

Viet Nam Employment Trends 2010
MOLISA/EU/ILO
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Your Excellency Madam Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan, Minister of Ministry of Labour,
Invalids and Social Affairs

Distinguished Mr Sean Doyle, Ambassador of European Community

Ladies and Gentlemen! Good morning

It is my great privilege to be here today. Thank you to the Bureau of Employment from MoLISA for inviting the One UN and ILO to speak at the launch of the “Vietnam Employment Trends 2010’ report. This is the second year where MOLISA issues their annual Employment Trends Report conducted in line with the international standards for labour market information and analysis.

When Europe wakes up in some hours from now, today also marks the day for the launch of the Global Employment Trends Report. The Global Trends Report is titled “The Challenge of Jobs Recovery”. This is because the global data clearly points out that the unemployment remains elevated; that the recovery in growth has not brought about a comparable recovery in employment. Many economies are simply not generating sufficient employment opportunities to absorb growth in the working-age population and it is equally clear that in many economies the on-going economic recovery is not yet leading to a sufficient expansion in employment opportunities.

The global trends also clearly underscores that the labour productivity and real wages development put pressure on employment quality. Furthermore there is stagnation in the progress in reducing the vulnerable employment and a slowed progress in reducing working poverty. It is clear that even with an improved global economy the labour markets are still in a fragile state. In particular, the youth was strongly affected by the

crisis. The youth continues to be discouraged and endure additional constraints when entering the labour market.

The overall conclusion being that while the global economy has improved, the downside risks predominate for 2011.

That was the global trends! What does the picture look like for Viet Nam? What are the Viet Nam Employment Trends (VET) 2010?

This is what we today will learn from MOLISA. In particular we will listen to the Bureau of Employment and its Labour Market Information Center. Before we hear from them the findings of the Viet Nam Employment Trends Report 2010, please allow me to thank MOLISA for its proactive and dynamic leadership that facilitated the publication of these annual employment reports.

The VET 2010 is a follow-up to the VET 2009 report. It has applied an even higher technical level due to improvements in the methods for forecasting. Some of the issues focused on in this report also include low productivity employment, time related underemployment and the major issue of the large numbers of people informally employed.

I sincerely congratulate MoLISA on the publication of the VET 2010 report. It is both a solid piece of data and analysis on the labour market in Viet Nam. And, it represents yet another example of the Government of Viet Nam's effort in producing more and more evidence-based analysis. This is key to effective policies and programmes.

The report also acknowledges weaknesses of available labour market information in Viet Nam and the shortcomings in analysing such information. The report highlights areas that need to be addressed by the statistical and research community to enable further development of an effective labour market information and analysis system for Viet Nam.

To address these shortcomings, in 2008 MoLISA established within the Bureau of Employment, the National Centre for Labour Market Forecast and Information. The Center has been tasked with the sourcing, collection, analysis and dissemination of labour market information. No small task indeed. To assist MoLISA, the European Commission has partnered with ILO in supporting MOLISA in building the necessary capacity within MoLISA, to effectively carry out these tasks.

A key output was the release of the Vietnam Employment Trends Report in 2009. It was promised by MoLISA then that there would be a series of such reports and the launch today of the “Vietnam Employment Trends 2010” report is evidence that this will become a regular product of MoLISA. This is both applauded and welcomed .

The 11th Party Congress has just been brought to a close. A range of important decision for Viet Nam’s future were taken. The Socio Economic Development Strategy 2020 was approved. The SEDS has stressed the importance of not only economic but also human, social and sustainable development. The Party Congress emphasizes the importance of the workers, of the working people.

This is what the Viet Nam Employment Trends Report is all about: learning about and understanding what exactly is the situation of the working people, the labour market. It is essential to understand the labour market. This key component of the economy – the labour market - is the bridge between the economic development and the social progress. For social progress and economic growth to produce equitable and sustainable development for all workers, it must be anchored in an effective and an inclusive labour market. Therefore we must have relevant, timely, accurate, accessible, reliable and comprehensive data on the labour market. This is why MOLISA’s National Centre for Labour Market Forecast and Information is so important.

The production and timely release of the Viet Nam Employment Trends Report is clear evidence of the Government of Viet Nam's willingness to openly share key data and analytical results.

Much of Viet Nam is undergoing a period of great social transformation. The so-called "demographic bonus" over the period of the next SEDS, an ageing population, and the rapidly rising sex ratio at birth are placing new demands on social services. Hence, it is critical that Viet Nam is finalizing a new Social Protection Strategy in order to meet the changing expectations of its citizens. In doing so, it needs to ensure that those who are not benefitting equally from Viet Nam's progress – including ethnic minority groups who are trapped in poverty, people living with HIV and other chronic illnesses and people with disabilities – are able to access opportunities for more and better jobs together with social protection that provides health and income securities for these vulnerable groups.

Access to timely labour market information, on both the supply and demand sides, and the provision of appropriate services, will go a long way to achieve this. I therefore welcome the launch today of the "Vietnam Employment Trends 2010" report as a very needed and highly important continuing step in identifying and analysing the actual situation of the labour market. Only with such input, such evidence, can meaningful, realistic and relevant policies and programs be developed.

Once again, I want to compliment and thank MOLISA for its solid work; for its strong leadership that has ensured that the Viet Nam Employment Trends Reports are now a yearly publication. A sincere and profound thanks to the EU for being a magnificent partner in making this happening. Finally, may I – on behalf of the Resident Coordinator John Hendra and the One UN team – assure you that the ILO and the One UN remain committed to support MOLISA, the Employers, the Workers and our other national partners in your continued efforts in developing the labour market, that central part of the economy where every working-age adult depends on having a job – a decent job – that provides for a proper income, a proper livelihood and a proper life.

Soon we are bringing to a close the year of the Tiger and we will opening the New Year. It is more than appropriate to thank Madam Minister, MOLISA and EU for our excellent collaboration on labour market development throughout the year. I very much look forward to continue it in the New Year. Also, allow me to wish you all a prospereous New Year. May the New Year bring you all health, happiness and prosperity.

Thank you.