

Legal news

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ENERGY LAW

Leading the Nuclear Charge – Vietnam’s quest to develop nuclear power

By Pham Nghiem Xuan Bac & Luu Tien Ngoc

Malaysia announced in December 2010 that it intends to build two nuclear power plants by 2022 and Indonesia has also indicated its intention to explore nuclear energy as a means of addressing its energy shortfall. However, it is Vietnam which, in a number of ways, is leading the pack in the South East Asia region in its drive to develop nuclear power plants.

Introduction

The Vietnamese government has been working for a number of years now towards achieving its stated desire to develop nuclear power for peaceful purposes based on modern, verified technology. The race to generate nuclear energy is driven largely by the country’s growing energy demand which, according to government projections, is expected to increase by 16 per cent per year until 2015.

One of the key challenges which Vietnam faces is that currently at least a third of its energy is generated by hydropower plants but there are two key issues which threaten the viability of hydropower as a long term solution to Vietnam’s energy needs.

Firstly, hydropower projects depend on favourable weather conditions and in recent periods of drought, the existing hydropower projects have struggled to generate sufficient output to meet peak demand and this situation will only worsen as the demand increases. Secondly, other than the major new plant at Son La, very few sites have been identified as being suitable for additional large scale hydropower projects.

Therefore, Vietnam has had to look to an alternative renewable source to meet its growing demand. Vietnam has announced its intention to construct at least 13 nuclear power turbine units in Vietnam in the next 20 years with the aim that, by 2030 these nuclear power units will provide 15,000-16,000MW of power representing 10 per cent of the total installed capacity in Vietnam.

Creating a legal and regulatory framework

Vietnam has been developing its policy on nuclear power generation for many years, demonstrated by the establishment of the Vietnam Atomic Energy Commission (now the Vietnam Atomic Energy Institute) in 1976 and more recently, the issuance by the Prime Minister in January 2006 of the Strategy for Peaceful Use of Atomic Energy up to 2020 and the corresponding Master Plan issued in 2007.

However, only in the last couple of years has the government started to build a legislative framework for the implementation of nuclear power projects from design

to decommissioning and fuel supply to storage and ultimately, the safe disposal of nuclear waste.

However, given the rigorous nature of international regulation and the policy considerations surrounding the implementation of nuclear power projects, it has yet to be seen whether the existing and currently anticipated legislation will go far enough in order to enable Vietnam to fulfil its nuclear vision on schedule.

The main piece of legislation which underpins Vietnam's framework of atomic energy regulation is the Law on Atomic Energy which was promulgated on 3 June 2008 and came into effect on 1 January 2009. This law sets out comprehensive high level principles which govern Vietnam's pursuit of nuclear power and the focus is, unsurprisingly, on ensuring safety of persons and the environment and the need to utilize modern proven technology, together with emphasizing non-proliferation.

The Law on Atomic Energy has since been followed by three Decrees and a number of Decisions of the Prime Minister which start to elaborate on some of the detail as to how Vietnam intends to address the various complex issues which surround the implementation of its atomic energy strategy.

Ambitious timetable for implementation

The roadmap for the future development of nuclear energy in Vietnam over the next twenty years is set out in the Prime Minister's Decision 906 dated 17 June 2010. According to Decision 906, the first nuclear plant, Ninh Thuan 1, with a capacity of approximately 2000MW, is scheduled to commence construction in 2015 subject to the requisite regulatory consents and frameworks being in place and necessary feasibility studies having been carried out. It is anticipated that commercial operation will commence in 2020 with further capacity scheduled to come on line in 2021.

The project is to be located in the Phuoc Dinh commune, Thuan Nam district of the Ninh Thuan province.

A second nuclear power plant (Ninh Thuan 2) comprising a further 2 x 1,000 MW turbines is then also slated for development in Ninh Thuan province but in the Vinh Hai commune, Ninh Hai district with construction due to commence by 2020.

EVN, the state electricity utility in Vietnam, will invest in and ultimately be the operator of the initial two projects. Subsequently, it is envisaged that domestic economic joint ventures may be allowed to develop the remaining nuclear power plants provided they have the requisite capabilities, skill and experience to be awarded a nuclear operating licence.

It is not clear from Decision 906 whether there will be opportunities for foreign investors to be involved in these future plants in joint venture with a local partner but the Decision does not preclude the possibility. Therefore, Vietnam has elucidated an ambitious plan to develop nuclear power over the couple of decades but there are a number of factors which may yet hinder Vietnam's progress in achieving its stated goals.

Other Sectors

Finance - Banking

- On December 31st, 2010, the Ministry of Finance issued Circular No.225/2010/TT-BTC providing for the State's financial management regime with respect to non-refundable foreign aids under the State budget.
- Circular No. 209/2010/TT-BTC dated December 20th, 2010 of the Ministry of Finance providing for electronic transactions within the professional operation of the State Treasury.
- On December 8th, 2010, the Ministry of Finance stipulated Circular No.198/2010/TT-BTC on the amendment and supplement to the index of the State budget.

Taxation

- Decision No. 2477/QD-TCT dated December 3th, 2010 of the General Department of Taxation amending and supplementing the functions, tasks, powers and organizational structure of the Tax Offices under the Tax Departments; amending and supplementing the functions and duties of the Delegations under the Tax Departments.
- On December 29th, 2010, the Ministry of Finance issued Circular No.216/2010/TT-BTC promulgating the list of raw materials for production of animal feed, animal feed, fertilizers and pesticides of which the time-limit for payment of value added tax payable at import stage is temporarily adjusted.
- Circular No. 214/2010/TT-BTC dated December 28th, 2010 of the Ministry of Finance providing guidelines for the policy on preferential import tax applicable to imported materials and equipment for investment in production of major mechanical products.
- On December 22nd, 2010, the Ministry of Finance stipulated Circular No.213/2010/TT-BTC providing guidelines for the implementation of preferential import tax rates applicable to a number of goods under Group 2710 in the Preferential Import Tariff.
- Circular No. 208/2010/TT-BTC dated December 17th, 2010 of the Ministry of Finance providing guidelines for the implementation of preferential import tax rates applicable to a number of goods under Group 2711 in the Preferential Import Tariff.
- On December 13th, 2010, the Ministry of Finance issued Circular No.201/2010/TT-BTC providing for preferential import tax rates applicable to imported materials and equipment for projects on manufacture of equipment

producing light non-kiln construction materials and cement bricks - aggregate blocks with a capacity of 7 million or more standard bricks per year.

- Circular No. 194/2010/TT-BTC dated December 6th, 2010 of the Ministry of Finance providing guidelines for the customs procedures, customs inspection and supervision, export tax, import duty and tax management regarding exported and imported goods.
- On December 2nd, 2010, the Ministry of Industry and Trade stipulated Circular No. 38/2010/TT-BCT on importation under quota in 2011 at 0% import tax rate regarding goods of Laos origin.
- Circular No. 37/2010/TT-BCT dated December 2nd, 2010 of the Ministry of Industry and Trade on importation under quota in 2010 and 2011 at 0% import tax rate regarding goods of Cambodian origin.
- On December 1st, 2010, the Ministry of Finance issued Circular No.190/2010/TT-BTC providing guidelines for the implementation of preferential import tax rates applicable to a number of goods under Group 2710 in the Preferential Import Tariff.

Trade

- Decree No. 112/2010/ND-CP dated December 1st, 2010 amending and supplementing a number of articles of Decree No. 06/2008/ND-CP dated January 16th, 2008 on sanctioning administrative violations in commercial activities.
- Decision No. 82/2010/QD-TTg dated 15 December, 2010 of the Price Minister on allowance regime for concurrent members of the Council for Competition and participants in competition litigation at hearing.
- On December 31st, 2010, the Ministry of Industry and Trade stipulated Circular No. 47/2010/TT-BCT providing for the control of food quality, hygiene and safety during its manufacturing process under management responsibility of the Ministry of Industry and Trade.
- Circular No. 46/2010/TT-BCT dated December 31st, 2010 of the Ministry of Industry and Trade providing for the management of operations of e-commerce websites selling goods or providing services.
- On December 31st, 2010, the Ministry of Industry and Trade issued Circular No.44/2010/TT-BCT detailing a number of articles of Decree No. 109/2010/ND-CP dated November 4th, 2010 on business in rice export.
- Circular No. 43/2010/TT-BCT dated December 29th, 2010 of the Ministry of Industry and Trade providing for the safety management within the Industry and Trade area.
- On December 28th, 2010, the Ministry of Industry and Trade stipulated Circular No. 42/2010/TT-BCT extending the application of automatic import licenses

regarding a number of steel products stipulated in Circular No. 22/2010/TT-BCT dated May 20th, 2010 and Circular No. 31/2010/TT-BCT dated July 27th, 2010 of the Minister of Industry and Trade.

- Circular No. 205/2010/TT-BTC dated December 15th, 2010 of the Ministry of Finance providing guidelines for Decree No. 40/2007/ND-CP dated March 16th, 2007 on the determination of customs values regarding exported and imported goods.
- On December 14th, 2010, the Ministry of Industry and Trade issued Circular No.41/2010/TT-BCT providing for method of electric generation price determination; process and procedures for setting up and promulgating frame of electric generation prices, and approving electric sale and purchase contract.
- Circular No. 40/2010/TT-BCT dated December 13th, 2010 of the Ministry of Industry and Trade providing for the process and procedure for settlement of disputes on the power market.
- On December 9th, 2010, the Ministry of Industry and Trade stipulated Circular No. 39/2010/TT-BCT providing for the implementation of a border trade promotion program.
- Circular No. 195/2010/TT-BTC dated December 6th, 2010 of the Ministry of Finance providing guidelines for the handling of pending goods in bonded warehouses.

Labour

- On December 10th, 2010, the Prime Minister issued Decision No. 2281/QD-TTg approving the National program on labour safety and hygiene for the period from 2011 to 2015.
- Inter-ministerial Circular No. 39/2010/TTLT-BLDTBXH-BTC dated December 28th, 2010 of the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Finance providing guidelines for the payment of retirement and death pensions from compulsory social insurance fund and voluntary social insurance fund with respect to people who concurrently participate in compulsory social insurance and in voluntary social insurance.
- On December 24th, 2010, the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs stipulated Circular No. 38/2010/TT-BLDTBXH providing guidelines for the implementation of a number of articles of Decree No. 91/210/ND-CP dated August 20th, 2010 providing for the policy on redundant employees upon restructuring the State-owned one member limited liability companies.
- Circular No. 37/2010/TT-BLDTBXH dated December 22nd, 2010 of Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs providing guidelines for the conditions and procedures for registration and designation of organizations providing

occupational safety technical verification service with respect to machines, equipment and supplies strictly requiring occupational safety.

Health

- On December 31st, 2010, the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Health jointly issued Circular No.41/2010/TTLT/BLDTBXH-BYT providing guidelines for the process of detoxification for drug addicts in the Treatment - Education – Social Labour Centers and voluntary drug detoxification establishments.
- Circular No. 49/2010/TT-BYT dated December 31st, 2010 of the Ministry of Health repealing Decision No. 37/2007/QD-BYT dated October 25th, 2007 of the Ministry of Health promulgating the management process of investment projects on construction of medical facilities funded by the State budget.
- On December 29th, 2010, the Ministry of Health stipulated Circular No.47/2010/TT-BYT providing guidelines for the export and import of medicines and immediate packaging materials for medicines.
- Circular No. 45/2010/TT-BYT dated December 22nd, 2010 of the Ministry of Health promulgating national technical standards applicable to alcoholic drink products.
- On December 22nd, 2010, the Ministry of Health issued Circular No.44/2010/TT-BYT promulgating national technical standards for food additives.
- Circular No. 43/2010/TT-BYT dated December 15th, 2010 of the Ministry of Health providing for the roadmap of implementing principles and standards "good practice pharmacies (GPP)"; and geographical area and operational scope of the medicine retailers.
- On December 15th, 2010, the Ministry of Health stipulated Circular No.42/2010/TT-BYT promulgating the list of pharmaceutical active substance and medicinal herbs permitted to be registered for advertisement on radio and television.

Education

- Decree No. 115/2010/ND-CP dated December 24th, 2010 providing for the State's management liability for education.
- On December 14th, 2010, the Ministry of Education and Training issued Circular No. 35/2010/TT-BGDDT providing for the list of working positions under periodical shift with respect to public servants and officials who do not hold leadership or management titles in education branch.

- Circular No. 32/2010/TT-BGDĐT dated December 2nd, 2010 of the Ministry of Education and Training promulgating regulations on conditions, standards and process for recognition of compulsory kindergarten for 5 years old children.

Transport

- On December 21st, 2010, the Ministry of Finance stipulated Circular No.212/2010/TT-BTC providing for the regime on collection, payment, management and use of charges for granting the registration certificates and number plates of land road vehicles.
- Circular No. 38/2010/TT-BGTVT dated December 17th, 2010 of the Ministry of Transport providing for the standards of titles of employees directly operating the railway train, conditions of training establishments, and training contents and program for employees directly operating the railway train.
- On December 1st, 2010, the Ministry of Finance issued Circular No.191/2010/TT-BTC providing guidelines for the management and use of invoices for transporting the passengers by car.
- Circular No. 37/2010/TT-BGTVT dated December 1st, 2010 of the Ministry of Transport providing for the prevention from, control against and relief measures for floods or hurricanes, natural disasters, and rescue on the inland waterway.
- On December 1st, 2010, the Ministry of Transport stipulated Circular No.36/2010/TT-BGTVT promulgating four (4) national technical standard sets on spare parts of motorcycles and mopeds.

Land

- Decree No. 121/2010/ND-CP dated December 30th, 2010 on amendment and supplement to a number of articles of Decree No. 142/2005/ND-CP dated November 14th, 2005 on the collection of land rentals and water surface rentals.
- On December 30th, 2010, the Government issued Decree No. 120/2010/ND-CP amending and supplementing a number of articles of Decree No. 198/2004/ND-CP dated December 3th, 2004 of the Government on the collection of land use fees.
- Decision No. 85/2010/QĐ-UBND dated December 22nd, 2010 of the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City promulgating the collection rates of fees for assessment and grant of land use rights in the city area.
- On December 8th, 2010, the People's Council of Ho Chi Minh City stipulated Resolution No. 17/2010/NQ-HĐND adjusting in the price list of various type land in the area of Ho Chi Minh City, which was announced on January 1st, 2011.

- Resolution No. 10/2010/NQ-HDND dated December 8th, 2010 of the People's Council of Ho Chi Minh City on the collection of fees for assessment and grant of land use rights in the area of Ho Chi Minh City.

Construction

- On December 6th, 2010, the Government issued Decree No. 114/2010/ND-CP on the maintenance of construction works.
- Decision No. 80/2010/QD-TTg dated December 9th, 2010 of the Prime Minister on the exemption of construction fees.
- On December 23rd, 2010, the Ministry of Construction stipulated Circular No.23/2010/TT-BXD providing guidelines for the determination of costs of formulating and appraising the project on classification of urban areas.
- Circular No. 210/2010TT-BTC dated December 20th, 2010 of the Ministry of Finance providing for the final settlement of investment capital for basic construction funded by the State budget according to the year annual budget.
- On December 3rd, 2010, the Ministry of Construction issued Circular No.22/2010/TT-BXD providing for occupational safety in on-going construction works.

Natural Resources - Environment

- Decree No. 117/2010/ND-CP dated December 24th, 2010 providing for the organization and management of the forest system for specific uses.
- On December 3rd, 2010, the Government stipulated Decree No. 113/2010/ND-CP providing for the determination of damages to the environment.
- Decision No. 2376/QD-TTg dated December 28th, 2010 of the Prime Minister approving the orientations of planning on places for storage and burial of radioactive wastes to 2030, with vision to 2050.
- On December 22nd, 2010, the Prime Minister issued Decision No. 86/2010/QD-TTg promulgating the financial rules for the relocation of establishments causing environmental pollution and establishments must be relocated according to urban construction planning.
- Decision No. 84/2010/QD-UBND dated December 21st, 2010 of the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City promulgating the collection rates of fees for provision of information about secured transactions at registration agencies under the branch of natural resources and environment in the area of Ho Chi Minh City.
- On December 17, 2010, the People's Committee of Hanoi stipulated Decision No.56/2010/QD-UBND amending and supplementing Article 13 of Decision No.11/2010/QD-UBND dated February 23rd, 2010 of the People's Committee of

Hanoi providing for the management of ordinary solid wastes in the area of Hanoi.

- Decision No. 84/2010/QD-TTg dated December 15th, 2010 of the Prime Minister promulgating the Regulation on petroleum and gas exploitation.
- On December 13th, 2010, the Prime Minister issued Decision No. 2284/QD-TTg approving the project on initial implementation of Decree No. 99/2010/ND-CP dated September 24th, 2010 on the policy on payments for forest environmental services.
- Decision No. 6469/QD-BCT dated December 9th, 2010 of the Ministry of Industry and Trade supplementing the zoning plan for exploration, exploitation, processing and use of gold, copper, nickel and molybdenum ores in Vietnam until 2015, with orientation to 2025.
- On December 29th, 2010, the Ministry of Finance stipulated Circular No.218/2010/TT-BTC providing for the collection rates and the regime on collection rate, payment and collection regime, and use management of fees for appraisal of environmental impact assessment reports.
- Circular No. 43/2010/TT-BTNMT dated December 29th, 2010 of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment providing for the national technical standards on environment.
- On December 29th, 2010, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment issued Circular No. 42/2010/TT-BTNMT providing for the national technical standards on environment.
- Circular No. 41/2010/TT-BTNMT dated December 28th, 2010 of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment providing for the national technical standards on environment.
- On December 24th, 2010, the Ministry of Construction stipulated Circular No.24/2010/TT-BXD providing guidelines for organizing the initial implementation of investment in and construction of disposal area for solid wastes in interprovincial regions.
- Circular No. 39/2010/TT-BTNMT dated December 16th, 2010 of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment providing for the national technical standards on environment.
- On December 15th, 2010, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment jointly issued Inter-ministerial Circular No.204/2010/TTLT-BTC-BTNMT amending and supplementing a number of contents contained in Inter-ministerial Circular No. 58/2008/TTLT-BTC-BTNMT dated July 4th, 2008 of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment providing guidelines for the implementation of a number of articles of Decision No. 130/2007/QD-TTg dated August 2nd,

2007 of the Prime Minister on a number of mechanisms and policies on investment projects under the clean development mechanism.

- Circular No. 38/2010/TT-BTNMT dated December 14th, 2010 of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment providing for the economic - technical norms for ship surveys and investigations of natural resources and environment.
- On December 14th, 2010, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment stipulated Circular No. 37/2010/TT-BTNMT promulgating the economic - technical norms for 10 sea and island's geological and mineral surveys.
- Circular No. 34/2010/TT-BTNMT dated December 14th, 2010 of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment providing for the technique of marine hydrographic, chemical and environmental investigations and surveys in coastal area and sea islands.
- On December 9th, 2010, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment issued Circular No. 33/2010/TT-BTNMT providing for the exploration and classification of reserves and resources of iron mines.
- Inter-ministerial Circular No. 197/2010/TTLT-BTC-BTNMT dated December 8th, 2010 of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment providing guidelines for the collection and payment of fines, and the management and use of proceeds from administrative sanctions in the field of environmental protection.
- On December 8th, 2010, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment stipulated Circular No. 32/2010/TT-BTNMT providing for the licensing of measurement and mapping activities.

Science - Technology

- Decision No. 2457/QĐ-TTg dated December 31st, 2010 of the Prime Minister approving the national program on high technology development until 2020.
- On December 13th, 2010, the Prime Minister issued Decision No. 81/2010/QĐ-TTg providing for the acquisition, storage, processing, exploitation and use of national remote sensing data.
- Circular No. 26/2010/TT-BKHCH dated December 29th, 2010 of the Ministry of Science and Technology providing guidelines for a number of articles of Decree No. 111/2009/ND-CP dated December 11th, 2009 on sanctioning administrative violations in the field of atomic energy.
- On December 29th, 2010, the Ministry of Science and Technology stipulated Circular No. 22/2010/TT-BKHCH providing for the grant and inspection of certificate of free sale for exported and imported products under the management responsibility of the Ministry of Science and Technology.

- Circular No. 21/2010/TT-BKHHCN dated December 29th, 2010 of the Ministry of Science and Technology providing for the management of accreditation activities in Vietnam.
- On December 3rd, 2010, the Ministry of Science and Technology issued Circular No. 17/2010/TT-BKHHCN amending and supplementing Article 5 of the provisional regulations on the formulation and management of scientific and technological projects, which was issued together with Decision No.11/2005/QD-BKHHCN dated May 28th, 2005 of the Minister of Science and Technology.

Intellectual Property

- Decree No. 122/2010/ND-CP dated December 31st, 2010 on the amendment and supplement to a number of articles of Decree No.103/2006/ND-CP dated September 22nd, 2006 detailing and providing guidelines for the implementation of a number of articles of the Law on Intellectual Property with respect to industrial property.
- On December 30th, 2010, the Government stipulated Decree No. 119/2010/ND-CP amending and supplementing a number of articles of Decree No. 105/2006/ND-CP dated September 22nd, 2006 detailing and providing guidelines for the implementation of a number of articles of the Law on Intellectual Property with respect to the protection of intellectual property rights and the State's management of intellectual property.
- Decision No. 2204/QD-TTg dated December 6th, 2010 of the Prime Minister approving the supporting program for intellectual property development for the period from 2011 to 2015.

Information - Communications

- On December 20th, 2010, the Ministry of Information and Communications issued Decision No. 1987/QD-BTTTT promulgating the framework program and certificate form of education and professional training on the management of investment with information technology application.
- Circular No. 28/2010/TT-BTTTT dated December 13th, 2010 of the Ministry of Information and Communications providing for contents of the execution supervision of the State budget funded-projects of information technology application.

Administration - Judiciary

- On December 29th, 2010, the Government stipulated Decree No. 118/2010/ND-CP on amendment and supplement to a number of articles of decrees providing

for the application of measures of sending to education and reformatory establishments.

- Decision No. 93/2010/QD-UBND dated December 31st, 2010 of the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City promulgating the Regulation (standard forms) on administrative work and record-keeping in office.
- On December 20th, 2010, the Office of the Government issued Decision No.2074/QD-VPCP promulgating the exemplary regulation on receipt, handling, issuance and management of instruments in the Offices of Ministries and ministerial-level agencies.
- Decision No. 58/2010/QD-UBND on December 17th, 2010 of the People's Committee of Hanoi on working in every Saturday mornings in order to receive and resolve administrative procedures.
- On December 17th, 2010, the People's Committee of Hanoi stipulated Decision No. 57/2010/QD-UBND providing for the number, positions, titles, regimes, and policies for public officials of communes, wards and towns in Hanoi.
- Decision No. 2837/QDDC-BTP dated December 9th, 2010 of the Ministry of Justice correcting Circular No. 20/2010/TT-BTP dated November 30th, 2010 of the Ministry of Justice detailing the implementation of a number of articles of Decree No. 40/2010/ND-CP dated April 12th, 2010 on examination and administration of legal documents.
- On December 6th, 2010, the Prime Minister issued Decision No. 2200/QD-TTg approving the Agreement between the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Government of the People's Republic of China on strengthening the co-operation in the prevention and combat of human trafficking.
- Decision No. 1392/QD-BNV dated December 2nd, 2010 of the Ministry of Home Affairs announcing the list of legal documents promulgated and jointly promulgated by the Ministry of Home Affairs, which are expired.
- On December 30th, 2010, the Ministry of Finance stipulated Circular No.219/2010/TT-BTC providing guidelines for criteria for determining prestigious insurance organizations in the maritime sector as stipulated in the Ordinance on Procedures for arrest of sea liners.
- Circular No. 54/2010/TT-BCA dated December 10th, 2010 of the Ministry of Public Security detailing the implementation of a number of articles of Decree No. 97/2006/ND-CP dated September 15th, 2006 and Decree No. 15/2009/ND-CP dated February 13th, 2009 providing for the application of expulsion according to administrative sanctions.
- On December 6th, 2010, the Ministry of Justice issued Circular No. 23/2010/TT-BTP detailing and providing guidelines for the implementation of Decree No. 17/2010/ND-CP dated March 4th, 2010 on property auction.

- Circular No. 22/2010/TT-BTP dated December 6th, 2010 of the Ministry of Justice providing guidelines for the registration and provision of online information about underwriting transactions, contracts, and notices of the property seizure for court order enforcement.
- On December 2nd, 2010, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Government jointly stipulated Joint Circular No. 192/2010/TTLT-BTC-BTP-VPCP providing guidelines for the estimation, management, use and finalization of the State budget expenditure to cover the elaboration of legal documents and perfection of legal system.
- Circular No. 20/2010/TT-BTP dated November 30th, 2010 of the Ministry of Justice detailing the implementation of a number of articles of Decree No.40/2010/ND-CP dated April 12th, 2010 on examination and administration of legal documents.
- On November 26th, 2010, the Ministry of Home Affairs issued Circular No.12/2010/TT-BNV providing guidelines for the method of determining the unit prices for revision of paper documents.

Agriculture

- Decision No. 2374/QD-TTg on December 28th, 2010 of the Prime Minister amending and supplementing the mechanism of investment in construction of fishing ports of type II in Decision No. 346/QD-TTg dated March 15th, 2010 of the Prime Minister approving the planning on the system of fishing ports and docks until 2020, with orientation to 2030.
- On December 27th, 2010, the Prime Minister stipulated Decision No. 2365/QD-TTg approving the Agreement on cooperation agreement in the field of veterinary hygiene between the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.
- Decision No. 2364/QD-TTg dated December 27th, 2010 of the Prime Minister approving the cooperation agreement between the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria in the field of plant protection and quarantine.
- On December 13th, 2010, the Ministry of Finance issued Circular No.199/2010/TT-BTC providing guidelines for the collection, management and use of fees and charges of quality management, hygiene safety and aquatic veterinary.
- Circular No. 70/2010/TT-BNNPTNT dated December 8th, 2010 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development promulgating the additional list of plant varieties and fertilizers permitted for production, trade and use in Vietnam.

- On December 7th, 2010, the Ministry of Finance stipulated Circular No.196/2010/TT-BTC on deferring the time for implementation of Circular No.136/2010/TT-BTC dated September 13th, 2010 providing guidelines for the collection, payment and use management of fees and charges in the veterinary.
- Circular No. 69/2010/TT-BNNPTNT dated December 6th, 2010 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development promulgating the list of veterinary medicines, biological products, micro-organisms and chemicals used in the aquatic veterinary, which are approved for marketing in Vietnam.
- On December 3rd, 2010, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development issued Circular No. 68/2010/TT-BNNPTNT promulgating the list of criteria, food safety limits of a number of plant-derived food products imported, domestically produced and marketed under the management scope of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Investment

- Circular No. 203/2010/TT-BTC dated December 14th, 2010 of the Ministry of Finance providing for the interest rates of investment credits and export credits of the State and the difference of interest rates calculated as post-investment support.
- On December 13th, 2010, the Ministry of Planning and Investment stipulated Circular No. 23/2010/TT-BKH providing for the capability condition of organizations and individuals providing the consultancy on evaluation of investment projects.
- Circular No. 22/2010/TT-BKH dated December 2nd, 2010 of the Ministry of Planning and Investment providing for the norms of costs of investment supervision and evaluation.

Culture - Sport - Tourism

- On December 31st, 2010, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism issued Circular No. 18/2010/TT-BVHTTDL providing for the organization and operation of museums.
- Circular No. 17/2010/TT-BVHTTDL dated December 31st, 2010 of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism providing for operational conditions of the sport establishments organizing water motorcycle activities on the sea.
- On December 31st, 2010, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism stipulated Circular No. 16/2010/TT-BVHTTDL providing for operational conditions of the sport establishments organizing bodybuilding exercise activities.

- Circular No. 15/2010/TT-BVHTTDL dated December 31st, 2010 of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism providing for operational conditions of the sport establishments organizing billiards - snooker activities.
- On December 31st, 2010, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism issued Circular No. 14/2010/TT-BVHTTDL providing for the examination and administration of legal documents; supervision and evaluation of the law enforcement; and review and systematization of legal documents in the fields of culture, family, physical exercise, sports and tourism.
- Circular No. 29/2010/TT-BTTTT dated December 30th, 2010 of the Ministry of Information and Communications providing for the publication of non-business document.

Miscellaneous

- On December 30th, 2010, the Prime Minister stipulated Decision No. 2436/QD-TTg approving the Agreement between the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Government of the Republic of South Africa on cooperation in tourism sector.
- Decision No. 2351/QD-TTg dated December 24th, 2010 of the Prime Minister approving the National Strategy on Gender Equality for the period from 2011 to 2020.
- On December 20th, 2010, the Prime Minister issued Decision No. 2331/QD-TTg promulgating the list of national target programs in 2011.
- Decision No. 517/QD-UBDT dated December 17th, 2010 of the Committee for Ethnic Minorities announcing the list of legal documents promulgated and jointly promulgated by the Committee for Ethnic Minorities are expired.
- On December 2nd, 2010, the Ministry of Finance stipulated Circular No.193/2010/TT-BTC providing for the regime on collection, payment, management and use of fees for assessment of the conditions on order and security; fees of examination for issuing the qualification certificate of security guards; charges for issuing the certificate of seal specimen registration; charges for issuing licenses for bring fireworks into/out of Vietnam; and fees for issuing licenses for the management of weapons, explosive materials and supporting tools.
- Circular No. 21/2010/TT-BTP dated December 1st, 2010 of the Ministry of Justice promulgating the Regulation on lawyers' practice training.
- On November 30th, 2010, the Ministry of Public Security issued Circular No.52/2010/TT-BCA detailing the implementation of a number of articles of the Law on Residence, Decree No. 107/2007/ND-CP dated June 25th, 2007, and Decree No. 56/2010/ND-CP date May 24th, 2010 on residence.

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