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HIGHLIGHTS

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Happy New Year 2008!

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

1. POLICY DEVELOPMENT/REVIEW



Development of co-operative model to be continued

Hanoi, 17/12/07: Mr. Truong Tan Sang, Politburo member, standing member of the Party's Secretariat stated that after 5 year implementation of Resolution 5 of the Central Party (Tenure IX) on the enhancement of renovation, development and improvement of economic effectiveness, the number of co-operatives have significantly increased, the former co-operatives have been transformed.

On December 12, 2007 in his speech at the country wide plenary meeting on the implementation of Resolution 5 of the Central Party (Tenure IX), Mr. Sang revealed that the cooperatives have developed in various industries, sizes and levels. Co-operatives operating with profits have increased. Poorly performed co-operatives which had existed for many past years in deficits have been dismissed; new co-operatives were established with newly developed models.

However, as Mr. Sang noted, basing on the objectives, requirements of the Resolution for review and evaluation, the arrangement for resolution implementation still showed limitations. He requested that the participants would discuss and

analyze those limitations, so as to work out plans and measures for continued realization of the objectives of renovation, development and improvement of the effectiveness in collective economies.

Source: VNA

Country to have 500,000 ha of meadow by 2020

Ha Noi, 18/12/07: The agriculture sector plans to expand the acreage of meadow to 500,000 ha by 2020 to meet the demands for green food for cattle herds across the country.

The plan was announced at a conference to boost production, processing and preserving green food for cattle in Ba Vi, the northern province of Ha Tay on December 18.

According to the Husbandry Department under MARD, the country now has over 11.5 million of cattle. However, due to a lack of planning work there are only 45,000 ha of meadow, providing only 7.6 percent of green food for cattle.

Addressing the conference, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Cao Duc Phat said the husbandry sector had a slow growth due to epidemics and the increase in food prices. To solve the problem, the minister asked the sector to adjust its strategy to focus on developing cattle.

Source: VNA-MARD

2. CLIMATE CHANGE



World Bank Group President Says Climate Action Can Work For Development

Bali, Indonesia, Dec 12, 07: World Bank Group President Robert B. Zoellick told delegates to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali, urging Countries to Integrate Development and Climate Change Policies.

The Bank Group President also told delegates that climate change “is a development, economic, and investment challenge. It offers an opportunity for economic and social transformation that can lead to an inclusive and sustainable globalization. That is why addressing climate change is a critical pillar of the development agenda.”

Zoellick added that the world’s poor in developing countries are “the most exposed to climate change, the most affected by it, and the least able to cope with it.” He said the discussions at the conference can help “fulfill the hopes and aspirations of these communities and help them manage the changes in health conditions, food production, water resources, coastal integrity, and biodiversity.”

Outlining a series of actions that the World Bank Group is undertaking to help developing countries mitigate or adapt to global warming, Zoellick said that “we believe we can best support the UN negotiating process by helping developing countries integrate climate action – both mitigation and adaptation – within their own growth strategies, including plans for energy development, forestry, agriculture, and land use.”

Among the actions that Zoellick highlighted was the creation of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, launched on Tuesday by the World Bank on the sidelines of the Bali conference. Joined by donors, potential participating countries, and non-governmental organizations at the launch, Zoellick underscored the Facility’s goal to prevent deforestation (a major cause of increasing greenhouse gas emissions) by rewarding developing countries for carbon dioxide reductions resulting from protecting their forests.

Source: WB

ADB Exploring Future Carbon Fund, Committed to Addressing Climate Change

Manila, Philippines, 14 Dec 07: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is exploring ways to develop a future carbon fund beyond the 2012 period of the Kyoto Protocol, as part of its commitment to help its member countries and development partners address climate change issues.

Attending the 13th Conference of Parties to the United Nations Climate Change Conference being

held in Bali, Indonesia, ADB Vice-President of Knowledge Management Ursula Schaefer-Preuss said ADB is committed to help meet the challenges presented by climate change and is prepared to do more, including developing the future carbon fund.

“The fund will be the first of its kind. It will provide upfront financing for clean energy projects leveraging carbon credits to be generated after 2012, and will therefore help bridge the gap until an international successor agreement is in place,” Ms. Schaefer-Preuss said. More can be seen at:

<http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2007/12331-asian-climates-changes/default.asp>

PM asks UK’s help to cope with climate change

Hanoi, 07/12/07: Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung has asked the British Government to help Vietnam deal with global climate change impacts.

PM Dung made the proposal while receiving outgoing UK Ambassador to Vietnam Robert Gordon in Hanoi on December 6.

“Vietnam always considers the UK a long-term top European partner,” affirmed PM Dung.

“Although two-way trade between Vietnam and the UK reached an approximate US \$1.6 billion, it has failed to meet the two countries’ co-operation potential and needs to be improved in the coming time,” he noted.

He told his guest the Vietnamese Government will do its best to further comprehensive co-operation between Vietnam and the UK.

The UK diplomat said he was happy at the fine development of the multi-faceted bilateral co-operation, especially in education, with around 5,000 Vietnamese students currently studying throughout his country.

He also suggested the two countries promote bilateral ties in culture and traditional craft development.

Source: VietNamNet Bridge

3. BILATERAL COOPERATION

Vietnam – Iraq intergovernmental Cooperation Commission’s 17th Meeting



Hanoi, 10-11/12/07: with permission from the Prime Minister, during December 10-12, 2007 the 7th meeting of the Vietnam – Iraq Intergovernmental Cooperation Commission was held in Hanoi. Leading the Vietnamese delegation was Dr. Cao Duc Phat, the Minister of MARD, the chairman of the Vietnamese commission side. On the Iraqi side, it was headed by Mr. Fala Hassan Al-Sudani, the Minister of Trades.

In the meeting, MARD Minister Cao Duc Phat announced the basic achievements in the socio-

economic development and external affairs during the past time; he also appreciated the great efforts made by the people of Iraq to overcome difficulties, and challenges for stabilizing and reconstructing Iraq.

The two sides had a comprehensive review over the cooperation between the two countries since the 16 meeting held in March 2002 in Baghdad. It was perceived the bilateral cooperation in trades and economy had not reflected the actual potentials of each country, particularly when it was interrupted and heavily affected since the war in 2003. The Vietnamese side and the Iraqi side agreed to start the communication and discussion and to look for modes of effective cooperation in areas of petroleum and agriculture.

MARD Minister Cao Duc Phat proposed that the Iraqi side should create favorable mechanism for Vietnamese enterprises which had good tradition in cooperation with Iraq in the past; specifically Phu Da Tea, Vietnamese Rice Exporter. It was also encouraged to promote new joint-ventures such as rubber, milk, vegetarian oil, sugar and to allow Vietnamese enterprises to enter bids for reconstruction of Iraq; increase of cooperation and exchanges in areas of technology and science, culture, tourism, sports, and medical care. Vietnamese side also proposed that Iraq would recognize Vietnam as having a market driven economy.

The Minister of Trade Mr. Fala Hassan Al-Sudani thanked the sharing and the supporting from Vietnam and ascertained to push up the relations in trades and economies of the two countries; creating favorable conditions for enterprises to communicate, to get information for opportunities and environment in all areas. Mr. Fala Hassan Al-Sudani, the Minister of Trades also expressed the support for Vietnam to become a market economy country.

Sources: OMARD

Cooperation and technical assistance on SPS between MARD and U.S Department of Agriculture

Hanoi, 11/2007: The International Cooperation Department – MARD met and discussed with representative from the US Department of Agriculture, US Embassy in Hanoi concerning the potential cooperation and technical assistance.

According to the discussion results, Vietnam would take into consideration the request of the US concerning preparation for signing the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the bilateral cooperation in the field of animal health, plant protection and aquaculture.

MARD requested the US provide support to capacity building trainings in terms of policy research and coordination of food safety and SPS; provide advanced trainings on slaughtering sanitary in the US; provide technical assistance on risk analysis and management (RA); in-depth trainings on bio-

technology and training of officers in the areas of agriculture information and statistics processing through scholarship programs such as the Cochran program by the US Department of Agriculture and by other US-funded projects like the STAR-2 project, ect.

Additionally, Vietnam's MARD also requested the US to provide technical support to the Vietnam National SPS Office, with a view to help Vietnam to better implement the dissemination of all newly issued regulations of Vietnam to the WTO; at the same time to provide Vietnam with the US Good Aquaculture Practices Training Program.

Source: ICD-MARD

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Source: ICD-MARD

Viet Nam, Indonesia boost fisheries cooperation

Ha Noi, 05/12/07: Viet Nam and Indonesia have pledged to further boost their cooperation in fisheries by signing a document on their negotiation.

Signatories were Aquatic Resources Exploitation and Protection Department Director Chu Tien Vinh and Sea Fish Exploitation Department Director under the Indonesian Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Affairs, Parlin Tabunan.

According to Tabunan, the old Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on fisheries cooperation between the Vietnamese Fisheries Ministry and the Indonesian Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Affairs will expire on January 1, 2008, compelling the two sides to propose their Governments an extension or creation of a new MoU.

The new MoU, with additions to investment in seafood processing in Indonesia, will be submitted to the two ministries for approval.

Source: VNA

4. NEW PROJECTS FOR THE SECTOR



ADB finances anti-poverty and infrastructure projects

Ha Noi, 20/12/07: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will provide loans of 115 million USD for a poverty program and infrastructure development projects in Viet Nam.

Agreements to this effect were signed by ADB Country Director Ayumi Konishi and Governor of the State Bank of Viet Nam Nguyen Van Giau in Ha Noi on December 20.

Of the sum, 90 million USD will be provided for the Integrated Rural Development Sector Project which will build rural roads, flood control systems, irrigation works and water systems for 13 central provinces.

A loan of 15 million USD will go to the Government's Poverty Reduction Programme which is expected to boost social insurance reform and gender balance as well as strengthen financial, land and natural resources management.

The 10-million-USD loan will be allocated to the development of the Ho Chi Minh City-Long Thanh-Dau Giay Expressway to help ease congestion in and around the country's southern economic hub.

Source: VNA

Signing of Agriculture Programme

Hanoi, 11 Dec. 07: The Agriculture and Rural Development program was signed December 11. The 230 million DKK program focuses on the poor minorities in mountainous areas.

The Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Danish Ambassador signed the new Danida supported Agricultural and Rural Development Sector Programme Support 2007 – 2012 (ARD SPS) at a cheerful ceremony.

The programme aims at reducing poverty and improving the living conditions of the rural population, especially for the upland poor and vulnerable groups, ethnic minorities and women headed households.

Five mountainous provinces, including Lai Chau, Lao Cai, Dien Bien, Dak Lak and Dak Nong,

are covered by the 230 million DKK support, and the support will go through the Vietnamese systems to enhance the sustainability of the program.

Source: Danida-ICDMARD

Japan and ADB Assist Urban Poor in Viet Nam's Thanh Hoa Province

Manila, Philippines, 14 Dec 07: Japan and ADB are tackling problems faced by the urban poor in Viet Nam's Thanh Hoa province, funding \$2 million in improvements to infrastructure, increasing skills training and enhancing local participation in development planning.

The grant from the [Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction](#) will be managed by ADB, with the government of Viet Nam providing \$400,000 to complete the project's funding.

ADB is providing support for the comprehensive socioeconomic development of small- and medium-sized cities such as Thanh Hoa to strengthen their development links with rural areas and reduce environmental pressures on large cities.

The Thanh Hoa Province Small Scale Infrastructure Investments and Services in Urban and Peri-Urban Areas project will encourage innovative, participatory approaches to identifying, implementing and operating small-scale urban infrastructure.

The project will provide a venue in which those principles can develop into working partnerships between the community and the local government. It will also provide the community and local governments with the funds, technical support and guidance to carry out new responsibilities under the concept of decentralization and bottom-up planning. More can be seen at:

<http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2007/12329-vietnamese-urban-poverties/>

Source: ADB web

Public Service Provision Improvement Programme in ARD signed

Hanoi, 11/12/07: at MARD Office, the Agreement on "Public Service Provision Improvement Programme in Agriculture and Rural Development PS-ARD, 2008 to 2010, Vietnam" was signed between MARD Minister Cao Duc Phat and H.E Jean-Hubert Lebet. Swiss Ambassador also signed MoU with the representatives from PPC of Cao Bang and Hoa Binh on implementation of the program.

The Goal of PS-ARD Programme is to contribute to the improvement of livelihoods in the upland and ethnic minority areas of Hoa Binh and Cao Bang in terms of food security, income and environmental sustainability. Specifically, it will contribute to building up efficient and effective

decentralized public service delivery systems and processes in agriculture and rural development.

The program has 4 components, to be implemented from 01.01.2008 to 31.12.2010. The Swiss Government would provide a grant total 6.560.000 USD.

Source: ICDMARD

5. INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION



Chile set to speed up free trade talks with Viet Nam

Buenos Aires, 28/12/07: Chile has accelerated the negotiation for a free trade agreement with Viet Nam as one of its top priorities in the government's 2008 working agenda, Chilean Vice Minister for International Trade and Foreign Affairs Carlos Furche has said.

According to the "El Mercurio" newspaper, an FTA with Viet Nam is expected to give a further boost to the South American country's exports.

Chile's exports this year will hit a record of over 67 billion USD, which is thanks to price increases of copper, one of its key export staples, and to the FTAs that Chile has inked with other countries, the paper quoted Vice Minister Carlos Furche as saying.

He also confirmed that aside from Viet Nam, Chile will speed up FTA negotiations with Australia, Malaysia and Turkey and as well as talks on financial services with Mexico.

Source: VNA

USA and Vietnam tighten the relations in trade and investment

Hanoi, 21/12/07: Mr. Stephen J. Norton, Assistant to Press Secretary of United States Trade Representative (USTR), in a minister level meeting, released that USA and Vietnam shared the same objective to consolidate the relations in bilateral trades and investments.

As stated by Mr. Norton, the first minister level meeting of the Inter- Governmental Council for Trade and Investment Framework Agreement conducted on December 17, 2007 in USTR headquarter in Washington DC was an opportunity for effective dialogue on priority identified issues in any fields. The outcomes of the dialogue have shown that the two countries are heading for more tightened closer relations in trades and investments.

Mr. Norton emphasized that USA had agreed to support Vietnam in its efforts to implement the commitments in WTO and to push up the economic reform programs.

In the area of agricultural trade, the two sides would create the advantages to expand the market for

staple products such as poultry meat and beef from USA and tropical fruits and flowers from Vietnam.

Source: VNA

6. EXPORTS PERFORMANCE

Ca Mau agricultural exports earn 604 million USD



Ca Mau, 29/12/07: Ca Mau province led the country in the export of aqua-cultural products in 2007, with 604 million USD export value, an increase of 4.6 percent against last year.

Its target for next year is 660 million USD, contributing 90 percent of the province's total turnover.

The province currently has 21 fishery companies that produce 147,589 tonnes a year and export products to more than 30 countries and territories.

Source: VNA

All imported breeding shrimps quarantined

Ha Noi, 27/12/07: Management agencies under the National Fisheries Quality Assurance Veterinary Directorate (Nafiqaved) have quarantined all breeding shrimps imported through border gates in 2007 nationwide.

The total included 4.7 million breeding black shrimps, 124,000 mother black shrimps, 8,589 mother white-legged shrimps and about 300 fries.

The Nafiqaved also tightened hygiene and veterinary examination in all breeding and aquaculture farms.

The Nafiqaved remarked that the quarantine has contributed to the successes of the aquaculture sector.

Source: VNA

7. FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

Viet Nam draws record FDI of 20.3 billion USD



Ha Noi, 24/12/2007: Viet Nam attracted a total foreign direct investment (FDI) capital of 20.3 billion USD in 2007, the highest figure since the Foreign Investment Law was enacted in 1988.

According to the Department for Foreign Investment under the Ministry of Planning and Investment, the figure represents a year-on-year increase of 69.1 percent.

Of the total, 1,500 newly licensed projects brought in 17.6 billion USD.

This year, only 4.6 billion USD were disbursed. The country will try to disburse 5.6-6

billion USD of the expected 15 billion USD in FDI next year, according to the department.

Source: VNA

Malaysian firm to invest in Viet Nam's agricultural sector

Kuala Lumpur, 23/12/2007: Malaysia's Greenyard Bhd, a producer of chemicals and services for the agriculture industry, plans to spend 1.2 million USD to set up its first overseas factory in Viet Nam.

The factory, which is expected to be operational by 2010, will provide plantation and non-plantation services for the rubber industry.

"We chose Viet Nam because of recent developments in trade agreements which made business conditions there very favourable to us," Greenyard group's executive chairman and managing director Tham Foo Keong was quoted by local media as saying.

He added that the Vietnamese government is offering very attractive incentives as well as tax exemptions for setting up a plant in the country.

The factory is earmarked to be the group's global distribution facility, which will enhance its abilities to increase export growth, he said.

Source: VNA

8. MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS



Viet Nam trade fair kicks off in Australia

Sydney, 02/12/07: A Viet Nam trade fair was opened in Sydney, Australia, on November 30 under the aegis of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Vietnamese Embassy and the Australia-Viet Nam Commerce Chamber.

The event drew the participation of some 40 businesses from Viet Nam and Australia, which displayed textile and garment, handicrafts, seafood, agricultural product, and construction materials.

Addressing the event, Deputy Director of the Asia-Pacific Department of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Cao Nang Gian highlighted cooperation potential between Viet Nam and Australia, affirming the Vietnamese Government's policy to develop its trade ties with regional countries, including Australia.

Source: VNA

Is Reserving the Land for Forestry Production an Indispensable Need?

Hanoi, 4/12/07: the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Institute of Policy & Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development, the Center for International Forest Research (CIFOR) and the Forestry Sector Support Partnership (FSSP) held a

conference in Ha Long, Quang Ninh on "Reserving the Land for Reforestation Production: Existing Status and Solutions". This conference was the follow-up of the forum "Investment into Forestry Sector: Opportunity and Challenge" which had been organized in Hanoi in May 9, 2007.

In the conference, the participants were informed through an analysis into the overview of the state macro-policies and experiences gained from some provinces and enterprises. The proposed Project on Land and Forest Allocation for 2007-2010 was also introduced in the conference as the key policy in this theme.

Contact for detailed information:
fssp@hn.vnn.vn

Source: MARD

Official Launching of the World Development Report 2008

Hanoi, Dec 11, 07: The latest World Development Report titled 'Agriculture for Development', took place today in Hanoi by the World Bank and Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. It says more and better investment in agriculture in transforming economies, including Vietnam, is vital to the welfare of the rural poor living in those countries.

"Growth in Vietnam has so far been benefiting both urban and rural areas. In 1993 two thirds of the rural population was considered poor in rural Vietnam." said Martin Rama, Lead Economist of the World Bank in Vietnam at the launching ceremony. "Now the number has declined to one in five."

The report says agriculture can provide pathways out of poverty for millions of rural poor who would otherwise be left behind in transforming economies. It says one way out is through a high-value agricultural revolution.

"Rapidly transforming economies, including Vietnam, must move beyond the green revolution to focus on new high-value agriculture—with fast-growing urban incomes and demand for high-value products in cities becoming the drivers of agricultural growth and poverty reduction," said Derek Byerlee, Team Leader on the report. "Globally, countries must deliver a level playing field for trade, while farmer organizations and other local groups need more say in setting policies."

For its part, the World Bank is committed to increasing its support for agriculture and rural development. In FY07, commitments globally reached \$3.1 billion, marking an increase for the fourth straight year.

To download the full report, please go to:
<http://go.worldbank.org/ZJJAOSUFU0>

Source: WB Hanoi

9. NEW PUBLICATIONS



Japan releases ODA White Paper 2007

Tokyo, 21/12/07: The Japanese Government on December 21 released the White Paper on Official Development Assistance 2007.

The paper underscored Japan's eagerness to take the lead in helping developing nations fight global warming and facilitating international efforts to support African development as host of two key conferences next year.

The annual ODA report described 2008 as an "extremely important year" for Japan, as it is set to host the Tokyo International Conference on African Development in May and the Group of Eight nations' summit in July.

The release of the white paper came a day after the Finance Ministry proposed in its draft national budget cutting ODA by 4 percent, down for the ninth straight year, to 700.2 billion yen for fiscal 2008 beginning April 1.

Source: VNA

Conscious Actions Critical for Rural Poor to Benefit from Growth in Asia: ADB Book

Manila, Philippines, 14 Dec 07: As an unacceptably large number of rural people have been left behind the remarkable economic progress in the Asia and Pacific region, a set of conscious policies and actions are urgently needed to include them in the development process, according to a new book by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

"Inclusive rural development is not a definite and automatic outcome of overall economic growth or even rural economic growth. A rising tide does not lift all boats," concludes the Rural Development Outcomes and Drivers, released this week.

Despite impressive economic transformation that the Asia and Pacific region experienced in the last five decades, persistent rural poverty is a major development problem. The book covers different but interrelated dimensions of rural development: economic, social and political.

More can be obtained from:
<http://www.adb.org/Media/Articles/2007/12328-asian-rural-developments-studies/default.asp>

Source: ADB web

Websites helps simplify investment license procedures

Ha Noi, 19/12/07: A website on investment license procedures in Viet Nam will be launched this month to facilitate the work of domestic and foreign investors.

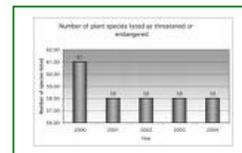
The website, <http://vietnam.investway.info>, is part of E-regulations Viet Nam project, which was announced in Ha Noi on December 19.

In another development, the MPI and the Agency for Small and Medium Enterprise Development (ASMED) launched a website at <http://www.business.gov.vn> in February to provide information on procedures and policies assisting SMEs.

Source: VNA

10. ODA PERFORMANCE

EU to grant 500 million EUR in aid to Viet Nam



Ha Noi, 06/12/07: The European Union (EU) will provide close to 645 million EUR (950 million USD) to Viet Nam in 2008. Of the aid fund, 500 million EUR in non-refundable aid will focus on poverty reduction, education and public health, and good governance.

The European Commission's EuropeAid Cooperation Office Director General, Koos Richelle, said the aid commitment will be announced at the end of the two-day Consultative Group (CG) meeting, which opened in Ha Noi on December 6.

"Generally speaking, we are satisfied with how things are moving on the effectiveness of the EU's ODA in Viet Nam," Rechelle said, adding that it was hoped ODA disbursement will be sped up.

The EuroAid official said Viet Nam's economy has been developing vigorously and that when Viet Nam becomes a middle-income country expected by 2010, it will consider cutting down non-refundable ODA and the EU's nonrefundable aid to Viet Nam will move into financial loans.

However, Richelle affirmed that the EU will continue its ODA to Viet Nam at least until 2013 – three years after Viet Nam meets its goal to become a middle-income country.

He said in the coming years, the EU wants to move its ODA to Viet Nam out of individual projects into sector support.

"In order to make that possible, the Vietnamese Government must have plans and policies, then we can contribute to the implementation of the plans," Richelle said.

The EU is Viet Nam's second largest donor of development assistance and the first provider of grant assistance. In 2007 it pledged 948 million USD, of which more than 493 million USD is non-refundable aid. This figure represents 21 percent of the total donors' pledge.

Source: VNA

UK commits US \$100 million as grant aid for Vietnam next year

Hanoi, 07/12/07: The UK Department of International Development (DFID) today announced that it would provide grant aid worth £50 million (about US \$100 million) for Vietnam in 2008.

This maintains the UK's position as one of Vietnam's largest grant donors and shows the UK's recognition of Vietnam's development progress so far and its confidence in Vietnam's future.

Donal Brown, head of DFID Vietnam, said: "2007 has been the year of WTO accession. Joining the WTO has opened up huge opportunities for Vietnam and its people."

"DFID's job is to support Vietnam's Government, institutions and civil society to take advantage of these opportunities and address major social and environmental challenges, he added.

In 2006, the first ever 10-year Development Partnership Arrangement (DPA) 2006-2015 was signed between the Government of Vietnam and DFID, committing financial support of £250 million (US \$500 million) over next five years. Since 1992, DFID has provided grant aid worth about US \$450 million to Vietnam.

Source: VietNamNet Bridge

11. COMING EVENTS



Exhibition and trade fair 2008 in Singapore

Vietnam's Trade Department in Singapore, 04/12/2007:

The Vietnam's Trade Department in Singapore announced the calendar of exhibitions and trade fairs to be held in Singapore in 2008, which is significant to enterprises: see details at:

http://www.mot.gov.vn/mot/tag.idempotent.render.userLayoutRootNode.target.n106.uP?uP_root=root&cmd=item&ID=2227

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

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

Source: VNA

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

No	Issuing Agencies, Titles and References	Summary of main contents
Government		
1.	Decree 178/2007/NĐ-CP dated 03.12.2007 issued by the Government specifying the functions, duties, authority and organizational structure of the Ministries and Ministerial Agencies. <i>PM Nguyen Tan Dung: signed</i>	According to this Decree, each ministry would have less than 4 assigned vice ministers. The Prime Minister makes final decision on special cases. The bodies to support the Minister in governance comprise Departments, Offices, Inspectors, Bureaus, General Departments and representative offices in provinces and other countries. The number of deputies in ministry-affiliated organizations is specified to less than 3 persons. The Minister works in the mode of head of the body, under government working statute to follow the principle of democratic concentration. The Minister is responsible for the quality, contents of the legal documents prepared by the Ministry, he must be accountable for the decisions made by the vice-ministers who are assigned and/or authorized to do the tasks.
2.	Decree 179/2007/NĐ-CP issued by the Government on the promulgation of the government working statute <i>PM Nguyen Tan Dung: signed</i>	According to this Decree, the Government specifies: each governmental member must have a personal E-mail to receive and send information, document, letters, invitations for meetings, messages and opinion exchanges, he/she must be equipped with the device for processing, information exchange, networking and on-line meetings. The governmental members must conduct the plan for field visits, missions to bases, plans for receipt and dialogue with citizens in the areas of his control. The government has periodical meeting once a month. The PM could summon members for imperative meetings. The imperative meeting could also be convened when request is made by at least one third of the governmental members.
Prime Minister		
3.	Directive 29/2007/CT-TTg issued by the PM on administrative reform implementation in management over the immigration of officials, government employees, and citizens. <i>PM Nguyen Tan Dung: signed</i>	To realize the administrative reform in management over the migration and immigration of officials, government employees, and citizens, the PM issued the directive which states that: the officials, government employees, army officers, soldiers, employees in the Army units and public security units can apply for Ordinary Passport like other citizens without producing or bearing any other papers. The Ministers, the heads of ministerial level agencies, the heads of governmental agencies, chairmen of Provincial People's Committees, centrally governed cities are responsible for the governance over the performance of officials, public servants, state employees within the existing regulations. If it is found necessary, internal regulations could be produced on the use of Ordinary Passport held by officials, public servants, and state employees under its management for overseas travel.
MARD		
4.	Decision 97/2007/QĐ-BNN dated 3.12.2007 on the announcement of the list of legal documents which had been promulgated by MARD and expire by 30.10.2007.	This Decision announces the List of legal documents and regulations promulgated by MARD and they expire by 30.10.2007 comprising 81 titles, classified in 10 areas: Co-operatives and Rural Development; agricultural and forestry product processing; irrigation and water work construction; dikes and flood & typhoon mitigation;

	<i>MARD Minister: Cao Duc Phat: signed</i>	veterinary; husbandry; plant protection; horticulture; forestry; aquaculture products.
5.	Decision 98/2007/QĐ-BNN dated 3.12.2007 with revisions of Decision 71/2007/QĐ-BNN dated 06.8.2007 issued by Minister of MARD specifying the procedures and sequences in tests and experiments on veterinary medicines. <i>Vice minister Bui Ba Bong: signed</i>	This Decision revises, supplements the Article 3, Article 4 and Clause 1 Article 8 of the Decision 71/2007/QĐ-BNN on certain concepts, cases of compulsory tests, experiment, exceptional cases of clearance without tests, experiment and the deadline for outcome.
6.	Decision 99/2007/QĐ-BNN dated 03.12.2007 with revision and amendment in Decision 10/2006/QĐ-BNN dated 10/02/2007 issued by Minister of MARD specifying the procedures for registration in production, import, circulation of veterinary medicine, materials for veterinary medicine production, bio-products, bio-micro organism, chemicals used in veterinary medicine. <i>Vice minister Bui Ba Bong: signed</i>	This Decision revises, supplements Article 3, Article 5, Article 8, Article 14 in Regulations on procedures for registration in production, import, circulation of veterinary medicine, materials for veterinary medicine production, bio-products, bio-micro organism, chemicals used in veterinary medicine, promulgated as an attachment to Decision 10/2006/QĐ-BNN with contents in terminology, labeling, dossiers for registration, procedures for approval, granting certificate to allow veterinary medicine circulation.
7.	Decision 100/2007/QĐ-BNN dated 03.12.2007 with revision and amendment to Decision 72/2007/QĐ-BNN dated 06/8/2007 issued by Minister of MARD on Regulations for quality control over veterinary medicine . <i>Vice minister Bui Ba Bong: signed</i>	This Decision revises, supplements Article 10, Article 11 Decision 72/2007/QĐ-BNN relating to the checks on imported veterinary medicine within the List of permitted circulation in Vietnam; raw materials, sub-materials, solven, reagents and chemicals for veterinary medicine; the dossier preparation and deadline for dossier appraisal and certification over the receipt of dossier.
8.	Circular no. 101/2007/TT-BNN dated 10.12.2007 with revision and amendment to Circular no.32/2006/TT-BNN dated 08.5.2006 issued by MARD “Instructions to implement Decree 12/2006/NĐ-CP dated 23.1.2006 issued by the Government “Detailed regulations for enactment of Trade Law on international sales and purchases, and agents for purchases , sales, and contracted production and transit of goods with other countries” <i>MARD Minister: Cao Duc Phat: signed</i>	This circular revise and change some contents on the imported goods in the List of physical objects under the quarantine before the customs clearance; the first import for experiment is needed for plant protection medicine and materials for producing medicine, living creatures in area of plant protection; regulations on “ <i>Smilax begelii</i> ” essential oil and the export of wooden products produced from rare timbers of Group IA – it would be the evidence for confiscation as specified by existing regulations; and Group IIA specified in Decree 32/2006/NĐ-CP dated 30.3.2006 issued by the Government on management over rare and precious forest plants, animals being in threatened status .
9.	Decision 102/2007/QĐ-BNN dated 11.12.2007 promulgated on “List of fertilizers with permission to be produced, one sales and utilized in Viet Nam <i>Vice minister Bui Ba Bong: signed</i>	The Decision supplements 155 types of fertilizers with permission to be produced, one sales and utilized in Viet Nam comprising the following types in classification: 1. Single mineral fertilizer: 01 type; 2. Organic fertilizer: 03 types; 3. Mineral organic fertilizer: 11 types; 4. Micro-organic fertilizer: 09 types; 5. Bio-organic fertilizer: 13 types; 6. Leave compost fertilizer: 115 types; 7. Neutralized micro fertilizer: 03 types;
10.	Decision 103/2007/QĐ-BNN dated 24.12.2007 on supplement of plants into the list of protected plants and assignment to be given to units responsible for DUS experiment. <i>Vice minister Bui Ba Bong: signed</i>	This Decision adds 10 plants into the List of protected plants and assignment to be given to units responsible for DUS experiment on those plants in terms of Difference, Uniformity, and Sustainability.

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>
4. Intellasia News Services - Vietnam latest promulgated legal documents
http://www.intellasia.com/new_laws.shtml
5. The International Support Group
<http://www.isgmard.org.vn/Information%20Service/Legal%20docs/Legaldoc-list-e.asp>

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

1. Office of the National Assembly >> Law Database:
<http://www.vietlaw.gov.vn/>
2. Government of Vietnam - Legal Documents:
http://www.chinhphu.vn/portal/page?_pageid=33,638897&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL
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:
<http://www.chinhphu.vn>

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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