



PRESS RELEASE

Enhancing the Capacity and Effectiveness of the Vietnam Agency for Radiation and Nuclear Safety and its Technical Support Organisation/s

Hanoi, 4 April 2019

The European Union, together with its Vietnamese partners, has successfully implemented a second joint project aimed at enhancing and strengthening the nuclear safety regulatory framework in Vietnam in accordance with the highest standards and best international practice adopted in the EU. This EUR 2.0 million project (about Dong 52 billion) was financed through the EU's Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (INSC). Within the framework of this project, implemented in close cooperation with the Agency for Radiation and Nuclear Safety (VARANS) and its Technical Support Organisation (TSO), extensive knowledge transfer including tailored training, on-the-job training in the EU, exchanges of methods, knowhow and best practices took place over a period of three years in the following areas: legal and regulatory framework for nuclear safety in Vietnam; quality management system for use by VARANS in the regulation of nuclear installations; capabilities within VARANS for undertaking and/or commissioning independent reviews and assessments of safety submissions; human resources development plan and sustainable training programme for VARANS and its TSO, nuclear safeguards, as well as transparency and public information.

The project was implemented through a contract with RISKAUDIT International working in close cooperation with European Regulators (ASN and STUK)* and Technical Support Organisations (IRSN, GRS and BelV)*.

Background

Following the Chernobyl accident in 1996, the EU launched a nuclear safety programme under the TACIS (Technical Assistance to the Commonwealth of Independent States) which, between 1991 and 2006, allocated some EUR 1.3 billion to nuclear safety and security projects. From 2007 to 2013, the EU expanded its nuclear safety assistance to third countries under the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation with a total budget allocation of EUR 524 million. In June 2014, the strategy for the implementation of Phase 2 of the INSC (2014-2020) was agreed, committing an extra EUR 225 million for nuclear safety projects. Cooperation with Vietnam began in 2012, and to date, about EUR 4 million (about Dong 105 billion) has been committed for Vietnam under the INSC. Further cooperation with Vietnam is currently being implemented and planned at regional (ASEAN) level in the area of Emergency Preparedness and Response.

For decades Vietnam has been one of the fastest growing economies in the region and in the world. Economic growth has been the key to the improvement of the quality of life. Nuclear activities play an important role in its development. Vietnam is developing an appropriate legal and regulatory framework to secure development of nuclear activities with respect for the environment, favouring new and advanced technologies complying with the national policies of environmental protection and energy security. Establishing effective cooperation between Vietnamese and European regulatory authorities is contributing to the development of a common understanding in implementing requirements, standards and international best practice in nuclear safety.

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