



CZECH REPUBLIC
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION



with funding from

Austrian



Development Cooperation

Building VEPF Capacity to support environmental improvements at hot spots

**RPP Pilot Project 2007/01-11DC
Final Comprehensive Report**

DWW / VEPF

2008

FINAL COMPREHENSIVE REPORT

Project Number: RPP 2007_01_11DC	Date of Report: September 29, 2008
Project Title: Building VEPP Capacity to support environmental improvements in handicraft villages	
Implementing Organization: Development Worldwide, civic association, Czech Republic in cooperation with Welthaus Diözese Graz-Seckau and Vietnam Environment Protection Fund (VEPF)	

The report provides summary of activities undertaken and results obtained during the implementation of the project which has been aimed at **strengthening capacity of Vietnam Environment Protection Fund to support environmental improvements in handicraft villages and other hot spots.**

The project was implemented in the period of April – August 2008, on locations in Vietnam and the Czech Republic.

1. Measures and activities undertaken within the reporting implementation

All activities carried out within the project implementation were aimed at achieving the expected results and reaching the original purpose of the project.

The initial period of the project implementation started after the project has been approved and was completed in June; it included the following measures and activities:

- The international project team revised the proposal and agreed on the activities, the schedule and individual tasks and responsibilities of each team member.
- The structure and content of the toolkits has been designed and elaborated; including collecting of background documents and working discussions of the project team members.
- Preparatory mission of DWW chairman Mr. Daniel Svoboda has taken place in March/April 2008 (in-kind contribution) and consequent first project mission to Vietnam has been undertaken; this inception stage include a.o. a detailed discussion with the VEPF.
- Preparatory works for the Training for local authorities in Da Nang (instead of the final round table) were started.
- Vietnam state administration (VEPF, MONRE) representatives made a study tour to the Czech Republic, in June 2008.
- Interim narrative report has been prepared.

The second part of the project took place from July 2008 to the final stage of the project and its closure, including the preparation of the final comprehensive and financial reports (September 2008).

This second phase included the following measures and activities of the project:

- Training for local authorities was organized in Da Nang (Vietnam) and the second project mission to Vietnam took place in July/August
- The three toolkits were developed, consulted and revised
- Promotion leaflets were developed
- Manual with toolkits was finalized and translated in Vietnamese and English
- Final reports and financial reports were prepared

Detailed description of the activities, implementing conditions and outputs of the activities:

a. Elaboration of the Environmental Auditing Toolkit (EAT) – Activity 1.1 (1st mission to Vietnam)

Time period: March to June 2008

Preparatory works started just after the information about project approval. Project team agreed the concept of environmental toolkits and prepared a detailed project schedule including revising responsibilities of individual team members.

First project mission was organized in April 18 - May 9, 2008 with the main aim to discuss the concept of the environmental toolkits and training program; and to make a field visit in order to decide about the locations for the on-side walking-through audit (test of the toolkits) and to map the key groups of civil society in the villages.

The DWW expert (Mr. Petr Honskus) has undertaken field visits and series of meetings with representatives of VEPF, MONRE and selected handicraft villages. The main issues addressed during the mission were the following:

- Update about current approaches of the VEPF for identification of environmental priorities and decision making on projects
- Data sources and access to environmental information
- Presentation and discussion of the concept of the Environmental Auditing and Communication toolkits
- Field trips were made in the communities of Phong Khe and Bat Trang
- Organization of the workshop/training for the administration bodies and other stakeholders in the field of environmental protection

The trip has been extended by few days in order to undertake more consultations. The associated costs with this extended part of the mission (accommodation and per diem) were covered from the own sources of the implementing organization (DWW).

Output: *collected inputs for the EAT and EPCT toolkits, background information and suggestions for the workshop/training to be organized in Da Nang in July 2008.*

Pilot testing of the screening survey (Activity 1.2) was carried out within the second mission to Vietnam (see the measure c).

b. Preparation and discussion of Environmental Risk Assessment Toolkit (ERAT) / Environmental Decision Making Toolkit (EDMT) proposal – Activity 2.1

Time period: April - June 2008

The works on the preparation of the ERAT (Environmental Risk Assessment Toolkit) started in May. Its particular elements were taken into account during the preparation of the training for VEPF managers in the Czech Republic. The training program was build on the Czech experience with past environmental burdens/liabilities and environmental laws enforcement as well as with implementation of environmental projects within the EU Structural Funds – setting priorities, development of project proposals, selection criteria, decision-making process, project supervision.

As mentioned in the interim report, we jointly decided to adopt the content of the second toolkit and to rename it for Environmental Decision Making Toolkit, based on its envisaged usage.

Output: *concept of ERAT/EDMT (further discussed during the training in Da Nang – see act. 3) and program of the training course in the Czech Republic*

c. Training on ERAT/EDMT application – Activity 2.2 (2nd mission – Czech Republic)

Time period: June - July 2008

Organizational and content-wise preparation of the training for the representatives of Vietnam administration started in the end of April with direct participation of VEPF managers (Deputy Director and International Relations Officer). The training took place in the Czech Republic in 2.6 – 6.6. 2008.

5-day training course was organized for 3 (instead of two persons originally expected) decision-makers of the VEPF. The delegation was further enlarged by a representative of MONRE - Committee

33. Expenses exceeding original project budget were covered from own sources of DWW and partially also by the VEPF itself. Training was delivered by the project team of Czech experts in cooperation with Czech authorities.

During one week stay, the participants experienced working meetings, lectures and discussions at the Czech institutions (Ministry of Environment, State Environmental Fund, Technoexport) and carried out a study field trip to a selected hot spot (remediation of chemical plant). In addition, a Round table on development cooperation between the Czech Republic and Vietnam in the field of environment protection was organized for around 30 participants on Friday 6th June in the premises of the Czech Ministry of Environment.

Names and positions of Vietnamese participants of the study tour:

Mr. Truong Manh Tien, Director General, VEPF

Mr. Nguyen Nam Phuong, Deputy Director, VEPF

Mrs. Phuong Thi Huong, International Relations Officer, VEPF

Mr. Lai Mih Hien, Deputy Director, Committee 33, MONRE

Main emphasis was put on environmental assessment and decision making processes in setting and solving environmental priorities.

The training started with at the Ministry of Environment with a full agenda covering the following issues and areas:

- Sharing experience with hot spots assessment and remediation, system of setting priorities for the state program of hot spots management;
- Kyoto protocol and usage of its flexible mechanisms, opportunities since 2012, policies and mechanisms of Czech Government and SEF for assistance CDM (Clean Development Mechanism) and Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) to foreign countries;
- Requirements on emission sources, limits, incinerator plants, etc.;
- Waste management, municipal and industrial wastes, recycling, packaging wastes, waste management technologies;
- Water quality, waste water treatment, water legislation.

The part of the training which was undertaken at the premises of the State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic was aimed at sharing experience with financial schemes in the field of environment protection (including EU Structural Funds) and with an internal SEF management.

The field trip to typical hot spot and expert meetings were organized for the third day by Czech environmental company Dekonta, with the purpose to present practical example of environmental investments supported by the Czech government (remediation of a large chemical plant).

On Thursday, the delegation visited Technoexport Company in order to discuss environmental priorities and potential environmental investments in Vietnam.

The agenda of the training course included also organization of a Round table on Development Cooperation between Czech Republic and Vietnam in the Field of Environment Protection. The event took place at the Ministry of Environment on Friday 6th June and it was attended, beside the members of the delegation, by a deputy ambassador of Vietnam in the Czech Republic, a new Commercial Executive of the Czech Republic who starts his mission in Vietnam this year, representatives of Czech governmental authorities, private companies and NGOs. During this event, representatives of the VEPF, MONRE and of the Embassy of Vietnam in Prague introduced Vietnamese environmental priorities. Czech institutions and organizations (MoE – Ministry of Environment, SEF - State Environmental Fund, CZDA - Czech Development Agency and six organizations implementing environmental projects in Vietnam) then presented their experience as well as proposals and recommendations for future cooperation. At the end of the Round table, Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of environmental protection between the VEPF and the State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic was signed.

DWW members coordinated the whole program and moderated all lectures and meetings.

Based on the previous findings and consultations with project partners and stakeholders, the project

team decided on modification of the workshop planned in the second half of the project implementation: instead of having an internal workshop (Round table) for the VEPF officials and their direct partners it was decided to organize a broader training workshop for around 80 representatives of public administration, with the attendance of Czech representatives. Its concept, with the working title "Assistant Mechanisms for Traditional Villages", was discussed and finalized during the stay of Vietnamese experts in the Czech Republic, DWW succeeded in raising additional funds to cover around 75 % of the training/workshop expenses, the rest to be covered by the VEPF and PCDA/DANIDA project „Pollution Control in Poor Densely Populated Areas”.

Outputs:

- *Delivery of the training course on ERAT and environmental priorities setting;*
- *Tentative Agenda of the international workshop on "Assistant Mechanisms for Traditional Villages" in Da Nang City, Vietnam*
- *Memorandum of Cooperation signed between the VEPF and the State Environment Fund of the Czech Republic*

d. Development and testing of the toolkits – Activity 1.2 and 3.2 (3rd mission – Vietnam)

Time period: July – August 2008

The works on the development and testing the toolkits included beside the expert work and consultations also a pilot testing of the screening survey in two villages in Vietnam which was carried out during the mission of DWW experts to Vietnam. The second mission to Vietnam has started on 24th July, 2008.

Drafts of two environmental toolkits have been developed based on the findings and inputs gathered within the first stage of the project implementation. The aim of these toolkits is to provide assistance to VEPF in managing the support for environmental improvement in Vietnam, from the priority setting through the project selection and management to the monitoring and evaluation.

Environmental Auditing Toolkit (EAT)

The first toolkit serves as a handbook to make an environmental profile of the villages based on the assessment of the sources of pollution and impacts on the environment and human health and to be able to set priorities for environmental measures. The essential part of the manual is the guide for undertaking so called Primary environmental assessment which was proposed as the first step to gather necessary data for identification of the environmental burdens in particular locality.

The assessment should be completed by environmental experts in communication with central environmental and local authorities and national experts. In addition to the (technical) environmental assessment it is recommended to supplement the survey by collection of information and opinions from public representatives through an inquiry or a questionnaire – to undertake so called "participatory assessment".

The technical questionnaire consists of the introductory part which is focused on basic overview about the social and economic situation and natural conditions and the second part that addresses the key issues of environment quality. The participatory assessment includes a list of simple questions focused on the issues of environmental pollution and related threats to environment and human health.

Questionnaire survey in selected villages

The guide for the technical assessment as well as the questionnaires for the public survey was revised by the VEPF experts with a special attention paid to availability of data and to specific conditions of the handicraft (traditional) villages. Pilot testing of the screening survey was carried out in two villages (Bat Trang and Phong Khe). The outputs of the survey are summarized as an example in the toolkits guide.

Environmental Decision Making Toolkit (EDMT)

The second toolkit will serve to VEPF as a handbook to make decisions concerning financial support to environmental projects. The handbook aims at describing basic principles of decision-making

concerning financial support to projects that are to contribute to improvement in the area of health and environmental protection.

The guide shows examples of decision-making criteria which are used by the Czech institutions for appraisal and selecting environmental investment and projects to be supported from the Operation program Environment (projects of technical improvements) and projects focused on remediation of old environmental burdens.

Outputs:

- *Draft Environmental Auditing Toolkit (guide)*
- *Draft Environmental Decision Making Toolkit (guide)*
- *(Outputs of) Pilot testing of the screening survey*

e. Preparation and discussion of Environmental Priority Communication Toolkit – Activity 3.1

Time period: July – August 2008

The other issue the project aimed to respond to was the lack of general awareness about the VEPF operations and the need to raise its attractiveness towards both the potential donors and the potential receivers of the support, mainly the management of the handicraft villages and small local producers.

The project therefore included measures to address the questions of access to information and promotion of the VEPF activities and of mutual communication with beneficiaries, which resulted in three products: international workshop in Da Nang, communication toolkit and VEPF promotion leaflet.

International workshop in Da Nang (Vietnam)

The workshop on “*Environmental Pollution Treatment for Vietnamese Traditional Villages and Financial Assistance of Vietnam Environment Protection Fund*” took place on 31st July and 1st August, 2008 in Da Nang, in central Vietnam.

The event was jointly organized by DWW and VEPF and it included, beside fundraising, the design of the program, arrangement of the presentations and presenters, logistical arrangements (venue, technical equipment, travel, accommodation, and local transportation) and administration (translations, interpreting, printing, copying, etc.).

The workshop was attended by 98 Vietnamese experts from various sectors and several provinces and by a large delegation from the Czech Republic, including the representatives of the Ministry of Environment, State Environmental Fund and Czech Development Agency and four organizations – DWW, DEKONTA, TECHNOEXPORT and CZECH TRADE (in total 18 Czech participants). All the presentations were performed with the simultaneous interpretation.

The main physical outputs of the workshop are the published proceedings of the workshop with the collection of the presentations and supporting documents (in English and Vietnamese) and a draft proposal of program priorities for the cooperation between Vietnam and the Czech Republic in the environmental area, which means the first step towards the implementation of the Memorandum on the development cooperation signed between the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Vietnam as well as between the SEF and the VEPF.

The workshop was financially supported from the Vietnam side by the contribution of 7.000 USD from the Vietnam-Denmark project PCDA/DANIDA „Pollution Control in Poor Densely Populated Areas“, another almost 20 000 USD of the direct costs were covered by the sources of DWW. Another contribution was provided as in-kind contribution of the part of the participants, both the Vietnamese and the Czech ones, who have covered their own travel expenses for the participation in the workshop.

The workshop itself was accompanied by a series of official meetings in Hanoi, with the participation of the representatives of the Czech delegation and the Czech Embassy in Vietnam. At the meetings, there were discussed the current projects as well as concrete priorities for future cooperation between the Czech Republic and Vietnam (interpretation was ensured by the Vietnamese coordinator of DWW team, Ms. Phung Thi Phuong Hien).

The workshop in Da Nang got a significant political support and also media publicity. An information spot about the workshop was inserted among the headline news in Vietnam television broadcasting and following to it there were initiated by the Vietnam TV two 30-minutes reportages on the theme of environmental pollution issues in Vietnam traditional handicraft villages. The project was presented by our Vietnamese coordinator, Ms. Phung Thi Phuong Hien.

Suggestions to VEPF for the communication with public and inhabitants of the handicraft villages

Based on the experience from the discussions at the training workshop in Da Nang and subsequent consultations with the VEPF, the proposal of the communication toolkit was developed.

VEPF promotion leaflet

Additionally to the communication toolkit also the promotion leaflet was developed in mutual cooperation of DWW and VEPF experts. The colored leaflet provides in brief the essential information about the VEPF activities and support mechanisms to environmental improvement measures, including the contact information.

Outputs:

- *Delivery of the international workshop “Environmental Pollution Treatment for Vietnamese Traditional Villages and Financial Assistance of Vietnam Environment Protection Fund”*
- *Proceedings of the workshop (collection of presentations)*
- *Toolkit on Suggestions to VEPF for the communication with public and inhabitants of the handicraft villages*
- *Printed Promotion leaflet on VEPF activities*

f. Finalization of the toolkits – Activity 3.3

The experience from pre-test of environmental toolkits and feedback from Vietnamese stakeholders and Austrian partner was used for finalization of the toolkits. The final versions are prepared in Vietnamese and English, with a summary in Czech (final report submitted to the Czech MFA and FoRS). All three toolkits were incorporated into a manual “Environmental improvements at hot spots“. The manual consists of 3 toolkits:

1. Environmental Auditing Toolkit
2. Environmental Decision Making Toolkit
3. Suggestions to VEPF on the communication with public and inhabitants of the handicraft villages

The toolkits will serve as tools which may facilitate strategic and operational management of VEPF and strengthen its capacity in proper programming for handicraft villages, incl. the identification and assessment of environmental priorities, and raising public awareness about environment protection and available tools for environment protection measures.

Final output:

- *Manual “Environmental improvements at hot spots“ with all three toolkits.*

2. Implementation strategy

Difficulties and obstacles faced

The project team was impelled to adjust and slightly modify the schedule and planned activities due to **time and financial constraints** in consequence of a late approval of the project and certain administration obstacles:

- at the time of the submission of the Interim report contribution from the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs still did not come (grant decision was signed at the beginning of July) and 1st RPP installment as well as planned DWW contribution were already spent (running project activities were advanced or covered from additional DWW sources); and

- the project had to be implemented within a significantly shorter implementation period than originally planned.

The other reason for certain changes in the implementation of the project, mainly in the scheduling of partial activities was given by the situation on Vietnam side. Regarding the current institutional and personal changes in the state administration (governmental authorities) in Vietnam it is necessary to adapt the manual according to the conditions for their subsequent application in practice (ways and sources of financing the environmental protection, harmonization of the competences of individual authorities, etc.) It had its impact on taking the decision about a change in procedures of partial steps; however the main outcome and goal of the project remained kept.

Less significant adopted change was made about participation of the Austrian partner Welthaus Diözese Graz-Seckau. As Welthaus project manager Ms. Sigrun Zwanzger could not attend the Round table in the Czech Republic as originally planned, it was decided that the consultations and revisions of the toolkits with Welthaus were carried out through internet and skype. The travel expenses for Austrian partner were not spent and they were transferred within the same budget line for higher travel expenses of Vietnamese partner (four participants instead of originally planned two).

Strategies taken to overcome the difficulties:

The elaboration of the toolkits was in-depth discussed with the representatives of the VEPF and the villages (and province) representatives in order to map the real needs and opportunities.

The main strategy adopted regarding the undergoing institutional changes in Vietnam (described in previous paragraph) was to wait until the last moment to follow the very latest development and to take it into account.

The VEPF representatives were revising the partial outputs and they were assisting in field testing in selected handicraft villages. All outputs were completed in the final project stage, based on the feedback and response gathered during the second mission of Czech team members to Vietnam as well as from consultations with the Austrian partner.

Due to time shortage and with respect to the level of environmental awareness and the state of civil society in Vietnam, the third Environmental Priority Communication Toolkit for the public was prepared in a form of a short manual of suggestions for best practice, including certain education and communication elements (with reference to EAT and EDMT toolkits to be used by communities and local experts) and an information leaflet about the strategy for environmental protection measures of the VEPF.

Elements of communication on environmental priorities were already tested within the preparation works of the workshop for Vietnamese authorities and experts in Da Nang. This event was attended by administration authorities as well as representatives of academic sector, municipalities and private bodies and it thus created a very first opportunity to test models of communication among the various groups of stakeholders.

The participation of a project team member Ms. Sigrun Zwanzger, representative of the Austrian partner (Welthaus Diözese) was expected during the training in the Czech Republic. Unfortunately, due to her attendance at other international event, Ms. Zwanger was not able to take part in the training course and the Round table. Thus the cooperation had a form of intensive e-mail communication and the main task of Austrian partner was in revising and commenting the materials produced. External feedback from an experienced international NGO is seen very valuable for both Czech and Vietnamese partners. We jointly agreed that effective cooperation with the VEPF must focus not only on practical (technical) aspects but in particular on legal, financial and methodological frameworks as well as on broad environmental awareness and education. All recommendation of our Austrian partner comply with our long-term strategy of cooperation with the VEPF.

Moreover, the realized financial savings in travel costs enabled to invite more participants from Vietnam to the training course as mentioned above.

3. Successes and Failures:

Successes:

- Study trip to the Czech Republic – twice more participants (4 instead of 2).
- Presence of the deputy ambassador of Vietnam, First Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic and of the new First Secretary and Commercial Officer of the Czech Embassy in Hanoi at the Round table organized within the training course for representatives of Vietnam state administration authorities in the Czech Republic.
- Signature of Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the VEPF and the SEF.
- Special environmental enclosure to a Czech newspaper (Lidove noviny, 30.5.2008) published at occasion of the trip of VEPF representatives to the Czech Republic, including the article written by DWW. Following the request from Vietnam partners, the assay was translated into Vietnamese and presented at the workshop in Da Nang.
- Enclosure on development cooperation with Vietnam to journal Exporter (weekly supplement to Hospodarske noviny, 19.6.2008, including assay written by DWW).
- The key success is seen in the impact of the international workshop organized in Da Nang as this was a very first public presentation of the VEPF program since its establishment in 2003. The interest of the provinces to participate exceeded the expectations. Also, unexpectedly open discussion with sometimes even critical questions and answers was noticed, which is still quite unusual approach experienced in Vietnam society.
- There were significantly more participants registered for the workshop because of a broad interest to participate both on Vietnamese and Czech side. DWW served as main coordinator with responsibility for the organization and logistics and for the development of agenda in cooperation with the VEPF. DWW also succeeded to raise additional funds and was able to cover around 75 % of direct expenses of the training (25 % were covered by the VEPF). In addition, most of Czech participants have covered their travel expenses by themselves.
- Significant political support and media publicity was given to this event (TV reportage in Vietnam main broadcasting channel and follow-up two 30-minutes TV reportages on the theme of environmental pollution issues in Vietnam traditional handicraft villages).

Failures:

- Administrative obstacles at the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the grant decision was signed on 4th July, while the contribution came on 24th July (the same day as second RPP installment), so the implementing organization (DWW) was forced to pre-finance project activities from its own sources.

Additional organizational information:

- No significant organizational changes were exercised.

4. Sustainability of the project and Project's impact:

The project was a natural continuation of previous activities of DWW in Vietnam and of its cooperation with Austrian partners and has contributed to the good name of the Czech Republic' operations in Vietnam in the area of environmental protection and to a positive assessment of the Regional Partnership Program for Austria and Neighboring New Member States.

The capacity of Vietnam Environmental Protection Fund to support environmental improvements in the traditional handicraft villages was strengthened and the awareness among the population about the VEPF programs and activities was raised. Then, the main potential to maintain the project results lays in the expected as well as unexpected outputs of the project:

- The Memoranda of Understanding on Cooperation, signed between the Vietnam and Czech official authorities have great potential for continuation of the cooperation and for the implementation of truly desired and needed practical measures.
- The Toolkits will help the VEPF to strengthen its capacity in proper programming for handicraft villages, incl. the identification and assessment of environmental priorities, and in their communication with public and inhabitants of the handicraft villages.

5. Financial report

Financial report is attached. There are no significant transfer among the budget lines (0,3 – 1,8 %), some transfers had to been done between travel expenses and subcontracts.

Slight complications are reported regarding significant changes in the exchange rate among CZK, EUR, USD and VND. Beside the expenses in EUR covered directly from the EUR account of DWW (EU Platform and part of DWW own resources), part of expenses must be covered in CZK, USD or VND either from EUR or Czech account of the DWW (MFA contribution and part of DWW own resources) - in that case we have to use the daily exchange rate of the Czech National Bank.

Due to the exchange rates we also had to co-finance some direct expenses (around 305 EUR) above the agreed budgeted from own DWW resources.

Date, City: 29. 9. 2008, Prague

For the Project Partner:

Mgr. Daniel Svoboda
Chairman
Development Worldwide

Enclosures:

- Executive summary (1 page)
- Summary from the project partner and request for further cooperation
- Memorandum of Cooperation between the VEPF and the SEF
- Documentation from the workshop in Da Nang (Agenda, List of participants – separate Annex)
- Manual – Environmental Toolkits (in English) – separate Annex
- VEPF Promotion leaflet – separate Annex

Executive summary

Project title: Building VEPF Capacity to support environmental improvements in handicraft villages

Duration: April – August/September 2008

Implementing organization: Development Worldwide, civic association, Czech Republic
in cooperation with Welthaus Diözese Graz-Seckau and Vietnam Environment Protection Fund (VEPF)

Project activities and outputs:

1. Environment Auditing Toolkit (EAT) was tested with civil society in two traditional villages and then was submitted to the VEPF according to project proposal.

2. Environmental Risk Assessment Toolkit (ERAT) was replaced by the **Environmental Decision Making Toolkit (EDMT)** based on the real conditions of decision making process in Vietnam. System of setting environmental priorities and of decision making process in the Czech Republic was the main topic during the training of VEPF managers in the Czech Republic.

3. Environmental Priority Communication Toolkit (EPCT) was tested among others during an international workshop in Da Nang and by cooperation in preparation of the VEPF informational leaflet.

Achievements:

The key achievement of the project is significantly raised interest in environment protection issues. During the very first public presentation of the VEPF programs in Da Nang, the participants appreciated both the VEPF supportive mechanisms and the international support provided in the frame of the RPP project. The workshop attracted also the media and as a follow-up, the Vietnam TV prepared 2 reportages (both 30 minutes long) on VEPF programs and environmental problems in traditional villages.

Another promising factor is a proclaimed support of the State Environment Protection Fund of the Czech Republic, formalized in a signed Memorandum of Cooperation with the VEPF. This Memorandum complements the Memoranda signed between the VEPF and DWW in 2006 and between the Czech Ministry of Environment and the Vietnamese Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) signed in 2007.

Cooperation with Austrian partner:

There was a valuable support provided by Welthaus Diözese Graz-Seckau during project preparation and implementation including a practical feedback to the environmental toolkits and to an overall system of environment protection in Vietnam. We jointly agreed that effective cooperation with the VEPF must focus not only on practical (technical) aspects but in particular on legal, financial and methodological frameworks as well as on broad environmental awareness and education. All recommendations of our Austrian partner comply with our long-term strategy of cooperation with the VEPF.

Summary from the project partner and request for further cooperation

Hanoi Sep.19th 2008

Dear Mr. Daniel Svoboda – DWW’s Chairman

Firstly, on behalf of VEPF, I would like to send the best regards to You, your colleagues and relation institutions in Czech Republic have been combined with VEPF in successful implementation on environmental protection activities in Vietnam and extend cooperation relation between two countries, especially with successful of international workshop on environmental protection for traditional villages in Da Nang.

To continue results from project “Building VEPF Capacity to support environmental improvements in handicraft villages” that VEPF and DWW implemented in Bat Trang Traditional Village, VEPF would propose to continue a project will be supported from Czech Republic Embassy in Hanoi as below:

1. Project name: “Combine with VEPF to financial assistance for projects of environmental protection and energy saving in ceramic, porcelain production fields”
2. Implemental Institution: Vietnam Environment Protection Fund
3. Combinative Institution: Development Word Wide – Czech Republic
4. Implemental Place: Bat Trang Traditional Village – Hanoi- Vietnam
5. Support Institution: Czech Republic Embassy in Hanoi Vietnam
6. Implementation time: April 2009 to Aug. 2010
7. Amount of support from Czech Republic Embassy in Hanoi Vietnam: 50,000 – 70,000 EUR
8. No. of households have profit from project: 20-30 households
9. Structure of financial assistance for the project:
 - a. Soft-loan from VEPF: 70%
 - b. Corresponding capital from business households: 10%
 - c. Support from Czech Republic Embassy in Vietnam: 20%
10. Summary situation, content and subject for project implementation:
 - Bat Trang is a traditional village in hundred years with ceramic and porcelain products are flower pots, cups, teapots, rice bowl, animals, pictures, ect....Everyday have about rather 300 coal ovens burning with average used of coal about 3.5 tones/oven/day and discharge CO2 in to environment about 2,625 tons/day and solid waste (most of them are coal ash) are 2,500 tons/day. Air pollution in village is higher 4 times compared with permit level. Traditional landscapes have been deteriorated by coal ovens occupied among accommodation, environmental pollution is increasing, and people’s health is threatening.
 - 2003, Bat Trang has been changing from coal oven to gas oven for saving energy and reducing environmental pollution. This is project was supported by Ministry of Science and Technology and UNDP.

- July 2007 to Sep. 2008 VEPF has been soft-loan assisted with 150,000 USD for changing 13 coal ovens to gas ovens. At present, these ovens are very good operating, they have no pollution and high energy saving in the process. Products output obtain nearly 100%. So, income is high increasing.
- April 2008 to Aug. 2008, VEPF combined with DWW- Czech Republic to implement project: "Building VEPF Capacity to support environmental improvements in handicraft villages". This project was implemented in Bat Trang traditional village by supported of Czech Republic and Austria Republic with 22,490 EUR.

With these activities above, local authority and all households in Bat Trang are very agreed with result of project. Many business households are submitted documents for changing from coal oven to gas oven to increase income, environmental improvement and upgrade living quality.

11. Project Output: Combine with VEPF to build from 20 to 30 gas ovens for saving energy and environmental protection.

12. Project effect:

- a. To reduce dust and air pollution in community
- b. To reduce solid waste generation in the production process
- c. Saving energy and thermal reuse for drying products
- d. Extend for cleaner production
- e. Increasing effectiveness of Cleaner Development Mechanism (CDM)

13. Project signification:

- a. Reducing environmental pollution for inhabitants and community
- b. Increasing of productivity and product quality for selling in domestic and export.
- c. Increasing income for business households
- d. Public awareness in environmental protection and health for community
- e. Attractive tourisms for study tour and buying products in traditional villages
- f. Take up relationship among Vietnam- Czech Republic and UNDP
- g. Welcome memory of 1000 years of Thang Long-Hanoi Capital.

These are summary ideas, subjects and planning for new project implementation follow your suggestion. VEPF would like with DWW to continue implementation of environmental protection projects in Vietnam. VEPF will complete proposal follow DWW's guide and take up procedures for soon receiving fund from Czech Embassy in Hanoi Vietnam.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

With best regards

Nguyen Nam Phuong
VEPF Deputy Director

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON
COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BETWEEN
THE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL FUND OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND
THE VIETNAM ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION FUND,
MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT,
THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

The State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic and The Vietnam Environment Protection Fund, Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam,

hereinafter referred to as "the Parties";

Being aware of the regional and global natures of environmental issues, the urgency to find a cost-effective and lasting solution in addressing these issues through international cooperation and the importance of coordinating the joint activities of the two countries;

Based on goals and principles set out in "Agenda 21", approved in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, 1992 and in accordance with the final documents of the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, 2002;

Convinced that cooperation between the two Parties in the field of environmental protection is of mutual benefits and will promote the development of the friendly relationship between the two countries;

Aware of the responsibility to ensure environmental safety for the present and future generations;

Taking into consideration the fact that the consequences of events may have transboundary effects;

The two Parties have agreed as follows:

Article 1

The Parties will, on the basis of equal and mutual benefit, develop the bilateral cooperation in the field of environmental protection.

Article 2

The Parties will cooperate in the following areas:

- Cooperation in preparation and implementation of the projects financed from EU Funds;

- Cooperation in preparation and implementation of the projects financed from international organizations;
- Environmental education and training;
- Instruments for environmental protection and their incorporation to the economic policies;
- Cooperation with capacity building of Vietnam Environment Protection Fund and other institutions dealing with environmental protection;
- Any other environmental areas as mutually deemed as appropriate.

Article 3

Cooperation between the Parties under this Memorandum shall be conducted in the following forms:

- Preparation and implementation of joint projects;
- Exchange of relevant environmental information and materials;
- Exchange visits of experts, scholars, delegations and trainees;
- Joint organization of seminars, workshops and meetings attended by scientists, experts and other participants;
- Other forms of cooperation as mutually agreed by Parties upon.

Article 4

To implement the Memorandum, the Parties shall encourage the environmental protection agencies, organizations and enterprises engaged in environmental protection in their countries to establish and develop direct contacts with each other.

Article 5

To ensure the effective implementation of the Memorandum, the Parties will agree on 2-years cooperative programs.

Each Party shall, within the six months from the signature, appoint a coordinator to be responsible for the coordination of the activities under the Memorandum.

The coordinators will hold regular meetings every two years in turn in the Czech Republic and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Unless otherwise mutually agreed upon, the international travel expense incurred by participation in the above-mentioned meetings shall be borne by the sending Party.

Article 6

Cooperative activities under this Memorandum shall be implemented according to the financial possibilities of the Parties and legal regulations in their countries. Unless otherwise mutually agreed upon, each Party shall bear the cost for carrying out activities under this Memorandum.

Article 7

Nothing in this Memorandum affects the obligations of the Parties deriving from any bilateral and multilateral agreements.

Article 8

Disputes concerning the interpretation or application of this Memorandum shall be settled through direct negotiations between the Parties.

Article 9

In accordance with the legal regulations of the two countries, with the consent of the Parties, the results and information produced in the cooperation under the Memorandum could be accessible to the third party.

Article 10

The Memorandum is concluded for an indefinite period of time and shall enter into force on the date of signature.

This Memorandum may be terminated upon written notification by one of the Parties to the other through diplomatic channels; the termination being effective six months after the receipt of the relevant written note.

Signed in Prague on 6th May 2008, in two originals, each in Czech, Vietnamese and English, all three versions being equally authentic. In case of any divergence of interpretation, the English version shall prevail.

*For the State Environmental Fund
of the Czech Republic*

*For the Vietnam Environment
Protection Fund, Ministry of Natural
Resources and Environment,
the Socialist Republic of Vietnam*

**Agenda of International Workshop on
“Environmental Pollution Treatment for Vietnamese Traditional
Villages and Financial Assistant Mechanisms from Vietnam
Environment Protection Fund”**

The venue: Golden Sea Hotel

B26-B29 Pham Van Dong Str. Da Nang City - Viet Nam,

Time: 31th July and 1st Aug. 2008

Time	Contents	Responsibility
First day July 31st 2008		
7.30 – 8.00	Registration for Participants	VEPF
8.00 – 8.15	Introduction for Participants	Representative of VEPF
8.15 – 8.30	Opening Ceremony	Ass. Prof. Dr. Truong Manh TIEN - Director of VEPF
8.30 – 9.00	Summary status of traditional Villages in Vietnam and solutions, proposal for environmental protection and development production.	Prof.-Dr. Dang Thi Kim Chi- Deputy Director of Institute for Environmental Science & Technology – Hanoi University of Technology
9.00 – 9.30	Summary status of metal product recycling and solutions, proposal for environmental protection and development production.	M.Sc. Do Thanh Bai – Director of Chemical Safety and Environmental Protection Center of Industrial Chemical Institute – Industrial Commercial Ministry
9.30 – 10.00	Introduction on VEPF and Mechanism of Financial Assistance in environmental protection projects for traditional Villages.	Mr. Nguyen Nam Phuong – Deputy Director of VEPF
10.00 – 10.30	Assistance from VEPF for traditional village in Bat Trang Village- Hanoi . Solution, proposal for environmental protection and development production.	Mr. Le Duc Trong – Director of Batrang Ceramic Design and Manufacturing Joint-Stock Company
10.30 – 10.45	Tea break	All Participants
10.45 – 11.15	Introduction on Czech environmental projects implemented in Vietnam (traditional village in Bac Ninh Province and other areas); Chances for traditional villages and other hot spots in Vietnam	Representative of DWW
11.15 – 11:30	Experience with Czech environmental projects in Bac Ninh Province	Representative of DONRE, Bac Ninh
11.30 – 12.00	Technology and experience of Czech organizations in pollution treatment – appropriate methods for Vietnam	Representative of DEKONTA company and DWW
12.00 – 13.30	Lunch	All Participants

13.30 – 14.00	Summary status of traditional Villages in Thua Thien -Hue and solutions, proposal for environmental protection and development production.	Ass. Prof. Dr. Le Van Thang – Director of Institute for Environmental Science & Technology – Hue University
14.00 – 14.30	Summary status of traditional Villages and solution, proposal for environmental protection and development production in Da Nang City	Representative of Da Nang DONRE
14.30 – 15.00	Summary status of traditional Villages and solution, proposal for environmental protection and development production Quang Nam Province	Representative of Quang Nam DONRE
15.00 – 15.15	Tea break	
15.15 – 15.45	Introduction of soft-loan procedures for traditional Villages	Representative of VEPPF
15.45 – 17.30	Discussions	Presentation People and all Internal and International Participants
17.30 – 17.45	Conclusions and closing workshop	Ass. Prof. Dr. Truong Manh TIEN - Director of VEPPF
18.30 – 20.00	Dinner Party	All Participants
Second day Aug. 1st 2008		
7.30 – 12.00	Field trip a traditional village in Quang Nam and art stone traditional Village in Ngu Hanh Son – Da Nang City	Internal and International Participants
12.00 – 13.30	Lunch	All participants
14:00 – 15:00	Discussion and prepare planning activities on co-operation between Vietnam and Czech Republic Organizations	Key participants VEPF, DONREs, MONRE, DWW, DEKONTA, MOE, SEF

Envisaged participants of workshop about 100 persons

Participants from the Czech Republic:

DWW (3), DEKONTA (3), Ministry of Environment (2), State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic (4), Czech Development Agency (3), Technoexport (2), Czech Trade Vietnam (1), Czech Embassy Hanoi (1)