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LAW ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Whom the patent rights to an invention should be granted: the true inventor or the first applicant

By Nguyen Nguyet Dzung

Patent rights have long been regarded as an incentive regime in order: (i) to stimulate and repay innovation of new and inventive things; (ii) to induce the disclosure of invention in order to promote further improvements and to allow the public to freely exploit the invention once the patent expires; (iii) to encourage the commercialization and exploitation of the invention that can benefit the public in many ways; and (iv) to promote technological progress, and thereby long-run economic growth. However, the question whom the patent rights to an invention should be granted, the person who is the first to file the patent application for such an invention before the patent office, or the “true” inventor – the person who first conceived the invention, has been under debate for long time.

First-to-File vs. First-to-Invent Patent Regimes

The first-to invent system, in which a patent shall be granted to a true inventor, is now applied only in the United State of America. In all other countries, the person who is the first to file the application for a patent or is the first to validly claim priority for an application for the same invention is entitled to the grant of the patent. Before exploring why Vietnam patent law makers have followed the first-to-file doctrine, we should understand a few basics concepts in patent law and the difference between the two regimes.

The United States, Canada and the Philippines are three countries, which have been unique in using a *first-to-invent* system, although slightly different. However, Canada switched from the first-to-invent to first-to-file system in 1989, followed by the adoption of the same in the Philippines in 1998. Under the first-to-invent regime, there are two dates that is very important in determining the entitlement to the grant of a patent: the date of conception of the invention, the date of reduction to practice. The date of conception is when the inventor first conceived of the invention. The date of reduction to practice is when the inventor built a working model or a prototype (actual reduction to practice), or when the inventor filed a patent application (constructive reduction to practice).

When an inventor conceives of an invention and *diligently* reduces the invention to practice (by practicing the invention, building a prototype, or filing a patent application, etc.), he or she will be considered as the first and true inventor and entitled to a patent, even if another files a patent application, constructively reducing the invention to practice, before the inventor. When there are two inventors filed patent applications with the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) on the same invention, an interference hearing might occur before the Board of Appeals and Interferences at the USPTO to determine who conceived of the invention first, and

whether the inventors have been diligent in reducing their inventions to practice. This is how the first-to-invent system works.

The first-to-file rule was first adopted by European countries and has gradually become the international standard since except the United States, all other countries in the world follows a first-to-file patent system today. This system gives priority to the person who first files a patent application at their patent office, no matter if he or she is the person who first conceives the invention or not. In case there are two applications for the same invention filed by different applicants, the patent may only be granted to the application having the earlier filing date. The date of filing, not the date of conception, shall matter.

The supporters of the first-to-invent system argue that in principle, the to-be-awarded party should be the true and first inventor, not the person who rushes to the patent office to first file an application. They regard the system as beneficial to small and independent inventors who need to take their financial resources into consideration before making a costly decision to file a patent application. Further, since an inventor does not have to rush to the patent office, he or she will have more time to conduct a comprehensive patent search of prior art to determine if his or her invention is patentable. He or she shall have sufficient time as well to prepare a patent specification of good enough quality with the sufficient breadth of disclosure, thereby to save a plenty of time for patent office's examiners in examination his or her patent application and to reduce the backlog of pending applications at the patent office.

The opponent of the first-to-invent regime, on the other hand, assert that the first-to-invent system has resulted in a costly and lengthy interference proceeding to determine who conceived of the invention first. The costs in a patent interference dispute may get too high and unbearable for a small inventor, leading to abandonment of his or her patent application. In this sense, the first-to-invent rule, which has been construed as beneficial to independent inventors, may turn out to be undesirable to small inventors. Also, the utter simplicity of the first-to-file systems can hardly be denied. There are no interference disputes because of the first come first served rule: whoever gets the earliest postmark stamp on the patent application shall be entitled to the patent.

Rationale of the patent disclosure in exchange for an exclusive right

The theoretical basis of the first-to-file system stems from the contract theory of patents. We know that the patent grants the exclusive right to the patent owner. In exchange for the exclusive right, an applicant must disclose his/her invention in a sufficient way as so to enable a person of ordinary skill in the art to which the invention pertains to make and use the invention. The sufficient and enabling disclosure of the invention also serves to place the teachings of the invention in the public domain so that the public can practice the invention when the patent expires. That is, a patent is a written contract between the patent office and the inventor in which the consideration is the above-mentioned exchange.

Thus, if an inventor conceives an invention, diligently reduces his or her invention to practice by building a prototype, but not filing a patent application with the patent

office, his or her invention still remains secret and undisclosed to the public. Then, firstly, it appears to be fair to reward with the exclusive right the first applicant to disclose the invention to the public by filing the application with the patent office. Secondly, other patent applicants might be affected considerably by so-called "secret prior art", because they could not locate that secret prior art through a prior art search before filing their applications with the respect patent office.

The patent regime in Vietnam

Vietnam follows the first-to-file rule though small enterprises and independent inventors prevail. At the first glance, it seems strange because the first-to-file regime has been regarded as beneficial to large corporations with well-established patent departments with a plenty of seasoned patent in-house attorneys, and thereby placing small enterprises and independent inventors at a severe disadvantage. However, there are few things that should be taken into consideration if one wishes to understand the whole picture.

First, it is not easy to determine who out of two inventors filed patent applications with the National Office of Intellectual Property of Vietnam (NOIP) for the same invention, first conceived of the invention, and whether that inventor has been diligent in reducing his or her invention to practice. Imagine that the NOIP's examiners or somebody else shall have to check on all possible diaries, records of any laboratory works and/or experimentation/test results in order to find out who has the earlier date of conception. It is not practical at all because it is hard to determine the authenticity of such documents and might be very costly and lengthy process unacceptable to small enterprises and independent inventors.

Second, since Vietnam technology is still at a low level of development, inventors are encouraged to patent their inventions in exchange for a sufficient and enabling disclosure of their invention for the public's use when the patent expires. Any delay in filing a patent application means a delay in disclosing a new technology to the public and therefore should not be encouraged. As a matter of fact, the aim of granting a patent is to encourage incentive to invent, incentive to disclose, incentive to commercialize, and incentive to design around. That is why patent can create private value and at the same time enhance welfare for society as a whole. That is why a patent should be granted to a first filer who duly bring his or her invention to the public's light./.

Other Sectors

Finance

- On March 10th, 2011, the Prime Minister issued Decision No. 352/QD-TTg on the pilot implementation of the inventory and revaluation of assets and capital of a number of whole State-owned enterprises at 00:00 a.m. on July 1st, 2011.
- Decision No. 16/2011/QD-TTg dated March 10th, 2011 of the Prime Minister on implementing the financial and staffing management mechanism with respect to the General Department of Taxation and General Department of Customs for the period from 2011 to 2015.
- On February 24th, 2011, the State Bank of Vietnam stipulated Decision No.311/QD-NHNN announcing the list of legal documents issued by the State Bank of Vietnam, which are no longer effective in the period from July 1st, 2010 to December 31st, 2010.
- Circular No. 42/2011/TT-BTC dated March 25th, 2011 of the Ministry of Finance regulating the financial management mechanism of funds for diplomatic activities serving economy.
- On March 24th, 2011, the Ministry of Finance issued Circular No. 41/2011/TT-BTC amending and supplementing Circular No. 193/2010/TT-BTC dated December 2nd, 2010 providing for the collection, payment, management and use regime of fees for assessment and appraisal of conditions on security and order, testing fees for issuance of security profession certificate, charges for issuance of seal registration certificate, charges for issuance of license for bringing fireworks into or out of Vietnam; charges for issuance of license for management of weapons, explosive materials, and support tools.
- Circular No. 40/2011/TT-BTC dated March 22th, 2011 of the Ministry of Finance on the amendment and supplement to a number of points in Circular No.108/2007/TT-BTC dated July 9th, 2007 of the Ministry of Finance providing guidelines for the financial management regime regarding official development aid (ODA) programmes and projects.
- On March 14th, 2011, the Ministry of Finance issued Circular No. 34/2011/TT-BTC amending Circular No. 228/2009/TT-BTC dated December 7th, 2009 of the Ministry of Finance providing guidelines for the regime of extraction for establishment and use of reserves for diminution in value of stocks, loss of financial investments, bad debts, and warranty of products, goods and construction works in enterprises.

- Circular No. 32/2011/TT-BTC dated March 14th, 2011 of the Ministry of Finance providing guidelines for the creation, issuance and use of electronic invoices of goods sales and service supplies.
- On March 2nd, 2011, the Ministry of Finance stipulated Circular No. 30/2011/TT-BTC providing for the addition to the State Budget Index.

Banking

- Decision No. 692/QD-NHNN dated March 31st, 2011 of the State Bank of Vietnam on interest rates applicable to refinance, overnight loans in the inter-bank electronic payments, and loans for making up capital deficiency in clearing payments between the State Bank of Vietnam and banks.
- On March 8th, 2011, the State Bank of Vietnam issued Decision No. 379/QD-NHNN on interest rates applicable to refinance, rediscount, overnight loans in the inter-bank electronic payments, and loans for making up capital deficiency in clearing payments between the State Bank of Vietnam and banks.
- Circular No. 07/2011/TT-NHNN dated March 24th, 2011 of the State Bank of Vietnam providing for the lending in foreign currencies by credit institutions to borrowers who are residents.
- On March 22nd, 2011, the State Bank of Vietnam stipulated Circular No.06/2011/TT-NHNN providing for the statistical survey of currency, banking activities and foreign exchange.
- Circular No. 05/2011/TT-NHNN dated March 10th, 2011 of the State Bank of Vietnam providing for the credit institutions' collection of lending fees from their clients.
- On March 10th, 2011, the State Bank of Vietnam issued Circular No.04/2011/TT-NHNN providing for the application of interest rates in case where organizations and individuals withdraw their deposits before maturity at credit institutions.
- Circular No. 31/2011/TT-BTC dated March 7th, 2011 of the Ministry of Finance amending and supplementing Circular No. 100/2002/TT-BTC dated November 4th, 2002 of the Ministry of Finance providing guidelines for the additional allocation of charter capital to State-owned commercial banks.
- On March 3rd, 2011, the State Bank of Vietnam stipulated Circular No.02/2011/TT-NHNN providing for the maximum interest rate applicable to capital mobilization in Vietnamese Dong.

Securities

- Circular 38/2011/TT-BTC dated March 16th, 2011 of the Ministry of Finance providing for the collection rates and the collection, payment, management and

use regime of securities operation fees applicable to the organizations conducting business in securities services.

- On March 16th, 2011, the Ministry of Finance issued Circular No. 37/2011/TT-BTC providing guidelines for the implementation of a number of articles of Decree No. 85/2010/ND-CP dated August 2nd, 2010 of the Government on sanctioning against administrative violations in the field of securities and securities market.

Taxation

- Decision No. 645/QD-BTC dated March 21st, 2011 of the Ministry of Finance announcing the average selling prices of commercial electricity applied as tax calculation prices of natural water resources for hydropower generation in 2011.
- On March 18th, 2011, the Ministry of Finance stipulated Decision No. 624/QD-BTC correcting Circular No. 09/2011/TT-BTC dated January 21st, 2011 of the Ministry of Finance providing guidelines for the value-added tax and corporate income tax in the insurance business field.
- Circular No. 35/2011/TT-BTC dated March 15th, 2011 of the Ministry of Finance providing guidelines for a number of contents on the value-added tax applicable to telecommunications services.
- On March 1st, 2011, the Ministry of Finance issued Circular No. 29/2011/TT-BTC on the adjustment in preferential import tax rates applicable to sugar item under Group 17.01 in the Preferential Import Tariff.

Trade

- Decision No. 448/QD-TTg dated March 25th, 2011 of the Prime Minister approving the development strategy of customs branch to 2020.
- On March 25th, 2011, the Ministry of Industry and Trade stipulated Decision No.1380/QD-BCT promulgating the list of goods discouraged for import.
- Decision No. 19/2011/QD-TTg dated March 23rd, 2011 of the Prime Minister on the pilot implementation of receiving declaration forms of goods and relevant vouchers, and electronic customs clearance for entry and exit vessels.
- On March 9th, 2011, the People's Committee of Hanoi issued Decision No.12/2011/QD-UBND promulgating the regulations on the process of converting management, business and exploration model of markets in the area of Hanoi.
- Circular No. 11/2011/TT-BCT dated March 30th, 2011 of the Ministry of Industry and Trade amending and supplementing Article 10 of the regulations on inspection of electricity operations and use, settlement of disputes related to

electricity sale and purchase contracts issued together with Decision No.31/2006/QĐ-BCN dated September 6th, 2006.

- On March 30th, 2011, the Ministry of Industry and Trade stipulated Circular No.10/2011/TT-BCT amending, supplementing and repealing a number of regulations on administrative procedures in the field of import and export under Resolution No. 59/NQ-CP dated 17th, December 2010 of the Government on the simplification of the administrative procedures within the management function scope of the Ministry of Industry and Trade.
- Circular No. 09/2011/TT-BCT dated March 30th, 2011 of the Ministry of Industry and Trade providing for the management and use of digital signatures and deeds, and digital signature certification services of the Ministry of Industry and Trade.
- On March 30th, 2011, the Ministry of Industry and Trade issued Circular No.08/2011/TT-BCT on the amendment and supplement to a number of articles providing for administrative procedures in Decision No.46/2008/QĐ-BCT dated December 17th, 2008 of the Minister of Industry and Trade and Decision No.15/2007/QĐ-BTM dated June 5th, 2007 of the Minister of Trade.
- Circular No.07/2011/TT-BCT dated March 24th, 2011 of the Ministry of Industry and Trade providing for the list of consumption goods to serve the determination of import tax payment time-limits.
- On March 21st, 2011, the Ministry of Industry and Trade stipulated Circular No.06/2011/TT-BCT providing for the procedures for issuance of preferential certificates of origin of goods.
- Circular No. 36/2011/TT-BTC dated March 16th, 2011 of the Ministry of Finance providing for the customs procedures for exported, imported and transited goods via land express courier service.

Labour

- On March 29th, 2011, the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs issued Decision No. 388/QĐ-LĐTBXH promulgating the Regulation on management of implementation of the project on "Vocational training on demand for poverty reduction in the Mekong delta".
- Decision No. 271/QĐ-LĐTBXH dated March 10th, 2011 the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs recognizing 30 vocational training establishments that meet standards of training quality control test in 2010 at level 3.
- On March 31st, 2011, the Ministry of Planning and Investment and the Ministry of Finance jointly stipulated Circular No. 05/2011/TTLT-BKHDT-BTC

providing guidelines for the support in training and fostering human resources for medium and small enterprises.

Transport

- Circular No. 23/2011/TT-BGTVT dated March 31st, 2011 of the Ministry of Transport providing for the management of inland waterways.
- On March 31st, 2011, the Ministry of Transport issued Circular No.21/2011/TT-BGTVT providing for the registration of means of inland waterway transport.
- Circular No. 20/2011/TT-BGTVT dated March 31st, 2011 of the Ministry of Transport on transportation of passengers by inland waterways.
- On March 31st, 2011, the Ministry of Transport stipulated Circular No.19/2011/TT-BGTVT amending and supplementing a number of articles of Circular No.16/2010/TT-BGTVT dated June 30th, 2010 providing for the management and exploitation of airports and aeroports.
- Circular No. 18/2011/TT-BGTVT dated March 31st, 2011 of the Ministry of Transport amending and supplementing a number of articles of Decision No. 13/2007/QĐ-BGTVT dated March 26th, 2007 of the Ministry of Transport on the issuance and recognition of Certificates of eligibility to transport the dangerous goods by air.
- On March 31st, 2011, the Ministry of Transport issued Circular No. 17/2011/TT-BGTVT on the amendment and supplement to a number of articles of Decision No. 06/2007/QĐ-BGTVT dated February 5th, 2007 of the Ministry of Transport promulgating the Programme of civil aviation security.
- Circular No. 14/2011/TT-BGTVT dated March 30th, 2011 of the Ministry of Transport on amendment and supplement to a number of articles relating to administrative procedures of the Regulation on examination, grant and renewal of diplomas and professional certificates of vessel's staffs and drivers of means of inland waterway transport, and persons holding title of vessel's staffs of means of inland waterway transport, which is issued together with Decision No.19/2008/QĐ-BGTVT dated September 18th, 2008 of the Minister of Transport.
- On March 30, 2011, the Ministry of Transport stipulated Circular No.13/2011/TT-BGTVT on the amendment and supplement to a number of articles relating to administrative procedures in the regulations on conditions of vocational education establishments for vessel's staffs and drivers of means of inland waterway transport, which are issued together with Decision No.18/2008/QĐ-BGTVT dated September 17th, 2008 of the Minister of Transport.

- Circular No. 12/2011/TT-BGTVT dated March 30th, 2011 of the Ministry of Transport providing for the grant and revocation of Certificates of insurance or of financial guarantee in accordance with the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damages of 1992.
- On March 28th, 2011, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Transport jointly issued Inter-ministerial Circular No. 43/2011/TTLT/BTC-BGTVT on the amendment and supplement to Inter-ministerial Circular No. 103/2008/TTLT-BTC-BGTV dated November 12th, 2008 of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Transport providing guidelines for the management of domestic air transportation tariff and air service prices at Vietnam's airports and air ports.
- Circular No. 11/2011/TT-BGTVT dated March 28th, 2011 of the Ministry of Transport amending and supplementing a number of articles of Decision No.19/2007/QĐ-BGTVT dated April 4th, 2007 of the Minister of Transport on aviation personnel and professional education and training establishments for aviation personnel;
- On March 25th, 2011, the Ministry of Transport stipulated Circular No.10/2011/TT-BGTVT on the amendment and supplement to a number of articles of Circular No. 06/2009/TT-BGTVT dated June 18th, 2009 of the Minister of Transport providing for the training, grant and revocation of Certificates of marine pilots' professional capacity and Certificates of marine pilots' operational extent.
- Circular No. 33/2011/TT-BTC dated March 14th, 2011 of the Ministry of Finance amending Circular 47/2005/TT-BTC dated June 8th, 2005 of the Ministry of Finance providing guidelines for the collection, payment, management and use regime of State management charges and fees for ensuring the order and safety of inland waterway transport.
- On March 11th, 2011, the Ministry of Transport issued Circular No. 09/2011/TT-BGTVT amending and supplementing a number of articles related to administrative procedures in the regulations on the types of railway business enterprise that must have safety certificate, and conditions, order and procedures for the grant of safety certificate issued together with Decision No. 61/2007/QĐ-BGTVT dated December 24th, 2007 of the Minister of Transport.
- Circular No.08/2011/TT-BGTVT dated March 8th, 2011 of the Ministry of Transport promulgating the national technical standards on journey surveillance equipment of cars.
- On March 7th, 2011, the Ministry of Transport stipulated Circular No.07/2011/TT-BGTVT amending and supplementing a number of articles of the regulations on standards, duties, responsibilities, authority, rewards and disciplines with regard to register officers in the register units of vehicles issued together with Decision No. 1643/1998/QĐ-BGTVT dated July 6th, 1998, as

amended and supplemented by Decision No. 3165/2002/QD-BGTVT dated October 2nd, 2002 of the Minister of Transport.

- Circular No. 06/2011/TT-BGTVT dated March 7th, 2011 of the Ministry of Transport providing for fostering the legal knowledge on road traffic in favour of drivers of specialized motorbikes participating in road traffic.

Natural Resources - Environment

- On March 18th, 2011, the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City issued Decision No. 17/2011/QD-UBND approving a project on protection management and development of forests and trees in Ho Chi Minh City until 2020, with orientation to 2025.
- Decision No. 0908/QD-BCT dated March 1st, 2011 of the Ministry of Industry and Trade supplementing the zoning plan for exploration, exploitation, processing and use of white limestone materials (marble), feldspar, kaolin and manganese mineral group until 2015, with orientation to 2025.
- On March 28th, 2011, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment stipulated Circular No. 08/2011/TT-BTNMT amending and supplementing a number of articles of Circular No. 30/2009/TT-BTNMT dated December 31st, 2009 of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment providing for the process and the economic - technical norms of establishment of the database of natural resources and environment.

Science – Technique

- Decree No. 21/2011/ND-CP dated March 29th, 2011 of the Government detailing the measures for implementation of the Law on Economized and Effective Energy Use.
- On March 30th, 2011, the Prime Minister issued Decision No. 459/QD-TTg approving the overall planning on development of Vietnam's gas industry for the period until 2015, with orientation to 2025.
- Circular No.14/2011/TT-BCT dated March 30th, 2011 of the Ministry of Industry and Trade amending and supplementing the regulations on administrative procedures in the Regulations on security technique management of the machines, equipment and hazardous chemicals having specific security requirements of specialized industries issued together with Decision No.136/2004/QD-BCN dated November 19th, 2004 of the Minister of Industry.
- On March 30th, 2011, the Ministry of Industry and Trade stipulated Circular No.13/2011/TT-BCT on the amendment and supplement to administrative procedures in the Regulation on management of substances used in the field of

industry issued together with Decision No. 134/2003/QĐ-BCN dated August 25th, 2003 of the Minister of Industry.

- Circular No. 12/2011/TT-BCT dated March 30th, 2011 of the Ministry of Industry and Trade providing for the amendment and supplement to and repealing of a number of regulations on administrative procedures stipulated in Decision No. 24/2002/QĐ-BCN dated June 17th, 2002 of the Minister of Industry promulgating the regulations on standards of enterprises producing and assembling the motorized two-wheelers and Decision No. 115/2004/QĐ-BCN dated October 27th, 2004 of the Minister of Industry promulgating the regulations on standards of enterprises manufacturing automobiles.
- On March 16th, 2011, the Ministry of Science and Technology issued Circular No. 01/2011/TT-BKHCHN providing guidelines for the establishment and operation registration of the foreign invested scientific and technological organizations, and representative offices and branches of foreign scientific and technological organizations in Vietnam.
- Inter-ministerial Circular No. 22/2011/TTLT-BTC-BKHCHN dated February 21st, 2011 of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Science and Technology providing guidelines for the financial management of projects on experimental production funded by the State Budget.

Information - Communications

- On March 24th, 2011, the Prime Minister stipulated Decision No. 20/2011/QĐ-TTg promulgating the Regulation on management of pay TV operations.
- Decision No. 376/QĐ-BTTTT dated March 18th, 2011 of the Ministry of Information and Communications correcting Circular No. 06/2011/TT-BTTTT dated February 28th, 2011 of the Ministry of Information and Communications providing for the setting up and management of costs of investments in information technology application.
- On March 15th, 2011, the Ministry of Information and Communications issued Decision No. 357/QĐ-BTTTT approving the planning on development of information technology and communications in the key economic region of Mekong delta until 2020.
- Circular No. 07/2011/TT-BTTTT dated March 1st, 2011 of the Ministry of Information and Communications detailing and providing guidelines for licensing of journalism activities in the field of radio and television.

Administration - Judiciary

- On March 29th, 2011, the National Assembly adopted Law No. 66/2011/QH12 on prevention of and fight against human trafficking.

- Law No. 65/2011/QH12 dated March 29th, 2011 of the National Assembly on the amendment and supplement to a number of articles of Civil Proceedings Code.
- On March 29th, 2011, the National Assembly issued Resolution No.60/2011/QH12 on the implementation of Law amending and supplementing a number of articles of Civil Proceedings Code.
- Decree No. 19/2011/ND-CP dated March 21st, 2011 of the Government detailing the implementation of a number of articles of the Law on Adoption.
- On March 24th, 2011, the Prime Minister stipulated Decision No. 440/QD-TTg approving the project on “Construction of headquarters and evidence storehouses of the agencies of enforcement of civil judgments and construction of training establishments of the Ministry of Justice under Resolution No. 49-NQ/TW, for the period from 2011 to 2015”.
- Decision No. 14/2011/QD-UBND dated March 15th, 2011 of the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City promulgating the Regulation on organization and management of collaborators checking legal documents in the area of City Ho Chi Minh City.
- On March 31st, 2011, the Ministry of Justice issued Circular No. 07/2011/TT-BTP providing guidelines for ensuring gender equality in personnel organization and legal aid operation.

Agriculture

- Decree No. 20/2011/ND-CP dated March 23rd, 2011 of the Government detailing the implementation of Resolution No. 55/2010/QH12 dated November 24th, 2010 of the National Assembly on exemption and reduction of agricultural land use tax.
- On March 3rd, 2011, the Prime Minister stipulated Decision No. 332/QD-TTg approving the project on aquaculture development until 2020.
- Decision No. 315/QD-TTg dated March 1st, 2011 of the Prime Minister on the pilot implementation of agricultural insurance for the period from 2011 to 2013.
- On March 29th, 2011, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development issued Circular No. 15/2011/TT-BNNPTNT issuing the Regulation on information about fishing vessels operating on sea.
- Circular No. 13/2011/TT-BNNPTNT dated March 16th, 2011 of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development providing guidelines for the food safety inspection with respect to imported goods having plant origin.
- On March 11th, 2011, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development stipulated Circular No. 10/2011/TT-BNNPTNT on the amendment and supplement to a number of articles of Circular No. 24/2010/TT-BNNPTNT dated April 8th, 2010 on the issuance of the list of plant protection products permitted

for use, limited in use, and prohibited for use in Vietnam of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Circular No. 46/2010/TT-BNNPTNT dated July 22nd, 2010 on the amendment and supplement to a number of contents in Circular No. 24/2010/TT-BNNPTNT dated April 8th, 2010 promulgating the list of plant protection products permitted for use, limited in use, and prohibited for use in Vietnam.

- Circular No. 03/2011/TT-NHNN dated March 8th, 2011 of the State Bank of Vietnam detailing the implementation of Decision No. 63/2010/QD-TTg dated October 15th, 2010 of the Prime Minister on support policies to reduce post-harvest losses of agricultural and aquatic products.
- On March 2nd, 2011, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development issued Circular No. 09/2011/TT-BNNPTNT providing for the authentication and certification of aquatic products exported to European markets.

Miscellaneous

- Law No. 67/2011/QH12 passed by the National Assembly on March 29th, 2011 on independent auditing.
- On March 4th, 2011, the Prime Minister stipulated Decision No. 14/2011/QD-TTg promulgating the criteria and list of classification of State-owned enterprises.
- Decision No. 11/2011/QD-UBND dated March 2nd, 2011 of the People's Committee of Hanoi promulgating the regulations on decentralizing State management in a number of economic - social fields in the area of Hanoi for the period from 2011 to 2015.
- On March 22nd, 2011, the Ministry of Finance issued Circular No. 39/2011/TT-BTC amending and supplementing Circular No. 83/2007/TT-BTC dated July 16th, 2007 of the Ministry of Finance providing guidelines for the implementation of Decision No. 09/2007/QD-TTg dated January 19th, 2007 and Circular No.175/2009/TT-BC dated September 9th, 2009 of the Ministry of Finance providing guidelines for a number of contents of Decision No. 140/2008/QD-TTg dated October 21st, 2008 of the Prime Minister on reorganization and handling of the State-owned housing and land.
- Circular No. 15/2011/TT-BCT dated March 30th, 2011 of the Ministry of Industry and Trade providing for the registration procedures of list of imported goods, temporarily imported goods for re-export, and liquidated goods of foreign contractors in the field of construction in Vietnam.
- On March 15th, 2011, the Ministry of Health stipulated Circular No. 12/2011/TT-BYT providing for the professional standards of midwife staff ranks.

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