



Australian Government  
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

# **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

## **“SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ETHNIC MINORITY POVERTY REDUCTION IN MOUNTAINOUS REGIONS”**

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## **PREFACE**

This international conference on “Sustainable Development and Ethnic Minority Poverty Reduction in the Mountainous Regions” was co-hosted by the World Bank and Thai Nguyen University and was held at the Learning Resource Center, Thai Nguyen University, Vietnam on June 11-13, 2014. It was conducted for a dialogue among government, country stakeholders (including civil society), and development partners on both the experience in the Northern Mountains of Vietnam and that in other countries in order to determine how the development approach on sustainable development and ethnic minority poverty reduction could be improved.

Specifically, the objectives of this conference were: to introduce the international experience of poverty reduction targeting ethnic minorities in mountainous and remote area, especially in the region having similar economic and geographical conditions; to review and discuss (i) current programs/projects targeting ethnic minorities in the Northern Mountains region; and (ii) alternative options for Northern Mountain region in order to achieve more effective interventions; and to formulate a list of policy and project options about potential poverty reduction initiatives that could be replicated in the region and presented to the local authorities for further consideration.

The conference was a multi-sectoral forum that featured plenary papers by experts and leaders with focal points on policies in Vietnam from government and donor perspectives, and parallel sessions and workshops presented by academics/researchers and development practitioners who have exceptional exposure in the field of livelihood and market linkages, natural resource management, cultural diversity, educational and health care, climate change and environment, and poverty analysis and evaluation. Poster and video presentations were also showcased in the event.

A final count of more than 200 participants from the northern, central and southern Vietnam and from more than 15 countries and international organizations attended the conference. With the discussions and active participation of each of the delegates over the past three days, the conference was well on the way to achieving its the prime objectives.

All essential information about sustainable development and poverty reduction issues among ethnic minorities were adequately discussed. Clear illustrations were provided for clarification purposes through poster and video presentations.

Hence, the international conference proceedings were prepared as future reference on issues related to sustainable development and ethnic minority poverty reduction in the mountainous regions.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The international conference on “Sustainable Development and Ethnic Minority Poverty Reduction in the Mountainous Regions” which was held at the Learning Resource Center - Thai Nguyen University, Vietnam on June 11-13, 2014 was successfully realized due to the effort of a number of wonderful people who have always given their valuable support. In regard to this, we sincerely appreciate the inspiration and assistance of all those people who have been instrumental in making this conference a success.

At this juncture, the organizing committee feel deeply honored in expressing our sincere thanks to the World Bank in Vietnam as TNU’s co-host in conducting this conference and most especially to Ms. Victoria Kwakwa, the World Bank Country Director, in providing valuable insights leading to the successful completion of the conference;

Sincere thanks to Mr. Son Phuoc Hoan -Vice Chairman of the Committee for Ethnic Minorities Affairs, Mr. Dang Viet Thuan - Vice Chairman of the Thai Nguyen People’s Committee for taking time off from their busy schedule to participate in this event;

Heartfelt gratitude is extended to the Ministry of Labor and Invalids and Social Services, the Ministry of Planning and Investment, and the Ministry of Agricultural Research and Development, for sharing their abundance of knowledge on development policies, review and guiding principle in poverty reduction for minorities in the coming years, livelihood development for poverty reduction and made it clear that the business of sustainable development is one we must do and do well for the advantage of the ethnic minorities and our future generations who are disproportionately affected by poverty;

Our deep sense of gratitude to all paper and poster presenters, both international and local, for the excellent and scholarly contributions in this event. They have addressed a range of sustainable development and ethnic minority poverty reduction issues and challenges, focused on the impact of market linkages, natural resource management, climate change, health and education, cultural diversity, and poverty analysis and evaluation; and

Correspondingly, we would like to give equal credit to the World Bank Senior Staff and the Thai Nguyen University Conference Program Committee for the full support and assistance in organizing the conference agenda and logistics, their contribution is highly valued, without which the international conference would not have been possible.

**Conference’s Organizing Committee**

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