

# Parliamentary Network on the World Bank

## Field visit to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

21-24 March, 2005



## Abbreviations

<b>CPRGS</b>	Comprehensive Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy
<b>ICUN</b>	World Conservation Union
<b>IDA</b>	International Development Association
<b>MDGs</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>ODA</b>	Overseas Development Assistance
<b>PNoWB</b>	Parliamentary Network on the World Bank
<b>PRSP</b>	Poverty Reduction Strategy Programme
<b>SEDP</b>	Socio-Economic Development Plan
<b>VDGs</b>	Vietnam Development Goals

The PNoWB would like to express its gratitude to the Government of Finland and the World Bank for their support of the Parliamentarians in the Field Program. Thanks also to the Government of Vietnam for the warm reception and the World Bank in Vietnam staff for their insights, particularly Vietnam Country Director Klaus Rohland, who made himself available to the delegation on a number of occasions.

This report was drafted by a locally engaged consultant, Melissa Wells.

For more information about field visits to other countries and to learn more about the PNoWB please visit [www.pnowb.org](http://www.pnowb.org). For information on how the World Bank works with parliamentarians please visit [www.worldbank.org/parliamentarians](http://www.worldbank.org/parliamentarians).

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## **Executive summary**

Vietnam is a country undergoing rapid economic and social change as it integrates with the world economy. From March 21-24, 2005, thirteen parliamentarians toured Vietnam as part of the PNoWB “Parliamentarians in the field” program and gained some insights into development in Vietnam. It seems that economic growth in Vietnam is being transformed into poverty reduction through various reforms and instruments such as the Comprehensive Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy (CPRGS). However, Vietnam still faces significant challenges with around 30 percent of the population living below the poverty line.

Vietnam is the highest recipient of World Bank IDA-only lending in the world. During their time in Vietnam, PNoWB members met mainly with Vietnamese government officials at central and local levels, staff of the World Bank in Vietnam and project staff from World Bank funded projects. In general, the delegates were pleased with the way in which the World Bank works in partnership with the Government of Vietnam and efforts to engage with the community at the local level. Nonetheless, delegates were conscious that they only saw a small part of Vietnam in a very short time and did not have the opportunity to meet with members of civil society that are perhaps critical of the approach of the World Bank and the Government of Vietnam.

### **Main findings**

Strong economic growth in Vietnam is contributing to poverty reduction.

The Government of Vietnam is not overly dependent on ODA; rather it looks to international donors to complement its own poverty reduction strategy.

The World Bank in Vietnam works well with the Vietnamese government. For most parliamentarians, this is a positive finding. Some parliamentarians would like to see the World Bank deal more actively with a lack of democracy and dissent in Vietnam.

The World Bank projects visited in Vietnam seem to involve community consultation and combine economic and social objectives. However, the short time available did not allow for exhaustive analysis and evaluation.

## Background

From 21-24 March 2005, thirteen parliamentarians from a diverse group of countries that included Italy, Belgium, India, Jordan, Kenya, France, Philippines, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Australia, Germany and Korea visited Vietnam as part of the PNoWB field visit program. This is the first time the PNoWB has traveled to East Asia, the fastest growing region in the world.

The PNoWB was set up by parliamentarians in 2000 and represents around 800 members all over the world. The network has three broad aims:

- 1) to advocate for increased transparency and accountability in the World Bank;
- 2) to advocate for development and development funding within national parliaments and the relevant international arenas; and
- 3) to increase the scope and quality of the parliamentary contribution to the development debate.

The field visit program is one of the PNoWB's key activities, organized jointly with the World Bank and supported by a grant from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland. The purpose of the visit was to foster a better understanding among Parliamentarians of development activities in Vietnam and the role of the World Bank. In particular, delegates were to consider Vietnam's Poverty Reduction Strategy Programme (PRSP), known as the Comprehensive Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy (CPRGS).

During the field visit to Vietnam, parliamentarians met with:

- The Country Director of the World Bank in Vietnam
- The Minister of Planning and Investment
- International donors and NGOs
- Members of Vietnam's National Assembly
- Members of the Vietnam Women's Union
- Provincial authorities of Ninh Thuan province
- Members of the Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee.

The parliamentarians also visited three World Bank projects:

- Hon Mun Marine Protection Area Project, Nha Trang City
- Community Based Rural Infrastructure Project, Ninh Thuan province
- Urban Upgrading Project, Ho Chi Minh City.

This report presents some of the findings from the visit. It is hoped that members of the PNoWB network can use this report to contribute to policy dialogue on development in their own countries. The report weaves together information on Vietnam with observations from the PNoWB delegates. The first two sections look at development in Vietnam and highlights its success in poverty reduction. The last two sections canvass two additional issues of interest to the PNoWB delegation: 1) democracy, and 2) the role of the World Bank.

## Development in Vietnam

### Vietnam: Key Facts

Population	80.9 million
Land mass	330,00 sq km
GDP per capita	\$436 US
Population below the poverty line	28.9%

Source: General Statistics Office, Vietnam

Many delegates came to Vietnam expecting to find a country still suffering from the ills of war with very limited infrastructure and development. Instead, they saw basic infrastructure extending to most areas. *Habeeb Fasinro* from Nigeria said: "When I turn on the lights here, they work - that doesn't always happen in my country". The delegates also observed most people working. *Myoung-Ock Ahn* from Korea said: "I can see much more entrepreneurial activity compared with 10 years ago" .

Vietnam ranks 112 out of 177 countries in UNDP's human development index, placing it in the group of countries with medium human development. As the table below shows, Vietnam's indicators for life expectancy, adult literacy and education enrolment are commensurate with the average for the East Asia and Pacific countries – most of which have much higher per capita GDP.

### Indicators from the Human Development Report 2004

	Vietnam	East Asia & Pacific
Human Development Index 2002	0.69	0.78
GDP per capita (PPP adjusted)	\$2,300 US	\$4,768 US
Life expectancy	69 years	69.8 years
Adult literacy rate (% population aged 15 and above)	64%	65%
Combined gross enrolment ratio: primary, secondary, tertiary	64%	65%

Source: UNDP, Human Development Report 2004

Vietnam's growth performance since the beginning of the Doi Moi (open door) reform process has been strong. GDP per capita has increased by more than 6 percent per year on average for more than one decade. Such performance is remarkable in comparison with other transition economies – only China has grown faster.

Delegates, particularly those from developing countries, were very interested in the driving forces behind Vietnam's development. Some saw it as a reflection of political will (*Mutahi Kagwe* from Kenya, *Ra'ed Qaqish* from Jordan). *Mutahi Kagwe* said that there appeared to be strong social cohesion in Vietnam. *Dihesh Trivedi* from India said he was impressed that Vietnam has experienced strong economic growth without incurring a large budget deficit. The government budget deficit in Vietnam is around 2 percent of GDP.

Despite rapid economic development, Vietnam is still a poor country. GDP per person is on average only \$436 US, and around 30 percent of people live below the international poverty line.

Some challenges for Vietnam's future development, as highlighted by Klaus Rohland, Country Director of the World Bank in Vietnam, include:

- Culture, society and politics will be subject to deep change in the coming years. The specific features which led to Vietnam's impressive economic transformation now need to be institutionalized (eg. in the past, trust may have been enough for business deals among friends and relatives but now an effective judicial system is important to sustain private sector development).
- Urban migration is putting the traditional system of village governance under stress; there is a need for better State planning, financial management, and transparency.
- Increased efforts will be required to keep development inclusive and ensure that economic growth is not associated with rising inequality.

## **Success in poverty reduction**

The 2004 joint donor report on "Poverty"<sup>1</sup> said "Vietnam's achievements in terms of poverty reduction are one of the greatest success stories in economic development." From 1993 to 2002, Vietnam's poverty rate fell from 58 percent to 29 percent, halving the share of the population living in poverty in less than a decade.

The story behind the reduction in poverty has changed. Earlier gains had been associated with the distribution of agricultural land (at no cost) to rural households, while economic reform provided incentives for increased farm production. But those gains have been mainly reaped. In more recent years, the driving forces behind poverty reduction have been job creation by the private sector and the increased integration of agriculture in the market economy.

### **Vietnam's PRSP: The CPRGS**

In July 2002, the IMF and World Bank Boards endorsed Vietnam's Comprehensive Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy (CPRGS) as the first full Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) in Asia. In 2001, Vietnam was the second country in the world to receive a Poverty Reduction Support Credit (PRSC). The PRSC differs from other World Bank lending in that it funds reform programs rather than specific projects. For instance, it does not pay for the building of schools; instead it pays for reforms that improve the quality of education. In Vietnam, the current PRSC supports the objectives of the CPRGS.

The CPRGS embodies Vietnam's international commitments to poverty reduction. It is based on the Vietnam Development Goals (VDGs), which are Vietnam's own version of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In most cases the VDGs go further than the MDGs, reflecting Vietnam's past achievements in poverty reduction. Vietnam's progress in relation to the MDGs is summarized in Annex 4.

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<sup>1</sup> Vietnam Development Report 2004: Poverty. Asia Development Bank (ABD), Australian Government Overseas Aid Program (AusAid), UK Department for International Development (DFID), German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Save the Children UK, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), World Bank

Prior to the adoption of the CPRGS, Vietnam already had in place a comprehensive planning process known as the 10 year Socio-Economic Development Strategy 2000-2010. To implement this strategy, the first five-year Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP) 2000-2005 was formed. The Government of Vietnam is now in the process of drafting the second 5-year SEDP 2006-2010 and efforts are being made to incorporate the CPRGS within this process.



*Picture: Delegates meeting with members of Ministry of Planning and Investment in Hanoi*

During their visit to Vietnam, the delegates spent limited time assessing the CPRGS. Rather they canvassed general issues of economic development (as discussed above), along with democracy and the role of the World Bank. These last two issues are dealt with below.

## **Issue of democracy**

In the meeting with the National Assembly and throughout the week, the issue of democracy in Vietnam was a constant source of debate. Although delegates were initially to focus on the CPRGS in Vietnam, some delegates felt that politics could not be separated from a discussion on development. The main lines of inquiry focused on whether politicians in Vietnam are elected (and by whom), to whom they are accountable and how dissent is dealt with in a one party state. The issues of civil liberties and freedom of press were also raised.

The National Assembly (legislature) in Vietnam is theoretically separate from the Communist Party of Vietnam (executive). National Assembly members are directly elected by the citizens of Vietnam. In practice, most members of the National Assembly are nominated for election by the Party, with exception of two currently serving independent members. The National Assembly has three main roles: (1) law making; (2) participation in policy formation (eg. the CPRGS); and (3) supervision of the Government (including the State Budget; mobilization and use of ODA).

Although National Assembly members are usually members of the Party, most of them are not part of the Politburo, which sets the orientation for Vietnam's development. Mr Nguyen Ngoc Tran of the National Assembly (also a member of the PNoWB) reported that the National Assembly has become increasingly active in recent years in reviewing the decisions of the Government. He went on to say that in the past the Party decided everything. Now the Party still gives direction but policies are discussed by the National Assembly and the people.



*Picture: PNoWB delegates with members of Vietnam's National Assembly*

Contrary to the beliefs of most of the delegates, the Vietnamese government asserts that their system is a form of democracy which does not require multiple parties and a separation of powers. Vietnam has a long history of mobilizing the support of the people (past war efforts) and citizens are strongly encouraged to participate in governance down to the grassroots level. As *Patricia Crossin* from Australia said: "People voting in a village on how to spend money is a form of democracy". However, most delegates remained unclear on how the Party deals with dissent. *Monica Frassoni* from the EU said: "We never spoke to the people who do not support the Government". Additionally the issue of corruption was only briefly touched upon during the week.

In the end, many delegates felt it was not their role to insist on particular style of government for Vietnam (in particular *Myoung-Ock Ahn* from Korea, *Loic Bouvard* from France, *Patricia Crossin* from Australia, *Janette Garin* from Philippines, *Habeeb Fasinro* from Nigeria). Some delegates viewed Vietnam's system of government as one of its strengths. *Habeeb Fasinro* from Nigeria said he considered political stability in Vietnam an important factor in its successful development and *Myoung-Ock Ahn* from Korea said that a socialist government can sometimes be a strong driving force for social development. However, *Monica Frassoni* from the EU and *Alain Destexhe* from Belgium said that dissent and opposition found in conventional democracies was lacking in Vietnam and that if this issue is not properly addressed, it will have a negative impact in Vietnam's future development, internal stability and integration in the international community.

*Alain Destexhe* from Belgium wished to draw the delegates attention to commentary from organizations such as Amnesty International which, in its most recent report, said in Vietnam "the civil and political rights situation did not improve in 2003. Attacks on freedom of expression and association continued throughout the year. Members of a "democracy group" faced arrest, unfair trial and lengthy prison sentences."<sup>2</sup> Human Rights Watch has also raised concerns over religious persecution.<sup>3</sup> *Alain Destexhe* from Belgium said "No contact was made with dissident groups or religious organisations. For future PNoWB visits to countries with a one party system, it is suggested that these groups should also be consulted".

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<sup>2</sup> Amnesty International Report 2004 accessed at <http://web.amnesty.org/report2004/vnm-summary-eng>

<sup>3</sup> See Human Rights Watch letter to US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice (2005) on Religious Freedom in Vietnam accessed at <http://hrw.org/english/docs/2005/02/28/vietna10217.htm>

## Role of the World Bank

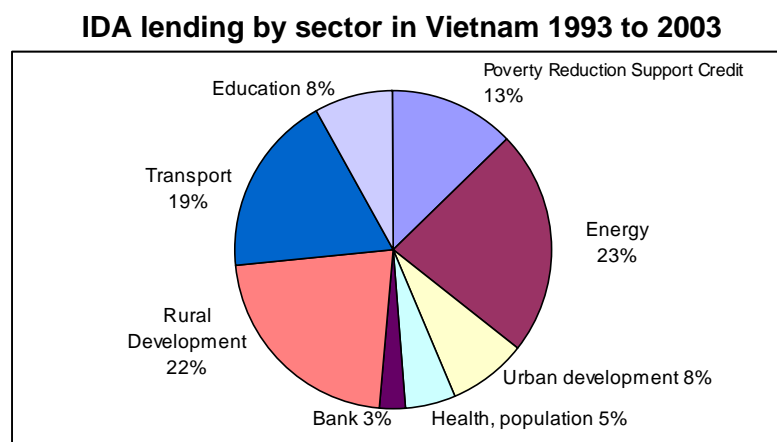
In response to questions on how World Bank projects are selected, the delegates were informed that the Government of Vietnam requests assistance from the World Bank, and the World Bank then selects lending priorities based on its Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) 2003-2006, which directly reflects Vietnam's CPRGS. It has three broad objectives:

1. Competing the transition to a market economy (including financial sector development; state enterprise reform)
2. Enhancing equitable and sustainable development (priority areas include ethnic minorities; gender equality; basic social services for the poor; mitigating impacts of natural disasters; and enhancing environmental sustainability); and
3. Adopting a modern public administration, legal and governance system.

At present there are more projects than available funds in Vietnam. The World Bank's lending program to Vietnam ranges from around \$290 US million in the low case to around \$760 million in the high case with a base case of \$580 million per year.<sup>4</sup>

Vietnam is the highest recipient of International Development Association (IDA)-only lending in the world<sup>5</sup>. Since 1993, the World Bank has committed \$5 US billion to Vietnam, of which over \$2.7 billion has been disbursed. Nonetheless, total annual Overseas Development Aid (ODA) to Vietnam represents less than 10 percent of the Government of Vietnam's budget. This is significantly less than other IDA recipient countries. Consequently, some delegates perceived the Vietnamese government to have more autonomy in setting its development agenda. *Yusuf Talpur* from Pakistan, *Mutahi Kagwe* from Kenya and *Ra'ed Qaqish* from Jordan said that the high reliance of their own countries on ODA means they are often required to follow the policies of donor countries.

The chart below provides a breakdown of IDA lending in Vietnam. The largest components of IDA lending go to the energy sector (23%) and rural development (22%), with 13% allocated to the Poverty Reduction Support Credit.



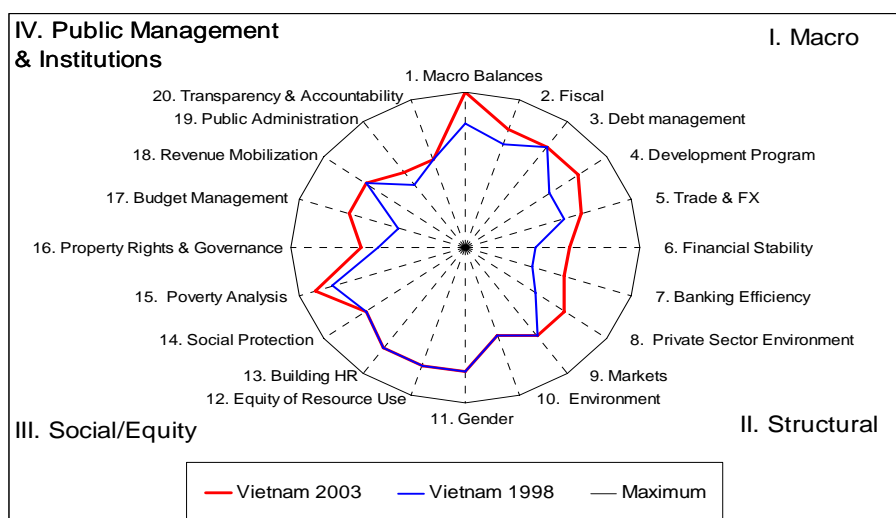
<sup>4</sup> The amount of lending depends on Vietnam's progress towards a set of indicators defined by the World Bank and based on the CPRGS. The more indicators achieved, the higher the level of funding.

<sup>5</sup> IDA funding consists of low-interest loans, interest-free credit, and grants. In 2004, the World Bank allocated IDA funds to 62 low income countries.

Some delegates suggested that the World Bank should prioritize human resource development through a greater focus on education and health (*Myoung-Ock Ahn* from Korea, *Janette Garin* from the Philippines, *Mohamed Oudor* from Morocco).

As part of the determination of IDA resource allocation across all countries, individual countries are assessed on their strengths and weaknesses by the World Bank country team. The chart below shows the results of this analysis for Vietnam. The closer the line is to the outer edge, the greater the performance of the country in the area (eg, Vietnam is strong in macroeconomic stability). Conversely, the closer the line is to the middle, the weaker the country is (eg Vietnam performs poorly in property rights and governance).

### Vietnam's strengths and weaknesses: World Bank assessment



In line with the divergent views on democracy outlined above, some delegates considered democracy and openness should be an explicit part of the analysis (*Alain Destexhe* from Belgium, *Monica Frassoni* from the EU). Others said that the World Bank should not interfere in a country's political structure (*Habeeb Fasinro* from Nigeria, *Myoung-Ock Ahn* from Korea, *Yusuf Talpur* from Pakistan). The World Bank Country Director, Klaus Rohland, said that the role of the World Bank is not to pursue political change or human rights as it does not have a comparative advantage in this area. Rather, some (but not all) of these issues are incorporated within other indicators.

### World Bank and other donors

Delegates were also interested in the interaction of the World Bank with other donors and NGOs. Although the delegates were not able to observe this first hand, they were informed that more than 20 government agencies, donors and International NGOs form part of a Consultative Group co-chaired by the Government and the World Bank. Donors are said to be almost unanimously gathering around the CPRGS as the guiding framework for all development assistance to Vietnam. *Patricia Crossin* from Australia considered the cooperative way in which the World Bank works with the Vietnamese government an important factor in successful poverty reduction. The table below shows the amount of funds pledged by the top 10 bilateral donors in Vietnam and also World Bank, IMF and UN agencies, at the December 2004 Consultative Group meeting. In total, \$3.4 US billion was pledged to be disbursed over a number of years.

## Main donors in Vietnam by amount pledged in December 2004

	<b>\$US million</b>
<b>Bilateral</b>	
Japan	902
France	444
United Kingdom	107
China	71
Denmark	68
Germany	64
United States	61
Australia	58
Italy	54
Sweden	49
<b>Multilateral</b>	
World Bank	750
ADB	374
UN agencies	74

## World Bank projects in Vietnam

As discussed above, World Bank projects in Vietnam are aligned with the country's PRSP. More information on the PRSP process is contained in Annex 3. Vietnam's PRSP, known as the CPRGS, is an action plan to realize both economic growth and poverty reduction objectives. It was approved by the Prime Minister of Vietnam in May 2002 following wide community consultation to determine the priorities for socio-economic development.

With such a short time in Vietnam, most delegates agreed that they could not possibly carry out a full evaluation of the World Bank projects they visited. At best, they could draw lessons learnt for their own countries and make some observations. This last section of the report provides a brief overview of the three World Bank projects visited by the delegates.

### Hon Mun Marine Protection Area Project, Nha Trang

Total funds:	\$1.8 US million
Project length:	4 years
Project partners:	Khanh Hoa Provincial People's Committee; ICUN
Project funded by:	Global Environment Facility of the World Bank; Danida (Government of Denmark); Government of Vietnam

The Hon Mun Marine Protection Area (MPA) aims to integrate conservation with development by protecting biodiversity and meeting livelihood needs of local communities. The site is managed by the Nha Trang Bay MPA Authority of the Vietnamese government and is supported by the MPA Project team, consisting of Vietnamese staff, an international technical adviser and support from ICUN.

The Hon Mun MPA Project was unanimously praised by delegates for the way it protects the environment and provides fishing households with other sources of income such as tourism, lobster raising and basket weaving.



*Picture: Delegates visiting the Hon Mun MPA*

However, *Monica Frassoni* from the EU expressed concern about the impact of mass tourism in neighbouring areas and *Patricia Crossin* from Australia suggested that for a successful project like this, the World Bank support and other external funding should not cease unless the future of the Marine Park can be established and local people empowered so that the initiative continues.

### **Community Based Rural Infrastructure Project, Ninh Thuan province**

Total funds:	\$123.4 US million (spread over more than 600 poor communes in 13 provinces in central Vietnam)
Project length:	2001-2007
Project funded by:	IDA, World Bank (83% total funds); Government of Vietnam (17% total funds); project beneficiaries (in-kind contribution)

The Community Based Rural Infrastructure Project reflects a change in planning policy. Under this project, investment decisions are made at the commune level (usually a group of villages) without intervention at the district level.



Poor communes are asked to nominate three investment projects with a total budget of around \$25,000 US per year. In the commune visited by delegates, the investment projects chosen by villagers were 1) a school building, 2) a road through the commune and 3) a small bridge to enable transport of agricultural produce during the wet season.

*Picture: Habeb Fasinro from Nigeria inspecting the bridge*

Delegates appreciated efforts to involve the community in setting priorities for investment (village meetings were held to discuss requirements and nominate projects). Although, when delegates conversed with members of the community directly this involvement did not always appear very convincing, due perhaps also to the fact that priorities seemed to have changed from the time the projects were decided and the present time (notably, water is now the top priority after a very dry season). Some delegates were also concerned about the small amount of funding and saw a need for a cohesive community development strategy that involves all people, particularly women, who were identified in one village as having few employment prospects.

### **Urban Upgrading Project, Ho Chi Minh City**

Total funds:	Total estimated cost \$ 420 US million of which \$220 million is IDA funds (spread over 4 urban areas: Ho Chi Minh City, Haiphong, Can Tho and Nam Dinh)
Project length:	2004-2012
Project funded by:	IDA, World Bank; Government of Vietnam

The Urban Upgrading Project (UUP) aims to improve the living conditions of the urban poor. Low-income communities in four regions, including Ho Chi Minh City, are assisted to develop basic urban infrastructure and improve their housing situation. For instance, some households may be eligible for micro-finance for housing improvements, while others who have to be unavoidably resettled as a result of upgrading are provided with social housing. New migrants to the cities are to be provided with affordable serviced sites. Lastly, the UUP provides assistance to the land office to strengthen administration of building ownership and land use certificates.

The delegates visited two sites in Ho Chi Minh City. In one area, the delegates observed the cementing of laneways that previously flooded houses in the wet season. In another area, the delegates saw a shanty town on the edge of a polluted canal (“Worse than anything I have seen in India” *Dinesh Trivedi*). The canal is to be dredged and the households currently living illegally on the banks of the canal are to be relocated and provided with housing in another area of the city.

The delegates were pleased to see the rejuvenation of degraded urban areas. *Monica Frassoni* from the EU also considered it important that households lacking official registration were still being looked after through the household reallocation and compensation plan.



Picture: Delegates in Ho Chi Minh City

For other delegates, this was a typical and effective World Bank project (*Habeeb Fasinro* from Nigeria, *Mohamed Oudor* from Morocco, *Loic Bouvard* from France). Nonetheless some delegates were unsure of how this project fits within a longer-term sustainable development plan for Ho Chi Minh City (*Myoung-Ock Ahn* from Korea, *Janette Garin* from Philippines).

In all three projects the delegates observed some efforts to engage people in decision-making at the community level, but some concerns were raised over the rigor of this process. As suggested by *Alain Destexhe* from Belgium:

- the World Bank should develop a policy and indicators to truly assess the participation of the local population directly affected; and
- a dialogue should be established with non-government groups or individuals (human rights and religious groups, individual dissidents, international NGOs, etc).

## **The follow-up**

All delegates agreed that the field visit to Vietnam was informative and useful. Parliamentarians from developed countries said they were able to report back to their own parliaments on some aspects of World Bank activities and also participate in funding decisions from a more informed viewpoint. Parliamentarians from developing countries said that they observed many positive aspects of development in Vietnam which helped them to understand more clearly the issues of their own countries. Lastly, parliamentarians from 13 very different countries were able to share experiences and knowledge and strengthen the worldwide network of parliamentarians committed to contributing to policy on aid and development.

Although delegates considered the field visit to Vietnam well organized, it was suggested that future delegations would benefit from: more background information provided prior to the visit; more precise guidelines from PNoWB on the aims of field visits; a clear objective formed by the group; and the opportunity to meet with members of civil society not aligned with the government or the World Bank. Parliamentarians also expressed interest in knowing more about disbursement of World Bank funds in a country (though the central government or at the local level); how the World Bank fits with the objectives of bilateral donors; and how the World Bank prioritizes projects.

## Annex 1: List of Participants

<b>No.</b>	<b>Full Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Country</b>
1	Monica Frassoni (Ms)	Member of European Parliament <a href="mailto:mfrassoni@europarl.eu.int">mfrassoni@europarl.eu.int</a> <a href="http://www.monicafrassoni.it">www.monicafrassoni.it</a>	Italy
2	Alain Destexhe (Mr)	Senator <a href="http://www.destexhe.be">www.destexhe.be</a>	Belgium
3	Dihesh Trivedi (Mr)	Member of Parliament <a href="mailto:dineshpar@satyam.net.in">dineshpar@satyam.net.in</a>	India
4	Ra'ed Kamal Musa Qaqish (Mr)	Member of Parliament <a href="mailto:r.qaqish@index.com.jo">r.qaqish@index.com.jo</a> <a href="mailto:r.qaqish@cyberia.jo">r.qaqish@cyberia.jo</a> <a href="http://www.raedqaqish.com">www.raedqaqish.com</a>	Jordan
5	Mutahi Kagwe (Mr)	Member of Parliament <a href="mailto:mkagwe@mcl-saatchi.co.ke">mkagwe@mcl-saatchi.co.ke</a> <a href="http://mkagwe@wananchi.com">mkagwe@wananchi.com</a>	Kenya
6	Loic Bouvard (Mr)	Member of Parliament <a href="mailto:loicbouvard.ploermel@wanadoo.fr">loicbouvard.ploermel@wanadoo.fr</a> <a href="mailto:lbouvard@assemblee-nationale.fr">lbouvard@assemblee-nationale.fr</a>	France
7	Janette Garin (Ms)	Member of Parliament <a href="mailto:ireneski2004@yahoo.com">ireneski2004@yahoo.com</a> <a href="mailto:congijl@yahoo.com">congijl@yahoo.com</a>	Philippines
8	Mohamed Oudor (Mr)	Member of Parliament <a href="mailto:oudor@parlement.ma">oudor@parlement.ma</a> <a href="mailto:oudor@majliss-annouwab.ma">oudor@majliss-annouwab.ma</a>	Morocco
9	Habeeb Adekunle Fasinro (Mr)	Member of Parliament <a href="mailto:fasinro@eti-osa.com">fasinro@eti-osa.com</a>	Nigeria
10	Nawab Mohammad Yusuf Talpur (Mr)	Member of Parliament <a href="mailto:Talpur_nawab@hotmail.com">Talpur_nawab@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:nytalpur@yahoo.com">nytalpur@yahoo.com</a>	Pakistan
11	Johannes Pflug (Mr)	Member of Parliament <a href="mailto:johannes.pflug@bundestag.de">johannes.pflug@bundestag.de</a> <a href="http://www.johannes-pflug.de">www.johannes-pflug.de</a>	Germany
12	Patricia Crossin (Ms)	Senator <a href="mailto:senator.crossin@aph.gov.au">senator.crossin@aph.gov.au</a>	Australia
13	Myoung-Ock Ahn (Ms)	Member of Parliament <a href="mailto:amo@assembly.go.kr">amo@assembly.go.kr</a> <a href="http://www.amo21.net">www.amo21.net</a>	Korea
14	Didier De Jaeger	Observer	Belgium
15	Jean-Christophe Bas (Mr)	Communications Advisor	World Bank
16	Melissa Wells	Rapporteur	
17	Hoang Thanh Ha	External Affairs Officer	World Bank
18	Nguyen Hong Phuc	Journalist	VietnamNet
19	Do Hoang Long	Intepreter	
20	Dang Thi Viet Ha	Journalist	Vietnam News

## Annex 2: Schedule of activities

### Parliamentarian Network on the World Bank Visit to Vietnam March 21-25, 2005

<i>Date &amp; Time</i>	<i>Activities</i>	<i>Place</i>
<b>Sunday, March 20 – Arrival</b>		
	Airport pick-up by World Bank's Travel Agency Overnight at Sofitel Metropole Hotel	Sofitel Metropole hotel
<b>Monday, March 21—Hanoi</b>		
7:30 AM	Group breakfast, get introduced to rapporteur, two local news reporters and an interpreter. Administrative brief.	Sofitel Metropole hotel
9:00 AM	Introduction by Jean-Christophe Bas, Manager, Development Policy Dialogue, World Bank (at Vietnam Development Information Center)	VDIC, 63Ly Thai To street
9:30 AM	Introduction to Vietnam and the World Bank in Vietnam Klaus Rohland, Vietnam Country Director	VDIC, 63Ly Thai To street
11:00 AM	Minister of Planning & Investment Vo Hong Phuc	MPI, 2 Hoang Van Thu street
12:30 PM	Lunch with donor and international NGOs	Indochine, 14 Nam Ngu street
2:30 PM	Session with Members of Vietnam National Assembly	35 Ngo Quyen
5:00 PM	Meeting with Ms. Giang, Head of International Relations Unit, Vietnam Women's Union (on role of Women's Union in PRSP process)	Hang Chuoi street
7:30 PM	Dinner with Directors of Project Management Units	Emperor, 18B Le Thanh Tong street
<b>Tuesday, March 22 – Nha Trang city, Khanh Hoa province</b>		
4:30 AM	Drive to airport	Bus
6:30 AM	Flight to Nha Trang (1 hour 40 minutes)	Plane
8:10 AM	Arrival at Cam Ranh airport	Cam Ranh Airport
8:30 AM	One-hour drive to Nha Trang	Bus
10:00 AM	Check in at Vin Pearl Hotel	Vin Pearl
11:00 AM	Boat trip to Hon Mun island	Boat
12:00 PM	Lunch with Hon Mun project team	Islands
2:00 PM	Visit Hon Mun craft village, talk with families and visit coral reef protection sites on small islands	Islands
5:00 PM	Boat trip back to Vin Pearl hotel	Vin Pearl hotel

<b><i>Date &amp; Time</i></b>	<b><i>Activities</i></b>	<b><i>Place</i></b>
<b>Wednesday, March 23 – Ninh Thuan province</b>		
7:30 AM	One hour drive to Ninh Thuan	Bus
9:00 AM	Discussion with provincial authorities and members of National Assembly on rolling out the PRSP in Ninh Thuan in the building, implementation and monitoring of the next five year plan.	Ninh Thuan
11:30	Lunch with provincial authorities and project management unit	Ninh Thuan
1:30 PM	Drive to Phuoc Tan Commune	Bus
2:30 PM	Courtesy meeting with Phuoc Tan Commune Authority	Commune meeting room
3:00 PM	Discussion with poor families at project site (delegation breaks into 2 or 3 groups, each will visit 2 poor families)	Phuoc Tan Commune
5:00 PM	1 hour drive back to Nha Trang	Bus
6:00 PM	Check-in at Vin Pearl Hotel	Vin Pearl hotel
7:00 PM	Group dinner at Vin Pearl hotel	Vin Pearl hotel
<b>Thursday, March 24 -- Ho Chi Minh city</b>		
6:30 AM	drive to Cam Ranh airport	Bus
8:15 AM	flight to Ho Chi Minh city	Plane
9:15 AM	arrival in Tan Son Nhat airport	
10:00 AM	Visit poor families along Nhieu Loc – Thi Nghe canal	Bus
12:00 PM	Lunch with HCMC mayor and project management team	An Vien, 178 A Hai Ba Trung, D1
2:00 PM	Check in at Renaissance Hotel	
3:00 PM	Launch World Bank public information center in Ho Chi Minh city's public library	
3:30 PM	Press Conference	
<b>Friday, March 25 – Departure</b>		

## **Annex 3: Additional information on PNoWB, field visit program, and PRSP**

### **PNoWB**

The Parliamentary Network on the World Bank (PNoWB), founded in May 2000 as a small, informal network, has contributed to strengthening the voice of parliamentarians in the poverty debate and to promoting the transparency and accountability of the World Bank. PNoWB has established itself as a global non-governmental organization with 800 members from some 110 countries. Directed by a nine-member Board elected by peers, PNoWB has a legal structure under French rules of association and maintains a Paris-based secretariat, hosted by the European Vice- Presidency of the World Bank. The organization is open to parliamentarians from World Bank member states. Members represent themselves and their constituents, not their countries, parliaments or governments.

PNoWB advocates for transparency and accountability—and action.

- *The Parliamentarians' Implementation Watch* has been set up to monitor and promote action aimed at reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).
- *The PNoWB HIV/AIDS Committee* offers peer support for parliamentarians committed to fighting HIV/AIDS. The group helps develop legislation to support initiatives to fight the pandemic. Through the committee, parliamentarians work directly with the World Bank, the Global Fund, UNAIDS and private actors.

### **Field Visit Program**

Development takes place on the ground and the work of organizations like the World Bank is done in the field. If parliamentarians are to have an impact on development policies and projects, it is essential that they get a chance to make political assessments and check results on the ground. The field visits program, "Parliamentarians in the Field", is one of the key activities of the PNoWB, organized jointly with the World Bank and supported by a grant from the government of Finland. Successful field visits have so far taken place in Kenya, Albania, Uganda, Burundi, Serbia and Montenegro, Ethiopia, Yemen and Nicaragua.

The aim of the visits are to:

- *Enhance*, through the case study of the country visited, parliamentary understanding of the activities of the World Bank and encourage more informed parliamentary engagement in the development debate;
- *Review* the participatory process and the outcome of the country-owned Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and make recommendations to the World Bank and governments on how to better involve parliamentarians in the process;
- *Encourage* dialogue among the MPs on the delegation and between the delegation and World Bank staff, parliamentarians and civil society.

The visits typically span three or four days to allow time for discussions with local parliamentarians and officials from the government, the World Bank and other multilateral organization, and civil society groups, as well as the people the projects are aiming to benefit. In a final report, the field visit delegation offer their concrete recommendations to the government and the various interlocutors met in the country.

## **A new approach to poverty reduction: PRSP**

In the late 1990s, following several years of harsh criticism for the effects and lack of success of the Structural Adjustment Programs, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund shifted their approach to a more participatory and country driven view of development. In September 1999, under the leadership of President Wolfensohn, the World Bank indicated that countries wishing to benefit from concessional lending and debt forgiveness under the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative should formulate their own strategy to bring down poverty. This took the form of a poverty reduction strategy paper or PRSP.

The World Bank states that PRSPs are prepared by the member countries through a participatory process involving domestic stakeholders as well as external development partners, including the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. Updated every three years with annual progress reports, PRSPs describe the country's macroeconomic, structural and social policies and programs over a three year or longer horizon to promote broad-based growth and reduce poverty, as well as associated external financing needs and major sources of financing.

The World Bank states that PRSPs should be:

- country-driven — involving broad-based participation by civil society and the private sector in all operational steps;
- results-oriented — focusing on outcomes that would benefit the poor;
- comprehensive in recognizing the multidimensional nature of poverty;
- partnership-oriented — involving coordinated participation of development partners (bilateral, multilateral, and non-governmental);
- based on a long-term perspective for poverty reduction.

## Annex 4: Vietnam and the MDGs

Source: UNDP in Vietnam [www.undp.org/vietnam](http://www.undp.org/vietnam)



### 1. Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

Viet Nam has already met the target of halving poverty by reducing the proportion of people living below the poverty line to approximately 35% in 2000. Viet Nam commits to reduce the poverty rate by a further 40% by 2010. While impressive achievements, the challenge now is to reduce increasing disparities and reach deep pockets of poverty in each region of the country.



### 2. Achieve Universal Primary Education

Viet Nam is very likely to achieve full primary enrolment by 2015, given its high 95% net enrolment rate in primary education in 1999. However, improving the quality of education, expanding basic education towards international universal primary education targets, and reducing disparities in access and coverage present major challenges.



### 3. Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

By setting the target to eliminate gender gaps in primary and secondary education by 2005 and illiteracy for women under the age of 40 by 2010, Viet Nam re-states its commitment towards this goal. However, girls comprise 70% of all drop-outs, often due to their expected role in family economic activities and geographic disparities persist.



### 4. Reduce Child Mortality

Viet Nam has successfully reduced its underfive mortality rate from around 58 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to some 48 per 1,000 live births, but reaching the full target of a two-thirds reduction by 2015 will require much greater efforts and assistance.



### 5. Improve Maternal Health

Viet Nam has reduced maternal mortality rate from 200 per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 100 and set the target to reduce the rate further to 70 by 2010 with particular attention to disadvantaged areas.



### 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases

Viet Nam has set the target to slow the increase in the spread of HIWAIDS by 2005 and halve the rate of increase by 2010. The challenge is to take urgent action against the epidemic in a multisectoral manner now. Continued leadership is needed to avert a potential crisis.



### **7. Ensure Environmental Sustainability**

Viet Nam has increased the share of population with access to safe water from 48% in 1990 to 56% in 2000 and set a target to increase the share a further to 85% in rural areas by 2010.



### **8. Develop a Global Partnership for Development**

Poverty reduction and sustainable development are clearly linked to trade, debt relief and aid. Fair terms of trade for developing countries are necessary to generate employment opportunities and income. In this regard, Viet Nam faces some significant challenges in light of the country's planned accelerated integration into the regional and global economies. Ensuring social equity and sustainability of the country's development process will require great efforts.