



PHẢI ĐOÀN LIÊN MINH CHÂU ÂU TẠI VIỆT NAM
DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO VIET NAM



PERMANENT OFFICE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
VĂN PHÒNG THƯỜNG TRỰC VỀ NHÂN QUYỀN

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Joint Press Release

Viet Nam and the European Union exchange views and share experiences in implementing International Conventions on Human Rights

Ha Long – A two international workshop entitled “*Sharing Vietnamese - European Experiences in Implementing International Conventions on Human Rights*” convened today. The international workshop is organized by the Permanent Office on Human Rights in collaboration with the Delegation of the European Union to Viet Nam through the EU-Viet Nam Strategic Dialogue Facility.

The international workshop’s objectives are to raise the awareness of the EU-Viet Nam policy dialogue under the EU-Viet Nam Agreement of Comprehensive Partnership and Cooperation (PCA) among officials of key central Government agencies and of provincial Government agencies in charge of implementing the human rights policies at national and local level and to share experiences in relation to human rights issues as part of the EU-Viet Nam relations. Besides, this is a platform for both sides to exchange the practical experiences on implementing core international/UN conventions. The workshop also provides examples of how Viet Nam and the EU have responded to the obligations of the international and UN Conventions on Human Rights, in particular to some of the nine basic international UN-Human Rights conventions which are binding pursuant to public international law on all contracting states, including the EU Member States and Viet Nam.

Mr. Nguyen Thanh Son, Director General of The Permanent Office on Human Rights and H.E. Ambassador Bruno Angelet, Head of the European Union Delegation to Viet Nam delivered the opening speeches at the workshop.

The workshop was attended by two leading European Experts in the field. Dr. Alexandra Xanthaki, Member of the Oxford University Human Rights Program and Director of Research at Brunel Law School, Brunel University London, England. She discussed on the current trends and situation of Human Rights in Europe and updated the EU’s engagement as a member of UNHRC; the European mechanisms and policies on human rights. Besides, Dr. Xanthaki also shared the European experience in implementing universal and core international conventions on human rights at EU and EU Member States-level as well as some specific conventions on human rights related to vulnerable groups, human trafficking, and women’s rights.

Professor Ray Murphy, Co-Director of the Irish Centre for Human Rights at the National University of Ireland presented on the processes of and main actors in transforming UN/international Conventions and EU-policies on Human Rights into implementation on national and local level. Prof. Murphy also highlighted some specific cases on how Europe is implementing the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT) and discussed the related steps and actions taken by the EU and its Members States in complying with this important convention.

At the workshop, key Vietnamese speakers provided up-to-date information on the Vietnamese laws and policies on human rights, in particular the articles on Human Rights in Vietnam’s 2013 Constitution and its

membership of the UN Human Rights Council, etc. Participants were also updated on the core international human rights conventions and the state of Vietnam's participation in those conventions, including the Government's progress towards ratification of key international conventions such as UNCAT, CEDAW, CERD. These presentations were made by senior officials of Government agencies included Mr Dao Vu Thang, Chief of General Division, The Permanent Office for Human Rights, Mr Vu Anh Quang, Director of Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Dao Quang Vinh, Deputy Director of the International Cooperation Department, Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Ms Nguyen Que Thu, Chief of general division, Department of Legal and Judicial, Administrative Reform, Ministry of Public Security, Ms Tran Nu Ngoc Anh, Deputy Director of the International Cooperation Department, Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs, Dr Chu Manh Hung, Vice Director of Hanoi Law University and Mrs. Vu Thi Thanh Thuy Vice Chairwoman of Quang Ninh People's Committee.

The international workshop in Ha Long received more than 100 participants, including officials from the Permanent Office on Human Rights, Ministry of Public Security, National Steering Committee of Human Rights and other key Government officials working on human rights, representatives of Provincial Steering Committees of Human Rights from more than 25 neighboring provinces of Quang Ninh Province as well as local and central level representatives, representatives of the diplomatic corps, academic/research institutions, and media. Two similar international workshops were organized in Da Lat and Ho Chi Minh City in September and October 2015.

Background Information

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

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