

## *Foreword*

The OECD was invited by Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Minister and Chairman, Office of the Government of Viet Nam, to evaluate Viet Nam's programme on administrative simplification, Project 30. This evaluation is intended to help Viet Nam prepare a ten-year programme for regulatory reform. The results of this evaluation were discussed in Paris at a meeting of the OECD Regulatory Policy Committee, 28-29 October 2010, and at an ASEAN meeting in Hanoi on 25-26 November 2010. The ASEAN meeting supported policy dialogue and an exchange of good practice.

The support of Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Minister and Chairman, Office of the Government of Viet Nam, is gratefully appreciated. The OECD enjoyed close co-operation with Ngo Hai Phan, Standing Deputy Director-General of the Prime Minister's Special Task Force on administrative procedure reform. Many officials and advisers provided background information, participated in interviews and meetings, and checked the factual evidence. Assistance from the Vietnamese administrations was co-ordinated by Nguyen Viet Anh. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs supported the review through the secondment of Nguyen Phuong Ly, an official of the Ministry.

To carry out the evaluation, Josef Konvitz, Head, Regulatory Policy Division, led a study mission, 30 August-3 September 2010. The team members were Daniel Trnka and Christiane Arndt, from the OECD Secretariat, and Charles-Henri Montin, a senior official in the French Ministry of Finance on secondment to OECD. This mission was an opportunity to consult actively with stakeholders in the international community, both in the private sector and in official missions and aid programmes, and discuss methods and results with Vietnamese officials in charge of Project 30. The OECD benefitted from discussions with officials from the United States, Australia, Canada, Japan, Korea, the European Commission, Germany, the UNDP, the ADB and the World Bank. The assistance of their delegations in Viet Nam is warmly appreciated.

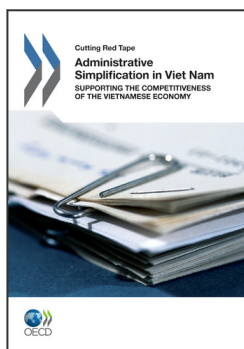
The review of Viet Nam was made possible through voluntary contributions from USAID, Australia AusAID and the Government of Japan. The support and co-operation of these authorities is gratefully acknowledged.

The OECD is well-equipped to carry out this review of Viet Nam, one of several non-members which benefit from OECD peer reviews and thematic studies on regulatory policy. The OECD is a forum where governments come together to share and compare policy experiences, seek answers to common problems, and co-ordinate action. Through its network of 250 specialised committees and working groups, the OECD provides a setting where governments compare policy experiences, seek answers to common problems, identify good practice, and coordinate domestic and international policies. The Organisation is progressively reinforcing its role as a global hub for dialogue and decision-making on economic and social policy issues by providing a platform for a wide range of policy experiences and the possibility to influence the shaping of the global economic agenda.

The Regulatory Policy Committee, created in 2009, is the unique forum to exchange knowledge and best practices in the area of regulatory policy among 33 member states and observers from non-member countries. The RPC contributes comparative information on trends in regulatory management and policy to *Government at a Glance*, the OECD's window into governments and their capacity to deliver on social and economic policy objectives.

OECD reviews are based on objectives and working methods articulated in the 2005 OECD Guiding Principles for Regulatory Quality and Performance. The OECD Regulatory Policy Division, part of the OECD Directorate for Public Governance and Territorial Development, has been leading work on administrative simplification since 2002. This report is part of a series of OECD reviews of national administrative simplification programmes. It follows the reviews carried out for the Netherlands (2007), Portugal (2008), and Poland (forthcoming). Since 2008, OECD staff has been helping the Government of Mexico implement administrative simplification on the basis of OECD recommendations. The Viet Nam report is also linked to a set of thematic reports of national strategies for administrative simplification, assessing progress against objectives and in the context of broader policies for regulatory quality. The most recent report in this "Cutting Red Tape" series is *Why is Administrative Simplification So Complicated?* (2010). Thematic reviews complement country reviews of regulatory reform (completed for 24 OECD countries, as well as for Russia, Brazil and China, and under way for Indonesia). Reviews of 15 OECD countries in the European Union carried out in 2009-10 contain much information about administrative simplification, setting this topic into a wider context.

**Acknowledgements.** The report was prepared by Charles-Henri Montin under the direction of Josef Konvitz with contributions from Daniel Trnka and Christiane Arndt. The report was approved by the OECD Regulatory Policy Committee on 28-29 October 2010, and presented at the “ASEAN-OECD Meeting on Regulatory Reform” held on 25-26 November 2010. Deputy Secretary-General Mario Amano and Director, Public Governance and Territorial Development, Rolf Alter, participated in the ASEAN-OECD meeting. The report was prepared for publication by Jennifer Stein.



**From:**

## **Administrative Simplification in Viet Nam** Supporting the Competitiveness of the Vietnamese Economy

**Access the complete publication at:**

<https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264096646-en>

### **Please cite this chapter as:**

OECD (2011), "Foreword", in *Administrative Simplification in Viet Nam: Supporting the Competitiveness of the Vietnamese Economy*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264096646-1-en>

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