

# 2010 in focus

## Development and Policies Research Center

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### Director's message

In 2005, a group of young men united to establish a groundbreaking research center for producing high quality and rigorous research in Vietnam.

Five years has gone by, and the vision, spirit and values of the founders remain as strong and vivid as ever.

This year, the Development and Policies Research Center (DEPOCEN) celebrates its fifth anniversary as a leading, unique and independent research institute in Vietnam.

The center has hosted hundreds of local and overseas-based Vietnamese and international scholars.

Moreover the Center is a favoured destination for

various research projects and activities. DEPOCEN also provides a reliable and unique avenue for disseminating research outputs to the academic and research community in Vietnam.

The fact that almost 1,000 alumni have completed DEPOCEN training, together with the Center's output of rigorous and quality analysis, has caused the Center to be recognized for its positive impact on the national economic and social development of Vietnam.

Rigor, fair competition and shared values are our standards and ideology.

In the next five years, we plan to continue our institutional development. We strive to be an excellent regional research institute. We also endeavor to foster a proud and satisfying work environment for every member of DEPOCEN.

*Nguyen Duc Nhat,  
Director*



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### 2010 Research Agenda – Chief Economist's Message

DEPOCEN has continued to pursue its rigorous scientific research agenda throughout 2010.

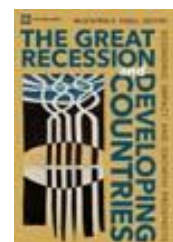
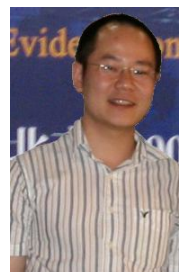
For example, DEPOCEN has contributed a chapter about Vietnam to the World Bank's book *The Great Recession and Developing Countries*. The chapter, titled "Resilience but Challenges Ahead" discusses the effects of the global financial crises on Vietnam, including the

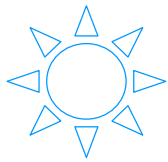
government's response. It also canvasses some of the likely challenges for the future.

DEPOCEN has also been awarded an Australian Government Science Grant research grant to undertake collaborative research on economic integration and poverty reduction with the Australian School of Taxation (University of New South Wales). The research project will

investigate international economic integration, child poverty and transfer policy in Vietnam.

*Nguyen Ngoc Anh,  
Chief Economist*





*“VEAM provides a setting for Vietnamese economists, especially young economists, to have the opportunity to exchange their research topics and findings with local and international colleagues. Through VEAM, they can enhance their research papers, and go on to publish in internationally recognized publications.”*

## Hanoi Economic Summer School

Summer is a suitable time for bringing together alumni, forming new friendships, knowledge sharing and capacity building in the most relaxed and enjoyable way – a Summer School!

For its second ever annual Summer School in 2010, DEPOCEN cooperated with the Institute of Strategy and Policy on National Resources and Environment (ISPONRE), an agency under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), and the Water Resources University (WRU). The Course took place in Hanoi, Vietnam on 16-27 August 2010. The Summer School brought together locally and internationally renowned professors and scholars, including from France and Singapore. These included Professor Cuong Le Van and Dr. Minh Ha-Duong, both from the French National Center for Scientific Research, as well as other well respected lecturers.

The topics of the Summer School courses included Water Economics, Corporate Finance, Growth Theory, the Economic Dynamics of Natural Resources Use, International Climate Policy, International Macroeconomics, and Sustainable Natural Resource Management.

DEPOCEN looks forward to hosting the third Summer School in August 2011.

## Vietnam Economist Annual Meeting



The third annual Vietnam Economist Annual Meeting (VEAM) was held in Cua Lo, on 24-25 August, 2010.

The 2010 Vietnam Economist Annual Meeting was the largest yet, attracting researchers, PhD candidates and professors from both Vietnam and abroad.

A variety of high quality and innovative research papers were presented and discussed.

Professor Le Van Cuong,

Research Director at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique in Paris, France, was the Program Chair.

Other participants included: Mr Pham Hoang Van, from Baylor University in the US and Visiting Fulbright Scholar University of Economics in Ho Chi Minh City, Mr Le Quang Thanh from the University of Queensland, Australia, Mr Partha Chatterjee from the

National University of Singapore, Mr Yashushi Ueki from the Bangkok Research Center, Institute of Developing Economies, Thailand; Mr Nguyen Manh Hung and Mr Arnaud Reynaud from the University of Toulouse, France; Mr Le Hong Nhat and scholars from the Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh University of Economics and Law.

## Vietnam-Australia “buffalo” exchange

DEPOCEN is continuing to build its links with Australia.

These links were forged by Deputy Director, Ms Nguyen Thi An, who completed her Masters in Australia.

DEPOCEN is currently hosting a Research Officer from Australia, Ms Kirby Prickett.

Meanwhile, in 2011, DEPOCEN Project Officer, Ms Vu Thi Van Anh, will travel to Canberra, Australia to study a Masters in Social Research at the Australian National University (ANU).

Coincidentally, Kirby is also studying at the ANU (part-time) and both Van Anh and

Kirby were born in the year of the buffalo.

We think that both Australia and Vietnam are lucky to host Van Anh and Kirby because the year of the buffalo is one of slow, steady progress, and patient strength; traits suitable for a scientist.

Sounds like a good fit for both DEPOCEN and ANU!



## Projects in 2010

**Project title:** Independent Review of Public Administration Reform (PAR)

**Client name:** Ministry of Home Affairs-UNDP

DEPOCEN designed indicators and conducted a survey to assess the nine objectives of PAR 2001-2010 and made recommendations regarding the orientation of the 2011-2020 PAR framework.

**Project title:** Disclosure of Information on Land Management Regulations: Survey Report (“Land Survey”)

**Client name:** World Bank

The research team assessed the transparency of land related regulation and administration in Vietnam based on spot check approach. Significant increases in the accessibility to land related information have been found. However, more could be done to improve the land administration system in Vietnam.



**Project title:** Monitoring aid effectiveness from a gender perspective

**Client name:** UN-INSTRAW

DEPOCEN, in collaboration with UN-INSTRAW and other related UN agencies, is implementing the four components of this project, which aims to strengthen gender equality and the empowerment of women in the financing for development process.

**Project title:** Baseline Survey for Citizens’ Access to Information

**Client name:** People’s Participation Working Group (PPWG)

DEPOCEN provided technical support and framework design to a donor network, including Oxfam GB, CODE, DED, CARE, Action Aid, regarding survey and assessment implementation. It is confirmed that access to information is essential to people and social organizations.

**Project title:** Vietnam Labour Market Survey - Exploratory Research on Labour Market for Recovering Drug Users

**Client name:** Family Health International (FHI) – USAID and Chemonics.

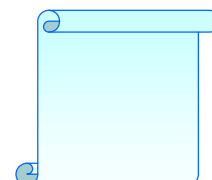
Appropriate employment markets were found for recovering drug users.

**Social impacts:** Based on the findings of this research, a list of occupations was identified, which assisted FHI and Chemonics to formulate an appropriate supporting system for recovering drug users. This helps the target group to transition to normal and sustainable lives.

**Project title:** Training series on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) for IFAD staff

**Client name:** International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

**Purpose:** To provide practical and technical training for IFAD project staff so that they can more effectively implement IFAD’s results based management approach.



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## DEPOCEN Scholarships

DEPOCEN seeks to encourage talented students to participate in research.

For the past five years, DEPOCEN has also been providing scholarships for outstanding undergraduate students in the International Economics Faculty of FTU and the Statistics Faculty of the National Economics University. 18 selected students have received DEPOCEN's awards.

*DEPOCEN Student Research Awards aim to:*

- Foster an early student interest in, and commitment to, research
- Provide guidance and instruction to young talented researchers, to ensure that there is a new generation of researchers for the future.
- Create a wide network of scientific researchers, so that they can exchange knowledge, experience and resources.
- Recognize and honor outstanding students of the faculty, who have achieved excellent entrance examination results and academic performance. The aim is to encourage young and talented students, who will contribute in the economic development of our nation.



## Outdoor Activities



**Blue Sky**



**Sunny Beach**



**Cool Mountain**

