

Legal news

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ENERGY LAW

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

By Pham Nghiem Xuan Bac & Luu Tien Ngoc

Potential challenges which face the development of nuclear power in Vietnam

- *Lack of a centralised Nuclear Energy Programme Implementation Organisation*

The Government of Vietnam opted not to form a separate Nuclear Energy Programme Implementation Organisation (NEPIO) and empower the NEPIO to formulate all the required strategic and regulatory requirements to progress implementation of its nuclear power programme. Instead, each relevant government ministry, including the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the Ministry of Construction, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Ministry of Science and Technology, remains responsible for duties assigned to it under the Law on Atomic Energy.

In addition, there are a number of different agencies and taskforces charged by the ministries to prepare plans and strategies in connection with the promulgation of nuclear power such as the Vietnam Atomic Energy Agency (formed by the Ministry of Science and Technology through its regulation dated 31 August 2010), the Vietnam Atomic Energy Institute and the Vietnam Agency for Radiation and Nuclear Safety & Control (established by the Ministry of Science and Technology in 2004).

IAEA recommends that a NEPIO which reports directly to government oversees the implementation of a national nuclear programme for a variety of reasons. The disadvantage of splitting the function across a number of ministries and agencies is that there may be a lack of coordination between each of the various agencies and ministries and insufficient knowledge at all levels of each ministry or agency regarding the international norms and political and socio-economic issues that surround the development of nuclear policy to enable a cohesive and consistent approach.

- *Liability for Nuclear Damage*

Vietnam has not signed the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage 1963 (the Vienna Convention). The Vienna Convention channels liability for third party personal injury and death and third party property damage caused by a nuclear incident to the operator of a nuclear facility. The operator is obliged to maintain insurance or some other financial security to meet this liability. The importance of these channelling provisions should not be underestimated in terms of the ability of the party to the Vienna Convention to access the nuclear insurance market.

As an alternative, some countries such as the United-States have in place domestic legislation which channels liability in the same way, such as the United-States' Price Anderson Act (Atomic Energy Act 1954) which also enables access to the insurance market.

The Vienna Convention sets a minimum level of limit of liability on the operator in the respect of nuclear damage - under the original convention the limit cannot be less than US\$ 5 million but in 1997, an amending protocol to Vienna Convention extended liability of the operator to matters such as environmental damage and increased the minimum limit of liability of the operator to 300 million SDR (roughly equivalent to US\$ 400 million).

However, the actual limit of liability is set by the domestic legislation which implements the convention. The limit on liability of 150 million SDR under the Law on Atomic Energy (Article 88) falls short of the Vienna Convention. Vietnam may gain more acceptance of its nuclear ambitions in the international market if it increases these limits to comply with the Vienna Convention.

- *Prohibitive cost and limited financing options*

On a short term view, one of the major disadvantages of atomic energy is the huge upfront investment required to put in place the necessary regulatory framework and build the necessary resources and knowledge pool to sustain a nuclear power industry.

In addition, the lengthy construction period associated with a nuclear power plant and need to import sophisticated modern nuclear technology is prohibitively expensive compared with the cost of procuring a traditional coal fired plant, even though the costs of operating a nuclear plant are low, by comparison with other technologies. The cost of developing the first nuclear power plant in Vietnam is considered to be at least US\$ 10 billion - significantly more than the cost of developing a coal fired plant.

As a result, Vietnam will almost certainly be heavily reliant on export credit agencies and commercial debt to provide financial support to its early nuclear projects. As yet, no nuclear project has secured financing in the international commercial debt market on a project finance basis. Vietnam's ultimate goal is to foster the expertise and experience to potentially develop its own technology and build its nuclear operating and fuel processing capability within Vietnam to reduce cost in the long term but this will take a number of years to achieve.

- *Security of Fuel Supply*

Vietnam will need to import uranium to process into fuel assemblies for use in its nuclear power plants. However, this leaves Vietnam somewhat at the mercy of the uranium import price which can be unpredictable. It is thought that Vietnam may have its own reserves of uranium ore but there is a question mark as to whether the quality of its reserves are sufficient for the purpose of nuclear fuel. Vietnam has reportedly signed an agreement with a Canadian mining company to carry out an assessment of Vietnam's potential for mining uranium ore, including the economic and technical feasibility of any reserves found.

It remains to be seen whether Vietnam can defray the cost of operating its nuclear power plants by utilizing its own uranium reserves or whether it will continue to need to rely on importing uranium from other countries at potentially considerable cost.

- *Developing manpower and technology*

The Government of Vietnam is acutely aware of the need to promote training of qualified persons to operate the plants and ultimately to take over the design, manufacture and construction of these plants instead of using foreign labour and equipment to drive down cost and boost the Vietnamese economy.

Decree 07 dated 25 January 2010 contains a number of measures to attract people to work in the nuclear sector in Vietnam by offering preferential working conditions and an allowance of up to 70% of the rank or grade salaries. The Decree also targets the future workforce in Vietnam by offering scholarships and tuition paid for those studying atomic energy with additional incentives and possible support or overseas study.

More recently, the Prime Minister has also underlined the importance of training and resourcing in preparation for operation and maintenance of the Ninh Thuan nuclear power plant through Decision 1558 which was issued on 18 August 2010 and the allocation of a budget of around US\$ 154 million between now and 2020 for this purpose. The Decision again focuses on offering tertiary education on nuclear sciences at the major universities and training qualified persons overseas to ensure the requisite levels of expertise and experience.

Even with these measures in place, Vietnam is, to an extent, playing catch up with those countries with an established track record in nuclear power generation. The relevant authorities in Vietnam, including EVN as the proposed operator of the first two projects, will need to ramp up its efforts to be in a position to resource its nuclear activities on such a large scale in the next twenty years and in order to satisfy international requirements regarding operators of nuclear facilities to ensure safety and security.

- *International Co-operation and Assistance*

In the face of such challenges, however, Vietnam is not without support in seeking to further its nuclear power capability. Japan, the United-States, Russia and China, in particular, are all vying to export their technology and credentials to help Vietnam pursue its nuclear plants.

Vietnam is reported to have signed a formal accord with Russia for the development of the first nuclear power plant, Ninh Thuan 1, using 1200 MWe VVER pressurized water reactors and will supply nuclear fuel for the plant and then remove used fuel for reprocessing. Separately, the Vietnamese Prime Minister has been quoted as saying that Vietnam will partner with Japan to build a second nuclear plant and conduct rare-earth investigation, exploration and processing in Vietnam. China, meanwhile, has also signed a memorandum of understanding with the Vietnam Atomic Energy Commission for cooperation in the nuclear power sector.

In addition, the French Development Agency has pledged to support Vietnam's nuclear endeavours and Vietnam has met with senior representatives of AREVA to discuss its experiences in building and operating nuclear power plants and AREVA's capability in providing fuel rods, converting and enriching uranium and reprocessing and handling nuclear waste. Vietnam is also reported to have entered into nuclear cooperation agreements with India, South Korea, Canada and Argentina.

Vietnam also signed a memorandum of understanding with the US government back in 2001 but talks have been accelerated in recent months possibly as a result of the advanced nature of discussions between Vietnam and Russia and China, resulting in a new memorandum of understanding between the US and Vietnam in March 2010.

This latest memorandum of understanding provides for broad co-operation between the countries on nuclear power including access to nuclear fuel with the ultimate aim of signing a Section 123 agreement to enable US entities like Westinghouse to export their technology.

However, the latest round of talks between the US and Vietnam have been surrounded in controversy on the basis that the deal struck between the countries allows Vietnam to produce its own nuclear fuel whereas recently in similar agreements with other nations, the US has insisted on including non-proliferation provisions restricting the right for that country to independently enrich uranium.

Conclusion

Given the finite nature of traditional energy sources such as coal and gas and the concerns regarding the viability of large scale hydropower projects to continue to meet Vietnam's ever-increasing demand for power, Vietnam may have little other option than to heavily invest now in a nuclear programme.

However, to implement a successful nuclear power industry in Vietnam going forward, the Vietnamese government will need to ensure that there is a sufficiently detailed and rigorous regulatory regime in place to provide adequate safeguards against the potentially devastating consequences of improper handling of nuclear materials or a nuclear incident which could jeopardize the future of nuclear power as an alternative energy source in Vietnam but also further afield.

This process is already under way with the recent Decrees and Decisions emanating from the National Assembly and the Prime Minister as well as the various ministries and agencies, but there is still more to do if Vietnam is to meet its challenging timetable of having a nuclear power plant operational by 2020.

Despite the challenges, there is little doubt that, where some of its rivals in the region are still grappling with the socio-economic, political and regulatory framework issues that surround the implementation of nuclear power as a viable alternative to traditional energy, Vietnam has embraced nuclear energy as an answer to its growing energy demands and is moving closer to realizing its nuclear ambitions./.

Other Sectors

Finance - Banking

- On January 26th, 2011, the Government issued Decree No. 10/2011/ND-CP amending and supplementing a number of articles of Decree No. 141/2006/ND-CP dated November 22nd, 2006 promulgating the list of legal capital levels applicable to credit institutions.
- Decree No. 01/2011/ND-CP dated January 05th, 2011 on issuance of the Government bonds, Government-guaranteed bonds and local authorities' bonds.
- On January 20th, 2011, the Prime Minister stipulated Decision No. 04/2011/QD-TTg on the financial management regarding the Vietnam Social Insurance.
- Decision No. 03/2011/QD-TTg dated January 10th, 2011 of the Prime Minister promulgating the Regulation on guarantees for loans provided by commercial banks to small and medium sized enterprises.
- On January 6th, 2011, the Ministry of Finance issued Circular No. 01/2011/TT-BTC providing for the support of expenditures from the State budget for associations, which have activities attached to the tasks assigned by the State; the management and use the associations' properties and finance; management of the receipt and use of sponsoring sources from foreign individuals and organizations to the associations.

Taxation

- Circular No. 12/2011/TT-BTC dated January 26th, 2011 of the Ministry of Finance amending Circular No. 84/2008/TTBTC dated September 30th, 2008 of the Ministry of Finance providing guidelines for the implementation of a number of articles of the Law on Personal Income Tax and amending Circular No.02/2010/TT-BTC dated January 11th, 2010 of the Ministry of Finance providing further guidelines for Circular No. 84/2008/TT-BTC dated September 30th, 2008 of the Ministry of Finance.
- On January 21st, 2011, the Ministry of Finance stipulated Circular No.09/2011/TT-BTC providing guidelines for the value-added tax and corporate income tax in the field of insurance business.
- Circular No. 07/2011/TT-BTC dated January 14th, 2011 of the Ministry of Finance providing guidelines for the implementation of preferential import tax rates applicable to a number of items under Group 2710 in the Preferential Import Tariff.

Trade

- On January 29th, 2011, the General Department of Customs issued Decision No.209/QD-TCHQ promulgating the professional process of customs management with regard to imported and exported goods changing the border gates.
- Decision No. 148/QD-TCHQ dated January 28th, 2011 of the General Department of Customs providing for customs supervision in land border gate areas.
- On January 28th, 2011, the Ministry of Industry and Trade stipulated Circular No.02/2011/TT-BCT providing guidelines for Decree No. 119/2007/ND-CP dated July 18th, 2007 of the Government on manufacture of and trade in tobacco.
- Circular No. 01/2011/TT-BCT dated January 14th, 2011 of the Ministry of Industry and Trade amending Circular No. 36/2010/TTBCT dated November 15th, 2010 of the Ministry of Industry and Trade implementing the Rules on Procedures for issuance and control of the origin, modification and the Rules of specifying items according to the 2007 version harmonized system in the Agreement on Trade in Goods within the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Co-operation between ASEAN and the People's Republic of China.

Labour

- On January 28th, 2011, Vietnam Social Insurance issued Decision No. 125/QD-BHXH on the organization of working on Saturday mornings.
- Decision No. 90/QD-LDTBXH dated January 25th, 2011 of the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs announcing the list of legal documents issued by the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs until December 31st, 2010, which are expired.
- On January 25th, 2011, the People's Committee of Hanoi stipulated Decision No.444/QD-UBND approving the National programme on occupational safety and occupational health of Hanoi for the period from 2011 to 2015.
- Inter-ministerial Circular No. 11/2011/TTLT/BTC-BLDTBXH dated January 26th, 2011 of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs providing guidelines for the management and use of expenditures for the implementation of Decision No. 32/2010/QD-TTg dated March 25th, 2010 of the Prime Minister approving the scheme on the development of social work related-jobs for period from 2010 to 2020.
- On January 20th, 2011, the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs issued Circular No. 02/2011/TT-BLDTBXH providing for the rates of adjustment

in monthly salaries, wages and incomes after payment of social insurance premiums.

- Inter-ministerial Circular No. 01/2011/TTLT-BLDTBXH-BYT dated January 10th, 2011 of the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Health providing guidelines for the implementation of labour safety and hygiene in labour entities.

Health

- On January 7th, 2011, the Government stipulated Decree No. 03/2011/ND-CP providing detailed regulations and measures to implement the Law on Red Cross activities.
- Circular No. 09/2011/TT-BYT dated January 26th, 2011 of the Ministry of Health providing guidelines for the conditions and professional scope of medical facilities using anti-HIV drugs.
- On January 26th, 2011, the Ministry of Health issued Circular No. 08/2011/TT-BYT providing guidelines for the nutrition and dietetics in hospitals.
- Circular No. 07/2011/TT-BYT dated January 26th, 2011 of the Ministry of Health providing guidelines for the nursing care of patients in hospitals.
- On January 25th, 2011, the Ministry of Health stipulated Circular No.06/2011/TT-BYT providing for the control of cosmetics.
- Circular No. 05/2011/TT-BYT dated January 13th, 2011 of the Ministry of Health promulgating national standards applicable to micronutrient-fortified foods.
- On January 13th, 2011, the Ministry of Health issued Circular No. 03/2011/TT-BYT promulgating national standards applicable to substances used for micronutrient fortified food.
- Circular No. 02/2011/TT-BYT dated January 13th, 2011 of the Ministry of Health promulgating national standards applicable to limit of chemical pollution in foods.
- On January 13th, 2011, the Ministry of Health stipulated Circular No.01/2011/TT-BYT promulgating national standards applicable to food additives.

Education

- Circular No. 04/2011/TT-BGDDT dated January 28th, 2011 of the Ministry of Education and Training promulgating the regulations on compilation, selection, appraisal, approval and use of syllabuses for university training.
- On January 28th, 2011, the Ministry of Education and Training issued Circular No. 03/2011/TT-BGDDT promulgating the Regulation on organization and operation of the foreign language or informatic centers.

- Circular No. 02/2011/TT-BGDĐT dated January 20th, 2011 of the Ministry of Education and Training promulgating the Regulation on check, administration, review and systematization of legal documents on education.

Transport

- On January 29th, 2011, the General Department of Customs stipulated Decision No. 202/QD-TCHQ promulgating the customs process and procedures with regard to means of transport on exit, entry or transit through the land border gates.
- Decision No. 149/QD-TCHQ dated January 28th, 2011 of the General Department of Customs promulgating the customs process and procedures with regard to international connecting trains on exit or entry, luggages of exit or entry train passengers, and customs supervision at international and domestic connecting railway stations.
- On January 26th, 2011, the People's Committee of Hanoi issued Decision No.05/2011/QD-UBND abrogating a number of the fee collection contents contained in Decision No. 38/2009/QD-UBND dated April 29th, 2009 of the People's Committee of Hanoi on the collection of fees for passing toll bridges and ferries in the area of Hanoi.
- Decision No. 07/2011/QD-TTg dated January 25th, 2011 of the Prime Minister approving the planning on transport development of the Central's key economic region until 2020 with orientation to 2030.
- On January 24th, 2011, the Prime Minister stipulated Decision No. 06/2011/QD-TTg approving the planning on transport development of the Southern's key economic region until 2020 with orientation to 2030.
- Decision No. 05/2011/QD-TTg dated January 24th, 2011 of the Prime Minister approving the planning on transport development of the Northern's key economic region until 2020 with orientation to 2030.
- On January 24th, 2011, the Ministry of Transport issued Decision No. 158/QD-BGTVT on assigning the tasks to prepare and implement a project on management of Vietnam's road assets funded by the World Bank.
- Circular No. 25/2010/TT-BKHCN dated December 29th, 2010 of the Ministry of Science and Technology providing guidelines for the procedures for grant of permits for the transport of dangerous goods, which are oxidizers, organic oxides and corrosive substances, by land road vehicles.

Land

- On January 14th, 2011, the Government stipulated Decree No. 04/2011/ND-CP implementing the annulation of the use of flood diversion or floodwater slowing areas within the Red River system.

- Decision No. 07/2011/QD-UBND dated January 26th, 2011 of the People's Committee of Hanoi promulgating the charter of organization, operation and the Regulation on management and use of Hanoi Land Development Fund.
- On January 26th, 2011, the People's Committee of Hanoi issued Decision No.06/2011/QD-UBND on the establishment of Hanoi Land Development Fund.
- Decision No. 04/2011/QD-UBND dated January 26th, 2011 of the People's Committee of Hanoi on the collection of fees for issuing certificates of land use rights, ownership of houses and other assets attached to land in the area of Hanoi.

Construction

- On January 25th, 2011, the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City stipulated Decision No. 05/2011/QD-UBND promulgating the Regulation on co-ordination in the State management of construction materials in the area of Ho Chi Minh City.
- Decision No. 124/QD-TTg dated January 20th, 2011 of the Prime Minister approving the adjustment of general planning on construction of the Dung Quat Economic Zone, Quang Ngai Province until 2025.
- On January 10th, 2011, the People's Committee of Hanoi issued Decision No.02/2011/QD-UBND promulgating the regulations on a number of contents on the management of costs of investments in construction of works funded by State budget, which are managed by the People's Committee of Hanoi.
- Decision No. 45/QD-TTg dated January 7th, 2011 of the Prime Minister approving the task of planning on construction in the Central Highlands until 2030.
- On January 24th, 2011, the People's Committee of Hanoi stipulated Decision No.405/QD-UBND announcing norms of estimation for maintaining and repairing the drainage system of Hanoi.
- Circular No. 01/2011/TT-BXD dated January 27th, 2011 of the Ministry of Construction providing guidelines for the strategic environment assessment in schemes of construction planning and urban planning.
- On January 26th, 2011, the Ministry of Finance issued Circular No. 10/2011/TT-BTC providing for the management and use of project management costs of construction investment projects funded by the State budget.

Natural Resources - Environment

- Decision No. 148/QD-TTG dated January 25th, 2011 of the Prime Minister approving the task of planning on solid waste treatment of Hanoi until 2030, with orientation to 2050.

- On January 25th, 2011, the People's Committee of Hanoi stipulated Decision No.03/2011/QD-UBND promulgating the regulations on the levels of support for environmental impacts in solid waste treatment zones in the area of Hanoi.
- Decision No. 0321/QD-BCT dated January 20th, 2011 of the Ministry of Industry and Trade supplementing the zoning plan for exploration, exploitation, processing and use of the group of industrial minerals (serpentine, barite, graphite, fluorite, bentonite, diatomite and talc) until 2015, with orientation to 2025.
- On January 19th, 2011, the Ministry of Industry and Trade issued Decision No.0285/QD-BCT supplementing the zoning plan for exploration, exploitation, processing and use of the group of raw material minerals including white limestone (marble), feldspar, kaolin and magnezit until 2015, with orientation to 2025.
- Inter-ministerial Circular No. 07/2011/TTLT-BNNPTNT-BTNMT dated January 29th, 2011 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment providing guidelines for a number of contents on forest allocation, forest lease associated with land allocation, and forestry land lease.
- On January 21st, 2011, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment stipulated Circular No. 01/2011/TT-BTNMT supplementing Clause 3, Article 8 of Circular No. 07/2009/TT-BTNMT of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment detailing a number of articles of Decree No. 102/2008/ND-CP dated September 15th, 2008 of the Government on the collection, management, exploitation and use of data on natural resources and environment.

Information - Communications

- Decree No. 02/2011/ND-CP dated January 6th, 2011 on administrative sanctions in the press and publication activities.
- On January 29th, 2011, the Ministry of Information and Communications issued Decision No. 138/QD-BTTTT promulgating the Regulation on formulation, promulgation, review and systematization of legal documents.
- Decision No. 119/QD-TTg dated January 18th, 2011 of the Prime Minister approving the project on rural information and communication development for the period from 2011 to 2020.
- On January 28th, 2011, the Ministry of Information and Communications stipulated Circular No. 05/2011/TT-BTTTT providing for the settlement of complaints of service users in the field of information and communications.
- Inter-ministerial Circular No. 04/2011/TTLT-BTTTT-BTC dated January 10th, 2011 of the Ministry of Information and Communications and the Ministry of

Finance providing guidelines for ordering publications funded by the State budget.

- On January 4th, 2011, the Ministry of Information and Communications issued Circular No. 03/2011/TT-BTTTT providing for activities of formulating national technical standards and national standards under the Ministry of Information and Communications.
- Circular No. 02/2011/TT-BTTTT dated January 4th, 2011 of the Ministry of Information and Communications providing for the contents on resolution of the incidents in the process of implementing investment, maintenance and operation of the projects on application of information technology funded by the State budget.
- On January 4th, 2011, the Ministry of Information and Communications stipulated Circular No. 01/2011/TT-BTTTT announcing the list of technical standards for information technology application in State agencies.

Administration - Judiciary

- Decree No. 09/2011/ND-CP dated January 25th, 2011 amending and supplementing the regime of diet and medical examination and treatment of persons held in custody or detention as stipulated in Articles 26 and 28 of the Regulation of seizure and detention issued together with Decree No.89/1998/ND-CP dated November 7th, 1998 of the Government.
- On January 25th, 2011, the Government issued Decree No. 08/2011/ND-CP on administrative sanctions relating to animal feed.
- Decision No. 187/QD-TTg dated January 29th, 2011 of the Prime Minister on the public official staffing in 2011 of the State administrative agencies.
- On January 27th, 2011, the Prime Minister stipulated Decision No. 173/QD-TTg approving the Agreement between the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt on visa exemption for diplomatic passport, special passport and official passport holders.
- Decision No. 170/QD-TTg dated January 26th, 2011 of the Prime Minister approving the pilot project on recruiting 600 university level-outstanding young intellects to hold the vice chair positions in communal People's Committees in 62 poor districts.
- On January 24th, 2011, the Prime Minister issued Decision No. 142/QD-TTg approving the Agreement between the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Government of the United Arab Emirates on visa exemption for diplomatic passport, official passport or special passport holders.

- Decision No. 41/QD-BTP dated January 19th, 2011 of the Ministry of Justice announcing the list of legal documents issued and jointly issued by the Ministry of Justice, which are expired.
- On January 6th, 2011, the Prime Minister stipulated Decision No. 26/QD-TTg approving the Agreement between the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania on visa exemption for diplomatic passport or official passport holders.
- Decision No. 15/QD-TTg dated January 5th, 2011 of the Prime Minister approving the implementation plan of Law on Enforcement of Criminal Judgments.
- On January 28th, 2011, the Government Office and the Ministry of Home Affairs jointly issued Joint Circular No. 02/2011/TTLT-VPCP-BNV providing guidelines for the functions, tasks, powers and organizational structure of the Offices of the People's Committees of provinces and central-running cities.
- Decision No. 515/QD-UBND dated January 27th, 2011 of the People's Committee of Hanoi promulgating settlement plan for naturalization with respect to stateless people who have not fully adequate documentation of personal identity, but have permanently resided in the territory of Vietnam for 20 years up to July 1st, 2009, currently residing in the area of Hanoi.
- On January 26th, 2011, the Government Office and the Ministry of Home Affairs stipulated Joint Circular No. 01/2011/TTLT-VPCP-BNV providing guidelines for the functions, tasks, authority, organization and staffing of administrative procedure control divisions under the ministry offices, ministerial-level agencies and the offices of the People's Committees of provinces and central-running cities.
- Circular No. 02/2011/TT-BNV dated January 24th, 2011 of the Ministry of Home Affairs providing guidelines for the implementation of Decree No. 42/2010/ND-CP dated April 15th, 2010 of the Government detailing the implementation of a number of articles of Law on Emulation and Commendation and Law amending and supplementing a number of articles of Law on Emulation and Commendation.
- On January 19th, 2011, the Ministry of Home Affairs issued Circular No.01/2011/TT-BNV providing guidelines for the format style and techniques of presentation of administrative documents.
- Circular No. 03/2011/TT-BTP dated January 17th, 2011 of the Ministry of Justice decentralizing the management of finance, assets, and investment in basic construction to the General Department of Enforcement of Civil Judgements and agencies for enforcement of civil judgements.

- On January 14th, 2011, the Ministry of Finance stipulated Circular No.06/2011/TT-BTC amending and supplementing Circular No. 103/2007/TT-BTC dated August 29th, 2007 providing guidelines for the implementation of Decision No. 59/2007/QD-TTg dated May 7th, 2007 of the Prime Minister promulgating the regulations on standards, norms and regime of vehicles management and use in State agencies, public non-profit professional units and State companies.
- Circular No. 02/2011/TT-BTP dated January 13th, 2011 of the Ministry of Justice providing guidelines for a number of contents on legal aid statistics.
- On January 10th, 2011, the Government Inspectorate issued Circular No.05/2011/TT-TTCP providing for the corruption prevention and combat in the inspection branch.

Agriculture

- Decision No. 01/2011/QD-TTg dated January 4th, 2011 of the Prime Minister promulgating the Regulation on controlling erosion of riverside and coast.
- On January 29th, 2011, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development stipulated Circular No. 06/2011/TT-BNNPTNT amending and supplementing a number of provisions of Circular No. 37/2009/TT-BNNPTNT and Circular No.38/2009/TT-BNNPTNT dated June 26th, 2009.
- Circular No. 05/2011/TT-BNNPTNT dated January 24th, 2011 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development providing guidelines for measures to prevent and combat against Newcastle disease in poultry.
- On January 24th, 2011, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development issued Circular No. 04/2011/TT-BNNPTNT providing guidelines for measures to prevent and combat against hog cholera.
- Circular No. 03/2011/TT-BNNPTNT dated January 21st, 2011 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development providing for the origin determination and recall of products, which do not ensure quality and food safety in the aquacultural field.
- On January 21st, 2011, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development stipulated Circular No. 02/2011/TT-BNNPTNT providing guidelines for the tasks of State management on animal husbandry.
- Circular No. 01/2011/TT-BNNPTNT dated January 5th, 2011 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development providing for the amendment and supplement to the list of rare aquatic species being on the verge of extinction and need to be protected, restored and developed, that was issued together with Decision No. 82/2008/QD-BNN dated July 17th, 2008 of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Investment

- On January 27th, 2011, the Ministry of Planning and Investment issued Circular No. 03/2011/TT-BKHDT providing guidelines for the implementation of a number of provisions of Decree No. 108/2009/ND-CP dated November 27th, 2009 of the Government on investment in the forms of BOT, BTO and BT contracts.
- Circular No. 01/2011/TT-BKHDT dated January 4th, 2011 of the Ministry of Planning and Investment detailing the inspection of bidding activities.

Culture - Sport - Tourism

- On January 14th, 2011, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism stipulated Circular No. 03/2011/TT-BVHTTDL providing for the operational conditions of sport facilities organizing sport dance.
- Circular No. 02/2011/TT-BVHTTDL dated 10th, 2011 of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism providing for the operational conditions of sport facilities that organize swimming and diving activities.
- On January 6th, 2011, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism issued Circular No. 01/2011/TT-BVHTTDL providing for the operational conditions of sport facilities organizing recreational dancing activities.

Miscellaneous

- Decision No. 09/2011/QD-TTg dated January 30th, 2011 of the Prime Minister promulgating the standards of poor and pro-poor households applicable for the period from 2011 to 2015.
- On January 27th, 2011, the Prime Minister stipulated Decision No. 175/QD-TTg approving the overall strategy for developing the service sector of Vietnam until 2020.
- Decision No. 08/2011/QD-TTg dated January 26th, 2011 of the Prime Minister on strengthening the staff for communes in the poor districts to implement Resolution No. 30a/2008/NQ-CP dated December 27th, 2008 of the Government on the program on support to quick and sustainable poverty reduction in 61 poor districts.
- On January 10th, 2011, the People's Committee of Hanoi issued Decision No.01/2011/QD-UBND promulgating the poor and pro-poor standards of Hanoi for the period from 2011 to 2015.
- Decision No. 127/QD-TTg dated January 20th, 2011 of the Prime Minister approving the detailed planning on radiation application development in industry and other economic - technical sectors until 2020.

Contact Details

Hanoi Head Office

Mr. Pham Nghiem Xuan Bac
Managing Partner

Mr. Luu Tien Ngoc
Director, Business Development

Mr. Pham Minh Hai
Partner, Consulting Practice

Ms. Le Quynh Anh
Executive Partner, Legal Practice

Ms. Le Thi Kim Dzung
Partner, Intellectual Property Practice

Unit 308-310, 3rd Floor, Hanoi Towers
49 Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi, Vietnam
Tel: 84-4-3934 0629/ 3826 4797 Fax: 84-4-3934 0631
E-mail: vision@vision-associates.com

Ho Chi Minh City Office

Mr. Luu Tien Ngoc
Partner, HCMC office

Mr. Geoffrey Hugh Sutherland
Foreign Lawyer

Unit 1801, 18th Floor, Saigon Trade Centre
37 Ton Duc Thang Street, District 1
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.
Tel: 84-8-3823 6495 Fax: 84-8-3823 6496
E-mail: hcmvision@vision-associates.com

www.vision-associates.com