



European Union
Delegation to Vietnam



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ĐẠI SỨ QUÁN HOA KỲ TẠI HÀ NỘI

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PRESS RELEASE

EU and US support Vietnam's implementation of the Apostille Convention

Ho Chi Minh City –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 Ho Chi Minh City. A first international workshop on the topic was organized last December with MOFA 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. The Apostille Convention has been ratified by over 100 States and is a key instrument for business and citizens. Among other things, it 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 Convention, the workshop aimed to prepare, familiarize, and update Government authorities and officials of selected provincial units of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice, as well as foreign consular missions in Ho Chi Minh City, regarding Vietnam's preparations for its accession to the Apostille Convention and measures to strengthen the Vietnamese Government's capacity in its implementation. 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, Mr. Anselmo Reyes, Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH), Hong Kong Office Representative 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, a European Expert, Mr. Javier Parra Garcia, Superior Court Chancellor Secretary of the Superior Court of Justice of Murcia, Spain and Mr. Bill Fritzlen, Attorney Adviser of the U.S. Department of State were invited as key speakers. Through their presentations, the workshop provided valuable insight into the Apostille's 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 other countries 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 seventy participants including Central Government officials, representatives of the HCM Departments of Foreign Affairs and Justice (including officials from 16 provinces), the Supreme Court, the Supreme Procuracy, as well as representatives from foreign consulates in Ho Chi Minh City. Additionally, the EU will support a public Round-Table Meeting targeting the business community, in cooperation with the Consular Department of MOFA, the HCCH and EuroCham on March 7.

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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