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THIRD MEETING 2022

HA LONG, VIET NAM | JULY 26-29, 2022



**WORKING CLOSELY TO RESPOND TO CHALLENGES FOR
DYNAMIC, SUSTAINABLE, INCLUSIVE AND RESILIENT GROWTH**

**Can Tho Unleashing Resources for
Stronger Development**

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NAM LONG
NLG


NHÀ PHÁT TRIỂN KHU ĐÔ THỊ TÍCH HỢP

 **MIZUKI
PARK**

26 ha



Khu đô thị
người Nhật chọn đầu tư

 Bình Hưng - Bình Chánh


IZUMI CITY
WATERFRONT
COMMUNITY

170 ha



Trái tim
Quần thể đô thị khu Đông

 Long Hưng - Đồng Nai


WATERPOINT

355 ha



Thành phố bên sông
Cộng đồng thịnh vượng

 Bến Lức - Long An



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CONTENTS

VCCI

- 04 Working Closely to Respond to Challenges for Dynamic, Sustainable, Inclusive and Resilient Growth
- 06 Eastern Highway Economic Corridor: New Vision, New Space for Economic Growth
- 10 Quang Ninh - Leading Investment Destination in Vietnam
- 12 Six Key Goals of VCCI in Last Six Months of 2022
- 14 Many New Criteria for Outstanding Vietnamese Entrepreneurs 2022
- 16 Mekong Delta Seizing Opportunities, Reversing Downward Spiral

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- 18 Promoting Corporate Governance and Sustainable Business

BUSINESS

- 20 More Efforts Needed to Control Inflation, Stabilize Macro-economy
- 21 About US\$4.7 Bln of ASEAN Poured into Vietnam

22 Textile and Garment Industry
Improving Adaptability to Weather the Storm

23 Boosting Trade Promotion via Vietnam Trade
Offices Abroad

POTENTIAL - CAN THO CITY

24 Can Tho Unleashing Resources for
Stronger Development

29 Improving Investment Capital Flow,
Promoting Business Support

31 Speeding up Site Clearance, Facilitating Land Access

32 Raising Quality of Human Resources

33 Unlocking All Resources for Development

34 Creating Impetus for Agriculture Breakthrough

36 Well Administering State Budget Revenue,
Expenditure

37 Effort to Clear Bottlenecks of
Transport Infrastructure

38 Enhancing Urban
and Construction Management
Quality

40 Promoting Innovation,
Improving Productivity
and Quality

41 Fostering Digital
Transformation

42 For a Transparent
Business Environment

44 Gradually Modernizing and
Digitizing Tax Administration

45 Can Tho Customs
Department: Important
Contributions to
Socioeconomic Development

46 Strongly Reforming
Investment Promotion

47 Efforts to Support Local
Socioeconomic Recovery

48 Vinh Thanh District Promoting
Western Gateway Advantages

50 Thot Not District Boosting Investment
Attraction, Socioeconomic Development

52 O Mon District Utilizing Industrial and Urban
Advantages

54 Cai Rang District: Effort for Breakthrough
Business Development

56 Can Tho Vocational College - Trusted Address
for High-Quality Human Resource Training

58 Turning Industrial Parks into Development
Engines

ENTERPRISE

60 EVNGENCO2 Helps Ensure National
Energy Security

62 Viet Thanh Export Garment Co., Ltd Promoting
Internal Resources, Stabilizing Production

TOURISM

64 Developing Specific Tourism Products
as Competitive Advantages



APEC BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL THIRD MEETING 2022

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President Nguyen Xuan Phuc and delegates attending ABAC 3 Meeting

WORKING CLOSELY TO RESPOND TO CHALLENGES FOR DYNAMIC, SUSTAINABLE, INCLUSIVE AND RESILIENT GROWTH

The Third Annual Meeting of the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) in 2022 and related promotion events, hosted by the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) together with the Quang Ninh Provincial People's Committee and two ABAC Vietnam's members - Saigon Invest Group and Sovico Group, wrapped up with great success.

ANH MAI

ABAC 3 Meeting, themed “Embrace. Engage. Enable.”, taking place from July 26-29, 2022 in Ha Long City, Quang Ninh Province, attracted the participation of 150 ABAC delegates, including those from major investment and promotion agencies and leading corporations in the Asia-Pacific region. Specially, Vietnamese President Nguyen Xuan Phuc attended and delivered an important speech at the opening session on the morning of July 27, 2022.

In his welcome speech, President Phuc appreciated ABAC for opening the third meeting of this year in Ha Long to bolster APEC private cooperation and work together to find ways to make a business recovery, foster trade and



On the sidelines of ABAC 3, President Nguyen Xuan Phuc and delegates visit the VCCI's media booth

investment, reconnect supply chains, and work toward innovative, sustainable and inclusive development in the region”. He also emphasized Vietnam's advantages as a dynamic, potential and successful economy which is effectively maintaining positive and stable growth momentum, as well as being a safe and attractive destination for investors and a charming landscape for tourists. Being a peaceful, secure destination, full of cooperation potential, Vietnam opens its arms wide to welcome and encourage APEC businesses, he added.

The objectives of ABAC 3 Meeting are to make a business recommendation report to APEC Senior Officials, Trade SME, and Finance Ministers and then directly to APEC Economic Leaders at the Dialogue with APEC Leaders, which is scheduled to take place in the APEC Economic Leaders' Week 2022 in Thailand in November. The report covers the key topics of promoting speedy and sustained recovery, deepening regional economic integration, fostering an enabling environment through digitalization, and advancing sustainability.

Prolonged impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted global supply chains, affected recovery and inclusive and sustainable growth in the Asia-Pacific region. To strengthen economic integration, ABAC has continuously supported realizing the Free Trade Area of the Asia - Pacific (FTAAP), proposed goals to APEC Ministers that need to be implemented soon through action programs and priorities in five areas: digital transformation, inclusive development, sustainability, trade and investment, and response to the pandemic.

The focuses ABAC has been pursuing include priorities to create a more level playing field for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in a region that have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic; support these MSMEs to grow sustainably with a long-term visionary approach by adopting digital transformation to enhance resilience, drive innovations, and respond quickly to market needs and ever-changing business environment. ABAC also advocates for the global agenda for sustainability and net-zero economy and promotes green recovery pathways to ensure food security.

“We will call on APEC to support the global rules-based trading system, accelerate the realization of the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific, foster actions to mitigate



President Nguyen Xuan Phuc (R) and VCCI President Pham Tan Cong

the impact of climate change, level the playing field for MSMEs, and leverage the digital economy. These are fundamental to ensuring that our region will be seamless, dynamic, resilient, and sustainable – and a place where everyone can enjoy the benefits and opportunities offered by deeper regional economic integration,” said ABAC Chair for 2022 and Chairman of the Federation of Thai Industries, Kriengkrai Thiennukul.

Mr. Thiennukul expressed his gratitude to all ABAC members, especially ABAC Vietnam, for hosting this entirely physical meeting. The meeting reaffirmed ABAC’s intention to enable the resumption of business and cross-border travel, to learn to live with COVID-19, and to live in the new normal.

As the host of the ABAC 3 Meeting in Quang Ninh, VCCI coordinated with the Quang Ninh Provincial People’s Committee and Hai Phong, Hai Duong and Hung Yen to open two important investment promotion events: “Quang Ninh Investment Promotion Conference 2022: Combine the Best” (July 26, 2022), and “Eastern Highway Economic Connectivity Forum (VEHEC)” (July 28, 2022). Especially, at the forums, the VCCI President and Chairpersons of the People’s Committee of four localities signed a cooperation agreement to connect the Eastern economic corridor to officially form sub-regional economic connectivity along the Hanoi - Hai Phong - Mong Cai Highway. ■

EASTERN HIGHWAY ECONOMIC CORRIDOR

NEW VISION, NEW SPACE FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH



VCCI President Pham Tan Cong and representatives of the four provinces at the MoU signing ceremony for the eastern highway economic corridor

Chairman of Hai Phong City People's Committee Nguyen Van Tung, Chairman of Quang Ninh Provincial People's Committee Nguyen Tuong Van, Chairman of Hai Duong Provincial People's Committee Trieu The Hung, Chairman of Hung Yen Provincial People's Committee Tran Quoc Van and President of the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry Pham Tan Cong officially signed an agreement on the economic connection of the Eastern Highway in Ha Long City, Quang Ninh Province on July 28, 2022.

ANH MAI

This initiative is aimed to realize Party and State policy on fostering regional linkages to strengthen coordination in tapping and promoting the potential and advantages of the four localities along the Hanoi - Hai Phong - Mong Cai Highway. The document of the 13th Party Congress and Vietnam's 10-year socioeconomic development strategy for 2021-2030 highlighted the orientation of "increasing intra-regional and inter-regional linkages to participate in global value chains and create a new development space".

The signing ceremony was carried out within the framework of the Eastern Highway Economic Corridor Forum jointly organized by the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) and the four localities. The event was attended by central and local leaders and nearly 300 representatives from domestic and international business associations and business leaders of APEC economies.

The Eastern Highway Economic Connectivity Initiative is designed to build a sub-regional economic connectivity model, create a new development space, maximize local advantages, create a favorable business environment, achieve high economic growth, develop a thriving business community and build growth poles in the Red River Delta and the Northern region.

The combination of the four localities will form an area three times the size of Hanoi, five times of Ho Chi Minh City and eight times of Da Nang City and have a population nearly 6 times of Da Nang, nearly 80% of Hanoi and nearly 70% of Ho Chi Minh City. The four localities have great advantages of connecting the best transport infrastructure in the country, enabled by the eastern highway that links Hanoi with Mong Cai Border Gate on the border with China - a huge market. Local



On the sidelines of the event, VCCI President Pham Tan Cong and other delegates visit booths introducing local products of the four provinces

businesses can access three international airports (Noi Bai, Cat Bi and Van Don) and many international seaports. By joining economic connectivity, each locality has its own strengths. For example, Quang Ninh is strong in tourism resources, services, production and trade chains linked to the Chinese market. Hai Phong has special advantages in seaport and logistics systems. Hai Duong has outstanding potential in human resources and land fund, lying in the center of the interconnected region, and strong in the mechanical and manufacturing industry. Lying adjacent to Hanoi, Hung Yen has great potential for industrial development, high-tech agriculture and very rapid urbanization.

Signing parties agreed to establish the Regional Connectivity Council and VCCI would coordinate economic connectivity in the four localities. The Regional Secretariat is headquartered at VCCI building. VCCI will connect businesses, international partners and the four localities to form a successful regional economic connection model with substantive and specific activities to generate the best effects on sustainable economic development of all the four localities. As businesses are a very important player of economic connectivity, VCCI, with the framework of the Initiative, will support establishing and fostering the regional business council.

VCCI President Pham Tan Cong said, “In the old times, rivers were always the axis of development and connected economic and cultural centers. Today, highways, which are like rivers in the past, create and connect new economic and urban centers. So, the Eastern

Highway corridor is the premise for the economic connection of the four provinces and cities. Once linked together, the four localities will create a new space and vision for economic development.”

In 2022 and 2023, the main job will focus on cooperation in trade and investment promotion; traffic and logistics; manufacturing supply chain development; tourism and service development; hi-tech agriculture and agricultural product processing; business environment improvement; digital transformation and digital connection; and others.

In addition to entering into the economic connection agreement, the four localities and VCCI jointly organized the Eastern Highway Economic Corridor Forum to introduce and discuss economic space and investment opportunities in the four localities with APEC businesses. The event was held concurrently with the third Meeting of the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC 3), hosted by VCCI, in Ha Long City, Quang Ninh from July 26-29, 2022. Vietnamese President Nguyen Xuan Phuc attended and delivered an opening remark to the gathering on July 27, 2022. Nearly 150 international delegates from 21 APEC economies came to Ha Long to attend the event, including many leaders of world-leading firms like NEC, UPS, Marubeni, Quanta, Sinochem and Acer. The forum, held together with ABAC 3, directly presented the potential of the four localities to the APEC business community. Many of them said they would come back to learn more about business and investment opportunities in the four localities.





Hung Yen has great potential for industrial development and agricultural processing

Mr. TRAN QUOC VAN

CHAIRMAN OF HUNG YEN PROVINCIAL PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE



Hung Yen is very strong in industrial development. We have industrial zones which are very close to Hanoi, Hai Duong, Hai Phong, and Quang Ninh, only a 30-minute to one-hour drive. In particular, in 2021, Hung Yen cleared 500 ha of industrial zones for infrastructure construction and planned to free up about 1,000 ha in 2022 and hand it over to infrastructure developers. This land fund will enable the

province to draw domestic and foreign projects into Hung Yen province.

A year ago, it was difficult for us to draw large projects because we hardly found a land plot of 10 ha. Currently, we have 15 industrial parks, with eight almost fully occupied, and seven under construction. We plan that all 3,800 ha of land will be fully cleared to convert to industrial purposes by 2025.

We would like to introduce the strengths of our industrial zones with the available land funds for lease and good infrastructure. Each province has its own strengths and we share the highway system and the railway system. Quang Ninh and Hai Phong also have a seaport system. We are looking forward to connecting with three other provinces of the Eastern Highway to create a synergized strength.

Besides, in agricultural processing, from a poor agricultural province, the Party and the government of Hung Yen province always aspired to change the crop structure and improve techniques to transform into high-tech agriculture. In 2021, the agricultural yield of Hung Yen province was VND215 million per hectare. Even, flowers and ornamental plants in Van Giang district generated VND2 billion per hectare. Lychee and longan of Hung Yen yield VND500 million a hectare. We hope our provinces can introduce agricultural processors to us for joint cooperation in the future.

Hai Phong has advantages in traffic and logistics

Mr. NGUYEN VAN TUNG

CHAIRMAN OF HAI PHONG PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE

Hai Phong has two advantages: Transportation and logistics. Regarding transportation, Hai Phong has all five forms of traffic: sea, air, road, inland waterway and railway. Currently, the city has completed two deep-water ports that can receive ships of 130,000 tons

and it is working to build four more deep-water ports in Lach Huyen Port area for transportation of regional and local commodities.

Hai Phong Cat Bi Airport is operating Terminal 1 with a yearly capacity of 4 million passengers. Recently, the Prime Minister approved the construction of Terminal 2 with an annual capacity of about 5 million passengers. Hai Phong is initiating this project.

On road traffic connectivity, last year, Hai Phong actively cooperated with other localities to develop regional transport. Specifically, it joined hands with Quang Ninh and Hai Duong to build bridges across rivers and expand the economic space for Hai Phong as well as the whole region. Recently, Hai Phong has also invested in building a coastal road to interconnect Thai Binh, Nam Dinh and Ninh Binh provinces. Hai Phong has railways to Hanoi and the Northwest but they are not effectively operated.

With such a transport system, Hai Phong has a lot of advantages in logistics and hopes to coordinate with other localities and businesses to develop this field.



Hai Duong has traffic advantages and human resources that can meet business needs

Mr. TRIEU THE HUNG

CHAIRMAN OF HAI DUONG PROVINCIAL PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE



Like the other three provinces, Hai Duong has a relatively good road system linked to other provinces and cities. In this term, we have also focused on connecting for development, connecting localities in the province, in the region and in the Red River Delta to create advantages in attracting investment capital and develop industry and high-yield agriculture.

Last March, Hai Duong started the construction of two more intersections from highways to provincial roads (Road 390 and Road 392). In the coming time, we will have three intersections from highways to provincial roads to create a driving force for infrastructure development and attract investment funds for the province.

Currently, Hai Duong is one of the provinces that still have vast room for development cooperation with the other provinces on the Eastern Highway and is ready to attract domestic and foreign investors. Hai Duong is urgently completing the infrastructure of five industrial parks and expanding one more industrial park with more than 1,200 ha of land, ready to welcome investors in 2022. The province is also planning a dynamic industrial zone of over 10,000 ha and is proposing to the Government to establish a separate economic zone.

On human resource training and development, Hai Duong has a population of over 2 million, over 53% of which are in the workforce. Thus, Hai Duong is advantageously providing human resources to meet the province's needs and is ready to supply human resources for Hung Yen, Quang Ninh and Hai Phong in the economic corridor.

On training, Hai Duong has 38 higher education and vocational education institutions, focusing on training high-quality human resources. In this term, Hai Duong Provincial Party Committee has requested a project on human resources development to meet recruitment in a bid to make Hai Duong a modern industrial province by 2030 as approved and the province has also focused on training human resources, not only for the province but also for the entire Northern Delta region. Human resources are a breakthrough factor for development. We advocate "training for business needs" to raise their skills in operating and using modern equipment.

Quang Ninh has a geo-strategic location with development potential for various industries

Mr. NGUYEN TUONG VAN

CHAIRMAN OF QUANG NINH PROVINCIAL PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE

On the Eastern Highway, Quang Ninh has five great advantages. The first is a geo-strategic location, with both overland and sea borders. In the context of international integration, the province is at the starting point of the "Two Corridors, One Belt" cooperation region and is also a place for exchange and mobility of science, technology and freight in Northeast Asia regions.

Secondly, Quang Ninh has a relatively large natural area endowed with rich natural resources and diverse natural ecosystems.

Quang Ninh has Ha Long Bay and Bai Tu Long Bay, which are not only cultural heritages but also miniature Vietnamese culture.

On infrastructure, Quang Ninh is gradually completing the overall synchronous and interconnected social and economic infrastructure systems. Quang Ninh has built about 200 km of highways (equivalent to a tenth of the country) to reduce the travel time from Hanoi to Ha Long to only 1.5 hours and from Hanoi to Mong Cai Border Gate to 3 hours in the near future. This is a great advantage.

Quang Ninh has many tourist products and many famous tourist sites. In the first six months of 2022, the province welcomed about six million tourists, representing a tremendous success in the tourism recovery of Quang Ninh after the pandemic.

Besides, Quang Ninh has seaport infrastructure, industrial zone infrastructure and economic zone infrastructure. All of these infrastructures are very good for regional connectivity, enabling the province to unlock its potential advantages.

On the business environment, administrative reform and institutional reform, the Provincial Competitiveness Index (PCI) of Quang Ninh province has ranked first for the last five straight years and stood in the Top 5 for 9 consecutive years. Its other indicators have also gradually picked up to confirm its very high political determination in accelerating administrative reform and improving the business and investment environment.

The success of the Eastern Highway economic connection is not only for authorities but also for businesses and people. We still say that people and businesses are the centers, the owner and the driving force of activities. Aligning these connections between authorities and businesses will make people's lives better. Connections will make transport infrastructure and tourism infrastructure complete. By completing that infrastructure system, boosting investment and tourism promotion and product marketing will be more effective. ■



Quang Ninh - Leading Investment Destination in Vietnam



Quang Ninh provincial leaders vow to best support investors at the Investment Promotion Conference

Quang Ninh is always among the best economic performers in the country. Despite the huge impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, Quang Ninh still excelled, with double-digit growth of 10.66% in the first six months of 2022. Besides, the province has maintained this high growth rate of over 10% for six straight years, from 2016 to 2021. The quality of economic growth has improved significantly and the scale and potential of its economy has increased markedly. Its GRDP per capita reached over US\$7,000 in 2021, more than twice the national average.

LAN ANH

VCCI President Pham Tan Cong underlined its outstanding achievements at the 2022 Quang Ninh Investment Promotion Conference themed “Quang Ninh - Combine the best”, which was held just before the Third Meeting of the APEC Business Advisory Council in Ha Long, Quang Ninh.

Many favorable factors

Many factors are attributed to the provincial success, he said, pointing to its right visions and development strategies, economic development policies, business support, advantageous geographical location, nature, culture and society. He underscored two factors that have become the special advantages and the brand of Quang Ninh. The first is the most modern transport infrastructure, which was developed most strongly in the country. Quang Ninh is the first locality in Vietnam to build a highway by itself and now has a modern highway running from the capital of Hanoi, via Hai Phong City, to its Mong Cai Border Gate linked to China – the market of more than one billion

consumers. This highway is an advantage. Quang Ninh is also the first province to have a privately built international airport (Van Don Airport). Thus, businesses coming to Quang Ninh can now conveniently use many international airports at the same time. In addition to Van Don of Quang Ninh, they can access Cat Bi Airport of Hai Phong and take a two-hour drive to Noi Bai International Airport in Hanoi. Quang Ninh has a very developed seaport system, adjacent to the center of the largest seaport in the North region, Hai Phong. Doing import and export with the world and with China is extremely easy and convenient.

Besides, with a proven favorable business environment, Quang Ninh is ranked first in the Provincial Competitiveness Index (PCI) in Vietnam for five consecutive years from 2017 to 2021. In the latest PCI survey conducted by VCCI, Quang Ninh ranked first in the country in time cost. 87% of Quang Ninh-based enterprises in the VCCI survey said, administrative procedures are simple and 87% of respondents said, the time to carry out administrative procedures is shorter than the common regulatory timeframe. In conducting administrative procedures, 91% of respondents said that State officials are friendly. Business satisfaction with administrative procedures probably comes from the fact that Quang Ninh is the first province to establish and operate a centralized public administration center at provincial and district levels, linked to communes. Very professionally and efficiently operated, this model has been scaled up nationwide.

Quang Ninh is also a model of dynamic and proactive government for the whole country. Surveys into both domestic and foreign enterprises by VCCI over the years have clearly shown this. 95% of them said, the provincial government of Quang Ninh is flexible, within legal framework limits, to create an enabling business environment. 93%

rated the provincial government to be dynamic and creative in solving newly arising problems.

The execution quality of the government apparatus, which investors care deeply about, is also strongly improved in Quang Ninh. A quickly rising number of companies highly appreciated departments, agencies, districts and cities of the province for strict implementation of provincial policies and directions. This rate is among the highest in the country. The outcomes come from Quang Ninh's leadership in developing and applying the District and Department Competitiveness Index (DDCI) in a methodical and professional manner to enhance the execution quality of governmental agencies at all levels.

Mr. Nguyen Xuan Ky, Secretary of the Provincial Party Committee, said, Quang Ninh has persistently carried out its space development model "one center, two multi-dimensional routes, two breakthrough spearheads and three dynamic areas", created transport corridors aligned with economic corridors and urban corridors to realize the goal of becoming centrally governed city and strengthen intra-regional and inter-regional connectivity, assignment and territorial cooperation, ensure local potential, strengths and comparative advantages in the province, in the northern dynamic triangle, in the northern key economic region, and the Red River Delta region to be promoted, maximized, complemented each other, developed together sustainably and led by growth drivers of key economic zones of Quang Yen, Van Don and Mong Cai, 15 existing industrial parks (and eight prospective ones), coastal and marine urban areas (currently, the province has four cities and two towns and has an urbanization rate of 67%, only after centrally run cities. By 2030, the province will have seven cities and one town and has an urbanization rate of 75%).

Further completing all aspects to meet the high requirements of investors

To make careful preparations to meet the increasing requirements of investors, especially big and strategic foreign investors, according to Mr. Nguyen Tuong Van, Chairman of Quang Ninh Provincial People's Committee, the province will continue to perfect its provincial planning and related plans, transparently publish them and facilitate access to information in the fastest and most convenient manner for FDI investors and businesses from APEC member economies. The province will focus on carefully conducting administrative reform, improving the business investment environment, and enhancing provincial competitiveness to make breakthroughs in investment attraction in the form of public-private partnership (PPP) in strategic infrastructure development, especially the transport infrastructure system. Quang Ninh will consolidate and renovate mechanisms and effectively improve the performance of public administration service centers, and single-window offices at all levels in line with comprehensive digital transformation trends.

In addition, according to Mr. Van, Quang Ninh has also well prepared the necessary conditions for "clean ground" and clean land fund with a synchronous infrastructure system (electricity, water supply, communication, wastewater treatment and waste treatment) to the foot of the project fence; ensured accommodation infrastructure and other facilities for specialists and workers.

In particular, the province has prepared human

resources, especially high-quality human resources and trained workers; supported recruitment and worker training for investment projects. The province has researched and developed breakthrough mechanisms and policies to attract high-quality human resources and skilled workers while restructuring the labor force, increasing size and improving population quality. Quang Ninh has reformed and raised the effect of investment attraction, especially from big and well-reputed investors; prioritized environmentally friendly high-tech industries that generate high added value to rapidly increase the occupancy rate and economic performance of economic zones and industrial zones. It has intensively developed economic zones and industrial zones to sharpen national and international competitiveness, enhanced connectivity between industrial parks and economic zones of Quang Ninh and Hai Phong, and formed large-scale production clusters for various interrelated industries. ■

The 2022 Quang Ninh Investment Promotion Conference witnessed the signing of MoUs and handovers of investment registration certificates to FDI projects to be invested in Quang Ninh province:

An MOU was signed by Quang Ninh Economic Zones Authority, Quang Yen Stavian Petrochemical Joint Stock Company and Bac Tien Phong Industrial Park Joint Stock Company to initiate a US\$1.5-billion project of producing polypropylene (PP) resins in Bac Tien Phong Industrial Park.

Vietnam Investment Q Limited and Bac Tien Phong Industrial Park Joint Stock Company signed an MOU to launch the US\$23.8 million project of building ready-built factories and ready-built warehouses for lease in Bac Tien Phong Industrial Park.

Investment Registration Certificate is awarded to Jinko Solar Vietnam Industries to invest in a US\$35.56-million warehouse project (Jinko 3) in Song Khoai Industrial Park, Quang Yen. Jinko Solar is one of the world's largest and most advanced solar panel manufacturers. Jinko Solar Vietnam warehouse project (Jinko 3) is one of three projects invested by Jinko Solar Vietnam Industries Co., Ltd in Quang Ninh. Previously, in 2021, the company also invested US\$498 million in the Jinko Solar PV Vietnam photovoltaic cell technology project and US\$365 million in the Jinko Solar Vietnam silicon wafer technology project (Jinko 2) in Song Khoai Industrial Park, Quang Yen Town, Quang Ninh province.

Investment Registration Certificate is handed to BW Bac Tien Phong CN 2.1C Industrial Development Project to BW Bac Tien Phong Industrial Development Co., Ltd. This US\$20-million investment project will build and operate factories, warehouses and offices.

Investment Certificate on Social Housing Project in Dong Mai Ward, Quang Yen Town is granted to Jinko Solar Vietnam Industries Co., Ltd. The project aims to serve workers in Song Khoai Industrial Park. This project partly helps the province to realize its policy on accommodation for workers in the coal industry and in industrial zones.

Six Key Goals of VCCI in Last Six Months of 2022



VCCI President Pham Tan Cong addresses the fourth meeting of VCCI Executive Committee Meeting (Term 6)

“In the first six months of 2022, VCCI has carried out a large amount of work, but achieving the goals set for the last six months of the year is still a challenge, requiring the united efforts of the Executive Committee,” said VCCI President Pham Tan Cong at the VCCI Executive Committee Meeting (Term 7) for the 4th time on July 30.

GIANG TU

Speaking at the conference, VCCI President Pham Tan Cong said in the first six months of the year, VCCI had consolidated its organizational structure and improved financial and asset management. Its departments and affiliated units had been creative in strengthening cooperation with local authorities and businesses, making active contributions to economic and social development.

However, in the last six months of 2022, there are still many uncertain and unpredictable factors in the economy, finance, pandemic, especially the impact of high global inflation, armed conflict in Ukraine and the potential risk of economic recession, which are challenges to enterprises.

“Completing the mission and tasks of VCCI in the last

six months of the year requires the consensus and very high efforts of the Executive Board, as well as the entire VCCI apparatus,” VCCI President Pham Tan Cong said.

Accordingly, in the last six months of the year, in addition to regular tasks, VCCI needs to focus on the six key tasks.

The first task is to implement the project to summarize Resolution 09 according to the vision for the next 10, 20 or 30 years of VCCI. VCCI advises the Politburo to issue orientations on how to build and position the business community, how to form, what to support, and how to facilitate it? This issue will be the responsibility of the VCCI Party Committee.

“This is a very big strategic issue, not only for the last six months of 2022 but also for the entire term and a long period of VCCI,” emphasized VCCI President Pham Tan Cong.

VCCI will organize two thematic talks: One is a national seminar to discuss in-depth the content of building and promoting the Vietnamese businesses in the new period, from 10 to 30 years till Vietnam becomes a developed country. Another is a national workshop before submitting to the Politburo. From this workshop, participants will finalize the draft and submit it to the Politburo, then send it to the Office of the Party Central Committee. Then the Office of the Party Central Committee will collect comments from central agencies, and finally report to the Politburo for decision.

The second task that VCCI will have to do is to better promote the effective role of enterprises, create connections and support business associations. The Membership and Training Department is in charge of this task.

The third task is to award the title of outstanding enterprises, honoring the quintessence of Vietnamese businessmen.

“The problem here is to 'cast roles' between associations and VCCI. This is a national title. Selecting the best businesses of each locality is done by local business associations. Among them we will select the best of the whole country,” said VCCI President Pham Tan Cong.

The fourth is a project to renew and improve membership. Currently, the business membership is large in quantity but not strong in quality, so in the future, membership will have to be renewed. This project is assigned to the Membership and Training Department.

“This is a fundamental change in the way of operation and its membership base. VCCI will have community members, but there will also be elite groups and special members who are highly committed to the activities of the Vietnamese business community, ready to shoulder common tasks,” VCCI President Pham Tan Cong emphasized.

Fifth is the cooperation project to build a media and press environment to promote business development. In this regard, VCCI will cooperate with the Vietnam Journalists Association, the Central Propaganda Department and the Ministry of Information and Communications.

“Together with the Vietnam Journalists Association, we will promote press agencies and reporters to write well and correctly. Businesses will rate the newspaper, honor and award reporters and press agencies that do well, do the right thing and encourage businesses to develop.”

The last task, according to VCCI President Pham Tan Cong, will be an important task, which is to devise a mechanism for implementation and operation through a framework of regulations. From this framework, any individual department will develop their own regulations suitable for them. ■

Increasing Vietnam-India Business Cooperation Opportunities

VCCI Vice President Bui Trung Nghia recently received Mr. Pradeep Deviah, President of PDA Ventures (India) at VCCI headquarters. The two sides discussed more cooperation in the coming time.

Mr. Pradeep Deviah wished that Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) would support the organization of Vietnam International Investment Promotion Forum and Exhibition, which is expected to be held in Hanoi in March-April 2023.

The exhibition, which will bring together businesses from around the world and India investing in various industries in Vietnam, is aimed to advertise Vietnam as an attractive destination for foreign investors to attract more international businesses, including those from India, he said.

Besides, he said, PDA Group's media channels and event systems will support Vietnamese businesses to promote their brands and products to the Indian business community and consumers and countries around the world. At the same time, it is possible to promote India's MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, Exhibitions) tourism to Vietnam and vice versa.

Remarking on business cooperation opportunities between Vietnam and India, VCCI Vice President Bui Trung Nghia highly appreciated business cooperation opportunities between Vietnam and India through trade promotion programs such as the upcoming exhibition.

Speaking of cooperation in exhibition organization, he said that the two sides need to strengthen the exchange of specific information in the coming time to better support Vietnamese and Indian business cooperation.

Currently, India is the leading economic partner of Vietnam in South Asia and the 8th largest trading partner of Vietnam. Meanwhile, Vietnam is the 23rd largest trading partner in the world and the 4th largest in the ASEAN region of India.

In the first six months of 2022, two-way trade value reached US\$7.7 billion, up 22% year on year. Of the sum, Vietnam's exports to India were valued at US\$4 billion, up 39%, while its imports amounted to US\$3.7 billion, up 8%. The two countries aimed to reach a bilateral trade value of US\$15 billion this year.

In investment, as of June 20, 2022, India ranked 24th out of 139 countries and territories investing in Vietnam, with 328 projects with a total registered capital of over US\$1 billion.

For its part, PDA Ventures Group, established in 1997, is one of the largest exhibition, conference and event management firms in India. With more than 20 years of experience, PDA has successfully organized specialized forum and exhibition events in India and abroad on investment promotion, maritime, furniture manufacturing industry, banking technology, renewable energy and others.

Exhibitions and conferences organized and co-organized by PDA help bridge and promote international trade and investment; support attracting international investment in industries in India for domestic production and re-export; and look for joint venture partners, distributors, or manufacturers in India.

Huong Ly

Many New Criteria for Outstanding Vietnamese Entrepreneurs 2022



The kick-off ceremony of the Outstanding Vietnamese Entrepreneurs 2022

The program to vote for Outstanding Vietnamese Entrepreneurs 2022 has many innovations in terms of regulations and voting criteria. It emphasizes transparency in the review process.

HUONG LY

The “Outstanding Vietnamese Entrepreneur” title was initiated by VCCI in 2006 and has been organized eight times, with 800 entrepreneurs honored and awarded the title.

At the launching ceremony of the program held on July 30 in Hanoi, Mr. Pham Tan Cong - President of the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI), said that implementing the policy and orientation to develop “Outstanding Vietnamese Entrepreneurs” was indeed the national noble title of the Vietnamese business community. This year, VCCI has issued a new Review Regulation, with many important innovations, with a focus on publicity and transparency in the title review.

According to the VCCI President, over the years, the Party and State have implemented policies to develop the business community. On December 9, 2011, the Politburo issued Resolution 09 - NQ/TW on building and promoting the role of Vietnamese businessmen in the period of accelerating industrialization, modernization

and international integration. In the Resolution, VCCI was assigned to coordinate with ministries and sectors to build and organize programs to support entrepreneurs, improve competitiveness and integration, and award and honor entrepreneurs.

This year, the event is held in a special context that the country has contained the pandemic; VCCI successfully organized the 7th Party Congress, which adopted a new vision, six key tasks and three strategic breakthroughs, including breakthroughs in building Vietnamese corporate culture, forming and promoting common standards of business ethics among entrepreneurs.

VCCI President Pham Tan Cong emphasized that applying business ethics for the first time was one of the important new points of this year's review program. The application of these rules requires that title winners are not only good business people but also have business ethics and culture and are respected by society.

“Outstanding Vietnamese Entrepreneur” becomes the noblest title honored by the business community and worthy of national recognition. Accordingly, in terms of quantity, the number of winners this year will be reduced by 40%, and a maximum of only 60 entrepreneurs will be honored this time (compared to 100 of the previous editions). The list of 60 businessmen will be shortlisted to the 10 “Most Outstanding Entrepreneurs in Vietnam” who will receive a special honor.

According to Mr. Cong, the special feature of this program is the transparency in reviewing, no fees and no gift giving. Any violations will result in the application being removed from the review process.

The Review Council will set up working groups of experts, and press representatives led by a member of the Council to visit each enterprise for verification, and meet and discuss directly with the candidates.

Candidates must be best representatives that meet six standards of the Vietnam Code of Business Ethics published by VCCI which are creating economic value for society; law compliance; transparency, fairness, integrity; creativity, cooperation, mutual development; respect for nature, environmental protection; patriotism, responsibility to society and family.

The ceremony to announce and award the title of “Outstanding Vietnamese Entrepreneurs” will be held in October 2022, on the occasion of Vietnam Entrepreneurs Day. In the next three years, VCCI will periodically release a set of books on 60 Outstanding Vietnamese Entrepreneurs to inspire the society, toward building a Vietnamese business community with ethics and culture, conducting model business, having sustainable development, being a pillar to realize the economic development of the country.

Speaking at the launching ceremony of the review

program, business representatives and business associations expressed their agreement with the changes in the review work this year. Ms. Ninh Thi Ty, Chair of the Board of Directors of Ho Guom Group, said, "Our country has more than 800,000 businesses in operation, and there are certainly many excellent entrepreneurs, I expect the program will select 60 best examples to honor and represent the Vietnamese business community, I also hope that VCCI will widely replicate these examples in society so that good features and sound examples are spread far and wide, so that we can soon have a team of good businesses having culture and soft power in international integration, contributing to building a rich, civilized and modern Vietnam.

Mr. Do Van Ve, Chairman of Thai Binh Provincial Business Association, said, "The title since its inception in 2005 is the highest recognition and honor for worthy individuals, business leaders making great contributions to industries, localities in all aspects from contributing to the budget, creating jobs, participating in social activities.

Mr. Do Van Ve expected that the title review council would evaluate it strictly, objectively, and fairly so that this title would be truly honorable and prestigious to the candidates. Simultaneously, it is important to replicate the model, good examples and practice business ethics principles of Vietnamese businessmen, so that the business community and entrepreneurs across the country join hands with the Party, State and Government to realize the aspiration to build a strong and prosperous Vietnam.

Deputy Head of the Central Economic Commission Do Ngoc An, shared, "Objectively, in the majority of very good businesses, there are also a few businesses and entrepreneurs who have tarnished our collective business image. We hope that, with the core role, the pioneering force of VCCI, when launching the selection of outstanding businesses and entrepreneurs, will create a new environment, new way, and new atmosphere for the good, fresh and advanced features of Vietnamese businesses and entrepreneurs to 'overwhelm' the unfulfilled aspects in the development process." ■

Vietnam-Korea SME Support Center Launched

The Korea Federation of SMEs (KBIZ) recently opened the Vietnam - Korea SME Support Center to strengthen economic cooperation between Vietnam and Korea.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, KBIZ Chairman Kim Ki Mun said, "As an economic entity representing 6.88 million South Korean SMEs, we will expand exchanges with Vietnamese SMEs and entities to further broaden bilateral economic cooperation."

"Bilateral trade has increased 163 times. The two countries have become each other's third largest export partners and South Korea has become the No. 1 foreign investor in Vietnam. Especially since the Vietnam- Korea Free Trade Agreement came into effect in December 20, 2015, the trade value of Korean SMEs with Vietnam has increased by more than 20%. 90% of more than 8,000 South Korean enterprises in Vietnam are SMEs," he added.

Affirming that Korea has always been Vietnam's top trade and investment partner, Mr. Pham Tan Cong, President of the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI), said that Korea continues to be No. 1 investor in Vietnam with 9,265 projects and US\$78.9 billion of investment capital. Its large-scale projects have strong socioeconomic impacts and help build supply chains in Vietnam. The two-way trade value amounted to US\$78 billion in 2021, up 18.3% year on year, and accounted for 40% of South Korea-ASEAN total trade.

Over the past 10 years, VCCI and KBIZ have carried out many effective activities to support SMEs of the two countries. Following that success, the establishment of the Vietnam-Korea SME Exchange Support Center will create momentum for many South Korean businesses to come to Vietnam and for Vietnamese companies to find reliable Korean partners.

"VCCI is willing to join hands and join forces with KBIZ Office and Vietnam-Korea SME Support Center to enhance corporate competitiveness and business support of the two countries to join global supply chains. VCCI will strive to further foster trade and investment cooperation of Vietnamese and Korean business communities," he pledged.

Hong Kong Businesses Seek Cooperation Opportunities in Vietnam

On August 3, President of the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) Pham Tan Cong received a Hong Kong delegation led by Dr. Jonathan Choi, Standing Committee Member of the CPPCC National Committee, Chairman of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Bay Area Entrepreneurs Union, Permanent Honorary President of Chinese General Chamber of Commerce (HK), Chairman of Sunwah Group.

Addressing the meeting, Mr. Jonathan Choi said, "With the goal of promoting the common interests of the business communities of the two sides, the Hong Kong-Vietnam Chamber of Commerce has organized many important exchanges and meetings for senior officials and top entrepreneurs. We had a big promotion one week ago with the Hong Kong government together in the Ho Chi Minh City that gave opportunities to 200 businessmen there".

VCCI President Pham Tan Cong was pleased to share the recent outstanding achievements of VCCI, saying that, VCCI has also just launched an initiative to link four localities of Hung Yen, Hai Duong and Hai Phong and Quang Ninh provinces along the Hanoi - Hai Phong - Mong Cai Highway. The VCCI President expressed his desire to cooperate with the Hong Kong-Chinese General Chamber of Commerce in supporting the economic development of the two sides as well as promoting investment in these four Northern provinces.

As Chairman of Sunwah Group, Mr. Jonathan Choice believed in the future development of Sunwah as well as connecting activities for developing the Vietnamese community.

Starting out with the seafood processing industry, Sunwah Group has gradually grown, becoming the largest importer and exporter in Vietnam in the early years and then one of the first foreign companies to set up a representative office in Ho Chi Minh city. Since then, Sunwah has continued to expand into real estate, financial services and coffee business.

Giang Tu

Mekong Delta Seizing Opportunities, Reversing Downward Spiral



VCCI President Pham Tan Cong delivers a speech at the release event of the Economic Report 2022 of the Mekong Delta

The Annual Economic Report 2022 of the Mekong Delta, themed "Development Model Transformation and Integrated Planning", gives the message: Mekong Delta is facing great opportunities and let's seize these opportunities and promote cooperation for rapid but sustainable development.

This information was announced at the release event of the Annual Economic Report 2022 of the Mekong Delta held by the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) on August 1 in Can Tho City.

Mekong Delta is facing downward spirals

Dr. Vu Thanh Tu Anh, lecturer at Fulbright University, co-author (with Mr. Nguyen Phuong Lam, Director of VCCI Can Tho), summarized the report and its key messages. Representing the research team, he said, the Mekong Delta is heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, the country had nine

localities suffering a negative growth, six of which come from the Mekong Delta. The region's GRDP growth was second worst in the country, just above the Southeast region where the COVID-19 pandemic was the most devastating. The two years of the pandemic is like a chance to reveal both socioeconomic strengths and weaknesses of the Mekong Delta.

The brightest spot of the Mekong Delta in 2020-2021 was agriculture. The region's agricultural and aquatic exports played a key role in maintaining a trade surplus for the nation. However, agriculture alone was not enough to revive the Mekong Delta economy as the industrial and service sectors - together accounting for more than 70% of the region's GRDP - both posted negative growth, estimated to contract at 0.8% and 1.8%, respectively.

Remarkably, the average agricultural labor productivity growth was very high, staging an annual growth of 9.03% in 2015-2020, more than doubling the industrial sector (4.39%) and the service sector (3.82%). This showed that the Mekong Delta still had vast room for structural transformation and productivity growth. However, paradoxically, agricultural labor productivity was much higher than that of the industry and service sectors.

In the long term, economic growth and prosperity will not come from agriculture but from industry and services. Therefore, clearly figuring out and gradually removing bottlenecks in industrial and service development is necessary for Mekong Delta development.

Economically, the Mekong Delta is facing at least three

"downward spirals" including "budget spiral", "labor spiral" and "economic structural spiral".

A bottleneck that appears in all discussions of annual reports 2020 and 2022 is governance, coordination and regional connectivity mechanisms which are currently ineffective while the "centrifugal" force of regional connectivity is strong and the "radial" force is very weak.

In that context, the Mekong Delta Integrated Plan comes as a legal foundation for creating and fostering regional cooperation and linkage. This plan, once implemented, will produce an inclusive impact on the regional economy, especially on the transformation of agriculture, infrastructure and logistics systems.

To carry out new orientations of Integrated Planning, many prerequisite conditions are required, with the most important being fundamental changes in development thinking and vision. It is necessary to build substantive and effective regional governance and linkage institutions.

To develop the Mekong Delta, it is important to remove bottlenecks and necessarily search for new development drivers. In 2020 and 2021, the energy industry of the region emerged as a leading light, which accounts for less than 10% of total licensed projects but takes more than 60% of the total FDI fund.

However, according to experts, Mekong Delta localities need to think over energy development plans and projects. Meanwhile, gas thermal power is facing many risks, solar power is confronting policy changes and biomass energy does not have an appropriate policy framework.

"The Government has also approved the Integrated Master Plan for the Mekong Delta in 2021-2030, with a vision to 2050," announced in June. But what concerns now is how Mekong Delta localities can cooperate to take advantage. If development is sporadic or caught into a race to the bottom, it will be very difficult for them to take an opportunity to make breakthrough development," said Mr. Vu Thanh Tu Anh.

Strengthening connectivity, sustainability

VCCI President Pham Tan Cong highly appreciated the thorough efforts of VCCI Can Tho Branch as well as the cooperation of Fulbright University Vietnam and experts to compile the report.

He said, the Mekong Delta is facing great challenges due to climate change, economic decline, labor shortage due to migration and substandard inputs for export. The region was further aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Before these challenges and difficulties, the Party, the National Assembly and Government have introduced many guidelines and policies for this region's development. The latest is Resolution 13-NQ/TW dated April 2, 2022 of the Politburo on directions for socioeconomic development, national defense and security of the Mekong Delta to 2030, with a vision to 2045. The Government approved the Integrated Master Plan for the Mekong Delta in the 2021-2030 period, with a vision to 2050 in February 2022 and announced it in June 2022. These lay the groundwork for planning and reshaping production, economic and social development processes of the Mekong Delta by fostering sustainable development, turning challenges into opportunities, transforming the growth model to enhance effectiveness and performance, shifting from fragmentation to concentration, and strengthening connectivity with Ho Chi Minh City and the Southeast region. "This is undoubtedly an opportunity and a new foundation for the Mekong Delta to shape and establish a new development pattern," said Mr. Cong.

VCCI President Cong said, to realize resolutions, guidelines

and policies of the Party, the National Assembly and the Government, local authorities need to take concrete steps and the business community needs to approach consistent development orientations and strategies.

"From the Annual Economic Report 2022 of the Mekong Delta, VCCI wants to deliver to local governments, international organizations, donors, domestic and foreign businesses the message: The Mekong Delta is seeing great opportunities, let's seize these opportunities and join hands for rapid but sustainable development," he emphasized.

From a local perspective, Mr. Tran Viet Truong, Chairman of Can Tho City People's Committee, said, the city determined that the logistics system is considered the "backbone" to create competitiveness for enterprises in the Mekong Delta. Therefore, Can Tho City is completing a plan for a 242-ha regional logistics center to facilitate the agricultural and aquatic processing industry to improve competitiveness and drive manufacturing industries.

"Can Tho is also completing a project for the establishment of Mekong Delta Center for Agricultural Cooperation, Production, Processing and Consumption and submit it to the Prime Minister for approval to modernize the agricultural sector in the Mekong Delta," he added.

From an international perspective, Madam Caitlin Wiesen, Chief Representative of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Vietnam, said, this report came at a time when provincial authorities in the Mekong Delta were starting to design their provincial plans following the Government-adopted regional master plan last month.

The report provides rich and valuable data and information for planning purposes. Provinces need to act together to achieve economies of scale in public investment, logistics, water conservation, flood control and agricultural production system development. In particular, they need to share information on risks of saltwater intrusion and drought in agricultural, forestry and fishery development plans in ecological sub-regions.

"Social, economic, environmental and climate challenges cannot be addressed separately but localities must act together," she recommended.

Representing development partners, Madam Carolyn Turk, WB Country Director for Vietnam, emphasized the importance of the private sector in mobilizing resources for the implementation of the Regional Master Plan. She estimated that at least US\$57 billion will be needed to finance necessary investments in the region identified in the master plan between now and 2030. With this huge financial need, the public budget can only meet 21% while 79% will come from other sources, and private finance must be the main contributor.

"VCCI needs to promote its role as an important focal point for policymakers and the business community, coordinate with important researchers and consultants and the WB is willing to join to provide technical support and financial consulting," she said. ■



Promoting Corporate Governance and Sustainable Business



With the goal of raising awareness and promoting corporate governance and sustainable business, the Program on Benchmarking and Announcing Sustainable Companies in Vietnam (CSI) has attracted 1,500 businesses nationwide to submit applications. Mr. **Nguyen Quang Vinh**, Executive Vice President of Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI), Chairman of the Vietnam Business Council for Sustainable Development (VBCSD) talked about this topic with Vietnam Business Forum. **Huong Ly** reports.

Two months after launching, how has the CSI 2022 Program been implemented? What are your initial assessments of businesses participating in this year's program?

2022 is the 7th consecutive year that the Program on Benchmarking and Announcing Sustainable Companies in Vietnam is hosted by VCCI in collaboration with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs, and the Vietnam General Confederation of Labor. Since the Launching Ceremony in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City in May, we have actively implemented business training and communication activities about the program through many channels. In early July, we organized two training courses on sustainable corporate governance and the application of the CSI Index specifically designed for Rubber Associations and Groups and for businesses in general which attracted more than 200 representatives of different enterprises.

According to the Organizing Committee's statistics, although there is still one month left until the deadline for the final submission of businesses, up to now, the system has recorded the participation of nearly 200 applications, including many businesses submitting for the first time. Companies participating in the program have different sizes and operate in many fields, focusing on key industries and services of the Vietnamese economy, such as financial services, logistics, real estate, production, agro-forestry processing, textiles, consumer goods production.

Can you tell us about VBCSD's support activities for participating businesses before, during and after the CSI 2022 Program?

During the process of receiving applications, the Organizing Committee always supports businesses both in terms of expertise and procedures to participate. In the training courses, we fully answered the questions of businesses about the benefits of participating in the program, the rules of participation, the contents of the Index, and the correct and effective way to fill out the online application form. Enterprises participating in the training could acquire experiences from representatives of companies with good sustainable development practices in general, as well as being honored as Sustainable Enterprises for many years in particular. In the coming time, we will continue to organize a training course combining face-to-face and online forms- to support more businesses.



VIETNAM BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (VBCSD)

**Sustainable Business,
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A new feature of the CSI 2022 Program is that this year, the Organizing Committee only accepts applications via online form. Therefore, we also receive many questions and requests for technical support so that businesses can declare documents on the system timely and accurately.

According to the practice of previous CSI editions, after the Announcement Ceremony, the Organizing Committee will send the enterprises an assessment of the profile, noting the good points and the ones that need to be improved in their dossier. This assessment not only helps enterprises "upgrade" their profile in the following years, but also provides a new objective perspective on the enterprise's governance, production and business operations, through which the enterprises can promote their strengths and promptly overcome their own "gaps".

After six years of implementation, how has the Program on Benchmarking and Announcing Sustainable Companies in Vietnam impacted the business community, sir?

It should be noted that the CSI Program is more than just an assessment and award program for businesses. Above all, the CSI Program aims to promote the business community to "think differently, do differently". Enterprises need to change from a profit-oriented business mindset to a responsible business. To survive and stand on a fiercely competitive playing field like today, companies are forced to apply a methodical, scientific and transparent corporate governance system to be able to better retain and attract investors. Raising awareness and promoting corporate governance and sustainable business is the ultimate goal of the CSI Program.

After six editions of CSI, we have noticed that the number of Vietnamese enterprises participating in the Program is gradually increasing. Most recently, in 2021, the percentages of Vietnamese and foreign enterprises achieving the title of top 10 sustainable development were 55% and 45%, respectively; in the top 100, the percentages were 63% and 27% respectively. This shows that the readiness, transformation trend and ability of Vietnamese enterprises to respond to sustainable business are increasingly strong and progressive.

We have also received a lot of feedback from businesses over the past two years, through the four outbreaks of the COVID-19 pandemic. Companies implementing sustainable development strategies in general and applying the CSI Index in particular have shown a much better resilience than those that don't. These businesses have more resilience, so their recovery capability is also higher. That is a very good signal, reinforcing the confidence of businesses implementing sustainable development. Sustainable development is certainly not an easy path, but it will bring many "sweet fruits" worthy of the enterprise's efforts.

Thank you very much!

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The Program on Benchmarking and Announcing Sustainable Companies in Vietnam in 2022 accepts applications from businesses in all fields, regardless of size. The program does not collect any fees from businesses.

The deadline for receiving business applications is August 31, 2022. Interested businesses can refer to the CSI 2022 Program information at the website <https://vbcsd.vn/csi/>

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VCCI, KBIZ Boost Cooperation in Vietnam - Korea Business Matching

At the reception of Mr. Kim Ki Mun, Chairman of the Korea Federation of SMEs (KBIZ), Mr. Pham Tan Cong, President of the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI), emphasized that this is a golden time to support Vietnamese and Korean businesses to recover and strengthen connectivity.

62,000 companies in Vietnam have been established or resumed operations in the year to date, an increase of 38.2% over the same period of 2021. Most of them are small and medium in size. Many companies once hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic have now resumed business operations. Therefore, KBIZ and VCCI need to seize this golden time to help them recover.

Mr. Cong highly appreciated KBIZ's role in providing much effective support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) of the two countries in the past 10 years and helping bolster economic and trade cooperation between Vietnam and Korea.

He also expressed his pleasure that the recent formation of the Vietnam - Korea SME Support Center will create momentum for many Korean businesses to come to Vietnam and many Vietnamese companies to find new reliable partners in Korea.

VCCI President Pham Tan Cong said VCCI is willing to join hands and join forces with KBIZ Office and Vietnam - Korea SME Support Center to enhance competitiveness for enterprises of the two countries and assist them to join global supply chains. At the same time, the two business communities will further promote their trade and investment cooperation.

On behalf of the Korea Federation of SMEs (KBIZ), Chairman Kim Ki Mun also expressed the need for the two sides to tighten cooperation and expand exchange between SMEs with the support of trade and investment promotion programs.

In addition, he asked VCCI to coordinate in organizing the 2nd Baekdu Investment Economic Forum in Hanoi, expected to gather more than 100 Korean firms.

Huong Ly

More Efforts Needed to Control Inflation, Stabilize Macro-economy

After the US Federal Reserve (Fed) raised interest rates by 0.75 percentage points on the night of July 27, and central banks in many countries had many interest rate hikes to cope with the recent sharp increase in inflation, on the morning of July 28, Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh chaired a meeting with leaders of a number of ministries and sectors to discuss appropriate solutions and countermeasures both in the immediate and long term to continue controlling inflation, stabilizing macro-economy and promoting socio-economic recovery and development.

According to reports by ministries, sectors and assessments of many domestic and international organizations, in the context of a very difficult and unstable international situation, especially the conflict in Ukraine and the unpredictable development of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Vietnam has been flexibly and effectively operating the macroeconomy in the right direction, and achieved many important results. Vietnam is a bright spot in controlling inflation, stabilizing the macro-economy, ensuring major balances of the economy and strong growth recovery.

In the face of more difficulties and challenges, the Prime Minister requested ministries and sectors, according to their assigned functions, tasks and powers, to focus on closely monitoring the situation; promoting successful lessons learned in macroeconomic management over the past time, improving analysis and forecast capacity; setting out timely and long-term goals, tasks and solutions; proactively issuing appropriate, timely, scientific and effective policies.

The Prime Minister emphasized that the number one priority was to continue controlling inflation, stabilizing the macro-economy, ensuring major balances, fighting recession, promoting economic recovery, and stabilizing the material and spiritual life of the people. It is important to pay attention to the prevention and control of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially promoting vaccination. It is necessary to continue to accelerate the restructuring of the economy, renew the growth model, increase the application of science and technology, promote digital transformation, develop the green economy, circular economy, respond to climate change, and lay the foundation for sustainable development.

The Prime Minister directed that it was crucial to continue to coordinate harmoniously, reasonably, synchronously, closely, flexibly and effectively between monetary policy, fiscal policy and

other macro policies. In particular, it is essential to adopt a prudent, flexible, certain and effective monetary policy; manage the exchange rate and interest rates stably and reasonably, support businesses, continue to effectively combat dollarization and goldization; ensure reasonable credit growth, focus on production and business, real estate development in industrial zones and social housing.

It is critical to implement the expansionary fiscal policy rationally and effectively; strive to increase revenue and save expenses; continue to review and reduce taxes, fees, charges and input costs for businesses. It is important to further accelerate and drastically disburse public investment capital, attract private and foreign investment, utilize state resources to activate and lead all other legal resources, and contribute to job creation and growth promotion. It is required to effectively implement the program of socio-economic recovery and development, and three national target programs.

It is essential to strongly develop the domestic market; diversify markets, strongly promote exports; strengthen the prevention of smuggling and trade fraud. Besides, it is vital to ensure electricity for production, consumption as well as food security. It is necessary to strongly develop the labor market, and ensure to meet the needs of the economy. It is important to develop the capital market, corporate bond market, and real estate market in a safe, transparent, efficient and sustainable manner. Prices and markets should be strictly controlled, especially of commodities that are strategic and essential for production and life. Recently, the price of gasoline and oil has decreased, the Prime Minister asked the ministries and functional agencies to review, and have appropriate policies and solutions to reduce the prices of related goods and services, contributing to reducing inflation pressure. It is crucial to continue to effectively handle outstanding problems, especially long-lasting inefficient projects.

Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh requested the direction of macro management to ensure the overall, methodical, scientific, effective and reasonable performance in both the immediate and long term; assigned the Ministry of Planning and Investment to lead and coordinate with relevant agencies to regularly consult experts and scientists, consolidate and promote the role of the Macroeconomic Coordination Group in directing and administering socio-economic development in the coming time. ■



About US\$4.7 Bln of ASEAN Poured into Vietnam

Processing industry, real estate lead in investment capital

According to the Foreign Investment Agency (Ministry of Planning and Investment), as of July 20, the total foreign investment capital registered for new, adjusted and contributed capital to buy shares and purchase contributed capital reached over US\$15.4 billion, approximately 93% over the same period in 2021. In which, adjusted capital and contributed capital increased sharply by 59% and nearly 26% respectively.

Notably, the realized capital of foreign investment projects is estimated at nearly US\$11.6 billion, up 10.2% over the same period in 2021.

The whole country has over 900 newly licensed projects (down 7.9% from the same period) with a total capital of over US\$5.7 billion (down 43.5% over the same period). In addition, there were nearly 580 project investment capital adjustments (up 3.2% over the same period). In addition, the total additional capital reached over US\$7.2 billion and the total value of contributed capital reached over US\$2.6 billion.

The manufacturing and processing industry leads 18 economic sectors with a total investment capital of over US\$10 billion, accounting for 64.3% of total registered investment capital.

Real estate business ranked second with total investment capital of over US\$3.21 billion, accounting for nearly 20.7% of total registered investment capital.

Next are the science and technology with a total investment of nearly US\$526.2 million, and the information and communication industry with a total investment of US\$465 million.

Wholesale and retail, the manufacturing and processing industry and professional science and technology activities are the industries that attract the most new projects, accounting for 30.5%, 26.6% and 15.7% of the total, respectively.

Singapore leads Southeast Asian countries to invest in Vietnam

Of the total investment capital of about US\$4.7 billion from Southeast Asian countries pouring into Vietnam, Singapore leads with 121 new projects with a total investment of US\$4.3 billion, accounting for 27.7% of the total investment capital in Vietnam. Singapore's investment projects in Vietnam are most concentrated in the processing industry, accounting for about 40% of Singapore's total

Foreign direct investment (FDI) into Vietnam in the first seven months of 2022 increased by 93%, of which Singapore led the Southeast Asian countries investing in Vietnam.

GIANG TU

investment in Vietnam. The second is real estate business, accounting for about 27%; followed by electricity generation, accounting for about 18% of Singapore's total investment in Vietnam.

Thailand ranked second with 18 newly licensed projects and total investment capital of US\$212.11 million. Thailand's FDI projects in Vietnam are mostly small-scale under US\$10 million, accounting for more than 77% of total investment projects. The field that attracts many Thai FDI projects is the processing and manufacturing industry.

In third place is Malaysia with 16 new projects and US\$144.98 million invested in Vietnam.

Up to now, Thai enterprises have invested in 48 out of 63 and cities of Vietnam, but mainly concentrated in big cities and provinces with relatively favorable infrastructure conditions.

Next, Malaysian investment projects are most concentrated in the field of education and training, accounting for 27% of the total registered investment capital; second is the processing and manufacturing industry, accounting for 22% of the total registered investment capital; followed by the field of electricity production, accounting for 21% of the total registered investment capital in Vietnam.

In addition, other countries in the region such as Brunei, Cambodia, the Philippines and Indonesia also invest in Vietnam, but the projects of these countries are relatively small in scale. ■



TEXTILE AND GARMENT INDUSTRY

Improving Adaptability to Weather the Storm



Although in the first six months, the export turnover of Vietnam's textile and garment industry reached US\$22.3 billion, up 17.7% over the same period in 2021, the sector will still face numerous hardships, said Mr. **Vu Duc Giang**, Chairman of the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association in an interview with Vietnam Business Forum regarding the six-month performance and the effort to achieve US\$42-43 billion of export value in 2022. **Thu Huyen** reports.

Despite a lot of difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, did the textile and garment industry obtain better-than-expected export value in the first six months of the year?

The textile and garment export value reached US\$22.3 billion, up 17.7% year on year in the first six months of 2022, including apparel with US\$16.94 billion (up 19.5%), materials with US\$1.4 billion (up 20.8%), fibers with US\$2.76 billion (up 4.4%), accessories with US\$ 734 million (up 22.3%) and non-woven fabrics with US\$452 million (up 25.5%).

Input and accessory imports reached US\$13.4 billion, up 9.8% year on year. The trade surplus was US\$8.86 billion in the period, 32% more than a year ago. This can be viewed as a great effort of textile and garment firms when the world economy is still facing enormous difficulties.

What caused that success?

Quick adaptation and quick capture of opportunities brought that success amid mounting challenges.

The first factor was the safe and flexible adaptation to and effective control of the COVID-19 pandemic as per the Governmental Resolution - the legal framework to open the door for industries, including the textile and garment industry.

In addition, admittedly, textile and garment companies quickly restructured their products and the market. Export textile and garment orders were relatively stable, especially from the five largest markets in the order of value: The United States, the European Union, Japan, South Korea, and China.

In fact, Vietnamese textile and garment companies continue to invest in equipment, technology, and automation to meet customers' requirements for fast delivery and sophisticated orders. In spite of labor shortages due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Vietnam's textile and garment industry

still kept technology and management solutions and labor productivity remained relatively good as in previous years.

Another factor was the chain link solution. From January to June, the share of imported textile and garment inputs contracted from a year earlier. Difficulties from shorter delivery time, rising transport costs, China's "zero-COVID" policy and supply disruption from China to Vietnam created opportunities for Vietnamese companies to actively seek domestic input supplies. The chain link helped improve the outcome of Vietnamese textiles and garments.

System administration and cost management are the driving force for enterprises. Given only logistics pressures, it will be very difficult for enterprises if they cannot reduce domestic transportation and export transportation. Governance solutions gave rise to such cost pressures.

What will Vietnam's textile and garment industry focus on to achieve the export target of US\$42-43 billion this year?

There are two factors to this matter: Challenge and the solution.

Although the export performance was quite good in the first and second quarters, Vietnam's textile and garment industry is likely to face huge challenges of inflation and contracting global purchasing power in the third quarter and possibly the fourth quarter of this year. In particular, inventories of importing countries resulted in a starting decline in orders for Vietnam's traditional key products. Some export items are likely to face shrinkage till the first quarter of 2023. When the global purchasing power contracts, the Vietnamese textile and garment sector is forced to look for new markets and create new products. The transition from previously specialized products to non-specialized products

has led to new challenges due to the need to replace workers and invest in new equipment, which affects labor productivity and income of workers and affects the cost of ensuring minimum wages for employees and enterprises.

To address these three challenges, the Vietnamese textile and garment industry has come up with five solutions to recommend for businesses.

Firstly, textile and garment companies must focus on fundamental changes in the structure of previous traditional markets such as the U.S., Europe, Japan, South Korea and China, penetrate new markets such as the Middle East, invest in export items for Africa, or restructure some items to export back to China.

Secondly, the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association and businesses continue to call for investment and stimulate investment in supply sources that are short. Currently, the textile and garment industry is calling on investors to invest in raw materials, fabrics and yarns to prepare for a stable and sustainable development strategy from 2023 onwards.

Thirdly, Vietnam's textile and garment industry is facing great pressure on labor competition, labor transformation and the labor movement to rural and remote areas. Thus, the sector is encouraging businesses to further invest in digital equipment, digital management and automation technology to take the initiative in labor and enhance labor productivity.

Fourthly, it is necessary to strengthen closer chain links, and enhance support and sharing among businesses, especially orders, to enable them to establish cooperation for the development path ahead. In addition, the textile and garment industry is fostering equipment and technology investment for textile dyeing and printing and seeking to produce several types of yarns and fabrics.

Finally, it is important to accelerate integration to demonstrate the social responsibility of a Vietnamese product. This is exactly what the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association has done for many years by launching green development programs and sustainable development programs together with Vietnamese textile and garment companies seeking sustainable development.

Thank you very much!



Boosting Trade Promotion via Vietnam Trade Offices Abroad

After a series of unexpected events such as trade wars, pandemics and military conflicts, most exporters have realized that they cannot depend on a few traditional markets. A very effective solution to expand and diversify markets is to promote trade via Vietnamese trade offices in foreign countries.

HUONG LY

Optimistic signals from foreign markets

In the first seven months of 2022, imports and exports continued to grow strongly, rising 15.7% year on year to over US\$435 billion (with exports looking up 16.8%). Vietnam continued to enjoy a trade surplus during the period and positively helped the country's economic growth.

Representatives of many Vietnamese trade offices shared the common viewpoint that Vietnamese goods currently have a lot of room in export markets, especially agricultural products, fruits and seafood.

From January to July, China's domestic demand dropped sharply and many of its factories suspended production due to the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak. However, Vietnam's exports to this neighboring market remained positive. Agricultural and aquatic exports increased sharply, with fish and crustaceans bringing about US\$844 million (a sharp growth); fruits and nuts generating US\$910 million (up 53.4% year on year); and dragon fruit earning US\$377 million with 415,600 tons shipped.

For Australia, Vietnam continued to see strong growth momentum in imports and exports in the first six months of 2022. The two-way trade climbed 38.45% to more than US\$8.01 billion for the first time. Vietnam's strong and growing exports





included coffee, seafood, iron and steel and electronic components. In particular, iron and steel products jumped 548.63%; cameras, camcorders and components surged 136.6%; coffee soared more than 106.78%; machinery, equipment and parts leaped more than 91.47%. Vegetables, fruits and rice also staged double-digit growth.

Vietnamese trade offices in the Nordic market (except for Finland) said that Vietnam's imports and exports also recorded positive results. The two-way trade value amounted to US\$1.6 billion, up 16% over the same period of 2021. Of the sum, Vietnam's exports to this region are valued at US\$1.1 billion, up 25%.

Specifically, Vietnam's trade with Sweden rose 14% to US\$811 million. The value with Denmark and Norway was US\$382 million and US\$263 million, up 24% and 7%, respectively.

Many markets have introduced favorable policies for Vietnamese exports. The Vietnam Trade Office in Egypt informed that Egypt has gradually simplified and clarified import regulations. The country has applied for electronic customs clearance since October 2021 under which goods must be registered 48 hours before being exported and has now expanded to airborne cargo. In addition, the San Francisco Trade Office (USA) said that, in 2022 and 2023, it will have a series of connections and forums between Oregon, Colorado and the West Coast of the United States with Vietnamese localities and businesses.

"Extended arms" of exporters

Minister of Industry and Trade Nguyen Hong Dien said that, foreign trade has played an important and positive role in outstanding export achievements, pointing to Vietnamese trade offices in foreign countries which provide timely information, guidance and support to localities, industry associations, the business community to promote and

introduce their products and make good use of opportunities from free trade agreements (FTAs) that Vietnam is a signatory to expand, develop and diversify markets and exports.

Highly appreciating the coordination of the Vietnamese trade office system abroad, Mr. Vu Ba Phu, Director of the Vietnam Trade Promotion Agency (Vietrade) under the Ministry of Industry and Trade, said overseas Vietnamese trade offices have actively carried out the National Program on Trade Promotion as planned, organized the Vietnam International Trade Expo 2022, and led Vietnamese business delegations to participate to large and prestigious fairs and exhibitions in foreign nations.

He underscored close and timely coordination among the Trade Office system, the Vietnam Trade Promotion Agency and the Trade Remedies Authority of Vietnam (TRAV) and related agencies in proactively responding to trade remedies (anti-dumping and anti-subsidy) applied by host countries to Vietnam's exports, enabling them to propose appropriate response measures and policies and informing the matters on mass media to recommend, orient and guide businesses.

Many positive trade promotion results made by overseas Vietnamese trade offices have been appreciated. Remarkable cases included the regained control of more than 100 containers in Italy or the European Commission (EC)'s decision to launch a roadmap to reduce official and urgent control of dragon fruits. Vermicelli, rice noodles and pho are not required to be added to food safety certificates.

To support exports, a representative of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development of Son La province expressed his wish that Vietnamese trade offices in foreign countries will strengthen coordination and information exchange with provinces and cities on agricultural products (import conditions, consumer tastes and reputable importers) and connect with Vietnamese-owned enterprises in other countries and foreign importers of agricultural products.

Mr. NONG DUC LAI

COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR, VIETNAM TRADE OFFICE IN CHINA

Updated policies from major markets

Recently, China has made some adjustments to import and export policies, which help Vietnamese exports. According to its recent import policy, China does not require suspending imports of frozen seafood shipments if COVID-19 is detected. Besides, this country has allowed importing passion fruits, opening the pilot door to durian imported from Vietnam in July. These are good signals for Vietnamese businesses because China is a major trading partner in the world.

China's strict COVID-19 pandemic control policy caused its GDP growth to slow sharply in the first half of the year. Therefore, China has taken many measures to revive the economy and boost its domestic demand. Although this market has signaled to relax import conditions, the Vietnam Trade Office in China still recommends that producers and traders of imported frozen seafood need focus on food safety management from the source to avoid being included in the list of import restrictions.

As for fresh agricultural, forest and aquatic products, Vietnamese businesses still need to implement strict epidemic prevention measures to minimize shipments that are found to be infected with COVID-19. Fresh fruits that have just been licensed for export to China must comply with packaging requirements and instructions. Passion fruit needs to be exported at seven permitted border gates, not other ones.

Mr. NGUYEN PHU HOA

DIRECTOR OF VIETNAM TRADE OFFICE IN AUSTRALIA

Room remains vast for agricultural products

Given their development potential, the trade prospects of Vietnam and Australia will grow even better, likely to surpass the forecast of US\$15 billion in 2022. Among strong exports, I believe that agricultural products will continue to go further if we market well, guarantee product quality and keep up to import standards. The Trade Office in Australia has identified market trends, determined pathways and approaches, and showed how to develop brands for Vietnamese frozen agricultural products. Businesses and localities need to be confident to bring Vietnamese agricultural brands to Australia. Currently, frozen durian,

rice and jackfruit are sold in some supermarkets in Australia. Frozen red and yellow jackfruits exported to Australia are always sold out. Besides, frozen avocado and ginger are also being sold well in Australia. This shows that Australia has a lot of room for agricultural products, especially frozen agricultural products.

Ms. NGUYEN THI HOANG THUY

VIETNAM TRADE COUNSELOR IN SWEDEN (CONCURRENTLY DENMARK, FINLAND, ICELAND, NORWAY AND LATVIA)

Avoiding market domino effects

Last May, the EU issued regulations on maximum residue limits of pesticides and herbicides in agricultural products imported into this market. In compliance with EU regulations, Norway has implemented the National Monitoring Program and the Norwegian Food Safety Authority has tested certain types of food products for pesticide residues and maximum residue limit (MRL) in Norway.

In less than two months, three samples of Vietnamese rice, when tested, exceeded the maximum residue limit and was ordered to be recalled on the media. This seriously affected the image of Vietnamese rice and the food will be subject to increased inspection in the near future. Therefore, the Trade Office there asked localities and associations to warn businesses to avoid market domino effects.

In addition, in order to support businesses to tap the Nordic market in the near future, the Vietnam Trade Office in Sweden recommends that businesses need to strengthen advertising to increase the presence of Vietnamese goods in the market. As long as consumers know about Vietnamese goods, businesses will import more of many Vietnamese goods even if they do not import directly from Vietnam, but through other agencies in other EU countries, it will also help increase Vietnam's export value.

Furthermore, the Trade Office encourages businesses to focus on attracting investment in high-quality industries for export; draw giant retailers of Northern Europe, which already have global distribution networks, to locate their production bases in Vietnam for export back into their distribution systems. Thus, Vietnamese companies can take advantage of the distribution channels of these corporations, not only drawing more of their investment fund to boost export turnover to Nordic countries, but also increase exports to other countries.

A representative of the Vietnam Rubber Association also hoped that Vietnamese trade offices will help and advise Vietnamese businesses on legal affairs when they face difficulties and problems with partners and/or authorities in foreign countries.

Mr. Pham Van Viet, President of the Board of Directors of

Viet Thang Jean Co., Ltd, said that, in the long term, businesses will need support from authorities, specifically counselors and trade offices of Vietnam abroad to connect with importers, find markets for outputs and source more prestigious and more efficient input supplies. ■

CAN THO UNLEASHING RESOURCES FOR STRONGER DEVELOPMENT



Carrying out Resolution 59-NQ/TW of the Politburo dated August 5, 2020 on Can Tho City construction and development to 2030, with a vision to 2045 and Resolution 45/2022/QH15 of the 15th National Assembly dated January 11, 2022 on piloting several specific mechanisms and policies for Can Tho City development, the political system, people and businesses of the city are strongly joining forces to implement and realize these resolutions in order to unlock resources for accelerated development. Mr. Tran Viet Truong, Chairman of the Can Tho City People's Committee, gives an exclusive interview on this issue to our reporter. Ngo Khuyen reports.

After more than a year of enforcing the Resolution of the 14th Can Tho City Party Congress, how have the Party Committee and the People's Committee of Can Tho City carried out three strategic breakthroughs set for the 2020 - 2025 term?

The 14th City Party Congress (2020 - 2025 term) defines three breakthrough stages: (1) Improving the quality of human resources, focusing on building a contingent of leaders at all levels and top-notch industry experts, professional staff with strong political spirit, good professional skills, qualified, capable and prestigious virtues to meet work requirements in the international integration period. (2) Mobilizing all resources to attract investment funds, build synchronous and modern socioeconomic infrastructure, with a focus on constructing urban, traffic and logistics infrastructure; developing financial markets, trade, services, tourism and hi-tech agriculture; accelerating administrative reform, building and action and service-driven e-government. (3) Grasping opportunities of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, strongly developing information and communication technology (ICT) infrastructure; science - technology and innovation infrastructure to achieve breakthrough progress in productivity, quality, efficiency and competitiveness.

Over the past time, Can Tho City has put forth many approaches and solutions to carry out the three breakthrough stages. The City People's Committee has issued annual plans for training and fostering public employees and, at the same time, implemented the city's goals and tasks. The City Party Committee issued Resolution 09-NQ/TU dated December 29, 2021 on "Training, fostering and improving quality of human resources, building a contingent of qualified, capable and reliable leaders at all levels to meet requirements and tasks in 2020 - 2025". Besides, we have also paid attention to improving the quality of public employees; and applied policies to attract, support and encourage human resources.

We have concentrated on speeding up the Can Tho City development planning in 2021 - 2030, with a vision to 2050. We have held meetings with relevant agencies and districts; closely coordinated



Leaders of Can Tho city pay a working visit to a company in Tra Noc Industrial Park

with consultants; proposed sectoral, field and local space development plans; promptly updated and paced up implementation progress. The city has stepped up synchronous and modern infrastructure construction; connected its infrastructure with Mekong Delta provinces and cities; focused resources for breakthrough projects and programs, and transport infrastructure development projects to create a new driving force for investment attraction.

We have carried out the National Target Program on New Rural Development to improve urbanization and livelihoods in the countryside. All communes and districts have met new rural development standards, half of which have reached advanced new rural development standards. We have also achieved positive results in other fields like education and training, healthcare, culture, sports and tourism.

To develop science, technology and digital transformation, the City People's Committee issued Decision 764/QĐ-UBND dated April 13, 2021 on the list of key technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution prioritized with resources for research, development and application in consistence with socio-economic development strategies and plans in four areas where Can Tho City has competitive advantages: Digital technology, physics, biotechnology, and energy and environment. The city has further accelerated the construction of Can Tho digital transformation programs according to the Prime Minister's Decision 749/QĐ-TTg dated June 3, 2020 on "National Digital Transformation Program to 2025, with a vision to 2030". The City People's Committee also promulgated Plan 200/KH-UBND dated September 28, 2021 on supporting agricultural production households to join e-commerce platforms and boosting digital agricultural economy development.

The Can Tho People's Committee also launched plans to effectively carry out support programs for the innovation startup ecosystem, develop intellectual property, improve quality and productivity and upgrade technology to assist local businesses, and achieved many optimistic results. The Can Tho Intelligent City Operation Center came into operation in March 2021 to meet local needs. The city also approved projects with the aim of building Can Tho into a smart city in the 2021 – 2025 period.

There are many obstacles in policy mechanisms, growth patterns and strategic infrastructure (transport, urban and digital) in realizing the goal of developing Can Tho City into "a center of industry,



Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh at the conference to announce the Master Plan and investment promotion program for the Mekong Delta in the 2021-2030 period

commercial services, tourism and logistics, a nucleus city of the Mekong Delta". What can be done to address these obstacles?

In the spirit of Resolution 59-NQ/TW dated August 5, 2020 of the Politburo on Can Tho City development to 2045, which aims to make "Can Tho a modern ecological, civilized city characterized with the Mekong River and water identity", Resolution of the 14th Can Tho City Party Congress (2020 - 2025 term) concretized tasks and solutions for Can Tho City construction and development in the 2020 - 2025 period. The resolutions described and pointed out shortcomings and limitations in urban construction and development in the past time. (1) planning and its management, specially urban planning, are unsustainable, improvident and low-quality; (2) non-modern and non-synchronous socioeconomic infrastructure, especially transport infrastructure, is a bottleneck to Can Tho development and regional connectivity; (3) urban areas have not really adapted to climate change and large-scale pandemics.

To deal with the above shortcomings and limitations, in 2022 and beyond, Can Tho City will continue to perfect its construction planning and urban planning system to lay a legal basis for (domestic and foreign) investment attraction in order to boost local socioeconomic development. Specifically, the city will complete and submit for approval the 1-to-5,000 O Mon district zoning planning (approved four out of five zoning planning projects in the city); complete formulating and advising tasks and the scheme for adjusting Can Tho City Master Plan; urge districts to complete building and submitting for approval their revised general plans and construction and urban plans in the coming period.

Additionally, Can Tho City will focus on reviewing and supporting investors to tackle difficulties and speed up the implementation of infrastructure construction and

development programs and projects in the city, especially Can Tho development projects, and enhance urban adaptability and key transport projects. It will continue to attract and call for investment funds from socialized sources for technical infrastructure development projects, especially urban water drainage and wastewater treatment projects and regional connection projects. It will actively participate in international cooperation, exchange and experience sharing; utilize resources and international support to invest in framework technical infrastructure development to connect and strengthen local and regional connectivity to increase the overall efficiency of manufacturing and business activities to draw more social investment resources.

How has Can Tho City improved its business investment environment and enhanced its competitiveness?

The city's leaders have paid due attention to improving the investment environment and sharpening competitiveness in recent years. As soon as the Government issued Resolution 02/NQ-CP on main tasks and solutions for improving the business environment and enhancing national competitiveness, the Municipal People's Committee launched Plan 17/KH-UBND dated January 19, 2022 on implementation of the Government's Resolution 02/NQ-CP in 2022, together with the Provincial Competitiveness Index (PCI) improvement in 2022, featuring 25 groups of solutions for each industry, field and locality with 35 specific tasks. These tasks and solutions focus on accelerating settlement of



administrative procedures, reducing the time required for this work, raising the rate of using online public services, receiving documents and returning results through public postal services; regularly reviewing, simplifying and reducing administrative procedures; implementing programs and plans for business development support such as technological innovation support program, intellectual property development program and quality and productivity improvement program.

Supporting businesses to adopt digital transformation is also the focus of 2022 and beyond. In addition, inspecting and supervising how the investment environment is improved and competitiveness is enhanced is regularly performed by the city to raise the outcome of plans, thus enabling and facilitating people and businesses to carry out production, business and investment in the city.

Thank you very much!



Improving Investment Capital Flow, Promoting Business Support

Can Tho city has been employing many solutions to attract investment and support businesses to improve their competitiveness. To find out more about this issue, Vietnam Business Forum had an interview with Mr. **Tran Phu Loc Thanh**, Deputy Director of the Department of Planning and Investment of Can Tho city.



How do you evaluate the investment attraction and business development in Can Tho city in recent years?

In recent years Can Tho has achieved remarkable results. By the end of May 31, 2022, the city had 181 ongoing projects, including 97 domestic direct investment (DDI) projects with a land area of 2,457.4 ha (the Department of Planning and Investment manages and monitors 65 projects with a total capital of VND36,452 billion) and 84 foreign direct investment (FDI) projects with a total capital of US\$2.05 billion. Major FDI projects include O Mon II Thermal Power Plant (US\$1.3 billion); sports shoe factory (US\$171.5 million); and solid waste treatment plant (US\$47 million).

As of May 31, 2022, the city had 10,003 active businesses with a total registered capital of VND103,005 billion and 2,061 branches and representative offices. They operate in trade and services (69%), construction industry (30%) and agriculture (01%).

In general, the city has always paid attention to investment attraction, especially FDI attraction and business development. Can Tho has always been active and proactive in introducing and promoting its image, position and potential, policies and calling for investment through many forms such as organizing trade and investment promotion; participating in investment promotion conferences, contacting and working directly with domestic and foreign partners. Besides, it has accelerated administrative procedure reforms, and effectively implemented programs to support enterprises such as Program to support small and medium enterprises in technology and equipment

innovation; Can Tho City Intellectual Property Development Program; Program to support enterprises to improve productivity and quality of products.

However, attracting investment still reveals limitations. FDI still accounts for a modest proportion and most FDI projects are small scale. The disbursement rate is still low compared to registered capital. Many projects are behind schedule, causing waste of land, and affecting people and the investment environment. Some problems in investment regulations have not been resolved, such as the approval of relevant planning and the approval of the list of projects that need to be recovered as a basis for calling for investment. 90% of enterprises are small-scale and mainly exploiting the domestic market.

What is the orientation of the city to attract investment?

On the basis of the development plan and available potentials and advantages, the city has determined the direction of investment attraction in the period of 2021-2025 including:

- By industry or field: attracting investment in the processing industry; high-tech agriculture; high-tech industry; infrastructure investment; eco-tourism services; information technology; electronics; logistics; clean energy. The city will focus on projects that improve productivity, quality, efficiency, efficient use and regeneration of resources that are environmentally friendly and have a high knowledge content, and give priority to new projects to build large-scale urban



☞ areas and houses, invest in synchronous and modern infrastructure, contributing to urbanization development in central districts next to Ninh Kieu, including O Mon, Binh Thuy and Cai Rang.

- By partners:

+ Regarding FDI: Encouraging and attracting investors with global brands, strong financial capacity and stable investment ability, and attracting investment in the production of ancillary products. The city will focus on investment cooperation with partners from Korea, Japan, Singapore, Taiwan, India, the United States and Europe.

+ Regarding DDI: Encouraging large, reputable enterprises. In addition, local businesses are encouraged to invest in the city-oriented projects, and actively associate with foreign partners to improve their capacity and competitiveness.

On April 5, 2022, the City People's Committee issued Plan 75/KH-UBND to implement Program 24-Ctr/TU dated December 31, 2021 of Can Tho City Party Committee on supporting small and medium enterprises, Start-up innovation and young talents in the period of 2021 - 2030. What do you expect from innovation and the improvement of local businesses?

In Can Tho, there are many organizations supporting startups and innovation, such as the Department of Planning and Investment, Department of Science and Technology, VCCI Can Tho, and Can Tho University.

According to the plan, the city strives to have 18,000 small and medium-sized enterprises by 2025. over 80% of them will apply information technology, digital technology and digital solutions and over 30% of the enterprises will involve innovative operations. In the period 2026-2030, the scale and competitiveness of enterprises will be improved. The city will consolidate and upgrade existing models of centralized and production linkages to develop into clusters of industry



Forum on Start-ups and Creative Innovation in the Mekong Delta

linkages and value chains in potential sectors of the economy.

To achieve the set goals, the city will focus on the following tasks and solutions: restoring and renewing production and business activities to suit the new situation; continuing to improve the business investment environment, creating favorable and fair conditions for enterprises; joining industry clusters and value chains; advancing digital transformation and legal support for businesses. For innovation startup support activities, the city will promote communication activities and creative start-up activities. The city will also connect the innovation startup ecosystems; and establish an Innovation Center in Can Tho city.

It is hoped that with the joint efforts, enterprises can create new competitive advantages, expand new markets, attract more resources from partners, and improve their reputation.

Can you assess the City's Market Entry Component Index? What solutions are you implementing to improve it?

In recent years, the city's market entry index has fluctuated year by year, ranging from over 7 to 8.65 points. Accordingly, the time for granting business registration is decreasing year by year. The time for processing new business registration dossiers is on average 2.2 days (3 working days as regulated).

The above results come from the drastic and synchronous implementation of the reform of business registration procedures from the central to local levels. The set of administrative procedures for business registration has been standardized. The administrative procedures are processed by the National Business Registration Information System. Other applications on the National Business Registration Portal, including the online business registration application have helped businesses enter the market. As of May 31, 2022, Can Tho's online business registration rate reached 71.27%. The Department of Planning and



Speeding up Site Clearance, Facilitating Land Access

According to the PCI Report 2021, Can Tho City ranked 12 as it scored 68.06 points, an increase of 1.73 points, to stand among very good performers and ranked 2nd out of 13 Mekong Delta provinces. Among 10 subindices, the Access to Land Index rose from 6.62 points in 2020 to 7.43 points, the sixth consecutive year of growth.

To achieve this result, in the past years, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment of Can Tho City has actively coordinated with relevant authorities to reduce the time of granting land-use right certificates; plan and clear grounds; hold meetings with investors and people to promptly grasp their land-related difficulties and obstacles. All administrative procedures have been reviewed, abolished and simplified to facilitate people and businesses.

Every year, the department reviews unused land and puts it into use to create favorable and equal conditions for businesses to access land resources.

In particular, in 2022, the department has coordinated to advise and implement Resolution 45/2022/QH15 dated January 11, 2022 of the National Assembly on piloting some specific mechanisms and policies for Can Tho City development. In particular, there are specific mechanisms to create an open environment to attract investors. Investment

Can Tho City has aggressively sped up site clearance to provide land for projects to be carried out as scheduled. This move has helped improve the Provincial Competitiveness Index (PCI) and draw more investors.

projects are publicly and transparently announced and all investors are allowed to take part in if they meet given conditions.

Furthermore, to improve site clearance, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment has coordinated with other agencies to promptly and properly carry out land compensation and resettlement support plans. It has informed, mobilized and created public consensus on land recovery and

directed investors to speed up resettlement construction to serve people.

Mr. Do Thanh Thao, Director of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, said, with its goal to 2030 and a vision to 2045, Can Tho City, as a nuclear city of the Mekong Delta, is selectively attracting investment, giving priority to green, clean, environmentally friendly and sustainable projects. In the coming time, the department will help advise on a plan to mobilize and create a clean land fund for investors. Besides, the agency is speeding up administrative procedure reform, building a cadastral records system and land management database, enhancing transparency and providing favorable and equal conditions for investors to access information.

“This has helped improve the PCI Index in particular and attract investment flows in general,” he said. ■

Investment has also piloted a model of returning the results of some business registration procedures within one working day. Problems hindering the business registration continue to be addressed in the coming time.

In the coming time, in order to raise the score of the market entry index, the city should do the following tasks:

- Improving the quality of guidance, receipt and return of business registration results, and conditional business licensing by specialized agencies.
- Promoting propaganda of online public service models at levels 3 and 4 in order to increase the rate of online submissions, and increase efficiency and transparency.
- Researching and proposing models to support businesses in carrying out administrative procedures to enter the market quickly and effectively.
- Training and improving professional skills for those in charge of guiding, receiving and returning results.
- Implementing the exchange of records, procedures and results between State agencies in the network environment, contributing to the building of digital government.
- Implementing digital transformation in business registration in particular and conditional licensing in general.

Thank you very much!



Raising Quality of Human Resources

Currently, Can Tho City is home to 72 vocational education facilities, including 14 colleges, eight intermediate schools, 21 vocational education centers and 29 other vocational training establishments. Human resource training and development has made much progress to meet the increasing demand of the labor market and facilitate structural transformation and local socioeconomic development.

Can Tho City has introduced many policies on vocational training, human resource development, especially high-quality personnel, in recent years. This is also considered one of three strategic breakthrough stages to boost local development in the coming time.

period while keeping the unemployment rate below 4%.

To accomplish these goals, in the coming time, the department will continue to mobilize resources to modernize facilities and equipment for better worker training; and focus on training professions that enterprises, the economy and society need, for example, building material production, mechanical engineering, processing, electricity, construction, agricultural production and processing, seafood and tourism services.

Besides, the department will align vocational education with market demands and enterprises' needs and strengthen cooperation agreements on vocational training and job creation between schools and enterprises.

"2022 is an important year of the 5-year plan (2021-2025) and the first year to implement the Resolution on piloting several specific mechanisms and policies for Can Tho City that the National Assembly adopted. The Department of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs aims to develop a flexible labor market, closely connect supply and demand, effectively use human resources, and increase the share of trained workers to support socio-economic development and make Can Tho an economic center of the Mekong Delta," she affirmed. ■



The structure of training professions closely follows the city's development orientations. Vocational education facilities have initially actively signed cooperation agreements with businesses for better worker training.

Ms. Tran Thi Xuan Mai, Director of the Department of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs of Can Tho City, said the Resolution of the 14th City Party Congress (2020-2025 term) defines improving the quality of human resources as one of the three strategic breakthrough stages.

In 2020 - 2025, Can Tho will raise the rate of trained workers to 80 - 85%; provide jobs for at least 80% of graduates, create 252,500 jobs and keep the unemployment rate to less than 4%. In 2026 - 2030, the rate of trained workers will be raised to 85 - 90%; at least 85% of vocational trainees will have jobs after being graduated. The city will generate 277,000 jobs in this

In addition to improving the quality of vocational education, the Department of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs of Can Tho City has promoted support for workers and ensured social security. In 2021, the city created over 46,500 jobs, equal to 92% of the yearly plan.

UNLOCKING ALL RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT



The delegation of Can Tho City Department of Industry and Trade at a working session with Can Tho Thermal Power Company

Can Tho City has been fostering flexible, creative and suitable solutions in the new context. In particular, the industry and trade sector is further improving efficiency and supporting businesses to make a post-pandemic recovery.

NGO SAN

Tapping potential

Importantly and strategically lying in the heart of the Mekong Delta economic region, the gateway to the Mekong downstream, and having an average GRDP growth of 7.53%, Can Tho City is both an economic locomotive and a trade and service center of the region.

In addition, Can Tho City is blessed with natural conditions and rich natural resources, rich alluvial and fertile soil. With an extensive river system, it has created favorable conditions for agricultural and aquatic production development. These conditions have created local outstanding advantages for the city to draw more investment capital.

By unlocking these potential strengths, the industry and trade sector of Can Tho City has maintained continuous development and made important

contributions to socioeconomic development.

In 2016-2020, Can Tho City's industrial production value accounted for 15.2% of the Mekong Delta, ranking second among 13 provinces and cities in the region, just after Long An province.

Besides industry, Can Tho has great potential for agricultural, service and commercial development. Especially, when the Mekong Delta cooperation center for agricultural production, processing and consumption is established, it will help stabilize agricultural output and increase agricultural value by downstream processing.

In 2022, the industry and trade sector of Can Tho targeted industrial growth of 3.5%, consumer retail revenue of VND177,330.94 billion (growing 10% year on year), merchandise export value and service revenue of US\$2.02 billion (up 11.7%); and merchandise import value of US\$500 million (up 3.09%).

The city is prioritizing investment in the processing industry, high-tech agriculture and livestock husbandry, post-harvest preservation, infrastructure investment, ecotourism services, information technology and electronics.

Intensifying business support

To support businesses, the industry and trade sector has focused on carrying out key tasks such as restructuring the sector, encouraging the development of potential and advantageous industries, fostering trade promotion, connecting trade, exporting goods and developing e-commerce.

In particular, with the theme of 2022 "Focus on effective control of the COVID-19 pandemic; safe and flexible adaptation to socioeconomic recovery and development", the sector has actively built a business support roadmap for production and trading expansion and restoration.

Accordingly, in the first phase (till the end of 2021), priority was given to essential sectors, supply chains, and materials for production and export. In the period from January 1, 2022 onwards, the sector has focused on stabilizing and supporting enterprises to restore production and enhance the adaptability of enterprises.

In order to support the business community to access e-commerce platforms, the city has further coordinated in



introducing local products on applications Voso.vn, Shopee.vn and Sendo.vn.

In addition, in the face of deep international integration, Vietnam has entered into many free trade agreements (FTAs). To capture these opportunities, Can Tho City has intensified communications and information updates on opportunities, challenges and tax incentives. The city regularly updates and posts information on local potential, investment opportunities, investment and trade promotion, business support and exhibitions on the website, www.canthopromotion.vn.

While strengthening trade promotion through conferences and workshops, including online, to advertise and introduce agricultural and aquatic products to China, the United States, Europe, India, Bangladesh and other markets, to assist local enterprises to find and expand markets.

Mr. Ha Vu Son, Director of Can Tho Department of Industry and Trade, said that by implementing new development goals, Can Tho is trying to create an enabling investment environment to attract investment funds, direct enterprises to boost production and invest in industrial zones, including the Mekong subregional logistics center in Can Tho City, industrial property and energy. The city is also working with relevant bodies to speed up O Mon thermal power projects.

To improve the investment environment and enhance the Provincial Competitiveness Index (PCI), Can Tho City will focus on administrative reform, review, assess and propose plans for procedural simplification and shorter time required for handling administrative procedures related to investment, business and electricity access. ■

“

Given the well-controlled COVID-19 pandemic, Can Tho City has made good production and business recovery and development. Many industries and fields have achieved high growth as compared to those in 2021. Trade promotion, cultural exchange and tourism have gradually returned to the pre-pandemic level, contributing to local development.

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Creating Impetus for Agriculture Breakthrough



The agriculture sector of Can Tho city has been implementing many solutions to link production with consumption, especially promoting the establishment of a center for association, production, processing and consumption of agricultural products in the Mekong Delta in Can Tho; thereby creating the impetus for agriculture to achieve a breakthrough. Mr. **Nguyen Van Su**, Director of Can Tho Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, talked with our reporter about this issue.

Can you tell us about some key goals and key tasks of the local agricultural sector?

In 2022, Can Tho will continue to promote agricultural restructuring in association with the organization of production along the value chain of advantageous commodity sectors, adapting to climate change; managing planting areas for export and market expansion; linking production with processing, preservation and consumption markets.

Specific tasks include well exploiting the advantages of tropical agriculture, building and developing high-quality and large-scale commodity production regions that meet popular standards on food safety; replicating the issuance of production area codes and traceability; controlling the quality of plants and breeds, developing organic and specialty animal husbandry; applying modern aquaculture processes and techniques; building new rural areas with synchronous infrastructure; effectively implementing the plan to build an enhanced new-style rural area and an exemplary new-style rural area; promoting the implementation of "One commune, one product- OCOP" project, with 41 units registering and introducing 118 products, including 4 OCOP products.

With that effort, in the first six months of 2022, the growth rate of the total products of the agriculture - forestry - fishery sector reached 3.28% with the rice output reaching 784,643 tons (63% of the plan); vegetables reaching 63,164 tons (38%); fruit trees reaching 95,499 tons (57.6%); live meat of all kinds reaching 19,621 tons (55%); aquaculture output reaching 108,103 tons (50%); in the Winter-Spring crop of 2021-2022, the area of rice associated with consumption reached 11,936 hectares / 33,576 hectares of "big fields", accounting for 36%.

The highlight is that the sector continues to coordinate with VNPT Can Tho to build the website "chonongsancantho.vn"; register the domain name "chonongsancantho.vn" in order to support people to access and use the online system, e-commerce platforms in the consumption of agricultural products.

In the coming time, the city will promote the implementation of the year's theme that is "Agriculture industry adapts safely, flexibly, implements digital transformation for sustainable agricultural development" with two breakthrough stages: (1) Expanding the area of production linkages along the agricultural value chain with an increase from 2,000 to 3,000 ha compared to 2021; (2) The number of people registering to introduce agricultural products on the e-commerce floor or applying digital technology to trace the origin of agricultural products is from 2,000 to 3,000 people.

What are the barriers to investment attraction in the agricultural sector of Can Tho in recent years?

In recent years, Can Tho City has effectively implemented policies to encourage enterprises to invest in agriculture and rural areas.

Currently, investment capital from the state budget is still limited and farmers' ability to accumulate investment to expand production is still inadequate, while investment linkages from businesses and capital support from the local credit system and banks are not high. Therefore, in the coming time, the city needs to promote the mobilization and use of resources for agricultural and rural development. In particular, State support in various areas is very necessary, such as promoting agricultural and fishery extension; transferring and applying scientific, technical and high-tech advances in production, especially in new varieties, farming techniques, mechanization, irrigation, electrification, in order to improve productivity and quality, value and production efficiency.



What are the potential, advantages and orientation of the local agriculture industry?

Can Tho is located in the center of the Mekong Delta region with a convenient system of waterways, roads and airways; a temperate climate, abundant freshwater resources, favorable for the development of wet rice, fruit trees and aquaculture. Can Tho also has many training institutions, a team of highly qualified scientific and managerial staff, a large scientific and technical potential with 7 universities, and 8 colleges and 3 intermediate schools, many regional and national institutes of scientific research on rice, fruit trees, biotechnology.

The city has developed open policies and investment incentives to attract investment in hi-tech agriculture and hi-tech agricultural zones. It has developed a detailed list of investment projects in high-tech agriculture to call for investment from all economic sectors.

The city has also flexibly applied investment promotion policies for strong and sustainable agricultural production; effectively implementing Decree 57/2018/ND-CP dated April 17, 2018 of the Government on mechanisms and policies to encourage investment in agriculture and rural areas; Resolution 07/2020/NQ-HDND dated July 10, 2020 of the City People's Council on regulations of policies to support linkages in production and consumption of agricultural products; Program 28-CTr/TU dated December 31, 2021 of the City Party Committee on supporting agriculture, farmers and rural areas in Can Tho city in the period of 2022-2030.

The city has also promoted linkages and cooperation between scientific and technological research, education, training and production, and business in high-tech agriculture.

In addition, the city always supports businesses to develop markets and ensure output for agricultural products. It also develops the agricultural product processing industry; a system of wholesale markets for agricultural products meeting food safety and hygiene quality; implements the regional linkage program and connects the four players (State - business - scientist - farmer) in agricultural production.

Thank you very much!

Well Administering State Budget Revenue, Expenditure



Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh at an online meeting with voters of Can Tho city

Specifically, in 2022, Can Tho city strives to achieve a total state budget revenue of VND11,117 billion. VND10,617 billion comes from domestic revenue, VND500 billion from customs tax collection. The total local budget expenditure is estimated at VND15,328 billion. To achieve the set goals, the city has been implementing synchronous solutions such as focusing on solutions to production and business recovery; firmly directing to strictly implement the Law on Tax Administration, fighting against the loss of revenue, combating transfer pricing, tax evasion, and commercial fraud; strengthening debt management and tax debt recovery. The city also continues to promote tax administrative reform, strengthen the application of information technology in tax administration; regularly monitor, check and control the tax declaration of organizations and individuals.

Can Tho has sped up key programs and projects; urgent works in progress; reciprocal capital for ODA programs and projects and concessional loans from foreign donors. The city has also focused on handling outstanding debts for capital construction and recovering advance capital, limiting expenditures to transfer sources to next year. Can Tho also continues to remove difficulties and obstacles for each project; disburses public investment capital in accordance with the completed volume. In particular, the city regularly inspects and evaluates the progress of projects.

Over the past years, the Can Tho finance sector has implemented synchronously and drastically the cost estimates and the key tasks and solutions regarding State budget revenue and expenditure in the area.

Can Tho city has been drastically implementing Resolution 45/2022/QH15 on piloting a number of specific mechanisms and policies for the local development. The Department of Finance has issued Plan 609/KH-STC on the consultation plan to implement Resolution 45/2022/QH15 for contents in the field of finance - budget. According to Director of the City Department of Finance Nguyen Quang Nghi, in order to implement the preferential policy on mobilizing investment resources according to Clause 1, Article 3, Resolution 45/2022/QH15, the Department of Finance will coordinate with the Department of Planning and Investment to propose the City People's Committee to develop plans and projects to borrow domestic and foreign investment capital through many forms and balance the ability and time to repay loans.

For the specific mechanism of piloting the implementation of the fee and fee policy in the city according to Clause 3, Article 3, the Department will advise and propose that the City People's Committee submit it to the City People's Council for consideration and decision on the level of fees that have not yet been specified in the list of fees and charges promulgated together with the Law on Fees and Charges, as well as advising on adjusting the rate of charge and fee collection decided by the competent authority for the fees in order to create more revenue for the local budget, meeting the needs for investment in socio-economic infrastructure. ■



Effort to Clear Bottlenecks of Transport Infrastructure

With its strong determination and drastic involvement, Can Tho authorities at all levels are consistently carrying out tasks and solutions to remove "development bottlenecks" in transportation infrastructure to unlock local potential advantages for Can Tho City's robust development. Mr. **Le Tien Dung**, Director of the Can Tho Department of Transport, grants an exclusive interview on this matter to our reporter.



Currently, central and local authorities are carrying out many large projects in the Mekong Delta region. What is the part of the Can Tho transport industry in this process?

In order to clear "development bottlenecks" for the Mekong Delta, the Ministry of Transport is investing in key projects, including projects running through Can Tho City like Trung Luong-My Thuan Expressway which opened to traffic on April 30, 2022; My Thuan 2 Bridge and My Thuan-Can Tho Expressway (to be completed in 2023); upgraded Cao Lanh-Lo Te Road and upgraded Lo Te-Rach Soi Road on Western North-South Expressway (to be built in 2022 - 2025 period).

To have a synchronous connection with the above highways, Can Tho has also carried out many big projects, including Western Ring Road (linked to National Highway 91 and National Highway 61C); Alley 91 (from Long Tuyen to Western Ring Road); five upgraded intersections in Ninh Kieu district; Provincial Road 917; Provincial Road 918; Provincial Road 921; Provincial Road 923 and Co Do Bridge. In the near future, the Can Tho transport system will connect seamlessly with the external transport network to the Mekong Delta provinces.

Regarding waterways, the Ministry of Transport is investing in developing national waterways and logistics corridors in the southern region and building Cho Gao Canal - Phase 2 (starting on December 19, 2021). On that basis, the city will call for investment funds in building passenger and cargo ports (the old Can Tho Ferry Landing Area) and some passenger inland ports on the Hau and Can Tho rivers to serve routes from the shore to islands, to Mekong Delta provinces, to Ho Chi Minh City and to the whole country.

Regarding sea routes, the Ministry of Transport launched a project of a passageway for large ships entering the Hau River (second phase) on December 28, 2021. The City People's Committee submitted Report 61/TTTr-UBND dated May 5, 2022 to the Prime Minister for consideration, seeking him to assign the Ministry of Transport, the

Ministry of National Defense and the Committee for Management of State Capital at Enterprises to jointly counsel the establishment of a joint venture enterprise to operate Cai Cui Port most effectively.

For airways, the Ministry of Transport is preparing a project to "direct fundraising for airport infrastructure", including the pilot handover of investment and operation rights to upgrade airports, to upgrade Can Tho International Airport as planned to reach an annual capacity of 7 million passengers in the 2021 - 2030 period. After the project is approved, the ministry will work with other ministries, sectors and cities to formulate a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) investment plan and submit it to the Prime Minister for decision. Can Tho City is also reviewing and supplementing the plan for the construction of the Mekong Delta Center for Agricultural Cooperation, Production, Processing and Consumption in Can Tho City (with a 100-hectare logistics center to serve cargo at the Can Tho International Airport for integration into the Can Tho Planning Project.

Regarding railways, in 2022 - 2025, the Ministry of Transport is making a pre-feasibility study report for Ho Chi Minh City - Can Tho Railway, (collected comments on this report at the meeting of the Can Tho People's Committee on May 12, 2022) for launching the project before 2030. The city has reviewed and supplemented the land plan for the surrounding TOD Urban Area and roads connected to railway stations for integration into Can Tho City Planning Project to ensure synchronous and continuous operation of railway stations.

Participating in the above process, Can Tho City is prioritizing the budget for projects administered by the city. The city is also funding VND1,061 billion to support 50% of site clearance costs for projects; strengthening effective management of construction and land planning; speeding up site clearance and resettlement to ensure that projects are put into operation as planned.

The National Assembly issued Resolution 45/2022/QH15 on piloting several specific mechanisms and policies for Can





Tho City development. What development opportunities is this Resolution creating for the local transport sector?

Up to 70% of goods in the Mekong Delta have been transported by road to international ports in the Southeast region (17-18 million tons, worth US\$18 billion a year), leading to an increase in costs (10-40% of cost), causing great difficulties for people and businesses.

Can Tho has maritime routes on the Hau River and Can Tho Seaport, a national general port and a traffic hub of the region. Its Cai Cui Wharf can receive ships of up to 20,000 tons and other wharves (such as Hoang Dieu - Binh Thuy, Tra Noc - O Mon, Thot Not) along the Hau River can accommodate vessels of 10,000 - 20,000 tons. In addition, Dinh An-Can Tho Canal that connects Dinh An Estuary (Tra Vinh) to Chau Doc (An Giang) and Cambodia on the Hau River, passing through Can Tho, is a great advantage to developing sea shipping and turning Can Tho into a regional logistics center.

However, Dinh An Canal is naturally deposited but it has not been dredged since 2017 due to insufficient budget. As a result, ships of over 7,000 tons cannot enter the Hau River. The introduction of mechanisms and policies to launch dredging projects for Dinh An-Can Tho Canal is extremely urgent to ensure navigational standards for ships of over 10,000 tons to enter Can Tho ports.

In the coming time, when Can Tho develops its synchronous infrastructure, it will be able to draw exports, an advantage to boost economic growth for Can Tho and sharpen regional competitiveness.

How is Can Tho city speeding up the project of dredging Dinh An-Can Tho Canal as per Resolution 45/2022/QH15 of the 15th National Assembly?

Can Tho City is asking the Ministry of Transport for several contents: To study and consider adjusting the scale of dredging the canal for vessels of 10,000 tons or more entering and leaving ports on the Hau River, with an expected depth of 6.5-10.5m. The canal is on the list of seaport dredging projects administered by the Ministry of Transport (Decision 963/QD-BGTVT dated May 31, 2021) while adding forms of investment incentives and supports specified in Article 7 of Resolution 45/2022/QH15 to the list of projects to woo investors.

After the project list was adjusted, Can Tho City coordinated with the Ministry of Transport, project-affected provinces and the Vietnam Maritime Administration to call on investors to put forth specific plans on the scale and design standards, construction technology and product salvage plans. After conducting research to ensure (technical and economic) feasibility, investors are responsible for submitting such reports to the Vietnam Maritime Administration for appraisal and submission to the Ministry of Transport for consideration and approval and direct relevant bodies to take the next steps.

What recommendations does the transport sector want to deliver to ministries and central agencies and how is it committed to investors who are coming to Can Tho?

In order to create development breakthroughs for Can Tho and the Mekong Delta region, the Government of Vietnam issued major guidelines and decisions, including Resolution 13-NQ/TW dated April 2, 2022, Resolution 59-NQ/TW dated August 5, 2020 of the Politburo, Resolution 45/2022/QH15 of the 15th National Assembly. On that basis, Can Tho City will work with provinces to propose the Central Government further prioritize and create a mechanism for the Mekong Delta to mobilize various capital sources to the fullest extent to build synchronous and modern transport infrastructure.

Can Tho City will also further mobilize all available investment sources for inland waterway ports, passenger bus stations, public parking lots, public bus stations and smart transportation. The city will facilitate and apply the most open mechanisms and policies and readily remove difficulties for investors to soon launch and put projects into operation to bring practical effects to businesses and local socioeconomic development.

Thank you very much!

Enhancing Urban and Construction Management Quality

Carrying out Resolution 59-NQ/TW dated August 5, 2020 of the Politburo, the construction sector of Can Tho City is advising on many working solutions to mobilize and promote central support resources and local forces and State and non-State budget for development and effectively implementing planning and planning management, especially completing and implementing the Can Tho Development Master Plan to 2030, with a vision to 2050, to match with Mekong Delta planning and national planning. Thus, the sector aims to build and develop Can Tho into an ecological, civilized and modern city imbued with Mekong Delta identity.

Improving urban planning

In recent years, with the active participation of the construction sector, Can Tho City has basically completed the urban planning and construction planning: 100% urban master planning, 80% of urban zoning planning, and 100% of communal construction planning.

Supported and guided by the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Can Tho City can effectively



Mr. Le Quang Manh, Secretary of the Can Tho City Party Committee chairs the conference on the City planning for the 2021 - 2030 period

deploy and implement construction planning and urban planning to timely meet the general development of the city; synchronize and unify planning and management at all levels and branches (general city planning, district planning, township planning and sectoral planning); carry out construction planning approved by competent authorities; and ensure compliance with legal regulations on formulation, appraisal and approval of construction planning. In general, the construction and urban planning of Can Tho City has been basically completed: 100% of urban general planning, 80% of urban subdivision planning 100% of commune construction planning to facilitate construction investment to ensure synchronization and harmony for the face of the city in general and each district in particular.

In addition to construction and urban planning, the city always pays attention to reviewing and assessing planning implementation and revising the planning. Every year, the Can Tho City People's Committee assigns the Department of Construction to conduct reviews and assessments in line with the Law on Urban Planning and the Law on Construction 2014 to propose amendments and timely and appropriate solutions for carrying out construction investment projects, promptly deal with difficulties and problems faced by localities and investors in urban management and project implementation. The city guides relevant agencies and localities to strictly comply with planning regulations.

Accordingly, the city's infrastructure has been developed synchronously to meet its rapid development needs and help it perfect the basic standards of a first-class centrally governed city. Residential projects, resettlement areas and commercial urban areas have been built with synchronous technical infrastructure (e.g. land for traffic, parking, electricity supply, water supply, water drainage and communications) and social infrastructure (land for schools, hospitals and green parks).

In recent years, governments of all levels and agencies are calling for investment capital for urban development projects in the city based on approved planning. Can Tho City People's Committee directs the Department of Planning and Investment to work with the Department of Construction, the Department of Natural Resources

and Environment and localities to support and introduce investment locations to investors that are interested in local projects. New urban area and housing development investment projects are carried out in line with the approved zoning planning, the local development situation and investors' needs.

Improving urban management quality

In the coming period, to reform institutions in planning and investment advocated by the Party and the government, Can Tho City must prepare necessary and sufficient conditions to actively lead its development planning and capture domestic and foreign investment flows.

In construction planning, the construction sector will further focus on renewing consulting work. It sees reconsideration and review as key to promptly recognize social needs to supplement and adjust the construction planning. Only working planning projects are good. In particular, construction planning is aimed to unlock the way-in for all available investment sources, which are particularly important to socioeconomic development.

The sector will continue to perfect the local construction planning system; prepare and submit Can Tho City construction planning system; and compile and submit O Mon district zoning planning on a 1-to-5000 scale. Can Tho traffic planning is a specialized project of traffic technical infrastructure of the centrally governed city. Other construction planning projects are based on the city's master plan.

The construction sector together with related sectors such as land, investment and finance has worked closely together to improve planning quality and promptly reflect social needs. Among this work, the most important is making a plan for developing a framework infrastructure system and creating a land fund - a step ahead to ensure that construction investment achieves optimal outcomes in terms of capital and financial flows and legality.

The sector is also keen on upgrading the working capacity of public employees to better meet increasing social requirements, including people, investors and partners. In the near term, what is needed to be done in the first year of the 2021-2025 period is to coordinate with localities (Cai Rang district, Binh Thuy district, Thot Not district, Co Do district, Phong Dien district and other areas that can attract investment funds) to advise the city on investment attraction to match local development planning and urban planning approved in 2020. ■



Promoting Innovation, Improving Productivity and Quality

Can Tho is determined to promote innovation, create breakthroughs in productivity and quality, and improve competitiveness; take the enterprise as the center of application innovation and technology transfer. This is the orientation of the city which takes the foundation of science and technology as the driving force for socio-economic development.

Extensive application of science and technology

Over the past years, the field of science and technology in Can Tho city has been transformed strongly, especially since the implementation of Resolution 02-NQ/TU dated August 1, 2016 of Can Tho Party Committee on the development and application of science and technology. In particular, market development and scientific and technological services are outstanding strengths with many achievements, research activities focusing on practical application and practical effectiveness.

Scientific and technological research and application solutions have been synchronously deployed in all industries, fields of production and life. These have affirmed the role and position of scientific and technological activities in the cause of local socio-economic development.

Can Tho currently has 4,261 industrial property protection titles granted to more than 1,200 businesses, organizations and individuals, including 4,030 trademarks, 203 industrial designs, 20 inventions and 8 utility solutions (20% higher than the target of Resolution 02-NQ/TU of Can Tho Party Committee on the development of science and technology application).

Can Tho's scientific and technological products and services have increasingly met the needs of the Mekong Delta market in particular and the country in general. Some can compete with foreign products.

The city has typical application models of agriculture 4.0 such as the hydroponic vegetable growing model according to Israeli technology; application of drip irrigation technology and cloud computing; controlling irrigation, spraying pesticides automatically on orchards. In particular, the application of hydro-meteorological sensor solutions helps recognize information for pest prevention measures, regulating proper nutrition, reducing production costs, saving time and effort.

The Department of Science and Technology has supported enterprises to improve technology and put new technical advances into production to increase scale, improve quality, and lower product costs.

The Department of Science and Technology of Can Tho has organized the councils to accept and transfer the applications of science and technology tasks in the field of digital technology, serving the local state management units such as the Project of "Research on building a HoneyWall system to serve the protection of websites of administrative and non-business units in Can Tho city" and the Topic of "Research on building intelligent systems to support, ask and answer administrative procedures in Can Tho city".

Toward the region's scientific and technological center

Over the past years, Can Tho People's Committee has issued many plans to promote the development and application of science and technology in general and technology 4.0 in particular. Typical plans include Plan 98/KH-UBND to implement guidelines, policies and solutions to strengthen capacity to participate in the Fourth Industrial Revolution; Plan 266/KH-UBND to apply new technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution to serve the socio-economic development of Can Tho city in the period of 2021-2025; Plan 170/KH-UBND to support and develop science and technology enterprises in Can Tho city by 2025.

The city has clearly defined goals and drastically implemented the policy of "making science and technology a real top national policy", initially forming an ecosystem of science and technology, innovating to promote development. In 2022 and the following years, Can Tho city is determined to continue the action program to conduct the third breakthrough stage of the Resolution of the 14th Can Tho Party Congress, for the 2020-2025 term.

Accordingly, Can Tho will develop and implement programs and projects to support businesses to apply technology, implement digital transformation, and improve productivity, quality and competitiveness. It will implement the five city-level scientific and technological tasks to research and apply key technologies of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

In addition, the city will prioritize resources for research,

FOSTERING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

In 2021, Can Tho City was ranked 7th in digital transformation in the country by the Ministry of Information and Communications. In digital government development, the city's specialized data transmission network has been completed and deployed to 100% of communes, wards and townships. 100% of agencies and units have internal networks. Some agencies have deployed specialized database software such as individual business household registration management, notarization and certification management, and construction permit management.

In digital economy development, in 2021, Can Tho had 34 new digital businesses, bringing the total digital companies to 628. Their total revenue in the domestic market increased to VND4,785 billion and their export revenue amounted to VND418.2 billion.

In addition, telecommunications infrastructure has been invested to create many advantages for the digital transformation process. Internet subscribers reached more than 1.175 million, or 95 subscribers to 100 people. Fiber optic networks have reached households. Currently, several companies have piloted using telecommunications accounts to pay for goods and services of small value.

Mr. Huynh Hoang Men, Director of the Can Tho Department of Information and Communications, said, Can Tho City has strived to complete digital infrastructure and digital platforms by 2025, aiming for a digital government. By 2030, the city will expand smart city services, develop digital government, and improve the effectiveness and performance of state agencies at all levels. Particularly 100% of online public services of Level 4 are provided on various means of access; 100% of work records at the city level, 90% at the district level and 80%

development and technology application activities in the area in line with the socio-economic development strategy and plan in the four areas that Can Tho has competitive advantages, including: digital technology, physics, biotechnology, energy and environment.

It prioritizes investment in the transfer and application of new technologies, step by step improving the competitiveness of enterprises through programs and projects such as: "Program to support enterprises in technological innovation", "Program to support development of intellectual property", and "Project to improve productivity and quality of products and goods of



Mr. Huynh Hoang Men, Director of the Can Tho Department of Information and Communications

In 2022, Can Tho is determined to take strong actions on digital transformation on all three pillars: digital government, digital economy and digital society to bring practical benefits for socioeconomic development.

at the commune level are processed in the network environment.

In order to realize these goals, the Can Tho City People's Committee issued Official Letter 1170/UBND-KGVX on speeding up digital transformation in the city. In 2022, Can Tho is focusing on deploying digital transformation, with priority given to such areas as healthcare, education, transportation, agriculture, environmental resources and tourism to create a driving force for innovation and creativity, increase labor productivity and generate new growth engines.

In the coming time, the Department of Information and Communications will continue to make more efforts to lead digital transformation and effectively implement all three pillars: Developing digital government, improving the performance and efficiency of governmental apparatus at all levels; developing the digital economy and improving the city's competitiveness; and developing digital society and narrowing the digital gap.

Special attention is paid to communications and training for officials and public employees on digital transformation, encouraging people to use online public services and digital transformation platforms, thus enhancing public awareness of administrative reform, digital government, digital transformation and smart city. ■



Can Tho has its own digital transformation website (<https://chuyendoiso.cantho.gov.vn/>), created to update, inform and raise awareness of people and businesses of digital transformation.



enterprises", "Support to develop innovative start-up ecosystem".

"In the coming time, the city will invite big enterprises and international organizations to invest or participate in investing and sponsoring the construction of national and regional research institutes and centers in Can Tho city. It will expand cooperation and association with other localities in the region; promote solutions to connect supply and demand in the scientific and technological market through the development program of trading floors", said Mr. Ngo Anh Tin, Director of the Department of Science and Technology of Can Tho city. ■

For a Transparent Business

While advising and carrying out solutions on institutional reforms and policy improvements, the Department of Justice also informs business laws for a more open and transparent business and investment climate in Can Tho City. Mr. **Ho Van Gia**, Director of the Can Tho Department of Justice, grants an interview to our reporter.



Mr. Ho Van Gia, Director of the Department of Justice of Can Tho City, awards winners of a law contest

In the past years, how has the Department of Justice advised and carried out institutional reforms and improved business investment policies for the city?

The city has paid close attention to building, inspecting and handling legal documents. The Department of Justice has worked from the stage of the proposal to comment, appraisal and completion of legal documents to submit to the City People's Committee and the City People's Council in the given order, procedures and authority; ensured consistency and hierarchy of legal effect; promptly concretized guidelines and policies to adjust socio-economic relations to match reality.

On business mechanisms and policies, the City People's Council issued many important guidelines and decisions such as Resolution 07/2018/NQ-HDND dated December 7, 2018 on support policies for investment projects; Resolution 11/2020/NQ-HDND dated December 4, 2020 on the content and level of the State budget for innovation startup supports to 2025.

Enforcing Instructive 09/CT-UBND dated July 3, 2019 of the City People's Committee on the coordinated improvement of the investment and business environment

and the Competitiveness Index, the Department of Justice, the People's Court, the Inspectorate and the Department of Civil Judgment Execution issued a plan for coordinated improvement of Legal Institutions Index.

As a result, the department has appraised 61 draft legal documents, given comments on 112 local documents and checked 34 legal documents issued by the City People's Committee since 2021.

With those efforts, in 2021, the Lawmaking and Enforcement Index of Can Tho City reached 85.91%, an increase of 0.5% over 2020 (85.41%) and the Legal Institutions Index climbed to 7.43 points, an increase of 0.49 points over 2020 (6.94 points).

What are your solutions to effectively carry out the inter-sectoral legal support program for small and medium-sized enterprises to 2024?

Enforcing Decree 55/2019/ND-CP dated June 24, 2019 of the Government on legal support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the Department of Justice advised the Chairman of the City People's Committee to promulgate Decision 700/QĐ-UBND dated April 1, 2020 approving the legal support program for SMEs in Can Tho City to 2024.

The department has also advised and performed several tasks and solutions to carry out the program, including:

a) Advising the City People's Committee to issue Plan 24/KH-UBND dated February 14, 2020 on legal support for SMEs in 2020; Plan 15/KH-UBND dated January 15, 2021 on legal support for SMEs in 2021; Plan 20/KH-UBND dated January 24, 2022 on inspection, review and handling of legal documents; providing legal support for SMEs in 2022; clearly defining legal support for SMEs, and the leading and coordinating responsibility of related agencies.

b) Timely and fully updating legal documents promulgated by the People's Council and the City People's Committee. From August 16, 2019 to May 31, 2022, the department updated 91 legal documents, including 33 resolutions of the City People's Council and 58 decisions of the City People's Committee, into the National Database, thus helping individuals, organizations and businesses to look up, learn and access relevant legal information easily, conveniently and transparently.

c) Disseminating legal documents for SMEs: In 2020, the department hosted a city-level conference to inform 21 legal documents to 630 participants, including business-related laws such as Labor Code, Law on Securities, Law on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Investment; Law on Enterprises (amended); Law on Investment (amended); issued 28,000 leaflets to circulate provisions of Law on Enterprises and Law on Investment. In 2021, the agency compiled and distributed 28,000 legal brochures, and at the same time, coordinated with Department of Home Affairs and Can Tho Radio and Television Station to broadcast live the "Meet and Dialogue" Program themed "Support for administrative procedures to investors and businesses in the current COVID-19 situation". In 2022, the

Environment

department collaborated with the Department of Home Affairs and Can Tho Radio and Television Station to air live the "Meet and Dialogue" Program themed "Support for implementation of investment and business registration procedures".

d) Answering law matters to SMEs: Publishing the hotline telephone number on the department's website to receive information, promptly support, solve and remove difficulties and problems faced by local enterprises.

e) Self-inspecting and reviewing legal documents: Annually, coordinating with relevant agencies to review legal documents promulgated by the City People's Council and the City People's Committee to propose competent authorities for solutions to ensure the legitimate interests of enterprises.

f) Building and developing legal support consultants for SMEs to:

- Advise the City People's Committee to issue Official Letter 1049/UBND-NC dated April 7, 2020 to specialized agencies on the arrangement of civil servants to provide legal support for SMEs. There are 19 public employees providing legal support for businesses at 15 specialized agencies affiliated with the City People's Committee.

- Summarize and propose the Ministry of Justice on legal consultants joining the network of legal consultants in the fields administered by the Ministry of Justice as per Clause 3, Article 3 of Decree 55/2019/ND-CP dated June 24, 2019 of the Government on legal support for SMEs.

g) Promulgating a legal support policy for SMEs: In March 2022, the department conducted a survey on legal support for local SMEs; advising the City People's Committee to submit a resolution on legal support policy for local SMEs to the City People's Council.

What do you think about the Legal Institutions Index of Can Tho City in the past years? What are your solutions to improve this indicator and then raise the PCI rankings as a whole?

From 2014 to 2021, Can Tho's Legal Institutions Index picked up significantly, from 4.14 points in 2014 to 7.43 points in 2021. This progress resulted from the great efforts of the local judicial system.

Currently, the Department of Justice is advising on the implementation of many solutions such as:

First, strengthening communications, dissemination and education to raise awareness and a sense of law observance among people and businesses.

Second, advising the City People's Committee to coordinate in organizing seminars on legal support for enterprises, thereby grasping difficulties and problems to be



resolved or proposed for amendments and supplements.

Third, improving the quality of legal appraisal; working with relevant agencies to appraise, formulate and comment on resolutions of the City People's Council submitted by the City People's Committee; coordinating with the Office of the City People's Committee to consider and examine the proposal of issuing decisions; formulating, commenting and appraising draft legal documents; effectively carrying out inspection and review of legal documents.

Fourth, implementing or coordinating with specialized agencies to work out business support in accordance with the law.

What opportunities and challenges did Resolution 45/2022/QH15 open up for judicial activities? What contents does the judicial sector concern?

Resolution 45/2022/QH15 brings many opportunities but also poses many challenges for the judiciary sector: Mechanisms and policies are aimed to increase power and facilitate local authorities to act and react quickly, and promptly adapt to urgent requirements on land resources, thereby creating an open environment to attract investment projects. Locally specific mechanisms and policies also create resources for Can Tho to invest in important infrastructure construction, especially urban and traffic infrastructure.

To realize Resolution 45/2022/QH15, on February 18, 2022, the City People's Committee issued Plan 34/KH-UBND for implementation. Right from the beginning of 2022, the Department of Justice advised the City People's Committee to issue Plan 22/KH-UBND on law dissemination, education and mediation to grassroots levels; Plan 23/KH-UBND on inspection of law enforcement in the city, which defines communication and monitoring of the implementation of Resolution 45/2022/QH15 as one of the key contents in 2022.

Thank you very much!



Gradually Modernizing and Digitizing Tax Administration

By accelerating information technology (IT) application and reforming tax declaration, payment and refund in the electronic environment, the Tax Department of Can Tho City is gradually digitizing tax administration to accomplish State budget collection tasks, especially during the complicated development of the COVID-19 pandemic.

NGO SAN

Mr. Cap Quy Phuc, Director of Can Tho Tax Department, said that 2022 will witness accelerated completion of targets and goals stated in the resolution of the 14th Can Tho City Party Congress (the 2020-2025 term). Therefore, the implementation of budgetary estimations in 2022 is of great significance, ensuring the achievement of socio-economic tasks in the year.

To collect VND10,617 billion as planned, right in December 2021, the Tax Department assigned tasks to tax offices to promptly work out budgetary revenue plans. In the first five months of the year, the sector raked in VND4,851 billion, fulfilling 45.7% of the task set by the Ministry of Finance, higher than the overall progress.

Not only fulfilling the State budget tasks well, but the department also has launched many timely business and taxpayer support solutions to remove difficulties and ensure social security: Strengthening communications, timely business support policies and dialogues to seek solutions to existing difficulties and problems.

In particular, to facilitate people and businesses, the city's tax sector has stepped up administrative procedure reforms, maintained electronic tax declaration, payment, refund, and invoice services,

and ensured 24/7 operations of the information technology system.

The percentage of the companies administered by the department that used e-invoices was more than 44.33% as of early 2022. The department worked out an e-invoice application plan and prepared infrastructure and information technology to enable the e-invoicing.

Regarding administrative procedure reforms, the department publicly lists 166 administrative procedures within its jurisdiction at its office. Its subordinate units publicly list 124 administrative procedures within their jurisdiction at their offices. All of these procedures are publicly posted on the website of the department. Besides, the department has cooperated with the Department of Planning and Investment to issue tax codes automatically to enterprises on their interconnected information exchange system. All processes are done online and the results are returned in line with the law.

In the coming time, the Can Tho Tax Department will strive to enable 100% of active businesses to declare tax online, over 95% of them to pay tax electronically, and over 95% of them to claim VAT refunds online.

To realize this goal, the department will continue to bolster taxpayer support with IT applications, review administrative procedures, update new effective tax policies and promptly support taxpayers to deal with emerging problems. Furthermore, the agency will boost communications and assist taxpayers to switch to electronic payment, aiming for all business households to pay taxes electronically.

In addition, the department will complete and expand the scope of taxpayers and electronic tax declarations (such as personal and vehicle registration) to facilitate taxpayers to fulfill their duties. It will strengthen discipline, teach ethical virtues, and improve the responsibility and professional capacity of tax employees to undertake their tasks.

"As a result, the tax sector not only fulfills its budgetary collection tasks well, but also helps raise the Provincial Competitiveness Index (PCI) and entice investment flows," said Director Cap Quy Phuc. ■

CAN THO CUSTOMS DEPARTMENT

Important Contributions to Socioeconomic Development



Can Tho Customs Department organizes many programs to support businesses

Speeding up reform and modernizing the customs sector is a key strategic task of Can Tho Customs Department, helping it successfully accomplish its tasks and support local economic development and integration.

Accelerating reform, modernization and business support

In the past years, despite numerous difficulties and challenges, Can Tho Customs Department has still managed customs affairs effectively, and enforced customs laws in Can Tho City, Hau Giang, Soc Trang, Vinh Long and Tra Vinh provinces, and successfully collected the State budget.

With effective reform and modernization, Can Tho Customs Department has helped facilitate trade, simplify customs procedures, reduce customs clearance time, improve the investment environment and enhance national competitiveness while controlling compliance with customs laws and protecting national interests and sovereignty.

Can Tho Customs Department has intensified information technology (IT) in customs operations and effectively deployed the VNACCS/VGIS automatic electronic clearance system, 24/7 online public service and tax collection system, automatic cargo monitoring systems at warehouses, yards, ports and other professional IT systems for customs.

Can Tho Customs Department also publicizes customs

administrative procedures; applies the ASEAN Single Window (for exchange of information on the electronic certificate of origin Form D with all nine ASEAN member countries); and expands the application of the National Single Window (connecting 13 ministries and branches). In addition, the department also focuses on building and developing Customs - Enterprise partnerships; organizes conferences on the deployment of documents and dialogues with enterprises; informs policies and procedures for enterprises in many forms; actively meets, exchanges, and promptly removes difficulties faced by enterprises to ensure customs clearance of goods, keep uninterrupted import and export, and facilitate trade flows.

Digital transformation for smart customs Currently, Technology 4.0 digital transformation in customs administration is

an objective requirement, an extremely important key to building digital customs and smart customs, and a very important driving force for construction, development and protection of the country.

Successfully adopting digital transformation and building smart customs is one of the most important tasks of the customs sector, including Can Tho Customs Department, in 2022 and 2021 - 2025 phase and to 2030.

Mr. Vu Anh, Director of Can Tho Customs Department, said, Can Tho Customs Department is determined to successfully carry out digital transformation, build smart customs and achieve the goal of being the Top 10 performers of digital transformation in 2022 and beyond.

In addition, the department will focus on successfully carrying out its key tasks of collecting tax assigned by the Ministry of Finance and the General Department of Customs; speeding up administrative reforms, trade facilitation and investment climate improvement; actively and closely coordinating with local agencies to effectively enforce Resolution 45/2022/QH15 dated January 1, 2022 of the National Assembly on pilot implementation of several specific mechanisms and policies on Can Tho City development; and facilitate investment projects in the locality such as Lot B - O Mon gas power project, Oncology Hospital, O Mon Industrial Park, Vinh Thanh Industrial Park, and especially Mekong Delta Center for Agricultural Cooperation, Production, Processing and Consumption in Can Tho City, thus helping improve the Provincial Competitiveness Index (PCI) and boosting investment inflows. ■

STRONGLY REFORMING INVESTMENT PROMOTION

The enforcement of Resolution 45/2022/QH15 on piloting several specific mechanisms and policies for Can Tho City development has opened up a lot of opportunities to attract investment flows and develop businesses. Facing new requirements and tasks, the city has adopted a more focused and effective approach in investment promotion and attraction.

Drawing more resources

Investment promotion and attraction and business support are of close concern to all levels of Can Tho City government. Can Tho Promotion Agency (CPA Can Tho) is established to concretize the above determination, best support businesses and investors to study and launch their projects and deal with their emerging problems in project implementation and reduce administrative procedures and contact addresses of governmental agencies for investors and enterprises.

CPA Can Tho is a non-business unit directly under the Can Tho City People's Committee. The agency is assigned to advise and propose the municipal government launch investment and trade promotion activities, trade fairs, advertisements, trade services and product roadshow events to introduce products made by domestic and foreign companies and support investment cooperation and trade promotion in Can Tho City.

In investment promotion and attraction, CPA Can Tho has worked with relevant bodies to develop and launch annual and 5-year investment promotion and attraction programs and plans. The agency has also advised and proposed the City People's Committee to implement investment support and incentivization policies and carry out support solutions, programs and policies, and cooperate with Vietnamese and foreign provinces and cities in investment promotion. Besides coordinating with related bodies to build a list of projects seeking investment funds, CPA Can Tho provides information on projects, investment laws, investment project establishment procedures and business establishment documents, opens representative offices and branches and assists local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to boost their development.

With seven years of perseverance and effort, CPA Can Tho has helped boost investment attraction in Can Tho City. From 2016 to date, it has attracted 50 domestic direct investment (DDI) projects outside industrial zones



with a total investment fund of VND44,821 billion and 27 foreign direct investment (FDI) projects with US\$124 million of investment capital. Industrial parks have also licensed 38 DDI projects and seven FDI projects with US\$407 million. To date, the city has licensed 414 projects with VND160,877 billion of registered investment capital. Despite being modest, these figures are also the foundation for the city to further reform its investment promotion and attraction and achieve better results in the coming years.

More practical and effective promotion reforms

In 2022 -2025, CPA Can Tho will launch workable investment promotion programs in the new context. First of all, it is necessary to step up research and assessment of capacity, markets, trends and investment partners to build a focus-based investment promotion program for each specific industry, field and partner based on socioeconomic development needs, local advantages and

(continued on P.63)

EFFORTS TO SUPPORT LOCAL SOCIOECONOMIC RECOVERY



To implement the direction of the SBV, the SBV Can Tho has directed local credit institutions to support and remove difficulties for customers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The branch focuses on debt restructuring solutions, loan interest exemption and reduction, and offering businesses support to overcome difficulties to restore production after the pandemic.

The total debt value that had been restructured and exempted and reduced interest from March 13 2020 to the end of June 2022 was about VND5,300 billion for more than 5,000 customers. The accumulated new loan sales from January 23, 2020 to the end of June 2022 reached VND98 trillion; new loan balance was VND23 trillion for more than 8,000 debit customers.

In addition, in order to facilitate businesses to access loans, the branch has promoted administrative reform, simplified procedures, and shortened the loan processing time. The branch has developed and diversified banking products and services to meet the needs of people and businesses; and increased access to capital on the basis of support programs of the Government, relevant ministries and branches.

To promote digital transformation, the branch has advised Can Tho City People's Committee to issue Plan 86/KH-UBND dated April 15, 2022 on the implementation of Prime Minister's Decision 1813/QĐ-TTg approving the Non-cash Payment Scheme for the 2021- 2025 period in the city. In addition to traditional services, modern payment services and high-tech applications have been applied such as inter-bank electronic payment, bilateral electronic payment of commercial banks, expansion of payments via Visa, Master Card,

Recently, the State Bank of Vietnam (SBV) - Can Tho City Branch has effectively implemented many solutions to support credit, and reduce interest rates to remove difficulties for production and business, thereby, helping to control inflation and support economic recovery.

NGO SAN

ATM, online savings, SMS Banking service.

Mr. Tran Quoc Ha, Director of SBV Can Tho, said that in 2022, the branch will continue to operate monetary policy in a flexible manner, creating maximum conditions to support businesses. In operating monetary policy, the branch will closely follow the operation of the SBV, the economic recovery and development program of the Government and the province to realize the goal of supporting local economic recovery. The branch will channel credit into production and business fields, and priority areas, creating favorable conditions for people, businesses and cooperatives to access capital.

Besides, to support the province to attract investment, the SBV Can Tho continues to join the Action Program to improve the business environment, enhance national competitiveness, and support and promote business development.

In addition, the branch will well implement the administrative reform program and improve the methods, working styles, and office culture of civil servants and employees. The branch will also effectively implement the quality management system framework model according to the national standard TCVN ISO 9001:2015.

The branch will promote the expansion of non-cash payment channels; arrange and reasonably develop the ATM and POS network in the city.

In particular, the branch will encourage agencies, businesses and people to use non-cash payment services to pay fees, periodic fees, payments in e-commerce and programs on social security benefits, pension payments, and social insurance benefits. ■



VINH THANH DISTRICT

Promoting Western Gateway Advantages

Rich potential

Nearly 80km from the downtown of Can Tho City, Vinh Thanh district is endowed with great potential for economic and social development. The district has built and upgraded many important traffic routes such as National Highway 80, 24-km Cai San River route, Road WB5 linked to Thanh Loc commune and Kenh E - Thoai Son Canal. In addition, the Lo Te - Rach Soi traffic route launched in early 2021 has helped reduce the distance to districts of Can Tho City and provinces of Kien Giang and Dong Thap and opened up new prospects for Vinh Thanh to attract investment, develop production and business.

Vinh Thanh has huge potential for high-quality agriculture, food processing industry and fishery thanks to its abundant material sources. The district has planned and gradually formed specialized production areas like high-quality organic rice; encouraged the development of orchards, crops and short-term industrial plants; developed traditional professions like

Lying in the western gateway to Can Tho City, Vinh Thanh district has an important and strategic position in the city's economic and urban development. From a low starting point, the district has gradually risen and achieved good results in many fields. Its advantages have been better recognized and brought into full play.

making rice paper, spring rolls and shrimp paste.

In addition, the district is home to the 900-ha Vinh Thanh Industrial Park, which is added to the Vietnam Industrial Park Development Plan under the Prime Minister's Document 156/TTg-CN dated February 4, 2021 on the addition of Can Tho Industrial Park Planning.

Vinh Thanh Industrial Park has easy access to traffic routes to neighboring provinces. It is near Vam Cong Bridge connecting to Kien Giang province and Ho Chi Minh City, and the Soc Trang - Can Tho - An Giang Expressway project. When the project goes into operation, it will open up prospects of attracting investment capital and creating more resources for the economic development of Vinh Thanh district and Can Tho City in general.

Vinh Thanh has tapped these potential advantages to boost socio-economic development. In the first six months of 2022, the total production value reached VND4,436 billion, or 52% of the full-year plan, 6.90% higher than a year earlier period.

Total revenue of consumer goods and services amounted to VND1,025 billion, equal to 47.67% of the yearly plan and up 27.49% year on year. The economic structure changed in a positive direction.

Stronger investment attraction, sustainable development

Vinh Thanh has focused on developing a modern countryside according to advanced criteria and attracting investment capital for rapid development of industry, handicrafts, trade and service. The district has strived to have a total production value of VND46,490 billion in the 2021-2025 period, achieve an annual budget growth of at least 12%; and reduce the poverty rate to less than 0.5%.



Local leaders at working visit to an industrial park

To realize these goals, the district has encouraged agriculture-supported industries such as food processing, agricultural materials, aquatic processing, animal and fowl feed; reorganized production to develop the rural economy according to new countryside criteria, create jobs, and increase incomes and raise people's living standards.

In trade and service, the district has diversified products and services; better met social needs; and created product brands in the market. The district has completed planning and procedures for calling for tourism development investment, especially ecotourism, experience and cultural tourism in association with cottage industry development.

In industry and handicraft, Vinh Thanh has called for investment funds for constructing planned industrial complexes, especially two roads to an industrial cluster and a resettlement area in Vinh Trinh commune, and created a favorable environment to draw investment funds to tap local

potential and advantages. Furthermore, the district has mobilized all available resources for socioeconomic infrastructure construction and new rural development.

Regarding support for businesses and investors, Mr. Doan Quoc Su, Chairman of Vinh Thanh People's Committee, said Vinh Thanh will publicize planning information and investment attraction and facilitate investors to carry out their projects. In particular, the district is committed to quickly solving problems such as site clearance, regulatory environment, administrative procedures and security.

“The district will continue to hold regular meetings, dialogues and exchanges with enterprises to promptly grasp their difficulties, helping them invest in stable business and development. Vinh Thanh will apply preferential and incentive policies for enterprises to upgrade equipment and machinery and transfer new technologies,” he affirmed. ■



Tra fish farming at Thang Loi cooperative, Vinh Binh commune

THOT NOT DISTRICT

BOOSTING INVESTMENT ATTRACTION,



Lying in the northern gateway to Can Tho City, Thot Not district is a hub for merchandise trade and economic development with provinces of the Long Xuyen Quadrangle. These favorable advantages help the district to draw more investment capital and bolster industrial, handicraft, service and trade development.

Releasing potential advantages

Covering 12,202.40 ha, Thot Not district is the northwest gateway to Can Tho City. The district is near three provinces of An Giang, Dong Thap and Kien Giang. Infrastructure, logistics, Vam Cong Bridge and Thot Not Port are a plus for economic exchanges with localities in the region and the whole country.

The district has well-developed processing industries and supporting industries such as milling, components, mechanics, logistics and rice trading to support various services (urban planning, advertising, packaging, vocational training, finance - banking, waste treatment, waterway transport, port and freight transportation.)

In addition, the district has developed handicraft industries such as mechanics, welding, carpentry, interior decoration, traditional trades (rice paper and fishing net production), vermicelli, tofu, bread and brick production to facilitate the overall development and growth of the district's industry and construction sector.

With an interlaced system of rivers and canals, Thot Not is also a charming tourist attraction with outstanding destinations such as Bang Lang Stork Garden, Ancient House, Moc Quan Nguyen Trong Quyen Memorial, Tan Loc Orchard and traditional handicraft industry villages that make fishing nets and rice paper.

Over the past time, the district has achieved many positive socioeconomic results. In the first six months of 2022, the

production value of industry and construction was estimated at VND18,981 billion, equal to 55.08% of the yearly plan and up 5.29% year on year. The locality had two new companies and 16 handicraft producers, bringing total industrial and construction facilities to 1,354 (including 145 enterprises), which hired 16,697 workers. The value of commercial production and services also grew well to an estimated VND8,122.7 billion, equal to nearly 60% of the annual plan and up 8.11% year on year.

Thus, this has created a driving force for Thot Not to develop into one of the strong districts that play an important role in the socioeconomic development of Can Tho in particular and the Mekong Delta in general.

Toward a prosperous and beautiful urban area

The 12th Congress of the Party Committee (2020-2025 term) defined the goal of building Thot Not into a high-tech agricultural and industrial hub, a center of trade, services, agricultural distribution, food and eco-tourism, and a key traffic hub of the northern gateway of Can Tho City.

Currently, the district is developing many key projects. The district has called for private investment for socioeconomic development through such projects as Tan Cang Port, Royal Residence, new urban areas along Nguyen Thai Hoc Street, Thoi Thuan Urban Area and Thot Not Industrial Park. The district's public utilities have been upgraded and expanded, including embankments, green parks and outdoor sports training areas.

Regarding the investment approach, in the coming time,

SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Vam Cong Bridge crosses the Hau River, connecting Thot Not district in Can Tho city and Lap Vo district in Dong Thap province

Thot Not will prioritize trade, service and tourism investment. However, the district will focus on developing key industrial sectors and fields; utilize local advantages for development and implementing key projects; and build synchronous transport infrastructure for socioeconomic development.

In addition, the district will boost investment into supporting industries to develop processing industries and high-quality agriculture; support and encourage enterprises to upgrade equipment and apply energy-saving, advanced and environmentally friendly technologies.

Remarking on the district's commitments to supporting businesses and investors, Mr. Trinh Minh Thang, Secretary of Thot Not Party Committee, Chairman of Thot Not People's Committee, said, the district will create all favorable conditions and prepare land fund, infrastructure and tax incentives to woo investors to the locality.

In addition, the district will accelerate administrative reform by applying the single-window mechanism; effectively adopt ISO quality management system; and facilitate investors to access projects in the fields of their interest. ■

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By 2050, Thot Not district will have two functional areas with six subdivisions, covering 10,648.15 ha. In the coming time, the district will further attract investment capital for projects that upgrade the role of Thot Not as a northwest gateway to Can Tho City and strengthen connectivity with the Mekong Delta.

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O MON DISTRICT

Utilizing Industrial and Urban Advantages



Mr. Le Viet Si, Chairman of O Mon People's Committee

In addition to improving the business investment environment, O Mon district has stepped up transport, industrial and urban infrastructure development to appeal to investors. The district prioritizes investments in industrial parks, trade centers, transportation services and warehouses.

Tapping potential advantages

O Mon district is favorably located with convenient road and waterway traffic networks, especially waterway on the Hau River. From O Mon, large ships can go up the Mekong River to Long Xuyen, Chau Doc, Tan Chau, Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand, or can go downstream to Dinh An Estuary to reach regional and international maritime transport routes. This is a great advantage for the district to woo investors to develop industry, trade, transportation and warehousing services.

Besides, the district has a large natural land area (13,193.4 ha), mainly new nutrient-rich alluvial soils, and a stable tropical climate, which is favorable for tropical agriculture with a variety of highly commercial products. The availability of land is also an advantage to build infrastructure systems and develop industry and commerce. The district also has an abundant labor force, a well-trained young labor force, which is an important resource in economic development, especially in industry and handicrafts.

By unlocking these potential strengths, the district economy has achieved many important results in the past years. The economic structure has shifted toward an expected pattern with the shrinking share of agriculture and fisheries and the growing share of industry, construction, trade and service. Production has been gradually shifted to a centralized mode of cooperation and association along value chains.

So far in 2022, local industrial production has recovered in most fields; trade and services have become more diverse and expanded. Social and cultural fields have improved for better material and spiritual life care of people.





Toward modern industrial center

O Mon district has mobilized all resources for infrastructure construction in the past years. Typical projects include Tra Noc 2 Industrial Park, O Mon Power Center, Bac O Mon Industrial Park and O Mon Industrial Park.

Resolution of the 12th District Party Congress (2020-2025 term) sets the following objectives: Building and developing O Mon district into a modern industrial hub with the focus of industry, trade, services and high-quality agriculture.

To accomplish this goal, O Mon will continue to invest in synchronous and sustainable infrastructure development and speed up key projects such as O Mon 1 New Urban Area, O Mon 2 New Urban Area, Chau Van Liem New Urban Area, O Mon Resettlement Area and Lo Vong Cung (arch-shaped) Road upgrade project. The district will also focus on exploiting the land fund on both sides of newly opened and planned roads; restoring and upgrading urban areas as planned and ensuring urban planning and engineering criteria.

The district advocates developing a variety of production and business forms; strongly developing private economy, cooperative economy, service and tourism with greater diversity and higher quality. The district will promote investment attraction, and encourage technical equipment upgrading, especially in agricultural production, handicraft production and value chain upgrading.

Highlighting local support for investors and businesses, Mr. Le Viet Si, Chairman of O Mon People's Committee, said the district will facilitate investors to implement their



The National Assembly issued Resolution 45/2022/QH15 on piloting specific mechanisms and policies for Can Tho City development, opening up new opportunities for O Mon district to accelerate its urbanization and development toward a modern, green and environmentally friendly industrial hub.



projects such as publicizing accessible land funds, supporting businesses and investors to survey locations, and coordinating with relevant agencies to clear the business ground for investors.

Furthermore, O Mon district will accelerate administrative procedure reforms and review slow-moving projects. On the first Saturday of each month, the District People's Committee hosts a meeting with local businesses to learn about and address their hardships, enabling them to speed up their business operations.

The district will also strengthen investment promotion, accelerate planning and focus on training human resources. ■

CAI RANG DISTRICT

EFFORT FOR BREAKTHROUGH BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Tapping its locational advantages as a southern gateway of Can Tho City, an important trade hub of the region and capturing opportunities from the implementation of Resolution 45/2022/QH15 of the National Assembly, Cai Rang district is carrying out consistent tasks and solutions to attract investment resources; supporting businesses to expand business operations to boost economic, social and urban development. Mr. **Nguyen Quoc Cuong**, Chairman of Cai Rang People's Committee, gives an interview on this issue.



Could you please introduce some remarkable socioeconomic and urban development objectives in 2022 and the results achieved in the first six months?

In 2022, Cai Rang district defines its key tasks: Synchronously implementing solutions to support people and businesses to overcome pandemic impacts to stabilize their lives; strengthening information technology application and appropriate digital transformation; improving productivity and efficiency and creating a driving force for socioeconomic growth. At the same time, the district will focus on three strategic breakthroughs: Accelerating structural transformation to increase the share of industry, handicraft, commercial services, tourism, and high-tech agriculture; mobilizing investment capital sources for socioeconomic infrastructure development; and facilitating the accelerated implementation of investment projects in the locality.

With the strong determination and close engagement of the entire political system, people and businesses, by the end of June 2022, we accomplished all basic goals and tasks. Economic restructuring continued with the rising production value of all sectors as compared to a year-ago period (agriculture grew by 2.68%, industry and construction expanded 6.39%, trade - services climbed 18). Specifically, the production value of agriculture and fishery was estimated at VND115 billion, equal to 51.11% of the full-year plan of VND225 billion; the value of industry and construction was projected at VND11,142 billion, or 54.48% of the yearly target of VND20,450 billion; and the value of trade and services was forecast at VND9,037 billion, reaching 55.78% of the annual target of VND16,200 billion.

Also in this reporting period, the investment value was VND7,517 billion, reaching 57.82% of the yearly plan of

VND13,000 billion); the budget revenue was VND457 billion (equal to 70.78% of the target assigned by the city); the budget expenditure was VND278 billion (equal to 67.14% of the target); and the disbursed investment fund valued VND40 billion (or 29.99% of the plan in 2022). The district had 236 new companies in the six-month period, bringing its active companies to 1,840. Cai Rang completed checking the North-South Expressway and West Ring Road to Can Tho City.

Notably in economic development, tourism is strongly recovering together with the "Tourism restructuring to meet development requirements of a leading economic sector" project and the "Cai Rang Floating Market conservation and development" project. Tourist arrivals to the district were 99,072 strong, including 4,610 international visitors. In addition to promoting socio-cultural development and ensuring national defense and security, Cai Rang effectively took care of people's health, especially controlling the pandemic in the locality.

What is your investment attraction approach for the coming years?

As a gateway and hub of traffic, industry and port logistics, Cai Rang is always key in the socio-economic development of Can Tho City. Currently, the district has many projects of economic, social, defense and security development, including Hung Phu I and II industrial parks, South Can Tho River New Urban Area, Cai Cui Port and Can Tho Bridge.

Cai Rang has huge potential for tourism development, including Cai Rang Floating Market, a unique feature of the river region, and Au Island, a typical wild landscape and

ecosystem of the Southwest region. The district is home to many historical relics such as Thuong Thanh Communal House, Hiep Thien Cung Pagoda (Ong Pagoda), Phuoc Long Pagoda, Tay Do Battalion Victory Memorials and Can Tho Victory Memorials. Moreover, the district has many unique eco-tourism sites, gardens and homestays that attract a lot of domestic and foreign tourists.

The National Assembly's Resolution 45/2022/QH15 on piloting several specific mechanisms and policies for Can Tho development is instrumental for Can Tho City and Cai Rang district to remove many "bottlenecks" in development: Helping Can Tho City with a strong mechanism to mobilize and attract investment capital; concentrate resources on completing synchronous technical infrastructure, especially the transport system to serve development requirements; training and building high-quality human resources and dedicated civil servants. Besides, some policies and projects to be deployed in the district will create a great driving force for socioeconomic development.

In the coming years, Cai Rang district will deploy many new residential and urban projects such as Lots 1A, 7B, 10, 14A and 14B, covering nearly 30% of the natural area. The Party, government and people of Cai Rang district are always ready to cooperate, share information about investment potential and opportunities and commit to "always cooperate, accompany and share with businesses". However, we also



hope to welcome capable investors to launch effective projects for joint cooperation and development.

Over the past time, what solutions have you implemented to improve the investment and business environment and support businesses and investors?

In recent years, Cai Rang district has always actively coordinated with central and municipal agencies to accelerate the progress of essential infrastructure projects in the locality, especially roadway and waterway transport systems to enable businesses to promote merchandise trade.

Cai Rang also always encourages innovative startups and flexibly applies policies and support tools for businesses. As for urban construction investors, the Cai Rang People's Committee coordinates with relevant bodies to well carry out compensation for reclaimed land, site

clearance, and support them to soon commence, complete and put their projects into use.

Especially to better serve investors and enterprises, the district government is increasingly accelerating administrative reform and simplifying administrative procedures relating to business and investment. In addition to weekly receptions, district leaders periodically meet investors and enterprises to learn about their hardships and introduce workable solutions.

Thank you very much!



CAN THO VOCATIONAL COLLEGE

Trusted Address for High-Quality Human Resource Training



Can Tho Vocational College is a public school directly under the People's Committee of Can Tho City. With more than 50 years of development, the college has affirmed its position as a high-quality vocational training unit of the whole country, providing human resources to meet the requirements of socio-economic development of the city and the region.

Trusted and prestigious address for students

Can Tho Vocational College, formerly known as Phong Dinh Technical Intermediate School, was established in 1964. Currently, it has eight faculties, one department and two training centers. The school is training 14 occupations at college level and 11 occupations at the intermediate level. Its training scale is equivalent to 3,000 students. In addition, the school has links with universities in the country to train from college to university level. Every year, the school has 400-500 graduates. Over 80% of them have jobs after graduation (this rate is 100% in some welding and metal cutting industries).

According to Decision 1769/QĐ-LĐTBXH dated

November 25, 2019 of the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs on approval of key industries and occupations; the college has selected key industries and occupations for the period 2016-2020 and orientation to 2025 with eight key occupations, including five international-level occupations (Automotive technology, Information technology, Computer network administration, Industrial electronics, Industrial electricity) and 3 ASEAN-level occupations (Metal cutting, Mechatronics, Refrigeration and air-conditioning engineering). The school developed and completed high-quality programs and curricula in 2021 for all eight key occupations and they will be applied in the near future.

One of the factors creating the school's reputation and brand is the quality of training. Currently, the college has 117 cadres and public employees, including 91 lecturers. The cadres and lecturers are trained according to domestic and foreign standards. 100% of them meet the prescribed standards; about 70% have professional qualifications of Doctorate or Master.

In addition, the continued implementation of the project on "Strengthening vocational skills", the key vocational project, and the high-quality vocational school project have helped most students acquire a complete and standard knowledge system, and timely update the advanced production technology.

A bright point that significantly enhances the stature of the college is the promotion of international cooperation. The school has cooperated with UK schools to build a quality assurance system for vocational training and cooperated with Chisholm Institute (Australia) to train two international-level professions, and South Korea's KunJang University to train dual diplomas for "Metal cutting" profession according to South Korean standards. In 2019, the school was selected by the General Directorate of Vocational Training as a unit participating in the vocational training association of the German standard "Automotive Technology". Thus, the quality of graduates is increasingly improved, meeting the requirements of the labor market.

Training according to the needs of businesses

In addition to improving training quality, Can Tho Vocational College also promotes the implementation of socialization of vocational education activities, linking businesses with the school in training, and creating jobs for students after graduation.

Business leaders are invited to join the School Council. The school invites representatives of enterprises to participate in appraising programs and curricula; and coordinates with enterprises to select and train graduates



development strategy, focusing on attracting human resources who are qualified lecturers and experts to teach and work at the school.

Along with that, it needs to renovate enrollment, and strengthen counseling and vocational guidance for students in the area. It will actively seize opportunities, and strengthen international cooperation promotion, toward becoming a high-quality school in the national and regional vocational education system. ■

to work abroad.

Additionally, the school has established a Business Relation Department to expand relationships between educational institutions and localities, industrial parks, economic zones and enterprises in training, fostering and supplying human resources, serving the economic and social development and meeting the needs of localities and businesses.

Over the years, the school has signed cooperation agreements with nearly 60 companies/enterprises. The companies/enterprises, which are known through the relationship of lecturers, faculties and departments, are more than 300 units. 171 companies/enterprises accepted internship students in 2021.

In particular, every year, the college conducts a survey to assess the proportion of students who meet the satisfaction level of enterprises and work in the right professional training. In the academic year 2019-2020, graduates having jobs reached 90%, and 86.40% of employers were satisfied with the quality of students (of which 40% were very satisfied).

Some typical businesses that have cooperated with the school include Toyota Ninh Kieu Co., Ltd; Southwest Hyundai Company; Daikin Group, Southwest Refrigeration and Mechanical Trading Company; Tay Do Steel Company; Korea-Vietnam Incubator Park, Tay Do Garment Company.

Mr. Trang Vu Phuong, Rector of Can Tho Vocational College, said that in the coming time, the college would continue to focus on improving training quality; identifying key occupations to focus on investment, training professions suitable to the requirements of society; developing a specific

By 2030, Can Tho Vocational College strives to be a high-quality key school with a training scale of 5,000 students and nine of its industries and occupations approaching the level of ASEAN-4 countries and advanced countries in the world in the direction of standardization and international integration. Thereby, it will contribute to meeting the requirements of providing high-quality human resources for the industrialization and modernization of the country.



Turning Industrial Parks into

Could you please briefly introduce industrial zones in Can Tho City?

Can Tho City is a centrally governed first-grade urban area, a center and an important traffic hub of the Mekong Delta region. Can Tho City-based industrial zones are planned along the southern bank of the Hau River in parallel with National Highway 91 from Can Tho to An Giang province and a different route from Can Tho to Soc Trang province. So, this is convenient for tenants in industrial zones to run their business.

By mid-2022, Can Tho had six active industrial zones: Tra Noc I (130.84 ha); Tra Noc II (157.76 ha), Hung Phu 1 (262.38 ha), Hung Phu 2A (134 ha), Hung Phu 2B (67.27 ha) and Thot Not (106.96 ha).

The industrial zones have a combined area of 859 ha, including 569 ha of rentable industrial land, of which 394 ha was leased, reaching an occupancy rate of 69%. Can Tho also has two industrial zones approved by the Prime Minister to be added to the Vietnam Industrial zone Development Plan, including O Mon Industrial Park (500 ha) and Vinh Thanh Industrial Park (900 ha).

By June 2022, Can Tho-based industrial zones housed 256 valid projects with a total registered capital of US\$1.794 billion, of which 64.67% or US\$1.16 billion was disbursed. In 2021, tenants in the industrial zones made total revenue of US\$2.044 billion, paid VND1,800 billion in taxes and created jobs for 43,000 workers, including 20,000 workers hired by FDI enterprises.

How have you supported tenants in industrial zones and export processing zones?

We have supported enterprises to bolster their business operations. Besides further informing legal regulations on investment, construction, fire prevention and the environment, we have accelerated administrative reform and information technology application to facilitate businesses.

Specifically, we have completed adopting ISO 9001: 2015 quality management system; stepped up information technology (IT) application to effectively carry out IT

While attracting investment capital into industrial zones, Can Tho City is pushing the plan to establish the 500-ha Mekong Delta Center for Agricultural Cooperation, Production, Processing and Consumption to draw more investment funds, turn industrial zones into a true driving force of the city's development in the coming time. Mr. **Pham Duy Tin**, Director of the Can Tho Export Processing and Industrial Zones Authority, gives our reporter an interview on this matter.

application projects; successfully integrated all administrative procedures of Level 3 and Level 4; and implemented online payment of two administrative procedures at the National Public Service Portal.

Reforming administrative procedures and applying the electronic single-window software has helped solve work quickly and efficiently and reduce time and costs for businesses. We have also built a website to promote investment online, provide information on mechanisms and policies to support and remove difficulties for businesses as well as information on domestic and export markets, thus enhancing corporate competitiveness in international economic

integration.

During the COVID-19 pandemic time, we actively coordinated with relevant agencies, Can Tho Center for Disease Control and Prevention and district-level People's Committees to inspect and guide pandemic prevention measures to each business, helping ensure safe production and business activities.

We also established a working group responsible for supporting businesses to deal with their emerging difficulties. Its members are tasked to work together with every enterprise to promptly help them tackle their difficulties and facilitate them to stabilize their production operations. In addition, we took good care of workers.

Resolution 45/2022/QH15 on piloting several specific mechanisms and policies for Can Tho City development is opening up development opportunities for industrial zones. Would you concretize relevant contents?

Clause 1, Article 4 of Resolution 45/2022/QH15 states that "The Municipal People's Council decides changes of the purpose of using land for wet rice cultivation from two crops or more with an area of less than 500 ha as authorized by the Prime Minister, consistent with the master plan on land use approved by competent authorities". This content will help investment projects in

Development Engines



building and operating industrial park infrastructure more conveniently and speeding up the change of land-use purpose for 2-crop rice land.

Article 07 of Resolution 45/2022/QH15 on dredging Dinh An - Can Tho Canal to remove waterway traffic “bottlenecks” for commodity import and export. When Dinh An - Can Tho flow works smoothly, it will open up opportunities to develop logistics services and attract key projects. This is a condition for Can Tho to attract VSIP to develop and operate the infrastructure of Vinh Thanh Industrial Park. At the same time, many investors have shown their keen interest in investment opportunities in industrial parks. Can Tho Export Processing and Industrial Zones Authority has actively supported and provided information for them to learn and carry out necessary procedures.

Article 8 of Resolution 45/2022/QH15 on the development of the Mekong Delta Center for Agricultural Cooperation, Production, Processing and Consumption in Can Tho City is expected to attract many investment projects of technology research and application, production and processing, service and export of agricultural and aquatic products. Companies investing in the center will be entitled to many tax incentives and land rent exemptions to create opportunities for Can Tho to attract more investors.

The Mekong Delta Center for Agricultural Cooperation, Production, Processing and Consumption in Can Tho City is expected to strongly foster the industry and economy of Can Tho in the future. As the Deputy Director of the Working Group of the Municipal People's Committee, what do you think about this?

Resolution 45/2022/QH15 includes the Mekong Delta Center for Agricultural Cooperation, Production, Processing and Consumption in Can Tho City. This is a new and challenging task but also a great development opportunity for Can Tho in the coming time.

To materialize the above policy, the City People's Committee issued a decision to establish a working group to advise on the implementation of center mechanisms and policies and to support the formulation of the center establishment project; introduced plans and assigned specific tasks to related departments and agencies to implement them.

As the Deputy Director of the Working Group, we advised the Director of the Working Group and the City People's Committee to direct relevant departments and agencies to urgently implement approved plans with the highest sense of responsibility in order to put the resolution into practice soon. By June 2022, the progress of implementing the resolution was basically completed (although slower than the plan): Approving the project on the center establishment, a draft decision detailing regulations on the center establishment, organization and operation to submit it to the Prime Minister for consideration and approval; drafting a decision on promulgation of the Working Group's regulations and sent it to relevant departments and agencies for comment. In June 2022, it will be submitted to the City People's Committee (Director of the Working Group) to issue the official regulations on center operations.

The center establishment is expected to bring practical effects to stabilize output and increase the value of agricultural products of the Mekong Delta. The early operation of the Center will strengthen connectivity among localities and between producers and enterprises in production, preservation, processing and consumption, thus helping stabilize output and improve the value chain of agricultural products.

Can Tho City is committed to supporting and facilitating investors to start their business with the center for a long time. The city also proposes more mechanisms and policies and properly implements incentives for them to operate effectively.

Thank you very much!



EVNGENCO2 Headquarters in Can Tho City

EVNGENCO2 Helps Ensure National Energy Security

Power Generation Corporation 2 (EVNGENCO2) is one of nine corporations under Vietnam Electricity Group (EVN), tasked to produce electricity and ensure national energy security.

Officially put into operation in 2013, after nearly 10 years of development, EVNGENCO2 has overcome twists and turns to operate its power plants stably and support the country's socioeconomic development.

NGOC MAI - MINH LUONG

In 2022, besides advantages, EVNGENCO2 is facing many difficulties. Always being mindful in every step, EVNGENCO2 built a complete business plan for 2022 in late 2021. Electricity production output, equipment repair, maintenance and water supply downstream brought about optimistic results and ensured work schedule and quality.

Outstanding results in H1, 2022

In the first half of 2022, EVNGENCO2 encountered difficulties as there was a shortage of coal supply, resulting in insufficient supply for coal-fired power plants. Meanwhile, hydropower plants are having advantages when water reservoirs are around the normal water level. Utilizing such advantages and flexibly adapting to difficulties, EVNGENCO2 managed to perform well in the first months of the year. From January to May, its electricity production output was more than 6.4 billion kWh of electricity, equal to 40% of the full-year plan and up 11% year on year. Specifically, it generated 2 billion kWh of electricity by hydropower; 4.4 billion kWh by coal; its Thac Mo Solar Farm created more than 32 million kWh and oil-fueled thermal power plants halted backup operations.



Leaders of EVNGENCO2 start construction of charity houses for local people

releasing fish to regenerate aquatic resources in hydropower reservoirs; planting trees to cover bare land and bare hills and protect the land; launching cycling movements to inform and motivate consumers to turn off unnecessary lights and electrical equipment in response to the “Earth Hour” campaign; organizing “Bright - Green - Clean - Nice” movements and “Green Saturday” movements to preserve the natural environment.

Actively supplying water for downstream

Hydropower plants always face great pressure. Operating them is not easy as it must ensure electricity production for economic development and reasonably regulate water in the dry season and the rainy season. In recent years, EVNGENCO2’s hydropower plants have operated safely and stably to meet the electricity output needed by the National Load Dispatch Center. The corporation always ensures the water supply for domestic use, agricultural production, drought prevention and flood reduction for downstream areas. As of May 30, 2022, the water supply to the downstream area of An Khe - Ka Nak Hydropower Plant was approximately 418 million cubic meters; Song Bung Hydropower Plant, 854 million cubic meters; Song Ba Ha Hydropower Plant, 1.2 billion cubic meters; Quang Tri Hydropower Plant, 147 million cubic meters; Thac Mo Hydropower Plant, 1.4 billion cubic meters; A Vuong Hydropower Plant, 435 million cubic meters; and Trung Son Hydropower Plant, 1.619 billion cubic meters. This has importantly helped irrigation, agricultural production, and drought prevention in the dry season in 2022.

Environmentally friendly energy

To power the country's socioeconomic development, EVNGENCO2 defines that building a new environmentally friendly power source is a central task in the future. Accordingly, the corporation is expected to develop power source projects: O Mon V combined cycle gas turbine power plant (1,400 MW) and fuel conversion project of O Mon I Thermal Power Plant, using Block B gas. Regarding solar power projects, the corporation plans to deploy 30-MWp Quang Tri Solar Park, 375-MWp Thac Mo Solar Park (Phase 2) and floating solar power parks on the reservoirs of such hydropower plants as Song Ba Ha (200 MWp), Quang Tri (120 MWp), An Khe (20 MWp) and Ka Nak (80 MWp).

In addition to ongoing plans, EVNGENCO2’s units are still carrying out regular tasks that help environmental protection and improvement, like

Responsibility to community and society

“Being an environmentally friendly, socially responsible corporation”, Power Generation Corporation 2 and its member units always actively organize and join social security with all levels of government for a better life for people. With its responsibility, in the first six months of 2022, the corporation donated nearly VND8 billion to social security with many meaningful programs. With EVNGENCO2, all support up to this point is still only a small part for poor people. On its journey of construction and development, the corporation will continue to help and support local authorities to better take care of people's lives.

In its development orientation, EVNGENCO2 defines three key areas: Corporate governance modernization, digital transformation and green transformation. With its right business strategies plus a strong, qualified and professional workforce, EVNGENCO2 will increasingly assert its position in power generation and overall development of Vietnam's electricity industry. ■



VIET THANH EXPORT GARMENT CO., LTD

PROMOTING INTERNAL RESOURCES, STABILIZING



important goals: High productivity, high quality and better customer satisfaction. Its revenue has increased year after year. The income and living standards of its employees have also increased gradually.

In the past two years, the textile and garment industry faced a "tragedy" as the COVID-19 pandemic wrecked most markets. Viet Thanh Export Garment Co., Ltd faced many challenges as many of its orders were delayed and input supplies were interrupted. Facing that difficulty, the company's leadership responded quickly to new situations and worked out its best strategy for

its internal resources.

Viet Thanh Export Garment Co., Ltd established a steering committee for COVID-19 prevention and control, and COVID-19 safety teams; increased medical equipment such as body temperature meters, alcohol sanitizers, medical masks and protective clothing. Every day, besides obligatory facemask wearing, all employees and customers had their body temperature checked and hands disinfected when entering the company. Moreover, the firm

divided each department into small groups to keep a safe physical distance. Periodically, it disinfected kitchens and crowded areas. COVID-19 pandemic information and directive documents from all levels of government were also updated in a timely manner.

Established in 1999, Viet Thanh Export Garment Co., Ltd currently has 650 employees paid an average monthly salary of VND8 million. Its garment products are mainly exported to the United States and Europe.

The company has a modern equipment system, including programming machines, automatic thread cutters, automatic bag cutters and electronic gluing machines and electronic single-needle sewing machines. The firm has applied Lean Management since 2013 and has constantly pursued and improved the Lean Production model. It has deployed scientific and technological applications, modernized all processes, enhanced process improvement, and adjusted operations to ensure two

Viet Thanh Export Garment Co., Ltd is an outstanding exporter in Can Tho City, which not only generates employment for locals but also makes a significant contribution to the local development.

PRODUCTION

In particular, when adopting the factory-based manufacturing plan amid mandatory social distancing from July 2021 to October 2021, the company hired hotels for more than 550 workers to keep on production to meet orders from partners. As a result, despite being affected by the pandemic, Viet Thanh Export Garment Co., Ltd still ensured export shipments, kept its prestige and ensured life and employment for its workers.

In 2022, carrying out the theme "Focus on effective control of the COVID-19 pandemic, safe and flexible adaptation to restore and develop the city's economy and society", Viet Thanh Export Garment Co., Ltd has made efforts to boost production output and achieve its set goals. In the first five months of 2022, the company exported more than US\$6 million, expected to earn US\$15-17 million in 2022.

Mr. Nguyen Van Bac, Deputy Director of Viet Thanh Export Garment Co., Ltd, said, since its inception, the company has always received support from all levels of government. Besides, the support from local customs authorities has greatly facilitated its import and export.

In the coming time, the company will further promote investment in facilities, equipment and apply modern production technology to meet the increasing standards of quality and design.

Moreover, Viet Thanh Export Garment Co., Ltd will create a friendly working environment; take good care of material and spiritual life, and ensure employment and stable income for employees to build a foundation for sustainable and effective development.

Last but not least, to meet increasing market requirements, Viet Thanh will develop well-qualified sales and import-export staff, who are expected to help the company strengthen its position in export markets. ■



(from P.46)

FDI flow movements. Investment promotion programs are strategic, well-connected, visionary and economical to the State budget.

CPA Can Tho will also eye large and multinational economic groups, especially those operating in high-tech agriculture, industry and supporting industries through investment promotion trips abroad, seminars and conferences on investment promotion. During the investment cooperation trip to Japan in 2019, CPA Can Tho awarded the Investment Registration Certificate of the US\$14-million Seafood Processing and Manufacturing Plant to a joint venture between The Marine Foods Corporation of Japan and Nam Hai Export Food Co., Ltd of Vietnam. The 2018 Investment Promotion Conference, attended by over 600 business leaders, investors, domestic and international organizations and associations, introduced 64 investment projects with a total desired budget of VND124 trillion. So far, 14 out of 64 projects were licensed with a combined registered investment capital of VND32,450 billion. They registered to hire 1,038 ha of land.

To further entice investors from strategic markets such as Japan, Singapore and South Korea, CPA Can Tho advised the municipal government to establish a Japan Working Group or Japan Desk in 2017 to boost investment promotion in Japan; formed promotion channels with key partners, effectively attracted non-government investment fund, and organized government - business dialogues.

According to CPA Can Tho, Resolution 45/2022/QH15 is an important foundation for the city to tap its potential strengths and advantages to achieve rapid and sustainable development and create a driving force for the development of the whole Mekong Delta region. With its assigned functions and tasks, CPA Can Tho has been strengthening investment promotion, working hard to directly invite potential investors to invest in Dinh An - Can Tho waterway, in Mekong Delta joint agricultural cooperation, production, processing and consumption center in Can Tho City as well as in projects in Vinh Thanh and O Mon industrial parks, aviation logistics projects, Mekong Delta financial centers, and service and tourism centers in Ninh Kieu district. ■



PROVIDING SMEs EASY ACCESS TO FUNDS

After nearly eight years of operation, the Can Tho Credit Guarantee Fund for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (CCGF) has guaranteed over 170 businesses to borrow VND570 billion. Guaranteed businesses have fulfilled their debt repayment obligations to commercial banks. As a result, CCGF has preserved and developed its VND100 billion and has not ever used it to pay debts to credit institutions.

Mr. Nguyen Huu Phuoc, Director of CCGF, said, during its operation, CCGF has a favorable, relatively complete legal corridor for credit guarantee, especially after Law 04/ 2017/QH14 on Enterprise Support dated June 21, 2017 of the National Assembly and Decree 34/2018/ND-CP dated March 8, 2018 of the Government, while more companies are accessing CCGF services.

However, Decree 34/2018/ND-CP, which replaced Decision 58/2013/QD-TTg on conditions for businesses to access credit guarantee, has some hard requirements: Having an investment project, effective production and business plan, feasible loan repayment plan; having investment projects and business plans appraised and guaranteed by the Credit Guarantee Fund; and having a plan on at least 20% of the equity in participating in investment projects and business plans.

Therefore, CCGF recommends adjusting and supplementing some contents in Decree 34/2018/ND-CP. Specifically, there is no requirement for having collateral for a credit guarantee. Guarantee funds can decide security measures for loan certificates for each specific enterprise and project. Moreover, support is necessarily substantive. The decree needs to clearly stipulate that guaranteed loans carry lower interest rates than ordinary commercial loans.

The guarantee by credit guarantee funds is only one condition. Businesses need to meet a lot of other conditions from banks that are not interested in guarantees by such funds because of their small capital size, much smaller than bank loan packages. Therefore, CCGF hopes to have its registered capital increased to meet guarantee needs and bring funds to more SMEs. ■

Developing Specific



To turn tourism into a spearhead economic sector, Can Tho City has striven to spur tourism development. The city has actively created distinctively special, unique and novel products to entice tourists.

Efforts for destination brand

The master plan for Mekong Delta tourism development to 2020, with a vision to 2030, sets out to make Can Tho City a tourism center of the Mekong Delta and a tourism development center of the country. Resolution 03-NQ/TU of Can Tho City Party Committee on tourism development sets out the goal of making Can Tho tourism a leading economic sector, affirming its brand and sustainable development, importantly contributing to service structure and the growth of the city, developing professional, modern, focused tourism for the first-tier city of the Mekong Delta.

Besides, to further boost tourism development, Can Tho City Party Committee issued Resolution 10-NQ/TU dated December 31, 2021 on tourism development in the new context to develop tourism into a leading economic sector.

Can Tho tourism has achieved strong

Tourism Products as Competitive Advantages

growth in recent years. Tourist arrivals and tourism revenue increased impressively at an average of 20% a year. The city's tourism also rebounded strongly in the first months of 2022.

One of the remarkable changes in Can Tho tourism is the right focus on locally distinctive products such as city river eco-tour; historical and cultural tourism, and MICE tourism (tourism combined with meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions).

Many new products of local cultural identity have been created, with many being very well-known to tourists like community tourism on Son Island, Tan Loc Island, ecological sites and farms (Ong De, Chin Hong, Cantho Farm and Bao Gia Trang Vien). Destinations of Can Tho have become more diverse. Specifically, Son Island is popular for "fish specialties" with many novel experiences: flying snakehead fish and feeding fish with a spoon. Tan Loc Island is a sweet land of many orchards.

In addition, the city has many river-based tourism products such as the high-class Victoria Mekong cruise on Can Tho - Chau Doc - Phnom Penh route, Mai Linh Express high-speed boat on Can Tho - Con Dao route; and three yachts for night sightseeing and dining.

Accelerating digital transformation

Currently, many digital transformation models such as the City Tourism Portal at <https://canthotourism.vn> and <http://mycantho.vn> have been put into operation and are increasingly being upgraded and completed. Besides, there are technology solutions for tourism management and administration, and tourism promotion.



The opening ceremony of the Can Tho Online Tourism Fair

Furthermore, most local tourism businesses are involved in digital applications. Some have invested in websites, digital business, e-commerce, and data digitization. Some gardeners and community tourist sites have also deployed technology to build images and introduce products through social networking sites.

Mr. Nguyen Minh Tuan, Deputy Director of Can Tho Department of Culture, Sports and Tourism, said that in 2022, Can Tho City has focused on COVID-19 pandemic containment for socio-economic recovery and development. The city will actively build safe and friendly tourism products through strong digital transformation in the following aspects: IT application, digital platforms, e-commerce, data digitization and website development.

In the coming time, the department will advise the City People's Committee on the plan for "Digital transformation and increased IT application to tourism in 2021-2025, with an eye to 2030".

"Specially, Can Tho City will create an open tourism data platform, encourage organizations, individuals and businesses to invest and contribute data to the shared data system and joint mining," he added.

Box: According to the tourism digital transformation direction, Can Tho City will strive to become one of the leading provinces/cities in digital transformation in the travel and tourism industry. ■





TỔNG CÔNG TY TÂN CẢNG SÀI GÒN
SAIGON NEWPORT CORPORATION



MULTIMODEL TRANSPORTATION

(COMBINING TRUCKING & WATERWAY TRANSPORT)
WELL ADAPTED TO THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC

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• MULTIMODEL TRANSPORTATION

This solution is implemented in a synchronous combination between Tan Cang Waterway Transportation JSC and overland transport units with a transshipment point at Tan Cang - Que Vo ICD (Bac Ninh). This solution ensures the transportation effectiveness of the Bac Ninh - Hai Phong route, quickly adapt to the production needs during the Covid-19 pandemic.

• ADVANTAGES OF THE SOLUTION

- Supply chain stability
- Time optimization and cost-saving
- Schedule is stable, not limited when entering cargo handling areas.
- The barging capacity is good (36 – 96 TEUS/barge)
- Only 3-4 operators/staff are required per barge.
- All Saigon Newport's Terminals in Hai Phong are under one management of Dinh Vu Customs Branch, this helps shorten clearance procedures for import/export cargo.