



THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK

On The World Bank & International Monetary Fund

PARLIAMENTARY FIELD VISIT TO VIETNAM



WORLD BANK GROUP



PARLIAMENTARY FIELD VISIT TO VIETNAM

5 - 8 March, 2018

VENUE

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Sofitel Legend Metropole Hanoi,
15 Ngo Quyen Street, Hanoi, Vietnam

World Bank Country Office:
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ABOUT THE PARLIAMENTARY NETWORK

The Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & International Monetary Fund (the Parliamentary Network) provides a platform for parliamentarians from World Bank and IMF member countries to advocate for increased accountability and transparency in International Financial Institutions and multilateral development financing. Founded in 2000, the Parliamentary Network seeks to engage law makers from around the globe in the common mission of addressing good governance and poverty challenges in both their home countries and abroad. Directed by a Board elected by their peers, the Parliamentary Network is an independent non-governmental organization with a secretariat in Paris. The organization is open to all elected parliamentarians from World Bank and IMF member states who hold a current mandate. Parliamentary Network members represent themselves and their constituents, and not their countries, parliaments or governments. For more information please visit.

www.parlnet.org

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SUNDAY, 4 MARCH 2018	
Upon arrival	CHECK-IN
	Venue: Sofitel Legends Métropole Hôtel
19:00 - 20:30	WELCOME RECEPTION
	Venue: L'Orangerie, Sofitel Legends Métropole Hôtel
MONDAY, 5 MARCH 2018	
	BREAKFAST AT HOTEL
	Venue: Sofitel Legends Métropole Hôtel
08:30 - 09:00	DELEGATION TO THE WORLD BANK OFFICE
	Venue: Sofitel Legends Métropole Hôtel - New Wing Lobby
	The delegation will be meeting at the New Wing Lobby on Ly Thai To Street at 8:30am - Walk to the WB/IMF offices.
09:00 - 11:00	WELCOME AND BRIEFING SESSION
	Venue: World Bank Office - VDIC Conference Room, 2nd Floor
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Olfa Soukri Cherif, MP, Tunisia, Vice-Chair, the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF• Ousmane Dione, Country Director, World Bank Vietnam• Jonathan Dunn, Resident Representative, IMF Vietnam
11:00 - 11:15	BREAK

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11:15 - 12:15	IMF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING IN SOUTH EAST ASIA
	Venue: World Bank Office - VDIC Conference Room, 2nd Floor
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• David Cowen, Coordinator, TAOLAM, IMF
12:30 - 14:30	LUNCH
	Venue: Au Lac House, #13 Tran Hung Dao St., Hanoi
14:40	BUS DEPARTING FROM THE LUNCH VENUE
15:00 - 16:30	MEETING AT THE STATE BANK OF VIETNAM
	Venue: #25 Ly Thuong Kiet Street, Hanoi (Room 104, Ground Floor)
	Vietnam has achieved robust growth with low inflation, and has been implementing important reforms to promote private sector-led growth, strengthen the public finances and tackle legacy issues in the financial sector while making progress on poverty alleviation. Further reforms are needed to strengthen the banking sector and external and fiscal buffers. Further reforms will also underpin impressive macroeconomic stability, raise growth potential and upgrade the growth model to enhance sustainability and productivity.
	FREE EVENING FOR PARTICIPANTS

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TUESDAY, 6 MARCH 2018

BREAKFAST AT HOTEL

Venue: Sofitel Legends Métropole Hôtel

07:15 - 07:30 DELEGATION TO THE WORLD BANK OFFICE

Venue: Sofitel Legends Métropole Hôtel - New Wing Lobby

The delegation will be meeting in the New Wing Lobby on Ly Thai To Street at 7:15 am; Bus will depart from the hotel at 7:30 am.

All Day PROJECT SITE VISIT

Venue: Hoa Binh Province

The whole day will be devoted to visiting WBG projects. A detailed description and briefing is provided in the briefing book.

FREE EVENING FOR PARTICIPANTS

WEDNESDAY, 7 MARCH 2018

BREAKFAST AT HOTEL

Venue: Sofitel Legends Métropole Hôtel

07:15 - 08:00 DELEGATION TO THE WORLD BANK OFFICE

Venue: Sofitel Legends Métropole Hôtel - New Wing Lobby

The delegation will be meeting at the New Wing Lobby on Ly Thai To Street at 7:45am; Bus will depart from the hotel at 8:00am.

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08:30 - 10:00 MEETING WITH THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Venue: Ministry of Education, #35 Dai Co Viet Street, Hanoi

Vietnam is internationally recognized for the quality of its basic education. In the education sector, Vietnam has obtained impressive results compared with those countries with similar economic development: over 90% of the working-age population is literate; more than 98% of children of primary school age attend schools; and the enrolment rates for boys and girls are similar. Several challenges remain such as high drop-out rates in rural areas and access to higher education for low-income and marginalized groups. Rapid aging of the population means that there will be fewer young people, presenting an opportunity to ensure inclusive access to education. Tertiary education institutions will also need to adapt to the country's increasing modernization and integration into the global economy.

10:15 BUS DEPARTING FROM THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

10:45 - 12:15 MEETING WITH THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Venue: Ministry of Finance, #28 Tran Hung Dao Street, Hanoi

Vietnam officially graduated from the International Development Association (IDA) on 1 July 2017. (IDA is the part of the World Bank that supports the world's poorest countries. Overseen by 173 shareholder nations, IDA aims to reduce poverty by providing loans (called "credits") and grants for programs that boost economic growth, reduce inequalities, and improve people's living conditions.)

Vietnam has been running high fiscal deficits in support of growth and investment in human and physical capital in recent years. These deficits have led to a sharp increase in public debt over the past 5 years. A fiscal consolidation is planned to bring deficits down to around 3.5 percent of GDP and reduce public debt by 2020, though specific policy measures are still being identified.

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Vietnam has successfully managed to reduce its economy's reliance on external sources, such as oil and trade-related revenue. Going forward, it is crucial to continue strengthening domestic revenue mobilization through both tax administration and tax policy reforms. Although the share of state budget capital spending remains relatively high, it is trending towards higher decentralization, with more investment decisions being taken at sub-national levels, which has provided strong incentives for development of infrastructure, education, and health services at the local level. In the future, it will be important to rationalize sectoral and regional budget allocations to better align them with Vietnam's current development strategy.

12:30 **BUS DEPARTING FROM THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE**

12:45 - 14:45 **LUNCH WITH PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES**

Venue: Wild Lotus, #55 Nguyen Du Street, Hanoi

Hosted by Ousmane Dione, Country Director of Vietnam, World Bank.

15:00 **BUS DEPARTING FROM LUNCH VENUE**

15:30 - 16:15 **TOUR OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LIBRARY & MUSEUM**

Venue: National Assembly, #1 Doc Lap Boulevard, Hanoi

16:30 - 18:30 **MEETING WITH THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF VIETNAM**

Venue: National Assembly, #1 Doc Lap Boulevard, Hanoi

The National Assembly of Vietnam will welcome the Parliamentary Network delegates, providing an opportunity to obtain first-hand information on its functioning, its contribution to Vietnam's development priorities and ways of cooperation with the World Bank and IMF on the country level.

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Participants will be invited to interact with host country MPs, share legislative experiences regarding development initiatives.

18:45 - 20:45 **DINNER**

Venue: National Assembly, #1 Doc Lap Boulevard, Hanoi

Hosted by the Chairman of the National Assembly Committee on External Affairs.

THURSDAY, 8 MARCH 2018

BREAKFAST AT HOTEL

Venue: Sofitel Legends Métropole Hôtel

07:45 - 08:00 **DELEGATION TO THE WORLD BANK OFFICE**

Venue: Sofitel Legends Métropole Hôtel - New Wing Lobby

The delegation will be meeting at the New Wing Lobby on Ly Thai To Street at 7:45am; Bus will depart from the hotel at 8:00am.

08:30 - 10:00 **MEETING WITH THE MINISTRY OF TRADE & INDUSTRY**

Venue: Ministry of Trade & Industry, #54 Hai Ba Trung Street, Hanoi

Energy intensity in Vietnam is among the highest in the world, and electricity demand is expected to grow by about ten per cent annually until 2030. Rural electrification has significantly grown. Virtually all rural households use electricity. Results in terms of investing and constructing, renovating and upgrading the power grid have contributed to changing the face of rural and remote areas, creating favorable conditions for the development of agricultural production, processing industry and agricultural services.

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Recently, steps have been taken to develop cleaner energy sources, notably through engagements with the WB in renewable energy programs, which aim to strengthen regulatory frameworks for power markets and promote private sector participation while stimulating low-carbon energy generation.

10:15	BUS DEPARTING FROM THE MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY TO THE WB/IMF OFFICE
10:30 - 12:00	DEBRIEFING SESSION Venue: World Bank Office - VDIC Conference Room, 2nd Floor
12:15	WALK TO LUNCH VENUE
12:30 - 14:30	FAREWELL LUNCH Venue: Ly Club, #4 Le Phung Hieu Street, Hanoi

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PARLIAMENTARIANS IN THE FIELD PROGRAMME

Since 2001, the Parliamentarians in the Field program has given MPs unique access to World Bank & IMF country offices, its development programs and key development partners (including the host country's parliament). During visits, delegates are briefed by World Bank & IMF country representatives on their in-country activities. Visiting MPs also meet with host-country parliamentarians to discuss the country's development priorities. Participants visit programs and projects while engaging with local staff. Delegates also have the opportunity to meet with other

key development stakeholders including the private sector. At the conclusion of a visit, the delegation shares its observations and recommendations on the host country's development program in a comprehensive report. For donor-country parliamentarians, the program represents an opportunity to see development cooperation in practice. Borrowing-country MPs can use field visits as benchmarking exercises and opportunities to exchange views and experiences. Parliamentarians in the Field is jointly organized by the Parliamentary Network, the World Bank, and IMF.

- www.parlnet.org
- www.worldbank.org/en/about/parliamentarians
- www.imf.org/external/np/legislators/ www.parlnet.org

THE WORLD BANK AND IMF IN VIETNAM

The engagements of the World Bank Group and the IMF in Vietnam aim to support its strong economic growth and development. The IMF provides Vietnam with technical assistance in the areas of tax policy

and administration, public expenditure management, fiscal transparency, and central banking, and lends its expertise in macroeconomic policy advice through its Article IV consultations. The World Bank

prioritizes the areas of inclusive growth and private sector participation, human capital, environmental sustainability, and good governance. The current World Bank Group Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for the period FY18 – FY22 also includes IFC

engagement aiming to mobilize long-term financing for investments that have strong socioeconomic benefits, and MIGA providing its risk insurance guarantees and credit enhancement products to boost private investments.

VIETNAM'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS

Vietnam's development record over the past 30 years is remarkable. Reform programs under Đổi Mới, launched in 1986, have spurred rapid economic growth and development and transformed Vietnam from one of the world's poorest nations to a lower middle-income country.

Vietnam has enjoyed strong economic growth. Since 1990, Vietnam's GDP per capita growth has been among the fastest in the world, averaging 6.4 percent a year in the 2000s. Despite uncertainties in the global environment, Vietnam's economy remains resilient. The country's medium-term outlook remains favorable, with GDP expanding by 6.2 and 6.8 percent in 2016-2017 respectively, while the country's fundamental drivers of growth – resilient domestic demand and export oriented manufacturing – remain in force.

Growth has been equitable—with a dramatic reduction in poverty—and social

outcomes have improved significantly. In 1993, over half of the population lived on less than \$1.90-a-day. Today, the rate of such extreme poverty has fallen to 3 percent. The proportion of the population living below the national poverty line (General Statistic Office – World Bank Poverty line) reached 13.5 percent in 2014—down from close to 60 percent in 1993. More than 40 million people escaped poverty over the course of two decades.

Vietnam has made significant advances in the provision of basic services. The Vietnamese population today is more educated and healthier than twenty years ago—and these advances are enjoyed across society. Learning outcomes are high, including in primary school. Infant and under-five mortality rates have been significantly reduced in the last twenty years, down to 19 and 24 mortalities per thousand births in 2012, respectively. Stunting also significantly decreased, from

61 percent in 1993 to 23 percent in 2012. Life expectancy at birth is now 76 years, an improvement from 71 years in 1993.

Access to basic infrastructure has also improved substantially. Significant progress was charted from 1993 to 2012. For example, at least 99 percent of the population now use electricity as their main source of lighting compared to 14 percent more than twenty years ago. More than 67 percent of the rural population now enjoy access to sanitation facilities, and more than 61 percent have access to clean water, compared to only 36 percent and 17 percent, respectively, two decades earlier.

Yet development challenges and limitations remain for Vietnam. Poverty gains are fragile and a significant portion of the population, particularly in rural areas and among ethnic minorities, is vulnerable to falling back into poverty.

The contribution of productivity growth – the main driver of GDP expansion in the 1990s – has declined over the last ten years. As the growth of the labor force slows, the growth of labor productivity will not likely deliver the growth rates Vietnam aspires to achieve.

At the same time, while broad macroeconomic stability remains, some vulnerabilities, including fiscal imbalances and unresolved asset quality problems in

the banking sector, require attention. A stronger domestic private sector can also serve as an engine for growth, as would accelerated reforms in the SOE sector.

Urbanization can fuel higher growth, but achieving urban agglomeration requires an update of the current urbanization model. Significant investments over recent decades have made headway, but more productive infrastructure, particularly in energy, transport, water, sanitation, and telecommunication, are needed. Continued modernization and value-chain development of the agriculture sector is also key, as agriculture will remain an important driver for growth and poverty reduction in Vietnam for years to come.

The Government of Vietnam continues to show commitment to reforms. Vietnam's 2011 – 2020 Socio-Economic Development Strategy (SEDS) – a 10-year strategy – highlights the need for structural reforms, environmental sustainability, social equity and emerging issues of macroeconomic stability. It defines three "breakthrough areas": (i) promoting skills development, particularly for modern industry and innovation; (ii) improving market institutions, and (iii) further infrastructure development. The Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP) for 2016-2020, approved in April 2016, acknowledges the slow progress on certain policy priorities and emphasizes the need to accelerate reforms.

Source: www.worldbank.org/en/country/vietnam/overview

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF VIETNAM

The National Assembly of Vietnam is unicameral. 496 deputies, of whom at least 25% must be full-time, are elected for a term of 5 years.

ELECTIONS

Each province, or city directly under central government rule, comprises one or more constituencies that elect up to 3 deputies each. The Standing Committee of the National Assembly, in consultation with the Vietnam Fatherland Front, assigns the number of deputies to be elected from political, socio-political and social organizations, the armed forces and national and local state agencies. It also proposes quotas for the number of women and ethnic minority deputies. Voters have as many votes as there are candidates in their constituency. The number of

candidates must exceed the number of seats to be filled. Deputies are elected by simple majority, provided they receive more than half the number of votes cast. If the full number of deputies is not elected, a second round is held. A second round may also be held if only half or fewer of the voters voted. Voters must be citizens aged 18 years or over. Candidates must be citizens aged 21 years or over. Candidates are nominated by political, socio-political and social organizations, the armed forces and national and local state agencies, or may be independent.

LEADERSHIP

The Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the National Assembly are elected by and from among the deputies. The current Chairwoman is Hon. Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan. The Standing Committee of the National Assembly comprises the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Assembly and other members. Its powers include:

- calling and presiding over elections to the National Assembly;
- convening and presiding over sessions of the National Assembly;
- interpreting the constitution and the laws;
- exercising supervision and control over

- the activities of the government, the Supreme People's Court, the Supreme People's Procuracy and the People's Councils;
- directing the activities of National Assembly committees and ensuring good working conditions for the deputies;

- proclaiming a state of emergency in the country or a region.

All the deputies from a province or a city directly under central government rule form a delegation. Each delegation is staffed by full-time deputies and has its own budget and headquarters.

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Bills may be presented to the National Assembly by, among others, the government, the Standing Committee and other committees of the National Assembly, the Vietnam Fatherland Front and individual deputies. Bills must be sent to the relevant Assembly committee for evaluation at least 30 days before the opening of the Assembly, and be sent to all deputies at

least 20 days before. Public comment may be solicited, depending on the bill's nature. Bills may be considered in one or in two sessions. They may be discussed by the delegations and groups of deputies before consideration in plenary meetings and may be revised at any stage in the procedure. A bill is adopted by majority vote of the deputies.

COMMITTEES

Nine committees and the Nationalities Council are established by statute. Committees evaluate bills, ordinances and other legal documents, and oversee their implementation once in force. They make recommendations related to policy issues and to the organization and operation of the agencies within their field of activity, and verify the state budget estimates.

Committees can conduct investigations and call for witnesses and documents. They also have the responsibility to receive citizens' complaints and denunciations and oversee their settlement. The Nationalities Council has the same powers and responsibilities as the committees, and additionally the government must consult with it over policies relating to ethnic minorities.

