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TAX LAW

New Law on Corporate Income Tax passed

By Vuong Son Ha

On June 3, 2008, the National Assembly has passed the new Law on Corporate Income Tax (“CIT”), which shall take effect by January 1, 2009 to replace the 2003 Law. Like the precedent, the new Law is quite succinct and guiding documents of sub-categories are needed for details of its implementation.

Hereunder are some new and amended points would be borne in mind:

Scope of application

Consistent with the upcoming changes to the personal income tax regime, from now on the new Law only covers taxpayers operating in a corporate form. For individuals conducting activities of production and business of goods and services, their incomes will be subject to the personal income tax system.

Permanent Establishment

A “Permanent Establishment” definition remains inserted into the new Law. There are new provisions dealing with foreign companies and CIT imposed on their incomes vary subject to the presence of a Permanent Establishment in Vietnam.

- In case of having such a Permanent Establishment, foreign enterprises will have to pay tax imposed on all Vietnam-sourced profits regardless relating to operation of this Permanent Establishment or not, and non Vietnam-sources profits relating to operation of this Permanent Establishment as well.
- While offshore companies will be taxed on their Vietnam-sourced profit only.

Rate

In struggling to ensure Vietnam’s advantages in comparison with regional and international competitors, the standard CIT rate has been reduced from 28% to 25%. Enterprises operating in the oil and gas industry will be subject to CIT rates ranging from 32% to 50%, depending on each project and business establishment (increasing from the current rates between 28% and 50%).

Tax incentives

In general, CIT incentives defined in the new Law are less favourable and significantly narrower in their application than those under the 2003 Law.

- 10% tax rate for 15 years with up to 4 years of tax exemption and 9 following years of 50% reduction shall be applied to enterprises newly established from investment projects:
 - In localities with especially difficult socio-economic conditions, in economic zones, and high technology zones; or

- In the fields of high technology, science research and technology development, development of infrastructure especially important for the State, computer software manufacture.
- 10% tax rate with up to 4 years of tax exemption and 9 following years of 50% reduction shall be applied to enterprises operating in the fields of education and training, vocational education, health care, culture, sports, environment.
- 20% tax rate for 10 years with up to 2 years of tax exemption and 4 following years of 50% reduction shall be applied to enterprises newly established from investment projects in localities with difficult socio-economic conditions.
- 20% tax rate shall be applied to agricultural service cooperatives and people's credit funds.

As seen, CIT incentives based on the sector or industry of the investor (other than those noted above) or tax incentives for business expansion will no longer be available under the new Law.

In addition, coming into lines with existing regulations, the preferential tax rate shall apply from the year in which the enterprise's first turnover is generated; while the tax exemption or reduction shall apply from the year in which the enterprise has first taxable income. However, in breaking the silence of the 2003 Law, the new Law provides a time limit according to that where an enterprise has not derived taxable income during 3 years as per the year of generation of the enterprise's first turnover, the tax exemption or reduction shall apply from the fourth year. Regarding enterprises entitled to enjoy tax exemption and reduction pursuant to the 2003 Law, the time of commencement of entitlement to tax exemption and reduction shall be calculated pursuant to the new Law and as from its effective date (i.e. 1 January 2009). As a result, the manner taken by the Government to enforce this new 3-year rule for application of the tax exemption and reduction, and at the same time, to guarantee the protection of investors' interests from adverse impacts of changes of law as undertaken by the Law on Investment is still open.

Lastly, enterprises currently enjoying CIT incentives pursuant to the 2003 Law are permitted to continue to be entitled to such incentives for the remaining term under such Law; if the level of incentives including preferential tax rates and duration of tax exemption and reduction is less than that pursuant to the new Law, then the one stipulated in the new Law will apply for the remaining term.

Deductible expenses

Maintaining the changes brought by Circular 134, the Law contains a general deductibility clause that allows expenses to be deductible if:

- such real expenses relate to the production or trading of the enterprise;
- they are properly substantiated; and
- they are not specifically identified as being non-deductible.

Interest

Loan interest payable to organisations other than credit institutions or economic organisations not exceeding 150% (or 1.5 times) of the basic

interest rate that is set by the State Bank at the point of time of granting loan shall be deductible.

Salary and Wages

The new Law is slightly different in wording from the 2003 Law by specifying that wages, remuneration and other finalized accounting sums are deductible only when appropriate supporting documents such as bills, receipts (not necessarily in a labour contract) are provided.

Advertising, Marketing and Promotion expenses

The 10% cap on advertising, marketing and promotion expenditure is still retained in the new Law. However, newly-established enterprises will be allowed a 15% cap on advertising, marketing and promotion expenses for the first three years from their establishment date.

Science & Technology Development Fund

From tax year 2009, business entities in Vietnam will be allowed to set up a Science & Technology Development Fund by 10% extracted from their annual income before tax subject to several conditions.

Other issues

- The new Law cancels the surtax on gains on transfer of land use rights/ land lease rights, and no detailed regulation on the taxation of securities assignment is provided in the new Law. In lieu of that, prescribed tax incentives will not apply to:
 - (a) Other taxable income of an enterprise comprising income from capital transfer and from real property transfer; that from the ownership of or right to use assets; from transfer, leasing out and liquidation of assets; that being interest on deposits, loans and sales of foreign currency; that being recoveries from contingency reserves; that earned from bad debts which were written-off and are now recoverable; that being debts to be paid to unidentifiable creditors; that from business omitted in previous years, and others including income receivable from activities of production and/or business outside Vietnam.
 - (b) Income from activities of prospecting, exploration and mining of petroleum and gas and other rare and precious natural resources.
 - (c) Income from business in games with prizes and in betting in accordance with law.
 - (d) Other cases as stipulated by the Government.
- Payment of a taxpayer has to be made to the tax authority in the locality of its head office. An enterprise that has production or manufacture establishment(s) being dependent on accounting and operating in a province or central city other than the place where the enterprise head office is located is required to allocate tax payment to relevant provincial tax authorities in the locality of its head office and of these establishments. The basis for allocation shall be the proportion of expenditures spent by each establishment to the total expenditure of the enterprise.

Other Sectors

Audit - Finance

- Decision No. 32/2008/QD-BTC of the Ministry of Finance, dated May 29, 2008 promulgating the regime of management on tear and wear of fixtures belonging to State authorities, non-business professional units of public sector and organizations funded by the State budget.
- On May 16, 2008, the State Audit issued Decision No. 07/2008/QD-KTNN promulgating code of conduct of the State auditors.
- Decision No. 26/2008/QD-BTC of the Ministry of Finance, dated May 14, 2008 on the amendment of and supplement to the system of State budget index.
- On May 12, 2008, the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City stipulated Decision No. 39/2008/QD-UBND on the exemption of a number of fees and charges in accordance with Directive No. 24/2007/CT-TTg of the Prime Minister of Government, dated November 1, 2007.
- Decision No. 06/2008/QD-KTNN of the State Audit, dated May 5, 2008 promulgating a working Regulations of the Council of the State Audit.
- On April 28, 2008, the Ministry of Finance issued Decision No. 18/2008/QD-BTC announcing the interest rates for payments of Government Education bonds issued in 2003.
- Inter-ministerial Circular No. 36/2008/TTLT-BTC-BTP of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Justice, dated April 29, 2008 on the amendment of and supplement to the Inter-ministerial Circular No. 03/2007/TTLT-BTC-BTP, dated January 10, 2007 guiding the regime of collection, submission, management and use of registration fees and charges for the provision of information about security transactions.

Taxation

- On May 21, 2008, the Ministry of Finance stipulated Decision No. 30/2008/QD-BTC promulgating the price declaration form for calculating tax on imported goods and the guidelines on declaration.
- Decision No. 29/2008/QD-BTC of the Ministry of Finance, dated May 19, 2008 amending the rates of preferential import tax for a number of groups of goods in the tariffs of preferential import tax.
- On May 19, 2008, the Ministry of Finance issued Decision No. 28/2008/QD-BTC on the amendment of the rates of preferential import tax for the fuel of turbine motor used in the aviation in the tariffs of preferential import tax.

- Decision No. 25/2008/QD-BTC of the Ministry of Finance, dated May 13, 2008 amending the rates of preferential import tax for a number of groups of goods in the tariffs of preferential import tax.
- On May 8, 2008, the Ministry of Finance stipulated Decision No. 23/2008/QD-BTC providing the absolute rates of import tax for imported second-hand vehicles.

Banking

- Decision No. 16/2008/QD-NHNN of the State Bank of Vietnam, dated May 16, 2008 on the direction mechanism regarding basic interest rate in Vietnamese Dong.
- On May 6, 2008, the State Bank of Vietnam issued Decision 15/2008/QD-NHNN amending Point 3, Annex 3 of the regulations on the system of banking codes used in payment transactions through the State Bank accompanying Decision No. 02/2006/QD-NHNN of the State Bank's Governor, dated January 18, 2006.
- Decision No. 14/2008/QD-NHNN of the State Bank of Vietnam, dated May 6, 2008 amending Point 5, Annex 3 of the regulations on the system of banking codes used in payment transactions through the State Bank accompanying Decision No. 02/2006/QD-NHNN of the State Bank's Governor, dated January 18, 2006.
- On April 29, 2008, the State Bank of Vietnam stipulated Decision No. 13/2008/QD-NHNN promulgating the regulations on the commercial banks' operation network.
- Decision No. 12/2008/QD-NHNN of the State Bank of Vietnam, dated April 29, 2008 amending a number of articles of Regulations on deductions and re-deduction of valued papers of the State Bank for banks accompanying Decision No. 898/2003/QD-NHNN dated August 12, 2003.
- On April 28, 2008, the State Bank of Vietnam issued Decision No. 11/2008/QD-NHNN adding Point 5 Annex 3 of the regulations on the system of banking codes used in payment transactions through the State Bank accompanying Decision No. 02/2006/QD-NHNN of the State Bank's Governor, dated January 18, 2006.

Trade

- Decision No. 10/2008/QD-BCT of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, dated May 16, 2008 on the addition of the list of goods for consumption for the purpose of determining the time limit for payment of import tax.
- On May 15, 2008, the Bureau of Competition Management stipulated Decision No. 32/QD-QLCT promulgating the standard forms to request the application of anti-dumping measures.

- Decision No. 08/2008/QĐ-BCT of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, dated May 12, 2008 promulgating Regulations on preparation, performance organization and management of the national programs, plans and projects of industry promotion.
- On May 7, 2008, the Ministry of Industry and Trade issued Decision No. 07/2008/QĐ-BCT promulgating the system of criteria for supervising and controlling a national program of industry promotion till 2012 and the system of criteria and indicators for the evaluation of projects and programs of industry promotion.
- Decision No. 2495/QĐ-BCT of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, dated April 28, 2008 on the recognition of enterprises meeting standards for the production and assembly of motor bicycles.
- On April 24, 2008, the Ministry of Planning and Investment stipulated Decision No. 504/QĐ-BKH promulgating Regulations on organization and operation of the Evaluation Council of a national program of investment promotion in the period from 2007 to 2010.
- Decision No. 53/2008/QĐ-BNN of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, dated April 21, 2008 prohibiting the introduction and use of water and water-retaining additives into fresh fishes frozen for the purpose of commercial frauds.
- On May 28, 2008, the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Ministry of Interior Affairs jointly issued Inter-ministerial Circular No. 07/2008/TTLT-BCT-BNV guiding the functions, duties, authority and organizational structure of bodies specialized in industry and trade under the People's Committees of provinces and districts.
- Circular No. 40/2008/TT-BTC of the Ministry of Finance, dated May 21, 2008 guiding Decree No. 40/2007/ND-CP, dated March 16, 2007 on the determination of customs values for import and export goods.

Labour

- On May 30, 2008, the Prime Minister of Government stipulated Decision No. 72/2008/QĐ-TTg on the amendment of and supplement to a number of articles of Decision No. 234/2005/QĐ-TTg of the Prime Minister of Government, dated September 26, 2005 providing the particular regime for workers, employees and officials of a number of branches and professions in State-owned companies.
- Decision No. 3339/QĐ-BHXH of Vietnam's Social Insurance, dated May 16, 2008 promulgating the sample and number of social insurance book.
- On May 14, 2008, the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs issued Decision No. 658/QĐ-LĐTBXH providing temporarily the expenditures for

labour going to work in the Republic of Korea under the Korean program of licensing foreign labour.

- Decision No. 552/2008/QD-BKH of the Ministry of Planning and Investment, dated May 5, 2008 on the amendment of and supplement to Regulations on the management of implementation of a program on the assistance in training human power resource for small and medium enterprises for the period from 2004 to 2008 accompanying Decision No. 1347/2004/QD-BKH of the Minister of Planning and Investment, dated November 24, 2004.
- On May 30, 2008, the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Finance jointly stipulated Inter-ministerial Circular No. 07/2008/TTLT-BLDTBXH-BTC guiding the implementation of Decree No. 11/2008/ND-CP, dated January 30, 2008 providing the compensation in case where an illegal strike caused damages to employer.
- Inter-ministerial No. 02/2008/TTLT-BNV-BTC of the Ministry of Interior Affairs and the Ministry of Finance, dated May 20, 2008 guiding the implementation of Decree No. 118/2006/ND-CP, dated October 10, 2006 on material responsibilities of officers and officials.
- On May 7, 2008, the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs issued Circular No. 06/2008/TT-BLDTBXH providing guidelines on the implementation of a number of articles of Decree No. 04/2005/ND-CP, dated January 11, 2005 detailing and guiding the implementation of a number of the Labour Code on complaints and denunciations with respect to labour.

Health

- Decree No. 56/2008/ND-CP, dated April 29, 2008 providing the organization and operation of a bank of tissues and the national centre of co-ordination for the transplantation of human parts.
- On May 26, 2008, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development stipulated Decision No. 66/2008/QD-BNN promulgating the regulations on regions and establishments being safe from animal epidemics.
- Decision No. 18/2008/QD-BYT of the Ministry of Health, dated May 6, 2008 providing the list of insecticide and bactericide chemicals and preparations used in household and health care permitted to be registered for use or permitted to be registered for limited and prohibited use in Vietnam in 2008.
- On May 26, 2008, the Ministry of Health issued Circular No. 06/2008/TT-BYT guiding the admission of students for continuous training at university or college levels in medicine and pharmacy.
- Circular No. 04/2008/TT-BYT of the Ministry of Health, dated May 12, 2008 providing the drug labelling requirements.

Education

- On May 30, 2008, the Government stipulated Decree No. 69/2008/ND-CP on the socialization encouragement policy for activities in the fields of education, vocational education, health, culture, sport and environment.
- Decision No. 68/2008/QD-TTg of the Prime Minister of Government, dated May 28, 2008 on the allocation of capital source from the governmental bonds for supporting regions to implement a project on reinforcement of schools, classrooms and teachers' houses for the year 2008.
- On May 19, 2008, the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs issued Decision No. 54/2008/QD-BLDTBXH providing Regulations on the evaluation of training results of pupils and students of formal system in vocational training establishments.
- Decision No. 27/2008/QD-BGDDT of the Ministry of Education and Training, dated May 9, 2008 on the amendment of and supplement to a number of Regulations on the final exams of high schools accompanying Decision No. 08/2008/QD-BGDDT of the Minister of Education and Training, dated March 6, 2008.
- On May 6, 2008, the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs stipulated Decision No. 53/2008/QD-BLDTBXH providing the regulations on continuous training between vocational training levels.
- Decision No. 52/2008/QD-BLDTBXH of the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs, dated May 5, 2008 providing the sample charter of vocational education schools of intermediate level.
- On May 5, 2008, the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs issued Decision No. 51/2008/QD-BLDTBXH providing the sample charter of vocational education colleges.
- Decision No. 25/2008/QD-BGDDT of the Minister of Education and Training, dated May 5, 2008 providing the sample graduation diploma of high school and its sample copy from the original book.
- On May 2, 2008, the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs stipulated Decision No. 50/2008/QD-BLDTBXH promulgating the frame programs for vocational education of intermediate and higher levels with respect to the profession "Cooling and air conditioner technique".
- Decision No. 48/2008/QD-BLDTBXH of the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs, dated May 2, 2008 promulgating the frame programs for vocational education of intermediate and higher levels with respect to the profession "Train operator";
- On May 2, 2008, the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs issued Decision No. 47/2008/QD-BLDTBXH promulgating the frame programs for

vocational education of intermediate and higher levels with respect to profession "Welder";

- Decision No. 46/2008/QD-BLDTBXH of the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs, dated May 2, 2008 promulgating the frame programs for vocational education of intermediate and higher levels with respect to profession "Mechanical and electric techniques for pit mining".
- On April 28, 2008, the Ministry of Education and Training, the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs, and the Ministry of Finance jointly stipulated Inter-ministerial Circular No. 23/2008/TTLT/BGDDT-BLDTBXH-BTC guiding the implementation of Decision No. 152/2007/QD-TTg of the Prime Minister of Government, dated September 14, 2007 on the scholarships under social policies for pupils and students studying in public education establishments.

Transportation

- Decree No. 67/2008/ND-CP, dated May 29, 2008 on the amendment of and supplement to Clause 3, Article 42 of Decree No. 146/2007/ND-CP, dated September 14, 2007 dealing with administrative violations in the field of land-road transport.
- On May 6, 2008, the Ministry of Finance issued Decision No. 22/2008/QD-BTC providing the levels and regime of collection, submission, management and use of fees for licensing the right to exploit aero ports and airports.
- Decision No. 07/2008/QD-BGTVT, dated April 29, 2008, of the Ministry of Transport on the amendment of and supplement to a number of articles of "the regulations on transport of passengers by vehicles according to fixed routes, contracts and transports of tourists by cars" accompanying Decision No. 16/2007/QD-BGTVT, dated March 26, 2007; "the regulations on transport of passengers by taxi" accompanying Decision No. 17/2007/QD-BGTVT, dated March 26, 2007, of the Minister of Transport.
- On May 19, 2008, the Ministry of Finance stipulated Circular No. 38/2008/TT-BTC guiding the management and use of monies gained from dealing with administrative violations in the field of civil aviation.

Construction

- Decree No. 58/2008/ND-CP, dated May 5, 2008 guiding the implementation of the Law on Tendering and the selection of construction contractors in accordance with the Law on Construction.
- On April 18, 2008, the Government issued Decree No. 49/2008/ND-CP on the amendment of and supplement to a number of articles of Decree No.

209/2004/ND-CP, dated December 16, 2004 on the management of the construction works' quality.

- Decision No. 26/2008/QD-UBND of the People's Committee of Hanoi City, dated May 28, 2008 providing quota of allocation of new housing land, quota of recognition of housing land for land plots having gardens and ponds within a residential area formed from December 18, 1980 to before July 1, 2004, and minimum size and surface area of land plot split for households and individuals in the area of Hanoi City.
- On May 28, 2008, the Ministry of Construction stipulated Decision No. 08/2008/QD-BXD promulgating Regulations on the management and use of apartments.
- Decision No. 38/2008/QD-UBND of the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City, dated May 10, 2008 promulgating the regulations on adjustment of estimations for works construction to be applied in accordance with Circular No. 03/2008/TT-BXD of the Ministry of Construction, dated January 25, 2008 in the area of Ho Chi Minh City.
- On May 9, 2008, the People's Committee of Hanoi City issued Decision No. 23/2008/QD-UBND promulgating the regulations on the grant of certificates for land use right and ownership of assets attached to land to households, individuals and residential communities and overseas Vietnamese in the area of Hanoi City.
- Decision No. 490/QD-TTg of the Prime Minister of Government, dated May 5, 2008 approving the construction planning of the region of Hanoi capital to 2020 with orientation to 2050.
- On April 23, 2008, the People's Committee of Hanoi City stipulated Decision No. 21/2008/QD-UBND promulgating the regulations on the management and use of capital sources for site clearance for the preparation of clean land fund serving investment projects of construction in the area of Hanoi City to be applied to the centres for development of land fund established by the People's Committee of Hanoi City.
- Circular No. 13/2008/TT-BXD of the Ministry of Construction, dated May 21, 2008 guiding the implementation of a number of contents in Decree No. 153/2007/ND-CP, dated October 15, 2007 detailing and guiding the implementation of the Law on Real Estates Business.
- On May 7, 2008, the Ministry of Construction issued Circular No. 12/2008/TT-BXD guiding the setting up and management of costs for construction survey.
- Circular No. 11/2008/TT-BXD of the Ministry of Construction, dated May 5, 2008 guiding a number of contents in Decision No. 17/2008/QD-TTg of the Prime Minister of Government, dated January 28, 2008 "promulgating standard price list for renting State-owned houses, which are not yet renovated and reconstructed".

Environment

- On May 13, 2008, the Government stipulated Decree No. 63/2008/ND-CP on the fees of environmental protection for mineral exploitation.
- Decree No. 61/2008/ND-CP, dated May 9, 2008 dealing with administrative violations in the field of hydrometeorology.
- On May 2, 2008, the Government issued Decree No. 57/2008/ND-CP promulgating Regulations on the management of Vietnam's sea reserves, which are of international and national importance.
- Decision No. 71/2008/QD-TTg of the Prime Minister of Government, dated May 29, 2008 on the deposit for environmental improvement and restoration with respect to activities of mining exploitation.
- On May 2, 2008, the Prime Minister of Government stipulated Decision No. 485/QD-TTg approving a project on "Protection of rare, precious, and endangered aquatic species to 2015 with orientation to 2020".
- Decision No. 58/2008/QD-TTg of the Prime Minister of Government, dated April 29, 2008 on the targeted assistance funded by the State budget to treat and overcome the pollution, and reduce environmental degradation for a number of subjects in the sector of services for public interest.
- On April 29, 2008, the Ministry of Finance issued Decision No. 19/2008/QD-BTC cancelling Circular No. 40/2005/TT-BTC of the Ministry of Finance, dated May 25, 2005 guiding the financial mechanism for projects of clean water supply using capitals sources from official development aid.
- Circular No. 39/2008/TT-BTC of the Ministry of Finance, dated May 19, 2008 guiding the implementation of Decree No. 174/2007/ND-CP, dated November 29, 2007 on the fees of environmental protection with respect to solid wastes.
- On April 29, 2008, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the Ministry of Finance jointly stipulated Inter-ministerial Circular No. 01/2008/TTLT-BTNMT-BTC guiding about making estimations for jobs of environmental protection out of the State budget for environment protection.

Post - Information - Communication

- Decision No. 65/2008/QD-TTg of the Prime Minister of Government, dated May 22, 2008 on the supply of postal services for public interest.
- On May 13, 2008, the Ministry of Information and Communication issued Decision No. 32/2008/QD-BTTTT providing the functions, duties, authority and organizational structure of the Department of Information and Communication Quality Management.

- Decision No. 31/2008/QD-BTTTT of the Ministry of Information and Communication, dated May 8, 2008 providing the design and installation of postal box in high-rise buildings for the use of many owners.
- On May 6, 2008, the Ministry of Information and Communication stipulated Decision No. 30/2008/QD-BTTTT providing the functions, duties, authority and organizational structure of the Institute of Software and Digital Content Industry of Vietnam.
- Decision No. 60/2008/QD-TTg of the Prime Minister of Government, dated May 2, 2008 on the management and use of cellular communication interference devices;
- On May 26, 2008, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Information and Communication jointly issued Inter-ministerial Circular No. 43/2008/TTLT-BTC-BTTTT guiding the management and use of expenditures for the application of information technology in the activities of State authorities.

Judiciary

- Decree No. 68/2008/ND-CP, dated May 30, 2008 providing the conditions and procedures for the setting up, organization, operation and dissolution of social sponsorship establishments.
- On May 20, 2008, the Government stipulated Decree No. 65/2008/ND-CP providing the functions, duties, authority and organizational structure of the Government Inspectorate.
- Decree No. 52/2008/ND-CP, dated April 22, 2008 on the management of security service business.
- On April 21, 2008, the Government issued Decree No. 50/2008/ND-CP on the management and maintaining security and safety at border-gates of sea ports.
- Joint Resolution No. 813/2008/NQLT-TTCT-BTTTT-TUHNQVN-TUHNQVN of the Government Inspectorate, Standing Board of the Central Committee of Vietnam Fatherland Front, the Central Committee of Peasants' Association of Vietnam, dated May 13, 2008 promulgating Regulations on the co-ordination between the communal People's Committees, and Vietnam Fatherland Front and Peasant's Association of the same level in propaganda and popularization of laws on complaints and denunciations.
- On April 29, 2008, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly stipulated Resolution No. 614/2008/UBTVQH12 on the establishment of the Institute of Legislation Study.
- Decision No. 544/QD-TTg of the Prime Minister of Government, dated May 14, 2008 approving a project on "Training legal experts and lawyers satisfying the

demands of the international economic integration for the period from 2008 to 2010".

- On May 8, 2008, the Department of Immigration issued Decision No. 2068/QD-QLXNC promulgating the standard forms used for traded women and children who return from abroad.
- Circular No. 44/2008/TT-BTC of the Ministry of Finance, dated May 30, 2008 guiding the management, use and finalization of expenditures ensuring the implementation of Directive No. 26/2001/CT-TTg of the Prime Minister of Government, dated October 9, 2001 on "facilitating the participation of Peasants' Associations of various levels in the settlement of complaints and denunciation made by peasants".
- On May 8, 2008, the Ministry of Police, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs jointly stipulated Inter-ministerial Circular No. 03/2008/TTLT-BCA-BQP-BNG-BLDTBXH guiding the process and procedures to verify and receive traded women and children who return from abroad.

Enterprise

- Decree No. 66/2008/ND-CP, dated May 28, 2008 on the legal assistance for enterprises.
- On May 13, 2008, the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City issued Decision No. 40/2008/QD-UBND promulgating a plan on the development of small and medium enterprises in the City for 5 years (the period from 2006 to 2010).
- Decision No. 08/2008/QD-BCT of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, dated May 12, 2008 promulgating Regulations on the setting up and organization of the implementation and management of the national programs, plans and projects on promotion of industries.
- On May 6, 2008, the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City stipulated Decision No. 35/2008/QD-UBND on subjects attracting investment, and the mechanism and policies to support investors investing in the City's Park of High-Technology Agriculture.
- Circular No. 42/2008/TT-BTC of the Ministry of Finance, dated May 22, 2008 guiding a number of articles of Regulations on the supervision regarding State-owned enterprises that suffer from business loss and operate inefficiently accompanying Decision No. 169/2007/QD-TTg of the Prime Minister of Government, dated November 8, 2007.

Agriculture

- On May 27, 2008, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development issued Decision No. 68/2008/QD-BNN promulgating the standards and conditions for the positions of Director, Deputy Directors of the provincial Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.
- Decision No. 59/2008/QD-BNN of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, dated May 9, 2008 promulgating "the additional list of fertilizers permitted for the production, trade and use in Vietnam".
- On May 2, 2008, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development stipulated Decision No. 57/2008/QD-BNN promulgating the list of aquatic species permitted for the production and business.
- Decision No. 56/2008/QD-BNN of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, dated April 29, 2008 promulgating Regulations on the inspection and certification of aquaculture for sustainable development.
- On May 15, 2008, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Interior Affairs jointly issued Inter-ministerial Circular No. 61/2008/TTLT-BNN-BNV guiding the functions, duties, authority and organizational structure of professional bodies under the People's Committees of provinces and districts and State management duty of communal People's Committees with respect to agriculture and rural development.

Miscellaneous

- Decision No. 615/QD-TTg of the Prime Minister of Government, dated May 23, 2008 on the establishment of Vietnamese division in the mixed Vietnam - Quata Committee for the co-operation on economy, trade, culture and technical - sciences.
- On May 20, 2008, the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City stipulated Decision No. 41/2008/QD-UBND on the organization of professional bodies under the People's Committees of provinces and districts.
- Decision No. 61/2008/QD-TTg of the Prime Minister of Government, dated May 9, 2008 approving the master planning on the economic – social development of the costal band in the Central region of Vietnam to 2020.
- On May 9, 2008, the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City issued Decision No. 37/2008/QD-UBND announcing documents out of validity.
- Decision No. 37/2008/QD-BVHTTDL of the Ministry of Culture, Sport and Tourism, dated April 24, 2008 providing the functions, duties, authority and organizational structure of the Bureau of Basic Culture.

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