



Delegation of the European Union to Vietnam



March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015

## PRESS RELEASE

### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON “STRENGTHENING HEALTH CARE AT GRASSROOTS LEVEL FOR PRIMARY HEALTH CARE TOWARD UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE”

**Hue city** - The Delegation of the European Union to Vietnam, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health of Viet Nam, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Bank is organising the first International Conference on "**Enhancing Grassroots Health for improving Primary Health Care toward Universal Health Care**" in Hue on March 24 - 25, 2015. The major objectives of the Conference are to: review results of 35 years implementing Primary Health Care in Viet Nam during the period 1978-2014, exchange international and national experiences on Primary Health Care with the presentation of the experience from Kazakhstan, Turkey and Thailand; discuss and agree on an appropriate model and the operational orientation of health care at grassroots level in Viet Nam in the future; and develop the Master Plan of Viet Nam on Strengthening Health Care at Grassroots level for the period of 2015-2020.

The Conference is co-chaired by Deputy Prime Minister of Viet Nam H.E. Mr Vu Duc Dam, Madam Nguyen Thi Kim Tien, Minister of Health of Viet Nam and Dr. Franz Jessen, Ambassador – Head the EU Delegation to Viet Nam. The chairpersons will contribute to the high level dialogue on future enhancement of the primary health care and securing universal health coverage to the population in the country.

Mr. Franz Jessen, Ambassador - Head of EU Delegation, the main sponsor of the Conference, expressed his appreciation to the Deputy Prime Minister's presence at the Event that, in his view, shown the attention and political will of the Government to grassroots health care. "I believe that the availability of quality health services at grassroots level and the professionalism of advanced health services at central level will eventually mitigate the hospital overcrowding" - said Mr. Jessen.

Addressing the Conference, H.E. Mr Vu Duc Dam thanked the contribution of Development Partners to Vietnam's health sector and to social sectors in general. He urged the Ministry of Health to finalise and submit soonest the Master Plan of Health System, which among other things should define clearly: the scope of Grassroots Health, the functions of grassroots health system, the role of health staff working in such system, criteria for performance assessment, taking into account the specificity of different regions and the remunerations for grassroots health staff.

340 participants at the event include representatives of the central level (National Assembly, Government, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Health and its agencies such as Institute for Strategy and Health Policy, some institutes, Central Hospital, Universities of Medicine and Pharmacy) as well as fifty provinces, typical districts and communes.

The content of the work of the primary health care has been applied effectively in the world and in Vietnam since 1978 when the country signed the Declaration of Alma Ata. Over the 35-year period for the different economic development status it has brought valuable lessons which will be shared during the event.



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The European Union contributes to the financing of this International Conference in the framework of the European Union Health Sector Policy Support Programme phase II: Towards Equity and Quality of Health Services in Viet Nam.

The European Union is implementing the Health Sector Policy Support Programme phase II: Towards Equity and Quality of Health Services in Vietnam (the largest EU Health Sector Budget Support Operation in Asia) which aims to sustain poverty alleviation and inclusive economic growth in Vietnam through the provision of the support for the development of the Vietnamese health care system, towards equity, efficiency and improved quality in line with country's health sector strategy. The specific emphasis on equity will be given by focusing on 10 provinces considered to be the poorest: Lai Chau, Son La, Dien Bien, Kon Tum, Gia Lai, Ha Giang, Lao Cai, Cao Bang, Yen Bai and Dak Nong.

**For more information about the EU Delegation to Vietnam and the EU's contribution**, please visit the website: [http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/vietnam/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/vietnam/index_en.htm)

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