



THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK
On The World Bank & International Monetary Fund



WORLD BANK GROUP

PARLIAMENTARY FIELD VISIT

HANOI, VIETNAM

5 - 8 March 2018

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In March 2018, a delegation of 27 members of parliament representing 15 countries visited Vietnam as part of the Parliamentarians in the Field program, created in 2001 to give members of parliament the opportunity to see the operations of the World Bank and the IMF on the ground, and meet with local institutions, development partners, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to discuss the country's development priorities and strategies.

The visit lasted four days, giving the participants from Australia, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Indonesia, Kenya, Lao PDR, Latvia, Morocco, Myanmar, Philippines, Poland, South Africa, Tunisia, Uganda, and Ukraine time to learn about different perspectives on Vietnam's economic growth. The delegation, led by Parliamentary Network Vice-Chair Hon. Olfa Soukri Cherif, received briefings on Vietnam's development results and future challenges from the World Bank Country Director in Vietnam Mr. Ousmane Dione and the IMF Resident Representative in Vietnam Mr. Jonathan Dunn, and had fruitful meetings with the Chairwoman of the National Assembly H.E. Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan; the Minister of Education and Training, H. E. Phung Xuan Nha; the Deputy Governor the State Bank of Vietnam Ms. Nguyen Thi Hong; as well as officials from the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Hoa Binh Provincial People's Committee (PPC), and representatives of the private sector.

The meetings concentrated on the following key development priorities in Vietnam:

- Investing in human capital and youth employment, matching skills and labor market needs;
- Fostering inclusive growth and private sector participation;
- Mitigating the effects of climate change, promoting renewable energy agenda;
- Maintaining macroeconomic stability and managing state debt;
- Developing infrastructure and ensuring equal access to basic services for everyone.

During the meeting at the Ministry of Education and Training, the participants were impressed to learn about Vietnam's significant results - from improved quality of primary and secondary education and excellent PISA results to achieving gender equality and universalization of education. At the lunch with private sector representatives, the delegation met with directors of international chambers of commerce, banks, and companies who shared their views of advantages and challenges

of doing business in Vietnam, and praised the Vietnamese people’s determination and focus on success, which makes it an attractive country for investors.

One of the highlights of the visit was a meeting with the Chairwoman of the National Assembly of Vietnam H.E. Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan, who presented to the delegation Vietnam’s transition to a market economy and international integration while maintaining equity and social justice. She spoke about the valuable support Vietnam receives from the World Bank and the IMF in both funding and policy advice, and invited the Parliamentary Network to continue its efforts to strengthen parliamentary engagement with these institutions worldwide.

"When shifting from socialism to market economy, we will ensure the well-being of all our people and not let anyone fall behind. We will continue supporting disadvantaged populations, and will never cut expenditure on social programs"

- H.E. Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan, Chairwoman of the National Assembly of Vietnam

"We are impressed to see how Vietnam mobilized private sector participation, maintained stability, and brought basic infrastructure and services to everyone."

- Hon. Olfa Soukri Cherif, MP Tunisia, Vice-Chair of the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF

The visit also included a full-day trip to Hoa Binh province – a mountainous region of Vietnam with a surface area of 4600 km² and the population of about 800 000 people, 63% of which belong to ethnic minorities. The parliamentarians met with the Hoa Binh Provincial People’s Committee and learned about their approach to integrating farmers into supply chains, creating jobs and upgrading urban and rural infrastructure for socio-economic development, notably through their partnership with the World Bank.



The delegation visited the following World Bank on-the-ground projects in Hoa Binh:

- **Northern Mountains Urban Programs Project**, focused on strengthening the capacity of north mountain cities to plan, implement and sustain urban infrastructure. During the field visit, the participants visited the construction site of the Hoa Binh Bridge - a part of a local sub-project meant to connect the city center with Highway 6 and create socioeconomic opportunities for local citizens as the Hoa Binh City grows;
- **Vietnam Road Asset Management Project** which supports the province in establishing a road asset management system, introducing performance-based maintenance contracts, and strengthening the institutional aspect in the Directorate for Roads in Vietnam. The delegation visited the National Highway 6 which connects Hanoi to the border gate of Laos via the northern provinces inhabited mainly by ethnic minorities;
- The parliamentarians also visited the Hoa Binh Hydropower plant to learn about Vietnam developing hydropower capacity in an environmentally sustainable manner. The 8 turbines of this hydropower plant produce about 25% of all electricity in Vietnam which is distributed in the whole country via the national grid.

During the meeting with the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the delegation had the opportunity to discover Vietnam's approach to satisfying the growing energy demand while ensuring equitable power supply and reducing environmental impact.

The Parliamentary Network delegation praised Vietnam's achievements in socio-economic and human development, and emphasized the value of organizing events where participants can not only interact with host country's policymakers, but with each other, benefitting from a cross-learning environment.

“For parliamentarians, it is important to have such experiences as this field visit. We always need to learn more, especially on finance and budget, to correct imperfections and have a better understanding of the work of development institutions in our own countries. “

- Hon. Said Dor, MP Morocco