

STATEMENT BY H.E Prof. HOANG VAN HUAY  
Vice-Minister of Science Technology and Environment  
Head of the Delegation of Vietnam  
TO THE 44TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE  
GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE IAEA

Mr. President, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and gentlemen

It is my great honour to head the Delegation of Vietnam to attend the 44<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency. Please, allow me, first of all, to sincerely congratulate you on your election to the presidency of the current session. My congratulations also go to other members of the Bureau. I am convinced that under your skillful guidance, this Conference will lead to a very successful outcome.

Our Delegation also joins others in warmly welcoming the entry of Tajikistan, Azerbaijan and the Central African Republic. We believe that their membership will significantly contribute to strengthening our organization.

Mr. President,

This Session of the General Conference takes place at a very special time, the juncture of the two millennia. Looking back on the past, our Delegation is very pleased with, and highly appreciates the remarkable achievements made by the Agency. What has been brought about by the Agency since its inception is the proof of its loyalty to its lofty objectives which are clearly defined by the Statute.

Vietnam is a NPT signatory and has committed itself to nuclear non-proliferation. We have always done our best to comply with all commitments under the Safeguards Agreement. Our Delegation welcomes the Agency's continuing efforts to strengthen the effectiveness and improve the efficiency of the Safeguards system. We note with satisfaction the fact that "*in 1999 the Agency did not find any indication of diversion or misuse of nuclear material, facilities or equipment placed under safeguards*". We appreciate the Agency's efforts in providing the Member States with technical and legal assistance in order to enable them facilitating the process of signing Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol. In this connection, we would like to inform you that from 6-7 September, with the assistance of the Agency's experts, the *National Workshop on Additional Protocol to Safeguards Agreement and Legislation for Safe and Peaceful Nuclear Application* was held in Hanoi with the participation of many Government officials concerned. Earlier, the ASEAN-IAEA Workshop on the Implementation of the South East Asian Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Treaty was held in Thailand to promote implementation of the Treaty in all its aspects, enhance coordination and cooperation among SEANWFZ member states, and identify implementation issues

particularly those involving the cooperation with IAEA. This reflects strong commitment of ASEAN countries to nuclear non-proliferation.

From August 2000, Vietnam is Chairman of the Executive Committee of the South East Asian Nuclear Weapons Free Zone Treaty (SEANWFZ) we look forwards to the Agency's continued assistance in discharge of our responsibility.

While strengthening its function in nuclear non-proliferation, the Agency should not lose sight of developing member states' growing needs on peaceful application of nuclear energy as it constitutes one of main pillar of the Agency's activities. We share the concerns of many developing countries over the declining resources for technical assistance. We call upon all countries to pledge and pay in full their assessed contribution to TOE.

The Delegation of Vietnam endorses the Technical Cooperation Report for 1999 and express our sincere appreciation to the Department of Technical Cooperation for their tireless and fruitful efforts in strengthening of technical cooperation and improving the quality of TO activities. We deeply understand its difficulties in dealing with constraints and shortcomings over past years, especially in overcoming the upstream year 1999. Their efforts in identifying key elements for the technical cooperation: Thematic planning, Country framework exercise, good project design, will certainly make it possible to significantly improve the quality of the TC Programme for the cycle 2001-2002.

Like other developing countries, Vietnam has benefited from the IAEA TC Programme. The technical assistance rendered by the Agency, we could say, has played an extremely important role in promoting research and development activities as well as utilization of atomic energy for peaceful purposes in Vietnam.

As you all know, Vietnam is an agriculture country with about 80% of population living in the rural area. Rice production remains one of the most important economic sectors for the country. Under the IAEA TC projects VIE/51013, VIE/5/014, new rice varieties with high yield, short growth duration, good quality, tolerant to diseases and environmental conditions have been selected by application of nuclear techniques. At present, we are planning to establish a Nuclear Agriculture Center in the South of Vietnam. We welcome the IAFA assistance in this matter.

In the field of Nuclear Medicine: the implementation of the IAEA TC project VIE/6/020 in combination with results obtained from previous TC projects has made it possible for the Nuclear Medicine in Vietnam to upgrade services to the population. Currently, in collaboration with Hanoi Health Service, VAEC has signed an agreement on a joint project on the establishment of a Tumor Center using Accelerator. We kindly request and highly appreciate the further assistance of the Agency in this field.

Under the IAEA TC project VIE/8/010, Center for Research and Development of Radiation Technology was inaugurated in Ho Chi Minh City. *The Regional Training Course on Radiation Processing of Natural Polysaccharides* was held at the Center. We are ready to make the facility available for national and regional activities on radiation technology, especially for modification of material, mutation breeding, and waste management.

NDT, NCS and tracer techniques have made notable progress. NDT has been effectively applied in the quality control of construction, communication and transportation works. NCS and tracers techniques have been used in oil fields aimed at increasing oil production.

Since 1997, along with the National Project on Nuclear Power, Vietnam has received the IAEA TC project VIE/0/009 "*Pre-feasibility Study on the Introduction of Nuclear Power into Vietnam*". Based on the conclusion of the National Project and the IAEA TC Project, the Vietnamese Government is examining a development plan for nuclear power in Vietnam.

Being a signatory party of the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol, we express our readiness to cooperate with other countries and international organizations in the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol. We, therefore, encourage and support the activities related to the CDM and hope that Nuclear Power will qualify and be eligible as a CDM technology.

Regarding the radiation protection and nuclear safety, the IAEA TC project VIE/6/019 has helped us to set up the National Dosimetry Calibration Laboratory, which provides *QA/QC* service for hospitals and clinics in the whole country and carries out personal dosimetry monitoring for workers in the radiation conditions. Especially under the IAEA TC project VIE/9/007 and the Model Project RAS/9/021, a legal and technical infrastructure of the country has been established and strengthened. A number of regulatory documents have been completed and promulgated particularly a National Action Plan on Radiation Protection and Control has been formulated and being actively implemented in order to ensure the Model Project to achieve two milestones in the year 2000. Within the framework of these projects, the Nuclear Research Institute in Dalat is able to solve problems that have never been settled before i.e. managing the radwaste generated from the research reactor which has operated for 15 years. We would like to request the IAEA to continue supporting Vietnam to achieve the remaining milestones by the year 2002.

In conclusion, the Delegation of Vietnam wishes to express its satisfaction on the implementation of the IAEA activities. We believe that IAEA will continue to play a vital role in strengthening the nuclear science and technology capabilities of the countries in the world.

Thank you for your kind attention.