

Annual Report 2005



*‘Connecting people
to Alleviate Poverty
and to Build An
Equitable Society’*



Center for Development and Integration

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About the Center for Development and Integration

Vision

The Center for Development and Integration with the aim to promote for a sustainable socio-economic and non-poor society in which the poor women, girls, men and boys' wellbeing can be best served in the context of Vietnam integration into world economy.

Mission

To work actively in analyzing the emerging socio-economic and poverty issues to advocate for better changes in the context of Vietnam into world integration and to help the poor to solve their development issues.

Objectives

- To provide high quality services regarding development and integration issues in Vietnam and in other regions
- To actively participate into promotion of sustainable socio-economic development of the poor including poverty reduction, gender equality, environmental protection, job creation, business promotion.
- To work as bridging development agency in research, knowledge management and advocacy
- To increase the organization's self-sustaining.



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THE SUSTAINABLE INTEGRATION INTO WORLD ECONOMY

The real situation of trade liberalization of Vietnamese affected sectors and people to economic integration is raised to share in the mainstream of regional advocacy efforts.

“Trade integration while reducing poverty can also contribute to rising income inequality between regions and sectors. Many potential losers such as farmers supplying their output to agricultural SOEs and migrant workers of protected industries may not have necessary means to cope with trade-induced negative shocks and hence need social support from the government. The emerging evidence on the links between trade reforms and poverty points to the need for carefully targeted social safety nets and complementary policies; appropriate institutions to be set up. Evidence of labor market segmentation implies that work should also be done towards reducing the gaps between returns to human capital of workers in different segments”



The project is to facilitate the cross-fertilization of experiences and lessons learnt on linkages between trade, development and poverty reduction in the developing countries to develop appropriate policy responses. During the process, the project facilitates synergy between governments and civil society organisations on emerging debate on the linkages between trade, development and poverty reduction. The project advocates for development-oriented trade

policies, based on learning from research, country case studies and other campaigning activities, taking into account the needs, interests and priorities of the poor and marginalized people into the aspects of policy coherence.

National dialogues were organised for government officials, academic and think tanks, civil society where voices and need of people who are affected were discussed.

The “Linkages between Trade, Development and Poverty Reduction”, supported by CUTS international under the DFID and Development Fund of Neitherland, launched in mid- 2005 that link Vietnam to regional advocacy campaign.



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TO THEIR RIGHTS AND EMPOWERMENT ON SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

In 2005, CDI has been awarded to have INNOVATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION by the World Bank. The innovation is to empower people, including indigenous people and to bring behavior change in collaborative, initiative, effective and efficient management of projects related to natural resources protection and conservation and environment protection. The communities involved, through their active participation in the series of community/ village meetings and review meeting at commune and district level will learn how to collaboratively protect natural resource for their livelihood and their quality of life. The project, through advocacy efforts changed the mindset and understanding of policy makers at national levels on formulating policies on environment and natural resources management (focusing on forestry, non-timber, land use, marine resources) especially for poor farmers and ethnic minority groups. Communities share their experiences or initiatives on natural resource protection and conservation.



The ethnic minority has abandoned their nomadic tradition to settle their home and farms. They recognized that “No Forest, No water, No grain”. Unity and community leadership was found critical to promote community based resource management (Case study from Vi Xuyen, Ha Giang province)



“ How rare the herbal trees up high to the mountain to get now? It is more difficult to collect it. We need to reserve and change our ways of collecting herbal in order to allow our next generation to live” (case study from Bac Giang)





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TO THE DECENT LIFE OF WORKERS AND WORKING CONDITIONS

CDI serves as the resource center and active organization to promote Corporate Social Responsibility in Vietnam and Asia. Under the support of ActionAid Vietnam, CDI advocate widely the concept and practices of good social responsibilities among the entrepreneurs/enterprises as labor users so that they can work out their responsibility to labor and business partners towards better economic and social position in the growing economic integration and globalization. The project increases the commitment of social responsibility among the labor users (enterprises) through incentive scheme. Through the engagement of the key stakeholders to discuss on labor – socio- economic issues, with provision of sufficient information and available forum, the partnership (government – employers/ private sector – labor) can work together to achieve the competitiveness of the industries. CDI operates nationwide, among about 200 enterprises, in the form of networking, forum and campaign. CDI also works with partners in Asia for regional CSR network which helps to bring in good CSR practices of the world to share inside countries. The priority target group is the workers to help them to gain a decent working condition. CDI also works with the enterprises to help them with fair competition and sustain better into world economy. The CSR Award 2005 was successfully organized, under the official sponsor of Ministry of Industry, support from Ministry of Labor, Invalid and Social Affairs, International Labor Organisation, Vietnam Chamber of Commerce, Labor Union and other partners to promote CSR through CSR Awards, as the first time in Vietnam, to best Enterprises in Footwear and Leather industry.



The CSR Forum is open for all, especially the corporates and companies to share and learn about CSR. First in Vietnam, the web based forum www.vietnamforumcsr.net is providing room for CSR players. They are linked with the Asian Forum on CSR as a ground for joining the Asian CSR Awards. The forum provides insight voices of the workers about their lives, their working conditions, as well as reflecting the views of corporates on CSR. Adoption of CSR practices improved.

Supported by ActionAid Vietnam, and in the collaboration with Vietnam Footwear and Leather Association, the project was first established for the Vietnam CSR Award 2005 in Footwear Industries that promote Vietnamese companies to go for better responsibility towards their workers, environment, working conditions and communities.

TO THEIR IMPROVED CAPACITY IN POLICY MAKING

Tailor the support to the grass root as well as the policy making level....

CDI specializes in capacity building. We started with our ultimate goals of building capacity for people. We are able to set the niche selling points in training courses in socio-economic planning, strategic planning, and participatory development.

CDI can tailor its training courses on PLANNING AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION MANAGEMENT to some targeted partners and clients. The trainings were delivered for provincial officials on hands-on approach in socio-economic development planning. The provincial officials are expected to apply both participatory and strategic approach in developing their 5-year and annual plans. The practices on the field followed by class-room training workshop is to give officials the practical use of tools like PRA, PPAs for participatory planning, and problem-solution analysis through problem trees, objective tree and SWOT analysis or prioritization through ranking matrix. These are useful tools for local planning. Training curricula include session on budgeting and on monitoring and evaluation where officials can look at the resources to reconcile programs and projects according to the budget guideline and the decentralization process in monitoring plans. . The officials now know how to make a priority list to their policies or investments by bottom up or participatory planning in the context of their limited resources and responsiveness to their people's needs. The local governments can plan towards more results oriented, better link budget and plans and better monitored at all levels.



CDI is the bridge for development leaders at the provinces and knowledge and skills. We expect that through knowledge and capacity on practical subjects, policy making leaders gradually develop their strategic thinking and harmonize towards effective development progress.



PROACTIVE SUPPORT IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AS MEANS TO BRIDGE THE GRASS ROOT PEOPLE TO POLICY ADVOCACY

The Government of Vietnam would like to have stronger role of NGOs in supporting the local community consultation to the SEDP. The Donors like ADB, WB and JICA provides the support in financial and some technical inputs to encourage the wider stakeholders' comments to the SEDP. Under the support of MPI, the willingness of Gia lai province, ActionAid Vietnam took the responsibility on this first pilot consultation. CDI provided a senior team to work with Action Aid Vietnam through out the process. The results of the consultation were found in higher commitment and change in thinking and practice of local officials in developing their plans, as well as fruitful inputs into the national SEDP. Continued with the efforts, CDI have provided support to MPI and the provinces of Kon Tum, Hoa Binh and Dong Thap in terms of hands-on trainings and consultation. The participation of grass root people and local level to the national policies in the SEDP is enlarged. Also, the local governments and officials can hold more accountability towards their people and their national government.



CDI actively supports the Ministry of Planning and Investment. CDI provided assistance in trainings and on-job skills transfer to officials of Gia Lai, Dong Thap, Kon Tum and Hoa Binh provinces during 2005. CDI also set up partnership with donors and NGOs, universities and institutes to ensure the academic provision in its trainings. The program starts early 2005, and will have large room to scale up in 2006 onwards.

WHAT WE DO

The Center for Development and Integration, since its established early 2005 as an independent agency from Vietnam Asia-Pacific Economic Center (established in 1993) has sought to mobilize high quality human resources and expertise to effectively address the challenges and development issues that faces Vietnam today. We commit to serve and engage the poor women, men, girls and boys to improve their relationship with other partners and take all possible opportunities to overcome poverty.

Research

CDI offer research capacity in economic, social and environmental issues.

In 2005, CDI has contributed to the regional research and campaign on trade poverty reduction and growth where case studies of industries and their likely impact on WTO were depicted. CDI also conducted case studies on community based natural resource management in Vietnam under the IN.

CDI, with its rich community development experience also specialize participatory approach in all researches. The research can be the combination of econometrics and qualitative approaches.

Advocacy and policy dialogues

CDI pursues its policy work, not only with research but with communities themselves. CDI is bridging grass root people to empower them with policy issues. The involvement in the Government's Socio-economic Development Planning (SEDP) enabled CDI to analyze some policies as well as helping the poor. The mass consultation of the SEDP in many provinces and grass root communities, together conducted by other NGOs, brought in effective dialogues and concrete recommendation to the government's policy making. Provincial policy dialogues become good way of bridging leadership on pro-poor planning and accountability.

Capacity Building

The prominent long term sustained program for CDI is designed training courses for public managers and administrators. CDI bring in international knowledge and experience in building capacity for local leaders. With the success of some training courses during 2005, CDI offered

1. In house designed course based on context and needs requirement
2. High quality of curriculum and training materials
3. TOT training on specific subjects for practitioners
4. Capacity and skill building for public officials on concept and strategic thinking, planning, public financial management and monitoring.
5. Facilitate the field work – through practice

Knowledge Management and Networking

CDI uses knowledge and information as the power to work in development. It is our strategy to develop coalition and network with partner organizations and individuals. In specific themes, we are offering on line dialogues and discussion. We are working on knowledge sharing which is the basis for awareness raising on issues.

CDI continues to strengthen

- Partnership building
- Project implementation
- Consultancy services

OUR PERFORMANCE

CDI'S PARTNERS

Development Agencies

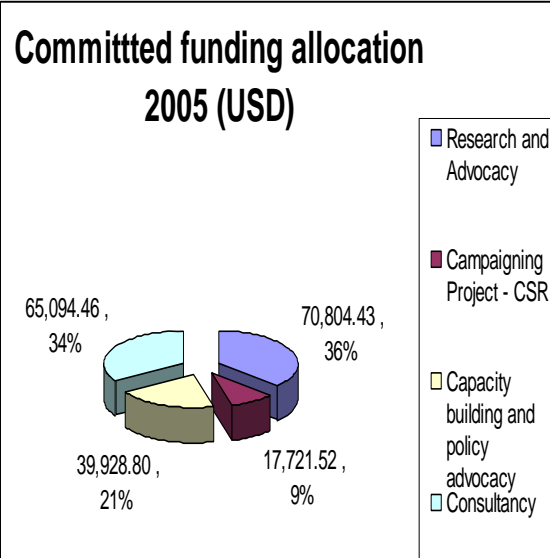
Government Agencies

NGOs and civil society organisations

Academic institutions and think tanks

Corporate Alliances

International Consultancy Firms



CDI commits to reduce the overhead and administration costs under 20% of total expenditures.