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Viet Nam

EFA National Plans of Action
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PART I: Legal Framework/NFE Components of National Plan of Action and UNLD

Vietnam, a republic country of South East Asia, bordered by China in the North, by the East Sea in the East and South, and by Cambodia and Laos in the west. Officially the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, its area is 331,114 km² and its coastline is about 3,162 km long. Hanoi is the Capital of Vietnam, and Ho Chi Minh City is the country's largest city. Vietnam has a population about 76,327,921 people (as of April 1st 1999). Most people live in the delta areas or along the coast. The population of Vietnam: The young is about 36 percent of all Vietnamese, the population is increasing by about 1.7 percent annually. The labour force of Vietnam in 1999 was 38 million people, of them women made up 48%.

The Ministry of Education and Training of Vietnam is the institution of the Government implementing the function of state management nationwide including pre-school education, general education, professional education, tertiary education, continuing education aiming at the target of raising people's intellectual level, manpower training, talent fostering, meeting the requirements of national construction and defence.

In order to implement the above responsibilities, the Ministry of Education and Training of Vietnam has:

- 14 bodies helping the Minister in implementation of state management functions,
- 61 Education and Training Services at provincial level,
- The Institution for education strategy and programs, and business agencies under auspices of the MOET,
- Nearly 100 universities and colleges.

In the Ministry of Education and Training of Vietnam, there are the following Departments:

- Planning and Financing Department,
- Personnel Department,
- International Cooperation Department,
- Educational Inspection Board,
- Student Affairs Department,
- Science and Technology Department,
- National Defense Education Department,
- Pre-school Education Department,
- Primary Education Department,
- Secondary Education Department,
- Continuing Education Department,
- Vocational Education Department,
- Higher Education Department,
- Legal Department,

According to the Education Development Strategy Plan for 2001-2010 of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the overall goals of education development to the year of 2010 as follows:

The socio-economic strategic plan for 2001-2010 states that: In order to respond to the requirements of human and human resources, which are the decisive factors for the country's development in the period of industrialization, modernization, it is necessary to create radical and overall changes in education. Therefore the goals of Education Development Strategic Plan for 2001-2010 are:

- i. To create radical changes in education quality in the direction of a closer access to the advanced level of the world, suitable to the Vietnamese practice, practically serving the socio-economic development of the country, regions, localities, and in the direction of a learning society. To strive to bring our country's education out of left behind position in some aspect in comparison with developed countries in the region.
- ii. To give the priority to the enhancement of the quality of manpower training attention should be paid to training of highly qualified science-technology personnel, excellent managerial staff, skilful business managers, skilled worker-masters, who will contribute directly to the enhancement of competitiveness of economy; the priority is also given to accelerating the universalization of lower secondary education.
- iii. To innovate goals, contents, methods, curricula at all levels; to develop teaching staff satisfying the increase of enrolment and the improvement of quality, effectiveness and innovation of teaching - learning methods; to innovate the education management; to create legal basis and to bring into play the internal forces for education development.

For Non-Formal Education System (Continuing Education), the goals of Non-Formal Education to the year of 2010 as follows:

- To develop non-formal education as a form of community mobilization for the formation of a learning society, to create the opportunity for everybody, at every level, every age, everywhere to pursue lifelong learning, in accordance with their own situation and conditions, to contribute to the enhancement of the mass knowledge and manpower quality.
- To consolidate and to create the achievements of illiteracy irradiation for adults, especially in mountainous, isolated and remote areas. To carry out effectively post-literacy programmes, contributing to universalization of secondary education in the years after.
- To create opportunity for working people to pursue learning, retraining, by short-term, periodical or regular courses based on education programmes, skill development programmes that aim to increase the productivity, to increase income generation or to make career changed. To pay attention to the development of programmes for standardization of teaching, managerial, leading staff and civil servants from central to local levels.

Continuing Education Department is a subdivision of the system of education. Continuing education has been established and developed for over the past 50 years. This is a form of training and education that create condition for those who do not have opportunity to study in regular schools.

The objective of continuing education is to create a learning society that can supply opportunity and constitute conditions for all citizens at all levels to study continuously, even for lifelong, appropriate for specific situation of each learner group, meeting the requirements of socio-economic, scientific, technological, cultural and art development and contributing to the cause of raising people's intellectual level, training human resource for industrialization and modernization of the country.

During the past years, Vietnam Government has been carried out many socio-economic renovation policies to help Vietnamese gradually get out of poverty and illiteracy. Vietnam Government considers education is a primary national policy including education policy for adults. Consequently, after half of a century, the education policy has brought about literacy for 95% of Vietnamese instead of 90% Vietnamese illiteracy in 1945. As of 2000, all provinces and cities in Vietnam (61 provinces) have reached the national standard of literacy and the universalization of primary education.

On August 12th 1991, National Assembly has approved “Law of Universalization of Primary Education”. This is the first law on education of Socialist Republic of Vietnam, which confirmed the government’s commitment on free of charge and compulsory primary education for all Vietnamese children.

Up to now, 16 provinces have reached the national standard of lower secondary education and up to 2005, 30 provinces will reach the national standard of lower secondary education and 31 provinces will get the standard in the period of 2006 to 2009. With the set policies, Vietnam will have completed the lower secondary education universalization in 2010.

At present, a system of institutions for continuing education has been established in the whole country including:

- 56 continuing education centres at provincial level.
- 494 continuing education centres at district level.
- 80 complementary education schools.
- 1525 community learning centres at commune level.
- 550 foreign languages centres and informatics learning centres.

In order to provide more learning opportunity for labour force, distance education was developed from 1990. In 1989-1990, approximately 38,800 students were enrolled in diploma-level open learning courses and 6,000 more took correspondence plus videotape courses. In addition, an estimated 700,000 more were described as taking part in distance education by using radio and television programmes. Up to now, almost provinces continuing education centres at provincial level have the courses for distance education. Two Open Universities, Hanoi Open University and Ho Chi Minh Open University, were established in 1993. At present, 10 universities have distance education centres with about 80,000 students.

Education for All of Vietnam during 2001-2010 has the following objectives:

- i. Early childhood education on preparing for primary education:
 - 85% of five-year-old children are enrolled to prepare for primary education entry in 2005 and 95% in 2010.
- ii. Primary universalization for children of right age:
 - 85% - 100% of six-year-old children are enrolled in grade 1 in 2005.
 - 80% of children complete primary education before 12 years of age in 2005 and 90-95% in 2010. The completion rate of primary education will be 85-95% in 2010.
- iii. Higher primary universalization (complete grade 9) for the age group of 15-18 years old:
 - 80%-85% children of age group of 15-18 years old grade 9 in 2010.
 - 12-20% of the remains continues to learn at primary schools in various learning forms.
- iv. Strengthening literacy:
 - 95% of adults of 15-35 years old are literate in 2005 and 98% in 2010.
 - 60-70% of adults of 15-35 years old complete post-literacy programmes (equal to grade 5) from 2001.

The National Education for All Action Plan 2003-2015 has pointed out the Strategic EFA Goals for Vietnam as follows:

- Strategic Goals 1: Moving from quantity to quality
- Strategic Goals 2: Completing universal primary and lower secondary education.
- Strategic Goals 3: Providing lifelong learning opportunities.
- Strategic Goals 4: Mobilizing full community participation - All for Education.
- Strategic Goals 5: Ensuring effective management and ever better resource utilization.

1. Target Group 1: Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)
 - To provide access to ECCE provision for 0-5 year old children, prioritizing ethnic minority and disadvantaged children.
 - To ensure that all children complete one-year of quality pre-school education as preparation for primary education.
2. Target Group 2 : Primary Education
 - To provide access to affordable and quality primary education for all children, especially from ethnic minority, disadvantaged groups and for girls.
 - To ensure that all children complete the full cycle of five grades of primary education.
3. Target Group 3 : Lower Secondary Education
 - To extend access to affordable and quality lower secondary education to all children, especially from ethnic minority, disadvantaged groups and girls.
 - To ensure that all children complete the full cycle of four grades of lower secondary education.
4. Target Group 4 : Non-Formal Education
 - To ensure that all out-of-school youth (in primary and secondary school age) have education opportunities to achieve primary and lower secondary education levels.
 - To ensure that all adults, especially women and disadvantaged groups, have access to free and quality literacy and post-literacy programmes and to affordable and quality life skills programs and lifelong learning opportunities.

For the Target Group 4, the action programmes are as follows:

- Expansion of literacy and post-literacy programs for adults under age 40, prioritizing ethnic minority areas and women.
- Expansion of complementary and lower secondary programs, especially for poor and disadvantaged groups.
- Expansion of continuing learning programs to all communes and districts, prioritizing remote and disadvantaged areas.
- Improvement of the quality, relevance and delivery of literacy and post-literacy programs.
- Improvement of the curricula and delivery of complementary primary and lower secondary programs.
- Improvement of the quality, relevance of continuing learning programs delivered through CLCs and CECs.
- National policy for continuing education, non-formal education and lifelong learning.
- Capacity building of CLC and CEC managers to provide NFE/continuing education programs relevant to adult learners and the labour market.

We are fully aware that education is the basic of any development process. For each human being, education is a fundamental human right, opening windows of opportunity and laying the groundwork for improved living conditions. Education has proved to be an unconditional necessary for sound socio-economic growth. Investment in education are investments in the growth and prosperity of future generations in Vietnam. We always remember the statement of our President Ho Chi Minh:

“For the sake of ten years, we plant trees,
For the sake of a hundred years, we must educate the people”.