

**Welcome Remarks by H.E. Dr. Bui Ba Bong, Deputy Minister of  
Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam  
at the Asia-wide High-Level Regional Conference  
and the Special Seminar on The Impact of the Global Economic Slowdown  
on Poverty and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific  
Hanoi, Viet Nam: 28-30 September 2009**

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*Excellency Mr. Nguyen Sinh Hung, Deputy Prime Minister of the S.R. of  
Viet Nam*

*Excellencies Ministers,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen!*

I am very pleased to be here with you at the High-Level Regional Conference and Special Seminar on The Impact of the Global Economic Slowdown on Poverty and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific. On behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam, I would like to extend our warmest welcome and best wishes to Excellencies Ministers as well as all the delegates to this Meeting. It is a great honor and privilege for the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Viet Nam to host this important Forum, held in Ha Noi from 28-30 September 2009.

Taking this opportunity I would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the international communities, especially the ASEAN Secretariat, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the State Council Leading Group on Poverty Alleviation and Development of the People's Republic of China for their excellent support and joint-organization of this Forum. I am looking forwards to your continued cooperation in the future.

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Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen!*

The meeting is taking place in the context of global economic crisis, that caused many complicated and unforeseen negative impacts to the world economy, together with number of destabilizing factors such as natural disasters, diseases, global warming and climate change, and the serious disease outbreaks like the avian influenza and newly swine influenza disease expanding quickly in the region, etc. All threat the livelihoods of hundred millions of farmers and rural

people in our region and affect the results of our achievements in poverty eradication, social safety net and the possibility to reach the target of U.N. Millennium Development Goals.

In order to deal with those problems, it is required to further strengthen cooperation and put forward new ideas at the regional level on rural development and poverty eradication to maintain our achievements of poverty eradication, social safety net and sustainable development. Therefore, the organization of this meeting is really essential in order to discuss and exchange information, experiences and recommend policies to address the pressing challenges and narrow the negative impacts of the global crisis. In addition, the event will come up with key policy recommendations for government action across the Asia and Pacific region, as well as on social policy for the next ASEAN Summit.

Like other countries in the region, Viet Nam has been seriously affected by the global economic crisis and faced with many new challenges and difficulties. In order to deal with these problems, the Vietnamese Government and people, highly determined, have implemented an appropriate package of measures, some of which were to pay more attention to agriculture, farmers and rural areas such as investment for agriculture, rural infrastructure, health care and education services, provision of loan with reduced interest rate for production, housing construction, consumption with especial focus on poor people. We make our efforts to ensure that no one will be abandoned in the fight for a better quality society and further commitments will be made to build and strengthen an equal, democratic and prosperous society with the inclusion of all groups in the mainstream of development process.

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Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen!*

I believe that with the high spirit of cooperation and for the prosperity of the region, the Forum will concentrate to discuss, exchange and propose appropriated measures and roadmap for the Governments to consider and realize the proposed objectives.

I wish you all good health and happiness. May the Meeting be successful.

Thank you very much!