



PRESS RELEASE

26 June 2013

EU supports local authorities

Hanoi – A Signing Ceremony for the award of an EU grant of EUR 275,000 was organised today between the Delegation of the European Union and the Association of Cities of Viet Nam (ACVN) at the Delegation of the European Union to Viet Nam.

This is the first time that the EU directly awards a grant to a local government association and this grant is part of the EU support to local authorities in partner countries. The grant will support the implementation of a project entitled *"Strengthening Local Governance for Local Economic Growth in Vietnamese Cities"*. The project will be implemented by ACVN in partnership with Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, a German NGO, for two years, starting in July 2013 and running through June 2015.

At the signing ceremony, Dr. Franz Jessen, Ambassador - Head of Delegation of the European Union to Vietnam stated, *"The EU is pleased to support this innovative project which will contribute to promote improved local capacities and enabling environment for local economic growth in the three pilot cities. We hope the project will generate tangible benefits for Vietnamese business and provide practical policy inputs to the Government"*.

The project aims to promote better economic and social conditions for the population of three pilot cities in Vietnam (Hai Duong city, Hue city and Tay Ninh town). The project will harness economic development potential of small-scale family enterprises. It will raise awareness on the importance and role of local SMEs. It unfolds as a series of local governmental pilot measures and regulations, which are intended to improve the development capacity of small local businesses.

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