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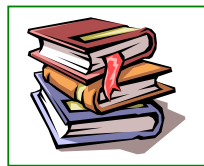
Issue No. 57 – April 2008

HIGHLIGHTS

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

1. POLICY DEVELOPMENT/REVIEW



Animal breeders want bigger economic bite

HCM City, 08/03/08: The animal husbandry sector targets a higher share of all agricultural products to 42 percent and 32 percent by 2010 and 2020, respectively. Dr. Hoang Kim Giao, Director General of the Animal Husbandry Department-MARD, said: “To reach the goal, the sector would have to achieve an annual growth rate of 8-9 percent to 2010 and 6-7 percent from 2010-2015.

In order to reach those goals, the sector would have to produce 3.2 million tonnes of meat of various kinds, 380,000 tonnes of fresh milk and 7 billion eggs in 2010.

It would have to produce 5.5 million tonnes of meat, 1 million tonnes of milk and 14 billion eggs in 2020 to ensure the average per capita of 56 kilos of meat, 10.2 kilos of fresh milk and 140 eggs a year, Giao said.

The industry needs to follow industrial methods by building large-scale farms with modern farming technology, which would shield domestic herds of livestock from epidemics and ensure food safety and environmental protection, he said.

It should also create close relations between companies and farmers to develop professional

product distribution systems to facilitate breeders’ consumption and stabilize market prices, Giao said. Giao said that specialized processes would be strictly controlled to ensure the quality of products as well as food hygiene and safety.

Farmers would be encouraged to use industrially processed feed and control epidemics, especially serious foot-and-mouth disease, avian flu, and respiratory and reproductive disorders.

More waste treatment systems would be built at breeding farms to increase the percentage of farms having treatment facilities to 45 percent in 2010 and 70 percent in 2015.

The industry plans to build large-scale commercial breeding areas in suitable climates and soil, such as northern Midland area, Central Highlands, and several northern and southeastern provinces.

The industry has already established a legal framework on the management of animal breeders and feed.

Source: VNA

2. BILATERAL COOPERATION

Gov’t direction on IFAD aid



Ha Noi, 07/03/08: Deputy Prime Minister Pham Gia Khiem has assigned relevant agencies to

work with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to ensure aid projects begin by November this year.

In a document released by the Government Office on March 6, Deputy PM Khiem urged for steps to be taken to ensure the IFAD's 100-million-USD aid commitments for 2008-2012 are used effectively.

He named the Ministry of Planning and Investment as the key authority to work with the ministries of Finance, Agriculture and Rural Development, and Foreign Affairs, as well as the Government Office and other responsible agencies to ensure smooth reception of the IFAD funding.

These agencies will work with the IFAD on qualification for aid beneficiaries and submit a list of eligible provinces for government approval in March.

The ministries must also finalize a draft national framework of cooperation with the IFAD for 2008-2012.

Source: VNA

VN, Ukraine advance aquaculture cooperation

Ha Noi, 04/03/08: Viet Nam and Ukraine have signed an agreement to boost cooperation on fisheries and aquaculture.

The agreement's key initiatives include information exchange and technology transfer in fisheries, especially in bio-chemistry technologies. It also involves sharing training on aquaculture.

The agreement was signed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Ukraine Aquaculture Economic Committee (UAEC) in Ha Noi on March 4.

The two sides said they hoped cooperation between Vietnamese and Ukrainian enterprises would strengthen and develop for the long-term.

According to UAEC President Volkov Vladimir Vasilievich, the Ukraine government plans to support coldwater fish breeding in Viet Nam.

Ukraine also hoped to share experiences with Viet Nam in fish-related diseases, maritime safety and fish processing.

They also showed interest in Viet Nam's exported aquatic products, such as tiger prawn, "basa" catfish and cobia fish.

Source: MARD-web-VNA

3. NEW PROJECTS



Exchange of diplomatic Notes for the project "Empowerment to the community damaged by Forest Fire in Ca Mau province"

Hanoi, 12 March 08: At the MARD office, the signing and exchange of the Diplomatic Notes for the project "Empowerment to the community damaged by Forest

Fire in Ca Mau province" was held between the Japanese Embassy and Ca Mau PPC.

This project is funded by the Government of Japan with the total grant of 905 million Yen.

At the ceremony, Mr. Bui Cong Buu, Chairman of the PPC of Ca Mau, said that the PPC will steer and instruct its DARD, CPOs as well as other relevant departments/agencies, localities to well function their tasks concerning implementation of the project. The PPC will also closely cooperate with the Japanese Embassy and JICA to ensure smooth project progress.

Source: ICD MARD

Switzerland supports to sustainable forestry management and forestry products trading

Hanoi, 13/03/08: the National Economics Department of the Switzerland has supported Vietnam with an amount of USD 458.000 to implement the project "sustainable forestry management and forest products trading" in the Mekong region.

The project timeframe is 3 years, from 2008 to 2010, with the main objective being to support wood companies in the region to obtain the certificate from the Forest Steering Committee (FSC).

The FSC certificate granted to companies will be an important factor for the world consumers to decide buying markets places. To the Vietnam's wood exports markets, the FSC certificate has become a key indicator for accessing international markets of high profits./.

Source: VNA

4. INVESTMENT IN THE SECTOR

Dak Nong gives ethnic people agricultural support



Dak Nong, 28/03/08: Central Highlands Dak Nong province has invested more than 4.3 million USD (70 billion VND) in a project to train ethnic farmers in agricultural production techniques.

The five-year programme, assisted by the Danish International Development Assistance (DANIDA), has helped farmers in Krong No and Dak Nong districts implement sustainable, high-yield agricultural models.

Starting from 2007, the programme is expected to improve living standards of poor ethnic people in the province.

Source: VNA

Rubber plantation to stretch by 100,000ha

HCM City, 15/03/08: Rubber plantation will be expanded to a total of 100,000ha by 2010, according to a recent decision made by the Ministry of Agriculture

and Rural Development and the Gia Lai People's Committee.

Since 2006, companies in the Central Highlands planted 5,500 ha of rubber trees, out of the targeted 100,000, according to the Central Highlands' Steering Committee.

The conference was told the rubber industry must consult local residents about policies and be sensitive to the needs of ethnic minorities.

Source: VNA

Over VND 139 billion invested into forestry extension

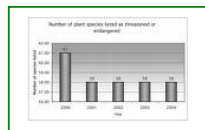
Hanoi 24.03.08: The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has approved the proposal for forestry extension during 2008-2010 and orientation up to 2020, with the investment amounts up to VND 139 billion for stage 2008-2010.

The fund will be invested into the training of forestry extensionists; construction of demonstrative models, training of forest owners; information and communication in forestry extension; support to the forestry extension and setting up the pilot model.

The objectives of the project are to upgrade the skills of management, development and protection of the forest for 80% of the forest owners (800,000 persons); to designate at least one forestry extensionist for each commune and to improve the capacity for voluntary forestry extensionist system; to attract 50% of the forestry enterprises of various economic elements and mass organizations to take part in the forestry extension activities.

Source: VNA

5. ODA PERFORMANCE



Italy-funded agricultural project benefits Thua Thien-Hue

Thua Thien-Hue, 20/03/08: An Italian-funded agricultural development and irrigation project is helping improve the living standards of 1,300 poor families in central Thua Thien Hue province.

The 2.6-million-EUR project is being carried out in Phu Vang district's Vinh Ha, Vinh Thai and Phu Da communes from 2007-2009.

This year, the project will focus on Vinh Thai commune and upgrade pumping stations, build and dredge canals, construct a drainage system and strengthen the local dyke.

Earlier, in Vinh Ha commune, the project ran 44 farming training courses for more than 1,300 people, as well as built 150 pig pens and provided 300 farmers with loans to develop livestock breeding.

Under the project, irrigation has also been built and put into use to assist growth and drainage of 400ha of rice.

The Italian Foreign Ministry is putting 1.5 million EUR toward the project and Italian organisation GVC providing 414,600 EUR.

Source: VNA

6. FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

Solutions to speed up FDI disbursement rate



Hanoi, 25/03/08: proposal to speed up the disbursement rate of foreign direct investment (FDI) capital is being considered by the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI).

With the number of projects and registered capital on the increase, especially since Viet Nam joined the World Trade Organisation, it is hoped the scheme will break slow FDI disbursement.

Foreign Investment Department (FID) Head, Phan Huu Thang said the proposal classifies and puts forward assistance policies suitable to projects in each locality, with priorities given to key ones that have great impact on localities and regions.

In a press briefing held at the end of last year, Minister of Planning and Investment said that speeding up the disbursement rate is a key ministry task in 2008 alongside selecting investment projects to benefit economic development.

As a result, the ministry only set a modest target of attracting 15 billion USD in FDI, 5 billion USD less than last year's figure.

Source: VNA

67 million USD for Central Highlands plantations

Kon Tum, 04/03/08: Plans for a new tree plantation to supply the paper industry are underway for the Central Highlands province of Kon Tum.

The InnovGreen Kon Tum company has pledged to invest 67 million USD in the slated plantation.

According to the province's Department of Planning and Investment, InnovGreen Kon Tum has completed field work to rent a 65,000ha area, crossing 52 communes of the province, for 50 years.

The plantation project, the largest ever in Kon Tum, is expected to provide jobs for ethnic minority groups and contribute to poverty reduction and socio-economic development.

This year, local authorities gave the nod to three other investors for developing similar material forests in Kon Tum province.

Source: VNA

Company targets 10,000 ha of rubber trees in Laos

Vientiane, 12/03/08: The Dau Tieng Viet-Laos Rubber Joint Stock Company is set to plant 4,000 ha of rubber

trees in 2008 in an effort to fulfill its goal of planting 10,000 ha in southern Champasak province of Laos .

Local authorities and people highly appreciated the company's project achievements, considering it as a cooperation model between Laos ' Champasak province and Viet Nam 's Binh Duong province, which has contributed to reduce poverty in the project site.

The Dau Tieng Viet-Laos company was established in June 2007 by Dau Tieng Rubber Company, Binh Duong Import-Export Company and Hung Vuong Joint Stock Company. It had planted 2,300 ha of rubber trees by the end of last year.

Source: VNA

Fisheries food plant opens in Mekong province

Tien Giang, 07/03/08: The Higashimaru Viet Nam Ltd Company, located in the Tan Huong Industrial Zone, has inaugurated its fisheries food processing plant in the Mekong Delta province of Tien Giang.

This 4 million USD plant will, in the first phase, have a capacity to produce between 10,000 and 15,000 tonnes per year.

In the second phase, Higashimaru Viet Nam Ltd Co will increase its investment of 10 million USD to increase the capacity to 50,000 tonnes per year.

Source: VNA

PM requests higher efficiency in Vietnam-Lao investment

Hanoi, 22/03/08: Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung has said Vietnam and Laos should work harder to increase the efficiency in their investment cooperation.

During a meeting with the visiting Lao Minister of Planning and Investment, Soulivong Daravong, in Hanoi on March 22, the PM asked the two ministries of Planning and Investment to increase the exchange of information and strengthen their cooperation and mutual assistance.

The Lao Minister informed the PM of the results of his Vietnam visit, particularly the signing of a cooperative agreement for 2008 between his ministry and its Vietnamese counterpart.

He said close ties between the two ministries have helped boost economic cooperation between the two countries, especially in power, mining and industrial crops.

Source: VNA

Taiwanese firm gets green light for tree plantation

Kon Tum, 21/03/08: Central Highlands Kon Tum provincial authorities on March 21 granted a licence to Taiwan 's InnovGreen Kon Tum company to build a tree plantation in the locality.

Accordingly, the company will invest over 1 trillion VND (67 million USD) in developing a tree plantation to serve the paper industry.

The plantation will span 65,000ha, crossing 52 communes in seven districts, including Dak Glei, Dak Ha, Dak To, Kon Ray, Ngoc Hoi, Sa Thay, Tu Mo Rong and Kon Tum town.

The project, the largest of its kind in Kon Tum province so far, will be implemented between now and 2017.

In addition to the tree plantations, InnovGreen Kon Tum will cultivate seedlings, process wood, produce paper pulp and manage export and import activities.

InnovGreen Kon Tum is the only wholly-foreign-invested company licensed in Kon Tum province since the Investment and Enterprise Law came into effect.

Source: VNA

7. EXPORTS PERFORMANCE

Two-month aquatic product exports fetch 550 mln. USD



Ha Noi, 03/03/08: Viet Nam earned around 295 million USD from aquatic product export in February, bringing the total export value of the products for the past two months to 550 million USD.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development said the US , Japan and European countries remained Viet Nam 's big aquatic product consumers.

According to the Viet Nam Association of Seafood Exporters and Processors, prolonged cold weather since early this year has affected aquatic product output, pushing the prices up by 30-50 percent on the domestic market.

Source: VNA

Increasing the Export of Agricultural Products for Curbing the Inflation

Hanoi, 20.3.2008: Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung emphasized that the agriculture sector had to motivate the strengths in agricultural production, husbandry, and sea products to increase the export volume so as to help curb the inflation and accelerate economic growth.

Working with the MARD leaders on March 20, 2008, PM pointed out that the agriculture had to stabilize the prices of the agricultural commodities and food and ensure the food safety, to avoid the price increase, to ensure the cereal collection at manageable prices for the farmers.

The Prime Minister assigned the Ministry of Finance with the task to work out a proposal for rice export, temporary cancellation of signing new export

contract, to ensure the maximum export of 3.5 million tons of rice by October 2008 and to mobilize the support to stricken areas in the situation of high rising prices.

The PM confirmed that the current foremost priority of the government was to concentrate on curbing the inflation, at least at a level lower than the previous year, and not to affect the growth rate of 8-8.5%.

Source: VNA

Dutch help HCM City export fresh food

HCM City, 13/03/08: A Netherlands company with expertise in promoting exports from developing countries to the European Union, will help Ho Chi Minh City boost shipments of flowers, vegetables and fruit to the bloc.

Under an agreement signed between the Netherlands CBI and the HCM City Agricultural Consultancy and Support Centre (HCACS) on March 13, the southern city will be helped to improve its fresh food export management and marketing skills.

HCACS Director Tu Minh Thien says the agreement will tap the international organisation's resources to improve the competitiveness and production efficiency of small- and medium-sized enterprises and farm produce.

Thien said the three year-long programme from 2008-2010 will also help his organisation improve its working capacity and expand an alliance of relevant agencies.

The alliance is comprised of organisations that support local enterprises and agricultural management agencies that have a strong potential to export to the EU.

Ho Chi Minh City is among the largest flower producers and the largest consumer and transit market in Viet Nam.

Source: VNA

8. INTERNATIONAL INTEGRATION



Japan signs free trade agreement with ASEAN

Hanoi, 28/03/08: Japan signed a free trade agreement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to promote trade and investment between the two sides, news reports said on March 28.

Under the accord, Japan will eliminate tariffs on 93 percent of imports from ASEAN by value within 10 years, while six ASEAN members, including Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand, will abolish tariffs on 90 percent of imports from Japan within 10 years in terms of both value and the number of items.

The document, inked by Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura on behalf of Japan, is expected to be endorsed by respective ASEAN members within April. It will come into effect in Autumn, news reports said.

The deal was finalized last November after two and a half years of negotiations. The two sides have been fine-tuning the wording and other procedures since then.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Source: VNA

9. MEETINGS/WORKSHOPS

Australians plan agricultural research co-operation effort



Ha Noi, 07-03-08: Australia's International Agricultural Research Centre will spend US\$3 million this year in its work in co-operation with Viet Nam.

The work will be based on the results of a two-day conference between the Viet Nam Agricultural Sciences Academy, the Binh Dinh Province People's Committee and the centre that finished in Quy Nhon City yesterday.

Purpose of the conference was to enhance the co-operation programme between Viet Nam and Australia on the central-southern coast.

More than 20 scientific reports about Viet Nam's agriculture – its present status potential and development – were tabled at the conference.

Most dealt with the central-southern coast and the remote north-west where poverty is high and Australian expertise is valued.

The conference reviewed the results of the institute's research and ways of enhancing its co-operation with districts, communes and mass organisations in agriculture.

The meeting also worked to develop the agriculture promotion and communication programmes.

The conference agreed to begin development of a major agriculture project in 2012.

Source: VNS

International furniture fair opens in Ho Chi Minh City

HCM City, 14/03/08: The Viet Nam International Furniture and Home Accessories Fair 2008 opened at the Phu Tho Indoor Sport Stadium in Ho Chi Minh City on March 14.

Over 550 booths of 150 local and foreign companies from 44 countries and territories display their indoor and outdoor furniture, wood fine art

articles, china and machinery and equipment for wood manufacturing and processing.

Workshops on the woodwork industry, a competition on designing wood fine art goods and field trips to wood processing plants in Viet Nam will be held during the four-day fair.

Source: VNA

Coffee export surge on horizon

Hanoi, 26/03/08: The chance to boost exports is within the reach of Vietnam's coffee industry due to a decline in world productivity and good export prices, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD).

At a coffee industry workshop held in Hanoi on March 26, MARD Deputy Minister Diep Kinh Tan said the country's coffee output has kept increasing thanks to improved quality and scale of production, making Vietnam the second largest coffee exporter in the world.

Tan said as a result, Vietnam's coffee has played an important role in the world market. However, the industry needs to ensure sustainable growth in 2008 and future years to stabilize exports.

During the workshop, coffee producers from Vietnam and Brazil, the world's largest exporter, shared market development experiences and discussed development strategies for Vietnam's coffee industry.

Last year, Vietnam earned 1.8 billion USD in coffee exports, increasing earnings by 50 percent from 2006. The industry posted an export value of 795 million USD in the first quarter of 2008.

Source: VNA

Workshop heats discussion over 2008 coffee sales

Ha Noi, 13/03/08: Measures to secure a place for Viet Nam's coffee in the world market for 2008 will be discussed at a two-day workshop for the industry in Ha Noi from March 26.

The workshop will be attended by government officials, coffee growers, processors and traders.

The purpose of the workshop is to brief participants about the prevailing and potential world market for coffee, said Agriculture and Rural Development Policy and Strategy Institute deputy director Duong Ngoc Thi on March 12.

"We'll update the Government's policy and strategy for coffee development, particularly measures to consolidate the organisation of the coffee chain," the deputy director said.

The workshop would also provide a venue for government officials, researchers, scientists, business people and international representatives to meet and exchange their ideas.

"This is a good and effective channel to collect information for decision makers," he said.

MOUs between Viet Nam and Brazil's Agricultural Ministries were scheduled to be signed at the meeting with the aim of promoting cooperation between the two countries in sustainable development and minimising risks for coffee growers and agents.

Viet Nam is the world's second largest coffee producer.

The crop provides revenue for about 600,000 farmers and employment for more than one million people.

It accounts for about 8 percent of the total value of the country's agricultural produce and about 20 percent of export revenue.

Viet Nam exported 1.2 million tonnes of coffee bean and earned 1.8 billion USD - 350 million USD higher than rice exports - last year.

Source: VNA

Seminar on sustainable poverty reduction

Thanh Hoa, 23/03/08: Many measures to speed up the poverty reduction process in Vietnam were recommended by a recent seminar on sustainable poverty reduction in central Thanh Hoa province.

Minister of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan and representatives from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Vietnamese ministries and branches and 60 districts that have the highest poverty rate in the country attended the two-day seminar that wrapped up on March 22.

Poor knowledge, low employment rate and the lack of scientific awareness and experiences for production are the reasons causing poverty in 60 districts across the country, said the participants.

Vietnam should implement its poverty reduction programme comprehensively by settling pressing issues and improving local people's knowledge along side with other measures, they suggested.

Strong investment should be poured into vocational training, job generation, infrastructure, agro-forestry and handicraft development and multiply effective economic models in 60 districts whose poverty rate stands at more than 50 percent, the participants noted.

They went on to emphasize the necessity that local authorities must effectively use the State investment capital.

Source: VNA

10. NEW PUBLICATIONS

Supplementary Report by MPI
"Socio-economic situation in
2007 and Orientations for



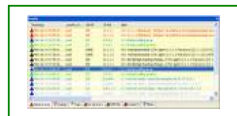
implementation of SEDP in 2008" (in Vietnamese only)

Source: MPI

Hanoi, March 25, 2008: World Bank to release its latest review of vietnam and regional economy on april 1. Details can be obtained from <http://www.worldbank.org/eapupdate>

Source: WB

12. COMING EVENT/ANNOUCEMENTS



2nd Announcement:

The 13th Animal Science Congress of the Asian - Australasian Association of

Animal Production Societies

Global Oceanic Conference to take place in Hanoi

Hanoi, 23/03/08: Over 500 participants representing countries bordered by the sea, international organizations, sea- island preservation funding donors registered to attend the Fourth Global Conference on ocean, coastal areas and islands, to take place in Hanoi during April 7-11, 2008.

This is the first time, an ever-important global event is about to take place in Vietnam, a developing country.

Dr. Nguyen Chu Hoi, the rector of Institute of Sea Product Economy and Planning, MARĐ, the head of the National Secretariat of the Conference stated that the conference would be the opportunity to bring the ocean concerned world to Vietnam, contributing into highlighting the position of Vietnam and the sea product industry; at the same, it would facilitate the participation in, the access to and share of the most updated information, and experience in management of the seas and the oceans.

The conference will be the significant forum for discussion over the inter-sector, multi-sector issues, analysis of policies and knowledge base promotion, other resources in the management and development of seas and oceans, coastal areas and islands; to reach the consensus and trust in consultancy for solving national, regional and global matters.

Apart from the official plenary meeting, it is tentatively scheduled to hold 13 workshops and discussion on other questions relating to seas and oceans, and coastal areas.

Source: VNA

First-ever Asia-Pacific Forestry Week to be held in Vietnam Hanoi, 21-25 April 2008

Hanoi: Vietnam has been selected to host First-ever Asia-Pacific Forestry Week and the 22nd Session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission (APFC), which will be held in Hanoi from 21 to 25 April 2008.

It will be the largest and the most important forestry event in the region in 2008, with the topic of "Forestry in a Changing World".

The organizers expected that at least 400 international participants will come from 33 country members of the APFC and more than 30 international NGOs, research institutions, forestry regional networks, UN agencies and the private sector.

Details can be obtained from <http://www.isgmard.org.vn/Jobs/Jobs.asp>

Source: Department of Forestry

13. LEGAL UPDATE

List of major legal documents issued in March 2008 concerning agricultural and rural development sector.

(unofficial translation)

STT	Issuing Agencies, Titles and References	Summary of main contents
Government		
1.	Decree 26/2008/NĐ-CP dated 05/03/2008 issued by the Government on management and utilization of state budget funding to ensure the enactment of international treaties and agreements. - Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung: Signed	According to this Decree, the funding for realization of international treaties and agreements in central and provincial agencies will be ensured by the state budget. The regular expenditure of the agencies is regularly ensured by the budget of the corresponding level. In case the funding for realization of international treaties and agreements is resourced from Official Development Assistance (ODA), foreign NGO and individuals, the receiving, managing and using of the funds must be conducted in compliance with the legal regulations relating to the use of that funding source.
2.	Decree 34/2008/NĐ-CP dated 25/03/2008 issued by the Government to specify the recruitment and management over the foreigners working in Viet Nam - Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung: Signed	According to this Decree, foreigners coming to work in Vietnam within the corporation's internal transfer should bear the corporate decision in written form, to work in Vietnam (total managers, executives and experts bearing the Vietnamese citizenship should account for 20%). Foreigners working in Vietnam to perform the contracts (not the labour contract) must ensure the specified conditions and be supported by the signed contract between the Vietnamese partner and foreign partner relating agreement in the number of foreigners working in Vietnam.
Prime Minister		
3.	Directive 79/CT-TTg dated 13/03/2008 on performance of measures for prevention of avial flu and A enfluenza (H ₅ N ₁) in human. - Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung: Signed	In prevention of the outbreak to repeat or to spread, the Prime Minister demanded the MARD to: - Work in coordination with the People's Committees of centrally controlled cities to enhance the investigation, check over the performance of measures for prevention of avian flu and A influenza; to put in good order the veterinary inspection at roots, delivery, circulation, sales, slaughter houses, poultry preparation, management and use of vaccines, injection; to apply principles in cases of infringement against regulations of veterinary; organize the poultry feeding toward biological safety; conditional hatchery, and water born poultry feeding. - Work in coordination with the Ministry of Health to supervise strictly the avian flu and contagious situation of A influenza on human (H5N1) so as to work out the timely treatment measures. - Work in coordination with related Ministries and sectors, international scientists, countries, research organizations for measures, strategies to combat the avian flu in the conditions of our country.
4.	Decision 289/QĐ-TTg issued by PM dated 18/03/2008 on policies to support the ethnic minorities, social policy beneficiary households, poor households, poor prone households and fishermen. - Vice Minister Nguyen Sinh Hung: Signed	According to this Decision, the households of ethnic minorities, social policy beneficiary households, poor households, in locations beyond the grid network will be supported in cash equivalent to 5 litres of gasolin/per year; adjustment to medical insurance for the poor from VND 80,000/person/annum to VND price of the medical insurance card for family members in poor prone households in case of voluntary health insurance. Fishermen, who buy new vessels with capacity of 90CV up, with brand new engine 100%, will be supported with VND 70 million/vessel/annum. For fishing vessels with engine capacity of 40CV up or vessels serving the fishing, the fishermen will be supported to refurbish the engine with less fuel consumption economical engine at VND 10 million/engine/annum (applied to vessels with 40CV - 90CV engines) and VND 18 million/engine/annum (applied to vessels with 90CV up). Besides, the state also supports in purchasing the

STT	Issuing Agencies, Titles and References	Summary of main contents
		hulk insurance and accident insurance for the vessel crews.
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development		
5.	Circular no. 39/2008/TT-BNN dated 03/03/2008 revising and amending some contents of the Circular 76/2007/TT- BNN dated 21/8/2007 and Circular no. 07/2008 dated 25/01/2007 issued by MARD with instructions to change the forest and forest land to rubber plantation in Central Highlands. - MARD vice Minister Hoàng Đức Nhi: Signed	Basing on the performance of rubber planting in the Central Highlands, with notification from the Government Office relating the conclusions of the PM in the Conference for Economy Development in Central Highlands, the MARD minister revised and amended some points in the Circular no. 76/2007/TT-BNN dated 21/8/2007 and Circular no. 07/2008/TT-BNN dated 25/01/2008 issued by MARD with instructions to change the forest and forest land to rubber plantation in Central Highlands.
6.	Circular no. 40/2008/TT-BNN dated 03/03/2008 revising and amending the Circular no. 101/2007/TT-BNN dated 10.12. 2007 issued by MARD on the revision and amendment of contents in the Circular no. 32/2006/TT-BNN dated 08.5.2006 issued by MARD with "Instructions to enact the Decree no. 12/2006/NĐ-CP dated 23.01.2006 issued by the Government specifying the details for enactment of Trade Laws applied to international sales and procurements of commodities, and sales agents, which buy, sell, assemble and run transit deliveries with foreign countries." - MARD vice Minister Bui Ba Bong: Signed	Revised and amended Point 6.4, Article 6, Chapter II of Circular no. 101/2007/TT-BNN dated 10.12.2007 issued by MARD to revise and amend some contents of the Circular no. 32/2006/TT-BNN dated 8. 5.2006 issued by MARD "Instructions to enact the Decree no. 12/2006/NĐ-CP dated 23.01.2006 issued by the Government namely "Detailed Regulations for enactment of Trade Laws applied to international sales and procurements of commodities, and sales agents, which buy, sell, assemble and run transit deliveries with foreign countries".
7.	Decision no. 41/2008/QĐ-BNN dated 05/03/2008 promulgating the List of veterinary medicines permitted for circulation, limited use and ban for use in Vietnam - MARD vice Minister Bui Ba Bong: Signed	This Decision is promulgated as the attachment to: ➤ List of veterinary medicines permitted for circulation in Vietnam. ➤ List of veterinary medicines permitted for limited use in Vietnam ➤ List of veterinary medicines banned for use in Vietnam.
8.	Decision no. 42/2008/QĐ-BNN dated 05/03/2008 promulgating the list of vaccines, biological products, micro-biological organics, veterinary chemicals permitted for circulation in Vietnam. - MARD vice Minister Bui Ba Bong: Signed	This Decision is promulgated as the attachment to: ➤ List of vaccines, biological products, micro-biological organics, veterinary chemicals permitted for circulation in Vietnam.
9.	Decision 44/2008/QĐ-BNN dated 11/03/2008 specifying the functions, tasks and organizational structure of the Magazine of Agriculture and Rural Development - MARD Minister Cao Duc Phat: Signed	The Magazine of Agriculture and Rural Development is the organ speaking on Science and Technology, having the function of dissemination of intentions of the Party, policies, laws issued by the State about the achievements in science and technology for Agriculture and Rural Development, operating in compliance with the Law on Press and regulations of MARD; it has the official mandate, its specific identifying stamp, separate bank account in the State Treasury. The magazine performs 7 key assignments and others ordered by MARD minister. The organization comprises 3 divisions, and a representative in the South.
10.	Decision 45/2008/QĐ-BNN dated 11/03/2008 specifying the functions, tasks and organizational structure of National Center for Clean Water and Rural Environmental Sanitation - MARD Minister Cao Duc Phat: Signed	The National Center for Clean Water and Rural Environmental Sanitation has mandate status, with operational fund from the state budget, its identifying stamp and separate bank account. It is the educational-for-the-cause unit to operate upon the mechanism of self-management and self responsibility, as applied with public utilities specified in laws. The Center performs 11 key assignments and others ordered by MARD minister. The center has 7 professional departments, a standing unit in the Central region, the South and one affiliated unit.

STT	Issuing Agencies, Titles and References	Summary of main contents
11.	Decision 46/2008/QĐ-BNN dated 13/03/2008 specifying the functions, tasks and organizational structure of Vietnam Agriculture Newspaper . - MARD Minister Cao Duc Phat: Signed	Vietnam Agriculture Newspaper is for the cause of press, operating upon the mechanism of self-management and self responsibility, as applied with public utilities; having mandate status, its specific identifying stamp, separate bank account in the State Treasury and the Bank specified by state regulations. The Vietnam Agriculture Newspaper performs 5 key assignments and others ordered by MARD minister. The organizational structure comprises 5 divisions, one center, south region based branch and representative offices in other areas.
12.	Decision 47/2008/QĐ-BNN dated 17/03/2008 declares null and void to Decision no. 46/2004/QĐ-BNN dated 01/10/2004 issued by MARD on Temporary Regulations for designation Standards of leadership and management in MARD during industrialization and modernization. - MARD Minister Cao Duc Phat: Signed	Decision no. 46/2004/QĐ-BNN dated 01/10/2004 issued by MARD former minister on Temporary Regulations for designation Standards of leadership and management in MARD during industrialization and modernization expires its effects.
13.	Decision 48/2008/QĐ-BNN dated 21/03/2008 specifying the functions, tasks and organizational structure of Information and Statistics Center - MARD Minister Cao Duc Phat: Signed	The Information and Statistics Center is a educational unit, operating under the mechanism of self finance, self management in the area of IT development, statistics, information, and library in the agriculture and rural development sector. The Center performs 8 key assignments and others ordered by MARD minister. The center has 8 offices, one library and units in the south based in Ho Chi Minh city.
14.	Decision 49/2008/QĐ-BNN dated 27/03/2008 promulgating the List of pesticides permitted for circulation, limited use and ban for use in Vietnam. - MARD vice Minister Bui Ba Bong: Signed	This Decision is promulgated as the attachment to: List of pesticides permitted for circulation in Vietnam. List of pesticides permitted for limited use in Vietnam List of pesticides banned for use in Vietnam.

(Please visit our website to download at <http://www.isgmard.org.vn/Information%20Service/Legal%20docs/Legaldoc-list-e.asp>)

Source: ISG

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

From 1st April 2008: As Mr. Ngo Gia Trung leaves ISG for a long-term training, ISG Secretariat will have a new CIO, which will be announced to you soon.
Thank you for your cooperation!

More details, please contact:

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