



European Union
Delegation to Vietnam



U.S. EMBASSY HANOI
ĐẠI SỨ QUÁN HOA KỲ TẠI HÀ NỘI

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PRESS RELEASE

EU and US support Vietnam's capacities for implementation of the 1961 Hague Convention (the "Apostille Convention")

Hanoi –Today the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) in collaboration with the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH), the U.S Department of State and the Delegation of the European Union to Vietnam organized an international workshop on “*Strengthening Vietnam’s capacity for implementation of the 1961 Hague Convention abolishing the requirement of legalization for foreign public documents (Apostille Convention)*” in Hanoi.

With 75 Members (74 States and the European Union, including its 28 Member States) representing all continents, the HCCH is a global inter-governmental organization which works for the progressive unification of the rules of private international law. As one of the most widely ratified Conventions under the Hague Convention, the Apostille Convention has been ratified by over 100 States since it was adopted in 1961 and thereby establishing the Apostille system as the global standard recognized and expected by parties involved in cross-border transactions. The Convention specifies modalities through which a public document issued in one of the signatory countries can be certified for legal purposes in all the other signatory states.

In support of the Vietnamese Government’s capacity for accession to and implementation of the 1961 Hague Convention, the workshop aimed to prepare, familiarize, and update Government authorities and officials of selected provincial units of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as foreign diplomatic missions in Hanoi, regarding Vietnam’s preparations for its accession to the Apostille Convention. It also addressed the requirements of and progress towards accession to the Convention, including measures to strengthen the Vietnamese Government’s capacity in the implementation of the Convention. The workshop, facilitated through the EU-Vietnam Strategic Dialogue Facility, is organized as part of the overall efforts to enhance Vietnam’s understanding of international legal cooperation.

At the opening of the workshop, Ambassador Mr. Nguyễn Hữu Tráng, Director General, Consular Department, MOFA, Dr Christophe Bernasconi, Secretary General of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH) and Mr. Juan José Almagro, Advisor to the Delegation of the European Union, welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of the workshop. As part of the international experience sharing in the area, Dr Christophe Bernasconi, Secretary General of the Hague Conference on Private International Law, Mr Bill Fritzlen, Attorney Adviser of the U.S Department of State and Mr Marijn Sprokkereef of Audier & Partners Vietnam LLC were invited as key speakers to provide their insights on various aspects of the Apostille Convention. Through their presentations, the workshop provided valuable insight into the Apostille Convention and its impact on business and consular services, the national legal framework required to comply with the Convention, the technicalities relating to accession, and the practical experience gained from Contracting State/Members, foreign investors and the private sector.

On the part of the Vietnamese Government, the Consular Department of MOFA provided the participants with an update of current initiatives and efforts of Vietnam to prepare for its accession to the Apostille Convention as well as an introduction of Vietnam's digital database and software for authentication service.

The workshop attracted over 70 participants including Central Government officials and staff of selected provincial units of the Foreign Affairs Departments as well as representatives of foreign diplomatic missions in Hanoi and UN-agencies.

Background Information

The EU-Vietnam Strategic Dialogue Facility is a three-year program (2013-2016) that aims to support Vietnam's development through the implementation of activities in areas covered by the EU-Vietnam Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) signed in 2012.

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