNA

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The country set a target of 13 billion USD in FDI for 2007.

Source: VNA

Investment minister confident about FDI target

Ha Noi, 26/10/07: Minister of Planning and Investment Vo Hong Phuc said on October 26 that he feels confident that 13 billion USD in foreign investment will be pumped into the country in 2007.

He cited a soar in foreign investment capital, especially committed capital, into Viet Nam recently, a series of investment promotion activities carried out by large economic groups and the disbursement of ODA and foreign direct investment to back up his claim.

However, the minister admitted that weak infrastructure and limitations in human resources remain the two biggest problems facing Viet Nam to date.

He stressed that developing infrastructure and a skilled workforce are necessary if the projects totalling around 50 billion USD that are queued up for investment licenses are to come to fruition.

He went on to say that the government ministries and sectors are trying to ease investment procedures and the environment in order to win the trust of foreign investors.

According to the Ministry of Planning and Investment's foreign investment department, Viet Nam has drawn in 11.26 billion USD in foreign investment in the past 10 months, a rise of 36.4 percent over the same period last year.

Source: VNA

Singapore's Olam to invest \$45 mln in Vietnam coffee facility

Thanhniennews, 9 Oct 2007: Agricultural commodities supplier Olam International said Tuesday it is investing US\$45 million in a soluble

coffee manufacturing facility in Vietnam, the Thomson Financial newswire has reported.

Olam, which is the world's largest supplier of Robusta green coffee, said the facility would produce and supply bulk spray-dried coffee powder, freeze-dried coffee granules and coffee extracts to the unbranded and private coffee label segment.

The company would build the facility in two phases. It aims to have production capacity of 3,700 tons annually annum by the first quarter of 2009, and then expand capacity to 6,500 tons by 2011.

The report quoted Vivek Verma, Olam's managing director for coffee, as saying that the expansion into soluble coffee manufacturing was "a one-step adjacency move" into a higher value-added activity in the coffee supply chain.

Source: Thomson Financial

7. MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS



International Seminar on Improved duck production of small-scale farmers in Asian and Pacific Region (ASPAC)

Hanoi, Sep 2007: From 17 to 21 Sep 07, the National Institute of Animal Husbandry (NIAH), in cooperation with the Livestock Research Institute of Taiwan organized the International Seminar on "Improved duck production of small scale farmers in Asian and Pacific Region", at NIAH Meeting hall, Thuy Phuong-Tu Liem Hanoi.

The objective of seminar is to promote efficient production of ducks for Asian small-scale farmers by its genetic improvement and the improved cultural practices, and the enhanced cooperation among the Asian countries.

The seminar was participated by 40 people from Vietnam, French, Thailand, Taiwan, Indonesia, South Korea, Philippine and Malaysia. There were 26 country and resource reports presented at the seminar. After the seminar the participants had a chance to visit Duck Research Center-NIAH and see the pilot farms on safe duck heading system in Red River delta region.

Seminar has given the Asian small-scale farmers a technical guide as to how to efficiently improve duck production, especially the way to minimize the spreading of bird flu; to disseminate the usefulness of biotechnology to increase egg production and fertility, and improve viable embryos development and hatchability; to promote an international cooperation scheme among the Asian countries for further dissemination of biotechnology in duck production, and transfer of promising technologies.

Source: NIAH

International Day for Disaster Reduction

Hanoi, 10/10/07: "Disaster reduction starts from schools" is the topic of the Ceremony of the International Day for DR of 10/10/2007 held in Hanoi by the Central Committee for Floods and Storms Control. The event was held at the time the nation is making all best efforts to share and overcome difficulties with the people of the provinces in the central region affected by the Storm No 5.

MARD urged that people involved in disaster reduction activities should play the proactive role in propaganda, education and increasing awareness of communities in disaster reduction so as to avoid disaster, reduce losses, thus contribute to the national sustainable development.

Source: NDMP- MARD

A round-table conference on "Made in Vietnam" held in the Royal Netherlands

The commercial affair of Vietnam in the Royal Netherlands, 12th Oct. 2007: Accepting the invitation extended by the Promotion Council of Rotterdam Port in coordination with the Vietnamese Embassy in Royal Netherlands, the Vietnam's mission including representatives of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, leaders of the Textile, Leather, Seafood processing and exporting, Vegetable and Fruit, Wood and Forestry products Associations visited the Royal Netherlands from 1st to 5th Oct. 2007 and participated in the round-table conference on "Made in Vietnam".

The "Made in Vietnam" conference was chaired by the Rotterdam Port Promotion Council in combination with the Vietnamese Embassy in the Royal Netherlands on 3rd Oct. 2007 in the Van Rhoon palace in the Rotterdam port city (the biggest port in the world) in order to promote the investment and trading potentials in Vietnam.

The conference was attended by 50 participants from Vietnam's Ministry of Trade and Industry, Associations in the field of textile, leather, seafood, vegetable and fruit, forestry products, Vietnamese Embassy in the Royal Netherlands, Rotterdam Commercial Chamber, Vietnam- Royal Netherlands Commercial Chamber, Rotterdam Port Management Board, Royal Netherlands' enterprises and the Vietnamese who were living in this country.

The Ambassador of Vietnamese Embassy in the Royal Netherlands introduced the Vietnam's investment-trading environment to the participants and called for the Royal Netherlands' partners in 4 fields: trading, investment, port relation between the two countries, and capacity improvement for Vietnam's enterprises.

"According to the Vietnam's Ministry of Trade and Industry, in the first 8 months of 2007 the trading between the two countries exceeded USD 1 bil., an increase of 40% in comparison with that of the same time last year,

especially for such products as computer and its components: an increase of 181%, plastic products: an increase of 92%, coffee: an increase of 71%, cashew-nut: an increase of 60%, bag and umbrella: an increase of 52%, seafood: an increase of 44%”.

Source: Ministry of Industry and Trade

Seminar reviews WTO commitments

HCM City, 25/10/07: Implementation of agreements on sanitary measures and trade barriers by Viet Nam with European assistance were the focus of a seminar in Ho Chi Minh City on October 24.

The seminar was a part of the Multilateral Trade Assistance Project Viet Nam II (MUTRAP II), a project by the Ministry of Industry and Trade in partnership with the European Commission to better implement the country's World Trade Organisation (WTO) commitments with regard to Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) agreements.

To help Viet Nam meet its requirements, MUTRAP supports the enhancement of communication at the national level by ensuring a high degree of coordination between ministries, other agencies, and provincial authorities, and provincial authorities sharing SPS or TBT competencies, and the business community.

At the half-day seminar, participants reviewed the country's WTO rights and obligations and discussed the Vietnamese framework and its focus on the SPS/TBT process.

Source: VNA

Seminar on trade held in Ho Chi Minh City

HCM City, 19/10/07: A seminar on the Programme to Strengthen Trade Capacity (PRCC) was held in Ho Chi Minh City on October 19.

The seminar, co-organised by the Ministry of Planning and Investment and the French Development Agency (AFD), introduces PRCC potential partners to the programme's objectives and procedures.

The 3 million euro programme aims to serve training and technical cooperation schemes that help Viet Nam improve its participation in multilateral negotiations. It is sponsored by the Treasury and Economic Policy General Directorate of the Ministry of Economics, Finance and Industry (DGPE) and the AFD of France.

The program improves export capacity and technical institutional assistance. It also gives priorities to the development of exports through training sessions for staff, and support for the development of the agro-food, tourism and ecotourism sectors.

Source: VNA

Viet Nam to chair world pepper group

Ha Noi, 29/10/07: Viet Nam will officially undertake the position of chairman of the International Pepper Community in the coming International Pepper Conference, said Do Ha Nam, the chairman of the Viet Nam Pepper Association.

The conference will run from October 29 to November 2 in Malaysia with the participation of the seven largest pepper-producing countries in the world.

The local pepper industry plans to reach about 310 million USD from the export turnover by the end of this year, a double year-on-year increase.

Source: VNA

8. NEW PUBLICATIONS

Latest World Development Report 'Agriculture for Development'



Washington, Oct 19, 2007: The latest 2008 World Development Report says greater investment in agriculture in transforming economies, most of which are in Asia, is vital to the welfare of 600 million rural poor people living in those countries.

Titled 'Agriculture for Development', the report warns that the international goal of halving extreme poverty and hunger by 2015 will not be reached unless neglect and under-investment in the agricultural and rural sectors over the past 20 years is reversed. (See more at www.worldbank.org/vietnam)

Source: WB

Useful links:

Homepage of the Biotech Vietnam
<http://www.agbiotech.com.vn>

IFAD operations in Vietnam
<http://www.ifad.org/english/operations/pi/vnm/index.htm>

Fulltext Report: World agriculture: towards 2015/2030
<http://www.fao.org/DOCREP/005/Y4252E/Y4252E00.HTM>

Global Donor Platform for Rural Development
<http://www.donorplatform.org>

Download attachments at:

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

9. COMING EVENTS



CG Meeting 2007 to convene in Hanoi early December

Hanoi, 13 Oct 07: 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

Irrigation in service of sustainable development of aquaculture in Cuu Long river delta

Hanoi, Oct 2007: MARD will hold the Science Workshop "Irrigation in service of sustainable development of aquaculture in Cuu Long river delta" in the City of Can Tho, tentatively on 3 Nov 2007 (one day).

The workshop objectives: (i) To introduce results of the studies and projects on application of water resources sciences in service of aquaculture, irrigation models of high socio-economic benefits and protecting eco-system; and (ii) to propose scientific and technology solutions in irrigation in service of sustainable development aquaculture for regions of fresh water, sea water, and brackish water.

Details of the event can be obtained from:

http://www.isgmard.org.vn/Jobs/Jobs_V.asp

Source: MARD

ISG Plenary Meeting "Equitable and sustainable rural development"

Hanoi: "Equitable and sustainable rural development" is the theme of the ISG Plenary Meeting, which will be held on 7 November 2007 at the International Conference Center - 11 Le Hong Phong St., Hanoi.

The objective of this policy dialogue is to update the progress of development and implementation of national rural development policies, to share viewpoints, experiences, and information on rural development between the Government/MARD and donor community in the context of Vietnam's international integration, and to orient the future cooperation between the

Government and international communities in the areas of rural development.

The meeting will be chaired by MARD Minister Cao Duc Phat. The Plenary is held every year to serve as an open forum for policy dialogue between MARD, Vietnam's relevant agencies, the donor community including governmental, non-governmental and international organizations, researchers and foreign investors involved in the agriculture and rural development activities in Vietnam.

Detailed information of the Meeting can be obtained from:

<http://www.isgmard.org.vn/>

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

No.	Document number, name and signer	Summary of main contents
By the Government		
1.	Decree 151/2007/ND-CP dated 10 th Oct. 2007 by the government on organization and operation of the cooperative groups <i>Signed by Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dzung.</i>	Under the decree, a cooperative group is established based on the joint agreement that is engaged by at least three members to contribute assets, resources to implementing specific activities, to share benefits and responsibilities, and certified by the commune People's Committee. Cooperative groups are formed and operate on the basis of voluntariness, equality, mutual benefit, majority-based votes and financial independence. The group's members are equal to be involving in deciding the group's activities, not depending on the asset contribution of each member. A member has a right to ask for returning their contributed assets and a divided part of the group's common assets....
2.	Decree 154/2007/ND-CP dated 15 th Oct. 2007 by the government amending and supplementing some articles of the Decree 143/2003/ND-CP dated 28 th Nov. 2003 by the government regulating specifically the implementation of some articles of the Ordinance on Hydraulic Works Exploitation and Protection. <i>Signed by Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dzung</i>	Under the decree, since 1 st Jan. 2008, water fee is exempted for the households, individuals who have land and surface water used for agro-forestry production, fisheries farming and salt production within the allocated area: land allocated by the state, legally inherited or given or transferred land, including the 5%- public area that is managed by the locality <i>Water fee is not exempted for the area that is exceeding the allocated land for the household/individual (in the previous regulation, water fee exemption is formulary, impractical and not suitable with the conditions of the people, only the farmers in the specially difficult areas are exempted from water and reduced by 50-70% if in difficult social - economic areas)...</i>
By the Prime Minister		
3.	Decision 1405/QĐ-TTg dated 16 th Oct. 2007 by the Prime Minister on the conditions of incubating poultry eggs and water-bird raising <i>Signed by Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dzung</i>	The decision is to control the incubation of poultry eggs and water-bird raising in order to prevent epidemic disease effectively, especially bird flu, and encourage poultry raising and incubating towards farm and industrial models for sustainable growth and high efficiency. The decision includes regulations on the conditions of egg incubating, and water bird raising.
By the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development		
4.	Directive 81/2007/CT-BNN dated 2 nd Oct. 2007 on the implementation of the National Target Program on Rural Water Supply and Sanitation <i>Signed by Minister Cao Duc Phat</i>	Today is facing with such problems as insufficiency of domestic water, low quality water, increasingly polluted environment, low effectiveness of many water supply and hygiene facilities, which causes major impacts on the people's life in many rural areas. In order to improve the mentioned situation, MARD Minister- also the Chairman of the Program Steering Committee requests the chairmen of provinces and cities people's committee to implement some solutions to conduct the Program effectively.
5.	Decision 82/2007/QĐ-BNN dated 3 rd Oct. 2007 regulating function, tasks, and organization structure of the Institute of Agriculture Engineering and Post Harvest Technology <i>Signed by Minister Cao Duc Phat</i>	The Institute of Agriculture Engineering and Post-harvest Technology is a public scientific technology organization under the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (hereafter called generally the institute) with the functions of basic study, policies and strategies study and research, public services delivery, applied studying, post education, technology transfer, trading and production in the field of

		rural and agriculture engineering, post-harvest technology over the country.
6.	Decision 83/2007/QĐ-BNN dated 4 th Oct. 2007 on tasks of forestry protection officers at commune level <i>Signed by Vice Minister Hua Duc Nhi</i>	Under the decision, forestry protection officers at commune levels are subjected to the state officers, belong to the personnel of the district forest protection station, the special-production forest station, or the protection forest station. They are assigned to work in the commune, town, and ward where forest is available. The on-site forest protection officers are responsible to advise the chairmen of the commune/ward/town People's Committees to perform the state management function of forestry land.
7.	Decision 84/2007/QĐ-BNN dated 4 th Oct. 2007 issuing the supplemented list of fertilizers that are possibly produced, traded and used in Vietnam <i>Signed by Vice Minister Bui Ba Bong</i>	Under this decision, the list of fertilizers subjected to allowable production, trading and using in Vietnam concludes 95 types (organic fertilizer: 2 types, mineral organic: 8 types, microorganic: 7 types, microorganism: 01 type; leaf fertilizer: 73 types, mineral mixing: 1 type;
8.	Directive 85/2007/CT-BNN dated 11 th Oct. 2007 promoting forest planting and wave-stopping plants <i>Signed by Minister Cao Duc Phat</i>	Implementing the directive of the Prime Minister on approving the program on protecting, strengthening and upgrading the existing sea-dyke system from Quang Ninh to Quang Nam province, coastal forest planting is the priority task to implement in all the coastal areas with the conditions of possible planting. The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development requests the relevant ministries/agencies and PPC chairmen of the coastal provinces to implement some activities to prevent and mitigate damages caused by storms, wind, water rising, erosion, and to ensure safety for sea-dyke system, and dyke at the river intakes, as well as to improve the environment, contributing to the sustainable development of the coastal areas.
9.	Decision 86/2007/QĐ-BNN dated 15 th Oct. 2007 on temporary application of the national standard TCVN 4193:2005 in checking the exported coffee bean. <i>Signed by the Vice Minister Luong Le Phuong</i>	The decision is to facilitate the checking of exported coffee bean during the time of unavailable specifications on coffee. The temporary standard for application is the TCVN 4193:2005.
10.	Inter-circular 03/2007/TTLT/BNV-BNN dated 19 th Oct. 2007 guiding the implementation of ranking grade of civil servants in the forestry protection sub-sector <i>Signed by the Minister Tran Van Tuan and Minister Cao Duc Phat</i>	The circular guiding the grade ranking and salary arranging for officers to the relevant scale of civil servants of forestry protection sub-sector regulated in the Decision 09/2006/QĐ-BNV dated 5 th Oct. 2006 and applied for the officers doing the duties of forestry protection in the forestry protection organizations as stipulated in the article 3 of the Decree 119/2006/NĐ-CP dated 16 Oct. 2006 by the government on organization and operation of forestry protection agencies.
11.	Decision 87/2007/QĐ-BNN dated 29 th Oct. 2007 amending contents of some medicines in the list attached to the Decision 23/2007/QĐ-BNN dated 28 th March 2007 and Decision 60/2007/QĐ-BNN dated 19 June 2007 by the MARD. <i>Signed by Vice Minister Bui Ba Bong</i>	The Decision amending the trade name and forms of 12 types/elements in the decision 23/2007/QĐ-BNN; and 7 types/elements in decision 60/2007/QĐ-BNN, and changing the contents of 2 types/elements in the decision 60/2007/QĐ-BNN

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
2. Vision and Associates - Vietnam Legal News
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>
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<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
3. Ministry of Justice - National Legal Database:
<http://vbqpp1.moj.gov.vn/>
4. Draft laws for public comments:
<http://duthaonline.quochoi.vn/>
5. Drafts decrees and other legal documents for public comments:
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In English:

1. Ministry of Justice - Law Database
<http://vbqpp12.moj.gov.vn/law/en/index.html>
2. ASEM Connect Vietnam
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

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