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PRESS RELEASE

The European Union promotes local economic development in several provinces in Vietnam

Hanoi, - Today, a new EU funded project entitled "Strengthening Local Governance for Local Economic Growth in Vietnamese Cities" was launched at a workshop organised to share the main objectives, tasks and structure of the project. The project will be operational in the northern province of Hai Duong , the central city of Hue, and the southern province of Tay Ninh and aims at strengthening local governance and reducing poverty through building capacity of local governments and local small businesses.

The project "Strengthening Local Governance for Local Economic Growth in Vietnamese Cities" started in July 2013, will be implemented by the Association of Cities of Vietnam (ACVN) in collaboration with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), over a 2-year period. The project, worth of EUR 425,000 is co-funded by the EU (275,000 euros) and d KAS (150. 000 Euros).

At the workshop, 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 better economic and social conditions for the population of the project's three targeted cities. We hope the project will achieve its set objectives, results, and generate tangible benefits for Vietnamese business and provide practical policy inputs to the Government"*.

More than 70 participants, including representatives from key Ministries, Government agencies, business and media associations and universities, attended the workshop. The workshop created opportunities for the participants to share experience in the implementation of local economic development initiatives with other projects of ACVN.

In order to achieve the objective of better economic and social conditions for local people, the introduction on joint policies and coordination between local economic development initiatives and local small businesses, as well as testing of new methodologies at city level, are designed.

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