

**THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF S.R. VIETNAM**

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Hanoi, 17 November 2008

H.E. Mr. John Hendra
Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in Vietnam
29 Phan Boi Chau Str., Hoan Kiem
Hanoi, Vietnam

Excellency,

Re: Vietnam's Interest in the Quick-Start Initiative of the United National Collaborative Programme on reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (UN-REDD Programme)

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam presents its compliments to the United Nations.

The Ministry has been informed that the UN Collaborative Programme on REDD (so-called the UN-REDD) is established to assist forested developing countries to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) and a Quick-Start Programme of the UN-REDD was inaugurated on 24th September 2008 by the UN Secretary-General and Prime Minister of Norway.

In Vietnam, forests play an important role in environmental protection, in socio-economic development and poverty alleviation. Although forest coverage has increased since 1995, quality of the natural forests is still low. It is recognised that Vietnam is one of the top five countries severely affected by climate changes in the world. Sustainable forest management is potentially a relatively inexpensive option for climate change mitigation and adaptation in Vietnam.

The Government of Vietnam has paid great attention on responding to climate change, in general, and in the reduced emission from deforestation and forest degradation, in particular. Vietnam has quickly reacted to the Decision 2/13 adopted by the COP13 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on "*Reducing emissions from deforestation in developing countries: approaches to stimulate action*" by sending its views on methodology. In July 2008, Vietnam was selected to be one of first 14 countries to participate in the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and was the first country to sign the FCPF's participation Agreement on REDD in August 2008. At present, the National REDD Strategy is being prepared. Strengthening the

regional cooperation to pursue sustainable development and to effectively respond to climate change was highlighted at the East Asian Summit (EAS) Environment Ministers Meeting, the 7th ASEAN Plus Three Environment Ministers Meeting (EMM) and the Eight Meeting of the ASEAN Plus Three Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (8th AMAF +3) in October in Hanoi, Vietnam.

The implementation of REDD Programme will directly support the implementation of the National Target Program to respond to climate change (NTP), the MARD's Action Programme on climate change mitigation and adaption, Vietnam's National Agenda 21 and the National Forest Development Strategy. The REDD implementation also promotes economic development and poverty alleviation in the country. Furthermore, sustainable forest management in Vietnam contributes to the regional and global environmental benefits. However, REDD is new and complex. Its preparation and implementation require substantial country's efforts and significant support from international donor community.

Writing this letter, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development expresses its special interest in participating the Quick-Start effort of the UN-REDD Programme and does hope to receive the support from the United Nations to reduce emission from deforestation and forest degradation in Vietnam.

Please accept, Yours Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Cao Duc Phat

Minister

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

- Cc:
1. Dr. Veerle Vandeweerd, Director – Environment and Energy Group; and Dr. Chales Ian McNeill (UNDP HQ);
 2. Dr. Peter Holmgren, Director – The Environment, Climate Change and Bioenergy Division (FAO HQ);
 3. Dr. Tim Kasten, Deputy Director – Division of Environmental Policy Implication; and Dr. Kaveh Zahedi, Climate Change Coordinator (UNEP HQ);
 4. Country Offices of the UNDP, UNEP and FAO.