

FOREWORD

The *Public Policy Training Program* (PPTP) is a new multi-year initiative by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) that aims to enhance the public economic policy capability of government officials.

The PPTP is a public policy training scheme with a medium-term vision of setting up a regional public policy school in Viet Nam. It is initially being implemented in Viet Nam, but it will be extended to Cambodia and Lao People's Democratic Republic next year. In 2007, the program will carry out a general executive public policy training program in Viet Nam alone that targets about 200 outstanding civil servants. In addition, technical short courses and seminars will be organized to provide specialized skills required by ministries and other agencies to manage economic transition and public administration reform.

This publication reviews twenty years of economic transition in Viet Nam. At the outset of the PPTP we felt the need to assess the current economic situation in Viet Nam as reference material for the above-mentioned training activities. But the study quickly developed into an assessment of the whole transition process known as *Doi Moi* with projections for the upcoming period. This study will now serve both as reference material and as course material for the different PPTP training activities. It is also the first issue of a PPTP Studies Series on Viet Nam's economic development, which will be updated annually.

In order to reach a wide range of readers, this study is published in identical English and Vietnamese versions. The authors would like to thank Adam McCarty and Robert S. Boumphrey as peer reviewers and Stefan Hell for his editorial enhancements.

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