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Vietnam



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1. Summary

Rapid economic growth contributed to a further decline in the incidence of poverty but Vietnam remains poor with an average income per capita of 640 USD. Corruption remains a serious problem and Sweden is in the lead among donors in their support to Vietnam to combat corruption. The Vietnamese economy performs remarkably well but Vietnam failed in the attempt to join the World Trade Organization in 2005.

A new 5 year plan – the Socio Economic Development Plan 2006–2010 – was drafted and will serve as the government’s poverty reduction strategy paper. Donors commented on the plan in a consultative process. The Embassy aligned well to the Swedish Country Strategy for development cooperation with Vietnam and to the strategic issues in the Country Plan 2005. Sweden was involved in many key dialogue issues with the Government and the Party; on human rights, anti-corruption, judicial and legal reform, HIV/AIDS etc. The Embassy also initiated work on how to implement the Swedish Policy for Global Development by organizing a large workshop in Hanoi for Swedish Embassies in the region.

The aid effectiveness agenda was moved forward in 2005 by the development of a local version of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness entitled the Hanoi Core Statement on Aid Effectiveness, endorsed by the Government of Vietnam and by donors.

The level of disbursements in development cooperation was 100.4 percent of the budget (MSEK 270) for 2005. Most programmes and projects were carried out as planned, with some delays in large programmes such as the programme for Strengthening Environmental Management and Land Administration (SEMLA) and the programme with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development programme. In the judicial and legal sectors many new programmes started during the year after a period of planning and assessment.

2. Political, Economic and Poverty Development

Vietnam, with more than 80 million inhabitants, is a one-party state, governed by the Communist Party of Vietnam which is the political force influencing all fields of political and social life. The 10th Party Congress planned for April 2006 will adopt a new socio-economic development plan for 2006–2010, which will also serve as Vietnam's poverty reduction strategy. The donor community has participated actively in the drafting process of the strategy.

The National Assembly is strengthening its role and increasingly seeking to hold the government to account. It has adopted 14 laws in 2005, including laws on Anti-corruption and Investment and laws directly related to a future WTO-accession. Vietnam is actively conducting negotiations in combination with political-diplomatic campaigns in order to join the organisation as soon as possible.

In later years, a rapid economic growth has contributed to a dramatic decline in the incidence of poverty, but due to a change of definition of the poverty line, the rate went *up* in 2005. The revised poverty rate was 22% in 2005, and is expected to be reduced by 2% annually. Vietnam is however still regarded as a poor country with an annual average per capita income of 640 USD, but strives to become a middle income country in 2010–2012. Corruption remains a serious problem in Vietnam.

Within the country, there are no signs of widespread popular opposition to the regime. Younger people appear less interested in politics than in their economic prospects and future. Under Doi Moi, the wide-ranging economic reform programme launched by the Government of Vietnam in 1986, Vietnam continues successfully to effect the transition from central planning to a “socialist oriented market economy”. However, rising inequality, rapid social change and corruption pose challenges to the long-term survival of the communist regime.

Vietnam is party to five of the six core human rights treaties. The Government claims to be preparing to sign the Convention against Torture. Vietnam is neither party to the UN Refugee Convention, nor to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The death penalty exists and is applied in Vietnam. A broad range of offences, including economic crime and drug-related offences, are still punishable by death penalty.

The Vietnamese media are strictly controlled and self-censorship is commonly exercised. Some newspapers are however trying to push the limits of what is considered acceptable by government. Mail, telephone

and e-mail communication is monitored. The use of Internet is widespread but subject to limitations and an increasing number of Vietnamese and foreign websites are blocked, being considered sensitive by the authorities.

Religious freedom in Vietnam remains a problematic issue. Religion is still perceived by the authorities as a potential threat to national unity and solidarity and as a possible vehicle for the establishment of alternative centres of powers. Six religious organisations are currently recognised by the State; Buddhists (under the Vietnam Buddhist Shanga), Roman Catholics, Protestants, Cao Dai, Hoa Hao and Muslims.

In January 2005 Vietnam, Cambodia and UNHCR signed a tripartite agreement on Montagnard refugees to Cambodia. According to UNCHR the repatriation of the Montagnards from Cambodia to Vietnam is now working satisfactorily.

Trafficking of women and children is a regional problem that is believed to have increased over the years, especially in the border areas to China, Laos and Cambodia. Vietnam is working actively to fight this problem both internally and regionally.

The European Union – Vietnam relations have developed vigorously. The European Union has become the biggest donor of grants to Vietnam. Bilateral trade has quadrupled over the last decade. The EU is now one of the three largest trading partners (China and USA being the others) and one of the largest sources of foreign direct investment. The Government of Vietnam has adopted a “Master Plan” for the further development and deepening of Vietnam-EU relations.

The Vietnamese economy continues to perform remarkably well. Real GDP increased by about 7.5 percent in 2005, and a very impressive 7.0 percent per annum in 1987–2005. Economic growth is due primarily to high investment rates – 36,6 percent of GDP in 2005 – and fast export growth – 21.3 percent 2005, down from an even better 29.3 percent in 2004. Inflation has been fairly low, consumer price increases averaging 4.0 percent per annum 1997–2005 compared to 7.1 percent per annum 1987–1996. Inflation increased suddenly to 7.7 percent in 2004 and reached 8.0 percent in 2005 but is expected to decrease. It is always difficult to contain inflation in a quickly growing economy, e.g. as the money supply expands when state-owned commercial banks lend considerable loans, particularly to state-owned enterprises.

Vietnam did better than anticipated after the end of WTO’s garment quota system in 2004 and exports are expected to continue to grow over the next few years. Vietnam has a large merchandise trade deficit but finances it easily with foreign direct investment – which in 2004 reached its highest level since before the Asian Crisis – and with foreign credits, official development assistance and remittances. Foreign debt remains manageable at 34.2 percent of GDP in 2005.

The growth rate of the private sector seems to be accelerating. The “non-state” sector includes agriculture, where growth is slow, and private industry, which is growing very quickly and in an increasingly diversified manner. The non-state sector accounted for 45.6 of GDP in 2005. Foreign direct investment accounted for 15.2 percent of GDP in 2005 (5,8 billion USD) while the state sector accounted for 39.2 percent and even larger share of gross investment – 56.0 percent 2005 – but only about 10 percent of employment.

Despite intensive efforts, Vietnam failed in its optimistic goal of joining the World Trade Organization in 2005, but is widely expected to join in 2006. With membership Vietnam will be able to compete on a more equal footing with other countries, including China.

The Government pledged to redouble its efforts to equitize state-owned enterprises, which should give enterprises tighter budget constraints and promote more business-like management. New investment and enterprise laws should give state and non-state enterprises a somewhat more level playing field, and WTO membership will also make it more difficult to favour state-owned enterprises over other enterprises.

The Government's overall fiscal deficit – its official budget and off-budget investment – was approximately 3.8 percent GDP in 2005. However, given the slow equitization of state-owned commercial banks and their high rate of lending, there is probably an important increase in bad loans and contingent government liabilities. Recapitalizing the state-owned commercial banks and state-owned enterprises is also expected to be costly. This development would worsen the state's financial position considerably.

The Socio Economic Development Plan 2006–2010 and the Millennium Development Goals have drawn much attention from Government and donors in 2005. EU (EC and Member States) and the Like Minded Donor Group (LMDG) submitted joint comments on the draft Socio Economic Development Plan (SEDP) in consultations held in September 2005 and will do so in further consultations in 2006. The donors applauded the Government for good participation and consultation during the SEDP process, for exercising strong ownership, for keeping a pro-poor orientation in the document, for having comprehensive goals/tasks and for keeping development targets consistent with the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

Weaknesses, however, in the SEDP are for instance the poor linkages between problems and solutions, the lack of clear statements on main policy actions and a results-based monitoring scheme to be able to track goals and targets. The SEDP could be substantially improved by matching planned targets with resources, improve coherence across the institutional and governance dimensions of reform and make clearer prioritisation and sequencing, address more systematically the strong poverty impacts of more mainstream policies e.g. socialisation costs in education, the registration of urban migrants, the rights of workers, the rights of women, environmental legislation etc, integrate the concept of sustainable development into the SEDP, clarify the role of the civil society and the private sector in implementation/participation, integrate gender equality issues and urgent response to fight HIV/AIDS. It remains to be seen to what extent the final SEDP will be substantially changed before approved in 2006, and if and how donors will align to it.

In order to implement the MDGs, Vietnam has established 12 social development and poverty reduction goals (also referred to as Vietnam's Development Goals), and has made progress in most areas. Problems remain in combating HIV/AIDS, which might also affect other goals if not successful. According to information from UNAIDS more than 100 Vietnamese become infected by HIV every day or an estimated 37 000 new infections in 2005. The overall prevalence rate among the population group 15–49 is estimated to be 0,54%. Approximately one in 60 households has a person living with HIV. Over 1% of adults are infected by HIV in Ho Chi Minh City, Hai Phong and Quang Ninh.

3. Swedish Development Cooperation – Overall Assessment of the Country Programme

Relevance, results and deviations in relation to the Country Strategy and Country Plan 2005

The Embassy aligned well to the Country Plan of 2005 and have been working on all three strategic priorities in the Country Plan during the year; on the *Policy for Global Development* (PGD), e.g. through organising a large seminar in Hanoi, on *anti-corruption*, e.g. through support to the Government Inspectorate and on HIV/AIDS, e.g. through dialogue and planning of two leadership training initiatives through the National Assembly and the Party.

Efforts to streamline the portfolio have been initiated through silent partnerships and assessments of larger, national targeted poverty programmes. It will, however, take time to make more substantial changes in the portfolio.

The Embassy put in a lot of efforts in commenting on the SEDP, jointly with other donors, being one of the over-arching tasks in the Country Plan 2005. Another major task given in the Country plan was to enhance donor harmonisation and aid effectiveness. The development and endorsement of the Hanoi Core Statement on Aid Effectiveness was the major achievement in 2005.

In general the Country Strategy has been implemented in accordance with the intentions; e.g. the Embassy has been driving many (in Vietnam) sensitive dialogue issues such as human rights, corruption and judicial and legal reform. Areas with somewhat slower progress than expected include public administration reform and development and support to civil society organisations.

Poverty reduction

Vietnam continues to pay high attention to the reduction of poverty. Two new national programmes for poverty reduction are under preparation in 2005. The planning process has been supported by the donor community with the intention to provide budget support to these programmes. A partnership for such support has been established with participation of the World Bank, UNDP and a number of bilateral donors, including Sweden.

In later years, rapid economic growth has contributed to a dramatic decline in the incidence of poverty, but Vietnam adopted a new poverty line in 2005 to align to international standards and for a consistent reporting on its international obligations, such as the UN Millennium

Development Goals. Following the new poverty line, the poverty rate in Vietnam increased to approximately 22% in 2005¹.

Vietnam has suffered from the Avian Influenza and a number of natural disasters during 2005. Though Vietnam has successfully managed to keep the Avian Influenza under control, it is expected that man-made and natural hazards could easily bring many of the rural poor back into poverty. Sweden has contributed financially to the UN Trust fund for combating the Avian Influenza in Vietnam through the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) – Sida Cooperation Programme.

Key issues for dialogue

In 2005, a dialogue plan was worked out by the Embassy to map out and guide the dialogue on different levels. One example is the dialogue that took place in the joint working group of the Government of Vietnam and the Embassy on the formulation of indicators to measure human rights development in the Swedish development cooperation in Vietnam. This exercise will be used in the upcoming Mid Term Review of the Swedish country strategy on development cooperation with Vietnam, planned for late 2006.

Another area of important dialogue has been HIV/AIDS. In November 2005 Sweden co-sponsored an ASEM workshop on HIV/AIDS control in Ho Chi Minh City. The workshop highlighted the importance of the so called Three Ones principle; one agreed HIV/AIDS action framework, one national AIDS coordinating authority and One agreed country-level monitoring and evaluation system. HIV/AIDS shall be reflected in future ASEM cooperation.

Aid effectiveness and donor coordination

2005 was a year of continued progress with the Government of Vietnam and donors working together to improve aid effectiveness. The local version of the Paris Declaration – the Hanoi Core Statement on Aid Effectiveness – was finalised and later in September formally approved by the government through deputy Prime Minister Vu Khoan. The Hanoi Core Statement formalised the commitment of the Government of Vietnam and the donor community in Vietnam to improving aid effectiveness.

The Embassy participated in the Donor-MPI led Partnership Group for Aid Effectiveness (PGAE) which met monthly and served as a focal point for discussions and decision-making on aid effectiveness. The Embassy participated in specific harmonisation efforts through the PGAE and took active part in the working group which drafted the Hanoi Core Statement. The PGAE carried out an initial baseline survey in May, which was repeated in November to improve accuracy and to measure progress towards meeting HCS objectives.

The LMDG and the EU worked out joint input to the new 5-year Socio-Economic Development Plan and the Embassy planned several joint financing arrangements with other donors in an effort to harmonise donor practises and streamline the portfolio.

The donors' Consultative Group meeting in December made commitments of 3.7 billion USD in ODA, the biggest annual commitment amount ever for Vietnam. The EU continues to be Vietnam's biggest donor with a commitment of 936 MUSD, followed by Japan 835 MUSD.

¹ The new poverty line in rural areas; income per capita 200,000 VND/month. In urban areas: income per capita 260,000 VND/month.

China made its first ever commitment of official development assistance for Vietnam.

Possibilities of influencing the work of multinational organisations

In 2005 Sweden was co-financing projects and programmes with the United Nations (UNDP and UNICEF), the World Bank and the ADB. Generally there has been quite a lot of discussions with the UN and the banks on issues like programme management where UNDP in the legal sector and HIV/AIDS, World Bank as regards the Multi Donor trust Fund and ADB as regards the Health Care in the Central Highlands project (HICH) all have been weak or have had a different view on some management issues. The possibilities to influence the multinational organisations are fairly good, but time consuming. The Embassy has seconded a person to work with operations at the World Bank in Hanoi, which has improved donor harmonisation at a general level.

Comments on volumes and disbursements

The initial country frame for Vietnam in 2005 was MSEK 250 and was later increased to MSEK 270 to accommodate the higher level of disbursements. Disbursements picked up during 2005 and reached MSEK 271 in 2005. The main reason for the high disbursement rate was timing, in the sense that many projects and programmes previously developed and assessed reached the implementation stage in 2005. The planning volume of projects and programmes is now considerable higher than before and in line with intentions of the Country Plan.

Strategic adjustments, alternatives, risks and choices

Developments during 2005 have implied some readjustment of the Embassy's priorities. For example:

- the anti-corruption agenda has now been embraced by the Government, the Party and the donors. The Government and the donors have given Sweden the lead role in the support to anti-corruption, which also implies that Sweden will play a leading role in the dialogue with Vietnamese partners. This will have an impact on our future support to areas such as legal reform and public administration reform;
- Vietnam is giving priority to legal and judicial reform. These areas are important for promoting the Rule of Law in Vietnam. Vietnam has requested Swedish support for the judicial strategy. Sweden may need to review its support, with a view towards adjusting the embassy's support portfolio and workload;
- Vietnam has appreciated the Swedish support to the *Chia Se* Poverty Alleviation Program and the embassy will have to make strategic decisions on how to react, for example by expanding the program, and using experiences gained in new national programmes on poverty alleviation;
- to fulfil the aid effectiveness and harmonisation objective, the Embassy's ambition has been to increase the use of government core systems, to increase joint funding with other donors (e.g. in forestry, legal aid, and anti-corruption) and to increase the use of new aid modalities such as program support (e.g. in 2005 the health sector moved towards programme support, even though the process was slow).

4. Specific Country Programme Overview of the Swedish Development Cooperation

Promotion of an equitable, pro-poor and sustainable use of natural resources based on local initiatives

The environment in Vietnam is rapidly deteriorating. Continued exploitation of remaining natural forests, intensive use of chemicals in the agricultural sector, increased pollution of rivers and peri-urban areas, destruction of coastal areas for shrimp farming, over-fishing and land grabbing are all factors contributing to an unsustainable use of the natural resources in Vietnam. The Government of Vietnam has identified some 4 000 geographical areas and industrial sites that are severely polluted. Out of these places, some 400 environmental hot-spots need to be acted on urgently. During 2005 a number of studies have been undertaken which confirm these negative trends.²⁾

In order to address the increasing environmental problems facing the country and its population, the Government of Vietnam has in 2005 significantly raised its ambitions for promotion of sustainable use of its natural resources. A main institutional achievement in the field of environmental sustainable development was the establishment of a National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) under the leadership of a deputy Prime Minister. A cross-ministerial committee for handling the environmental hot-spots has also been established and the National Assembly adopted and put in action new laws for forest protection and development and environmental protection.

The sustainable use of natural resources and poverty reduction are important parts of the draft Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP) for 2006–2010. Overall policies of Vietnam such as the national strategies for sustainable development (Vietnam – Agenda 21) and poverty reduction strategies have been integrated into the SEDP. For the first time the SEDP also includes a separate chapter on environmental protection. It is indicated that one percent of GDP will annually be set aside for environmental protection.

Sweden has been actively involved in many of these processes. The establishment of the NCSD has been supported by the Agenda 21-project at the Ministry of Planning and Investment, co-financed with UNDP. The Agenda 21-project has also on a pilot base introduced local Agenda-21 and environmental awareness-raising activities in selected provinces.

² State of the Environment, draft report by the Vietnam Environmental Protection Agency: Life and the Environment, report by the Vietnam Association for Nature and Environment

The Sida Environmental Fund is promoting equitable and sustainable use of natural resources within local communities.

The programme for Strengthening Environmental Management and Land Administration (SEMLA) within the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) has during its first year of operation mainly contributed to improve the legal and institutional framework of the environmental sector. Besides assisting MONRE and three provinces in their implementation of the revised land law, the SEMLA programme has assisted the ministry in revising the environmental protection law and prepare for the development of a new law on chemical safety. Technical assistance to the environmental protection law was provided by the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), which also supported the Vietnam Environmental Protection Agency in building capacity for addressing environmental hot-spots.

Sweden has assisted Vietnam in the preparation of the SEDP both within central and line ministries, as well as in selected provinces. The work has been focused on integrating the Comprehensive Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy (CPRGS) into the overall and provincial five-year plans. The support has mainly been provided by the national project of the Chia Se Poverty Reduction Programme.

Swedish support to equitable and pro-poor development is mainly undertaken through the *Chia Se* Poverty Alleviation Programme, but also through Health Care Fund for the Poor and the Community Based Health Development System. The *Chia Se* programme supports local initiatives for poverty reduction at commune and village levels. It is a main effort to promote the Government and Sida policies on a “grassroots” and “rights-based” approach to poverty reduction.

The *Chi Se* programme is in full implementation since early 2005 and covers some 40 communes and 500 villages in three provinces. Following the positive development of the *Chia Se* programme, MPI has requested the embassy to plan for an expansion of the cooperation to two new provinces. The planning for the expansion has been undertaken during the second half of 2005.

Major short-comings of the cooperation in the sector of natural resources and rural development during 2005 are that the SEMLA programme did not reach its bench-marks for the inception phase. Thus the cooperation has been extended for six months up to mid 2006.

The implementation of the MARD – Sida Cooperation programme has also been slightly delayed following a lengthy tendering process. Finally, the planned co-financing of an Integrated Coastal Zone Management programme (ICZM) with Holland as lead donor has been delayed due to personnel changes within the Dutch Embassy.

Disbursements to the programmes in the sectors of natural resources/environment/rural development (NRE/RD) have been high, but somewhat lower than expected. The NRE/RD sectors represented 47 percent of the total disbursements by Sweden to Vietnam during 2005³

³ It should be noted, however that Chia Se could be classified as a human rights' or a public administration reform project, considering its strong rights based approach.

Public Administration Reform (PAR): Promotion of a professional, transparent, accountable, service-oriented and non-discriminatory public administration

As part of the support to the implementation of the Public Administration Reform Master Plan provided by a consortium of donors including Sweden and UNDP, a mid-term review of the Plan 2001–2010 was conducted⁴. Major accomplishments include:

- a number of important new laws enacted and legal documents reviewed;
- some decentralization;
- some service delivery agencies experimenting to increase productivity and efficiency;
- better qualified and trained public officials and civil servants;
- financial initiatives such as block grants.

However, the pace of reform remains slow and there has not been a fundamental change in the way public administration works. Major shortcomings include the unclear impact of measures taken so far, the many targets that have not been met,

Generally, the support to the Master Plan might benefit from a better focus. The PAR Support Facility has been used for replication of established models, rather than for identifying successful models, as was intended. There are indications that the provinces are more in need of ideas and models than the project's money.

Two Sweden-supported bilateral PAR projects were evaluated in 2005. The 1999–2004 Quang Tri Province Project focused on reforming land allocation procedures through the so-called “one-door” model, which has been quite successful, and general capacity-building, which has had less impact. Sweden also provided bilateral support to a project at the Ministry of Home Affairs 1997–2003. This project successfully improved personnel policy, operation and management, and in-service management training and a performance management information system. The first project was a “blueprint” project, thoroughly planned beforehand, while the other was a process-oriented project whose contents developed over time. The evaluation concluded with thoughts on how to make pilots more effective, how to target capacity-building, the importance of ownership and leadership, and the role of monitoring and evaluation in managing large projects.⁵

The Quang Tri Project was replicated in Thua Thien Hue, Quang Binh, Ha Tinh and Nghe An Provinces 2003–2005. The provinces highly appreciate the replication and decided to use their own funds to replicate the model elsewhere. The Embassy also plans to replicate the model in Tra Vinh Province.

Public Administration

Sweden's bilateral support to the General Statistics Office was extended twice in 2005 to enable GSO to complete several important activities

⁴ David Ma and Mel Blunt, *Review of the PAR Master Programme 2001–2010: The Way Forward* (Hanoi, Ministry of Home Affairs, PAR Steering Committee, November 29, 2005). See also *Report on Review of the Implementation of the First Phase (2001-2005) of the PAR Master Programme (2001–2010)* (Hanoi: PAR Steering Committee of the Government, November [30,] 2005).

⁵ [Dr. Vo Kim Son et al.,] *Comparative Evaluation of the Personnel Management Project at the Central Level and the Pilot PAR in Quang Tri Province*, second draft version (Hanoi: Embassy of Sweden, Sida and MCD Management Consulting and Development, April 2005).

and is expected to end in March 2006. An evaluation of the GSO project 1995–2005 will be carried out in early 2006.

During 2005, Sweden has contributed an additional MSEK 5 to the Multi-Donor Trust Funds' to support Public Finance Management Reform. Among notable work supported by the fund is the taxation self-assessment and reforms at Customs and the State Treasury. At present, the Government seems to have a vision of what it wants to accomplish regarding budget revenue management and tax administration reform, and one is emerging in relation to the management of state-owned enterprises and the management of state assets. There is room for improvement in the efficiency and equity of tax policies and a strategy for the management of public debt. The main contribution of the fund has been to allow the World Bank to engage at the technical level in the Ministry of Finance's reform initiatives. In early 2006, a mid-term review will be conducted in preparation for a decision on a second phase.

Respect for human rights and democratic access for poor people, with a special focus on rule of law

Legal and Judicial reforms, human rights

During 2005 the Communist Party issued two framework strategies for the reform of the legal sector until 2020; the Judicial Strategy (JRS) and the Legal System Development Strategy (LSDS). There is a strong political commitment to implement the JRS among all stakeholders. The political commitment for the LSDS remains to be seen. Sweden supports a UNDP-led program for the implementation of the LSDS at the Ministry of Justice, a program which very much depend on the Vietnamese commitment for the LSDS, which has not met the expectations for 2005.

Sweden signed a new agreement on legal aid to poor and disadvantaged groups within the legal aid system which covers all 64 provinces. The programme is jointly financed with the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), Save the Children Sweden and the Dutch organisation Novib. Sweden acts as lead donor. The support aims at strengthening the capacity of the National Legal Agency at the Ministry of Justice and as a non-earmarked "basket support" to all 64 provincial legal aid centres. Until 2004, Sweden bilaterally supported 15 provinces.

During 2005 the Vietnamese government issued, for the first time ever, a White Paper on Human Rights.

Legal Education

Sweden entered into a new agreement with Vietnam regarding phase three of the support the two major law universities – Hanoi Law University and Ho Chi Minh City University of Law. The support aims at improving the quality of the legal education by strengthening the capacity of the teachers, building up a modern legal library, setting up a new doctorate program in international and comparative law, to continue with the Master programme and to develop a quality assurance centre for the University.

Juvenile Justice

Sweden also entered into an agreement with UNICEF and Vietnam on juvenile justice. The purpose is to strengthen the rights of children and juveniles in contact with the formal justice system; as victims or after committing crimes. The program deals with both the formal justice system and other agencies that are involved in dealing with children and

juveniles involved in crimes to raise the awareness about the specific needs of children as victims of crime and as perpetrators. UNICEF will implement the program together with the Vietnam's Committee for Population, Family and Children.

Bar Association

The status of lawyers in the judiciary and the society is very low in Vietnam. As late as in 2003 the criminal procedure code for the first time introduced the right for defence lawyers to ask questions to the Prosecutor during a court hearing. A lot of work remains at all levels to make use of this new provision. One challenge is the ignorance among the practising lawyers on how to make use of this possibility. The demand for professional lawyers is increasing but there are only about 3 500 lawyers in the whole country. There are 63 provincial bar associations in Vietnam but there is no National Bar Association yet. The Ministry of Justice has been given the task to draft a law on lawyers that will open the possibility to establish a national Bar Association. Sweden supported this process during 2005 with both financial resources and technical expertise. Sweden plans to continue to support this process in 2006–2009 together with Danida.

Fighting Corruption

In a Sida-supported diagnostic study on corruption commissioned by the Party's Central Committee for Internal Affairs⁶, a broad survey of party officials, civil servants, enterprise managers and citizens concluded that corruption is rampant in Vietnam. The most corrupt public agencies are considered to be the land and housing authorities; customs and import-export management; the traffic police; tax authorities; construction regulators, health-care providers; planning and investment agencies; transportation regulators and the economic police. A large proportion of public officials declared that they were prepared to accept bribes. Few corruption cases are prosecuted.

The study took more than three years, but it is a unique study. It is significant that the Party undertook the study and made it public – a condition for Swedish support. It demonstrates how open the discussion of corruption has become in the otherwise relatively closed public debate.

A new Law on Prevention and Suppression of Corruption passed the National Assembly on November 28, 2005, and was then signed in to law. Drafted by the Government Inspectorate with Swedish support, the law focuses on preventive measures in the public sector. It contains important provisions on publicity and transparency, rotation of positions, codes of conduct for public officials, declaration of assets, responsibility of heads, denunciation of corruption and the role of the citizens, the civil society in general and the mass media. The law seems to adequately address the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

Sweden will act as lead donor together with Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands and Norway in supporting a program to strengthen the inspection system. With roots in the old Soviet system, inspection focuses on the implementation of laws and policy as well as complaints from the public. The overall program objective is "Building an ethical, strong, professional and modern Inspectorate System, effectively and efficiently operating under the renovative directions of the Party and the State;

⁶ *Report on the Findings of the Diagnostic Study on Corruption in Vietnam*, draft (Hanoi: Central Committee on Internal Affairs, November 2005), with the participation of the National Economic University and Sipu International AB.

making it to be an active component of the democratic, ethical, strong and people-serving public administration”. An agreement will be signed in 2006 to support an inception period during which the program document will be reviewed and designed.

Both Public Administration Reform and anti-corruption areas disbursed less than planned due to slow progress. Both are sensitive areas with many vested interests. It takes time to build the political support and trust necessary for effective reform.

In preparation for the 10th Party Congress in 2006, the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences with support from UNDP and Sweden are reviewing the Doi Moi renovation period since 1986. Following Vietnam’s specific request, Sweden has among other things provided Swedish experts on the relationship between the public and private sectors, social security in a market economy and the role of civil society.

Media

The Swedish supported Independent Monitoring Mission (IMM) of the media sector carried out its first assignment in Vietnam in November. The role of the IMM is dual; to support and monitor. IMM shall follow the development in the media sector in Vietnam and monitor the progress and the role of Swedish interventions.

This first report mainly focused on establishing indicators to be able to monitor media development as well as project performance and its impact on the overall media development. It also dealt with the management mechanisms of the project and suggested ways and means for improvement.

A consultative workshop was organised in late November where media managers and media owners of major press agencies met for the first time. It was a useful forum for both media managers and owners to discuss the role of media in a democratic society, code of ethics, management of the media and thus creating favourable conditions for a more free and independent media in Vietnam.

Cultural cooperation

A Specific Agreement on support to Vietnamese Culture for Sustainable Development 2005–2009 was signed with the Ministry of Culture and Information in April. Sweden contributes with SEK 47 million.

Apart from the continuation of the cultural exchange program in prioritised areas such as fine arts, music, literature, film and copyright, a new project called “preservation of intangible cultural heritage” has been included to help preserve and eventually develop traditional handicraft villages, mainly populated by minority groups. Many cultural projects are also pursuing mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS.

Promotion of adequate health care for all people, including improved access to health service for the poor

In February, the Party issued resolution 46 on Peoples’ health care, protection and promotion in which they identified equity, efficiency and development as essential. Vietnam also reaffirmed the goal of universal health insurance coverage by 2010. The international community praised the resolution as a clear equity driven approach to improving health of the population. The resolution sets out the strategic direction for all key aspects of the health systems (health financing, health service provision, human resources, pharmaceuticals, etc).

Sweden and Luxemburg co-finance a follow-up study by the Ministry of Health and WHO identifying key policy options for the future development of the Vietnamese health system. The study will serve as an input to the Tenth Party Congress in 2006.

The Vietnam-Sweden Health Cooperation on Health Policy and Systems Development was evaluated in the autumn⁷. The main success of the programme has been a positive contribution to policy and strategy development as well as to the formulation of regulations, party resolutions and laws. But efficiency of the implementation of the programme was lower than expected and sustainability has not been sufficiently addressed. The programme has also not been responsive to Swedish policies on mainstreaming of gender and HIV/AIDS.

The evaluation recommended Sweden to stay in the health sector in Vietnam not to lose an opportunity to use Sweden's comparative advantage as a long-time trusted partner in health. One area for possible future support could be sensitive areas such as health policy development in the context of public administrative reform.

The year 2005 was a year of consolidation for the bilateral health programme where a comprehensive internal monitoring system was established for outputs, outcomes as well as impact. Training and communication was strengthened and programme achievements disseminated and communicated more effectively to the public via two major exhibitions in February and December.

The year 2005 has been marked by some important institutional changes, some of which came about with an active contribution by the Vietnam-Sweden Health Cooperation on Health Policy and Systems Development (VSHC/HPSD). Among these are the promulgation of Party Politburo Resolution 46, giving clear guidance on the priorities for health sector, the adoption of a National Drug Law and the revision of the Health Care Fund for the Poor.

The estimated number of people living with HIV more than doubled between 2000 and 2006, from approximately 122,000 to 280,000. A project document for a proposed Sweden-UNDP support to strengthen leadership and a multi-sectoral approach to HIV/AIDS prevention and control up to 2010 was appraised and approved by the Embassy. The preventive programme will be implemented at both national and sub-national levels in 3 provinces. The programme provided support to the development of the Party's Directive 54 on strengthening leadership for prevention and control of HIV/AIDS issued in November 2005.

The Ministry of Health, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Sida approved regulations for use of Swedish support in the Health Care Fund for the Poor (HCFP) in the Central Highlands. This includes i) a daily food allowance for inpatients, ii) transportation cost, iii) treatment costs that are not covered by HCFP and iv) cost of voluntary examinations and curative care on an outreach basis. In 2005, the overall project progress has been slow and disbursement was less than 10% of projected. The reasons for the slow progress mostly relate to the procurement and other processes in the programme, but were also caused by slow turn-around of approvals by the lead donor ADB due to staff changes.

In joint discussions between donors and Vietnam, e.g. in the Health Partnership Group, it was concluded that a programme approach, rather than isolated projects, is needed to ensure the best possible use of donor resources for the health sector. It was suggested that sector programme

⁷ "Health cooperation at the crossroads: More of the same – or making a difference?" by Jan Valdelin, Dao Thanh Huyen and Gunilla Krantz, November 2005.

support could be applied on thematic areas such as maternal and child health, the health care fund for the poor, HIV/AIDS, or by geographical areas. Sweden and Holland agreed to support a sector programme support study as a follow up to a study made in 2000.

Promotion of pro-poor growth based on a dynamic private sector and open trade relations

Trade promotion

The Rules of Origin Project at the National Committee for International Economic Cooperation in Cooperation with the Swedish National Board of Trade expired in 2005. Possible new support depends among other things on an analysis of the sector trade policy and regulations to be carried out by the Embassy and Sida's Division for Market Development during 2006.

The Trade Promotion and Export Development Project at the Vietnam Trade Promotion Agency (Vietrade), implemented with support from the International Trade Centre and funding from Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) and Sweden, finished its second year. A review of the agency's capacity to manage next phase of the project was conducted in November⁸. The project has been particularly effective in formulating an overall export potential assessment, national export strategy and some sectoral export strategies. The reviewers propose a number of improvements, such as more emphasis on building the capacity of the agency and of Vietnam's overseas trade representatives.

Within the cooperation between the State Bank of Vietnam and *Sveriges Riksbank*, activities were limited to two visits to Vietnam by *Riksbank* staff to conduct workshops on monetary policy and one study trip to Sweden by State Bank staff on the same issue. The cooperation was extended until June 2006 to permit work on payment systems, bond/capital markets and the drafting a new central bank law, after which a new proposal for continued support should be presented for consideration.

The Embassy of Sweden, ILO and the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industries signed an agreement to cooperate in Poverty Reduction Through Integrated Small Enterprise Development (PRISED), to contribute to the development of household enterprises, micro enterprises and the self-employed in the informal economy to stimulate local economic growth, generate decent employment, and reduce poverty. The immediate objectives of the projects are to strengthened enterprises in six provinces in Vietnam; improved business development service markets; improved access to information for small enterprises by enabling national and provincial partners to use mass media; improved national support to the provinces in local economic development and enabling environments for small enterprises. Sweden will contribute MSEK 35 2005–2009.

PRISED builds on the earlier Start and Improve Your Business Project, the evaluation of which has been delayed until 2006.

The Vietnam Women's Union, Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industries and Vietnam Cooperative Alliance submitted a proposal for MUSD 4 to support rural women entrepreneurs. Among other things, the project would improve women's access to credit and in some cases provide subsidized credit; strengthen a network of rural businesswomen's clubs; improve business development services for rural businesswomen;

⁸ Leelananda Silvia and Matthias Meyer, Evaluation Report of the Project to 'Support to Trade Promotion and Export Development in Vietnam' (VIE/61/94)', draft (ITC and seco, November 29, 2005).

work with national and local public agencies to make them more responsive to the needs of rural businesswomen. The proposal, which has many parallels with PRISED, is being assessed by the Embassy.

Multisector/Cross-Cutting

Budget support

The Embassy decided not to write a memorandum requesting that Sida be given the authority to give general budget support for poverty reduction to Vietnam in 2006 by co-financing the Poverty Reduction Strategy Credit (PRSC). The primary reason is that there were not sufficient funds in the Vietnam country allocation and among unallocated funds for Asia to finance the minimum reasonable amount of budget support, about USD 10 million, particularly when the Embassy is considering support to a national targeted program for poverty reduction, the expansion of the Chia Se and other planned increases in support. Moreover, while there has been improvement in budget transparency, public financial management and state audit, it is not clear that these are sufficiently better than when the Swedish Government last rejected a proposal for Swedish budget support.

At present the Asian Development Bank, the European Commission and more than 10 bilateral donors co-finance the World Bank's PRSC; the total value of the co-financing is larger than the World Bank's USD 100 million contribution.

A large group of donors recently co-sponsored a joint evaluation of general budget support 1994–2004 in seven countries including Vietnam.⁹ The Vietnam case study concluded:

- The modern PRSC conditionality has suited the Government's high degree of ownership better than the old World Bank conditionality;
- Budget support has been an important tool for harmonization and alignment, which otherwise progress slowly in Vietnam;
- Government expenditure has become more pro-poor during the time Vietnam has had a PRSC;
- PRSC conditionality on public financial management, in combination with the Government's reform initiative, has improved public financial management;
- The Government has always appreciated policy advice from donors;
- Recent PRSC conditionality should improve public service delivery;
- PRSC has supported economic growth, which has been the main cause of poverty reduction in Vietnam, but has supported the empowerment of the poor less;
- The fiduciary risk associated with the PRSC is acceptable and no worse than other aid modalities. The PRSC is moreover a mechanism for promoting effective anti-corruption measures.

A new Consultancy Services Fund was established in September with SEK 35 million for the period 2005–2010. The main objectives of the new fund are more or less the same as those of the previous fund. The new fund is smaller than the previous one, forcing Vietnam and Sweden to focus on more strategic use. An effort will be made not to

⁹ Ann Bartholomew, Robert Leurs and Adam McCarty, *Joint Evaluation of General Budget Support 1994–2004: Vietnam: (Draft) Final Country Report* (IDD and Associates, International Development Department, University of Birmingham, January 18, 2006). See also Stephen Lister *et al.*, *Joint Evaluation of General Budget Support 1994–2004: Draft Synthesis Report* (IDD and Associates, International Development Department, University of Birmingham, January 26, 2006).

finance from the fund larger, longer-term contributions that deserve their own specific agreement.

Energy

All three projects in the area of energy distribution (Danang 2, Tuy Hoa and An Nhon) were completed after some delay. The increased number of households connected to grid increased from (approximate figures) 1 200 to 141 000 in Danang; from 3 400 to 10 500 households in An Nhon and from 11 200 to 17 500 households in Tuy Hoa.

The quality of supply increased, e.g. in An Nhon the supply faults (black-outs) per year decreased from 120 times to 12 times; in Da nang from 236 to 126 and in Tuy Hoa from 119 to 30. Traffic safety was improved in the towns thanks to street lighting.

The National Hydropower master plan phase 2 (NHP2) identified hydropower projects in four river basins and 22 hydropower projects were selected for further study in a participatory process where especially environmental and social considerations are to be taken.

All preparatory project documents in the Rural Energy programme were finalized and the programme moved into implementation in October. Capacity building for project management boards both at the Ministry of Industry and the two provinces Ha Giang and Quang Nam were also completed.

Development Credits

Sida HQ and the embassy initiated a dialogue with the Ministry of Planning and Investment and the Ministry of Finance to develop the portfolio of concessionary credits in line with the priorities of Vietnamese-Swedish development cooperation, particularly in urban environment, industrial environment and, to a lesser extent, rural electrical distribution.

Research cooperation

In February Sida's Department for Research Cooperation (SAREC) delegated authority to the Embassy in Hanoi for the management dialogue with the Government of Vietnam on the research programme as well as the disbursement of all funds to Vietnamese research institutions.

In the Annual Review Meeting held in May in Hanoi, all research projects were presented and found to be mostly on track. Problems in coordination of the three sub-programmes (Health, Biotechnology and Rural Development) was discussed and followed up in the Annual Planning Meeting in Hanoi in November 2005. There were fewer audit remarks by the independent auditors in 2005 compared to last year.

A Research Fund was officially launched in April with the aim of supporting applied research and build bridges between research and Vietnamese policy makers. A Scientific Advisory Committee consisting of international and Vietnamese scientists was formed to peer review applications and had its first meeting in Hanoi in September and put forward a list of projects to be funded after approval of Vietnam and Sweden.

The Gender, Culture and Environment funds

An evaluation of the Swedish-Vietnamese Fund for the promotion of Culture, the Gender Fund and the Swedish Environmental Fund took place in September. During 2005 the Funds supported about 300 projects with amounts ranging from some hundred to some thousand USD. However, the support to an emerging civil society defined as something

outside old formalised structures was only marginally supported by the Funds. As the three Funds were found to have good opportunities to reach individuals and grassroots groups outside the formal structures such as women's and farmers' unions, the evaluation recommended the embassy to consider future support to the Funds as a component of the support to human rights, democratisation and general support to an emerging civil society.

5. Office and Administrative Issues

Work on quality assurance

The Local Project Assessment Committee studied and made detailed comments on seven project proposals in 2005.

After inviting tenders from a large number of auditing firms and evaluating them, the Embassy signed call-up agreements with two firms, Ernst and Young and KPMG, for auditing Swedish contributions.

Thus far, rating has not been used as a tool for quality assessment of programs. There are preliminary plans to arrange a Sida Rating System (SiRS) training where one or two programs would be assessed.

Changes during the year, current resources and staffing

The post as coordinator and controller was filled in January.

Staff changes were made on the following posts;

- National Commercial Officer (local);
- National Natural Recourses and Rural Development (local);
- Third secretary, Migration and consular;
- First secretary, Democratic governance programmes;
- Counsellor, Head of Administration
- Counsellor, Political, Sweden Promotion and Economic Affairs;

The total number of employees at the embassy was 36, of which 25 were locally employed.

Major events at the Embassy

A seminar on the implementation of the Swedish Policy for Global Development was held in Hanoi 1–2 November 2005. Staff from the Swedish Embassies in Vietnam, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand participated along with representatives from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Ministry for Sustainable Development and Sida HQ. The first day focused on the overriding goal and the relations within the policy between different policy areas; Environmental Policy, Development Cooperation, Human Rights and Trade Promotion. The second day of the seminar contained group discussions, on the above mentioned focus areas, also on how to enhance practical work with the PGD at embassies, how to identify and deal with conflicts of interest. The seminar was preceded by a one-day field trip to an IKEA supplier factory.

IKEA informed about how they work with Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

A regional human rights conference was held in December with representatives from Sida Stockholm and other Embassies in the region to discuss the work-plan for the regional democracy and Human Rights advisor, to share experiences in the area of democracy and human rights and to update each other on ongoing trends and to highlight one concrete area of Human Rights work. This year, Vietnams system for legal aid to the poor and disadvantaged groups was selected as thematic area. A field-trip outside Hanoi was arranged for the participants to witness a mobile legal aid team in action.

The Embassy also organised several internal seminars with invited speakers for its staff on different topics such as HIV/AIDS, World Bank operations etc.

Visits during the year

The Swedish Minister for Justice planned to visit Vietnam in January 2005 but postponed his visit due to the Tsunami. The Mayor of Stockholm, Barry Andersson, visited Hanoi in June 2005. The CEO of Kinnevik Group Vigo Carlund and the CEO of Ericsson Carl-Henrik Svanberg visited Vietnam during 2005 and were received at a very high level (State President, Deputy Prime Minister and several Ministers). The Embassy of Sweden in Hanoi was actively involved in both these visits.

Joakim Palme, son of late Prime Minister Olof Palme, visited Hanoi in November 2005 in order to participate in a seminar on the Swedish Model. This was the first visit to Vietnam by a member of the Palme family. He was received by the deputy PM Vu Khoan, by former vice-president Madame Nguyen Thi Binh and by General Giap.

Several Vietnamese vice-ministers visited Sweden during 2005 and a delegation of Vietnamese female parliamentarians visited Sweden in December 2005, headed by Ms Ninh, Vice Chair, NA Foreign Affairs Committee.

The inspectors from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Sida HQ inspected the Embassy in the autumn.

Annex 1

Nyckeldata för Vietnam

Antal innevånare (milj) 2004	82,2
Yta km ²	331 114 (jfr Sverige 449 964)
Befolkningsstillväxt 1998–2004	1,2%
Medellivslängd år	70
Spädbarnsdödlighet per 1000 födda	19
Läskunnighet, män 2000	93,9%
Läskunnighet, kvinnor 2000	86,9%
% befolkning fattiga:	
alt 1: % under nationell fattigdomsnivå	29%
alt 2: % med högst 1 PPP-USD/dag 1990–2002	17,7%
BNP 2004 (musd)	45,3
BNP/capita i löpande priser (usd) 2004	552
BNP/capita i PPP (usd) 2004	2 498,48
BNP-tillväxt, genomsnitt senaste tre åren:	7,5%
Inflation 2005	8,0%
Sparande/BNP 2005 proj	32,2%
Investeringar/BNP 2005 proj	36,6%
Bistånd per capita (usd) 2003	21,7
Skuldtjänst/Exportintäkter 2004 proj	5,2%
Offentliga utgifter inom hälsa/BNP 2002	1,5%
Offentliga utgifter inom undervisning/BNP 2003	2,0%
% av befolkning m tillgång till färskvatten* 2000	73%
Carbon Dioxide Emissions: p/capita metric tons* 2002	0,8
Energy Efficiency: 2002 GDP per unit of energy use*	4,2
Andel kvinnor i parlamentet** 2005	27,3%
Andel kvinnor på ministerposter** 2005	11,5%
HDI-index** 2003	0,704 2003
Världsranking i HDI**	108 av 177 länder
HPI ranking (Human Poverty Index)**	47 av 103 u-länder
GDI (Gender Development Index)** 2003	83 av 140 länder
Freedom House Index*** på en skala från 1 mest fritt till 7 minst fritt 2005:	
• Politiska rättigheter	7
• Medborgerliga rättigheter	6
• Frihetsstatus	icke fritt
Corruption Perception Index (Transparency International)****	
• Världsranking 2005	107 av 158 länder
• Index 2005	2,6 av 10 möjligt
PRSP-status:	
• Datum I-PRSP	2001
• Datum PRSP	2002
HIPC-status: icke kvalificerat p.g.a. för liten utlandsskuld	
• Datum Decision point	n/a
• Datum Completion Point	n/a

Källor:

Allmänt: World Development Report, World Development Report, IMF, WB

* World Development Indicators, <http://www.world.bank.org/data/wdi2000>

** UNDP, Human Development Report

*** <http://www.freedomhouse.org/>

**** <http://transparency.org/>

Annex 2

Country report – Viet Nam 2005

Outcome in TSEK

Allocation Frame	Allocation Account	Main Sector	Data Outcome 2005
Inside country allocation	15516 Vietnam	01 Health	38 589
		02 Education	246
		03 Research	99
		04 HR & Democratic governance	74 408
		07 Infrastructure	7 082
		08 Trade, business & fin. syst	11 423
		09 Natural resources&environm.	60 651
		11 Other	78 214
		No sector stated	0
	15516 Vietnam		Total 270 711
Inside country allocation			Total 270 711
Outside country allocation	15519 Regional Asia	01 Health	445
	15519 Regional Asia		Total 445
	155321 Global Dev. Programs, DESO	01 Health	0
	155321 Global Dev. Programs, DESO		Total 0
	15536 Program development	04 HR & Democratic governance	0
	15536 Program development		Total 0
	15541 Concessionary credits	07 Infrastructure	13
		09 Natural resources&environm.	0
		No sector stated	0
	15541 Concessionary credits		Total 13
	15551 Research	02 Education	28 052
		No sector stated	0
	15551 Research		Total 28 052
	15561 Non-governmental organisations	01 Health	529
		02 Education	1 243
		03 Research	0
		04 HR & Democratic governance	7 278
		05 Conflict, peace & security	282
		07 Infrastructure	157
		08 Trade, business & fin. syst	1 332
		09 Natural resources&environm.	882
		11 Other	1 976
	15561 Non-governmental organisations		Total 13 679
Outside country allocation			Total 42 188
Grand Total			312 899

Annex 3

List of strategic documents received

Corruption

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- “Report on the Findings of the Diagnostic Study on Corruption in Vietnam,” draft (Hanoi: Central Committee on Internal Affairs, November 2005), with the participation of the National Economic University and Sipu International AB.
- Håkan Öberg, “Final and Consolidated Report on the Vietnamese Draft Law on Prevention and Suppression of Corruption,” Stockholm: Economic Crimes Bureau, October 25, 2005.
- Thaveeporn Vasavakul and Pham Duy Hung, “Appraisal of the Program on Strengthening the Comprehensive Capacity of the Inspectorate System up to 2010”, draft, October 10, 2005.

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- Stephen Lister et al., *Joint Evaluation of General Budget Support 1994–2004: Draft Synthesis Report*, IDD and Associates, International Development Department, University of Birmingham, January 26, 2006.
- Ann Bartholomew, Robert Leurs and Adam McCarty, *Joint Evaluation of General Budget Support 1994–2004: Vietnam: (Draft) Final Country Report*, IDD and Associates, International Development Department, University of Birmingham, January 18, 2006.

Public Administration Reform

- *Report on Review of the Implementation of the First Phase (2001–2005) of the PAR Master Programme (2001–2010)*, Hanoi: PAR Steering Committee of the Government, November [30,] 2005.
- David Ma and Mel Blunt, *Review of the PAR Master Programme 2001–2010: The Way Forward* [Hanoi, Ministry of Home Affairs, PAR Steering Committee, November 29, 2005].

- [Dr. Vo Kim Son et al.] *Comparative Evaluation of the Personnel Management Project at the Central Level and the Pilot PAR in Quang Tri Province*, second draft version, Hanoi: Embassy of Sweden, Sida and Management Consulting and Development, April 2005.

Trade promotion

- Leelananda Silvia and Matthias Meyer, *Evaluation Report of the Project to 'Support to Trade Promotion and Export Development in Vietnam' (VIE/61/94)*, draft, ITC and SECO, November 29, 2005.

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- Mikkel Barslund, Finn Taro, Nguyen Huu Zdung and Dao Quang Vinh, *Documentation of the Vietnam Access to Resources Household Survey (VARHS) 2002*, September 2004.

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- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; Forest Sector Support Programme & Partnership, *Forestry, Poverty Reduction & Rural Livelihoods in Vietnam*, Labour and Social Affairs Publishing House, March 2006
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- Poverty – Environment Partnership; a network of bilateral and multi-lateral development banks, UN agencies and international NGOs, *Linking Poverty Reduction and Water Management*, 2005
- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; National Sub-project of Chia Se Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP), *Collaboratives in Agriculture and Rural Devt* (draft), Dec 2005
- World Bank in Hanoi, *Local Governance, Transparency and Anti-corruption in Community-Driven Devt in Vietnam*, November 2005
- Göran Nilsson Axberg, Hugh Emrys Evans, Vu Ngoc Long, Nguyen Thi Nghia, *Monitoring Report on the Progress of the Chia Se Poverty Alleviation Programme*, December 2005
- Ministry of Planning and Investment, *Strengthening Provincial Planning Reforms (SPPR) – a Facility for Sub-National Capacity Development*, October 2005 (draft)

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- Vietnam Environmental Protection Agency (2005) *Overview of Wetlands status in Vietnam following 15 years of Ramsar convention implementation*, Hanoi, Vietnam, 72 pp.
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Legal sector

- *Assessment on Provincial Legal Officials' Capacity on Managing and Providing Guidance for Conciliation at Grassroots Level*; a report funded by the project Assistance for the Implementation of Vietnam's Legal System Development Strategy to 2010
- *Legal Aid in Vietnam: Current Situation and orientation for Improvement*; a report funded by the project Assistance for the Implementation of Vietnam's Legal System Development Strategy to 2010

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Halving poverty by 2015 is one of the greatest challenges of our time, requiring cooperation and sustainability. The partner countries are responsible for their own development. Sida provides resources and develops knowledge and expertise, making the world a richer place.



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