



# FACT SHEET



## Strengthening peoples participation in Viet Nam

### Background

The non-state sector in Viet Nam, including unions, professional organisations, business associations, non governmental organisations, community based organisations, has experienced rapid growth in recent years. Grassroots democracy and people's participation are becoming more and more important, and the contributions that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) can make to Viet Nam's socio-economic development are being recognized as never before. Recent legislation has helped open up the space for public debate and acknowledged the vital role civil society, especially intellectuals, can play in Viet Nam's future development.

As one of only three professional unions established during the 1980s, the Vietnam Union of Science and Technology (VUSTA) has a long history and today coordinates more than 400 organisation members, mainly made up of professional associations and local unions.

In 2004, in this changing environment, VUSTA recognized it had to become more responsive to the needs of its member organizations and to improve its capacity to monitor and provide input to the Government's policies, programmes and projects. These are new roles, and VUSTA and UNDP will work together to fill the current capacity gap in building effective partnerships, improving information sharing and networking in an effort to better meet the needs of VUSTA's membership.

#### QUICK FACTS:

**Budget: US \$ 1.375.000**

**Start date: March 2008**

**Time frame: 2008 – 2011**

UNDP will work together to fill the current capacity gap in building effective partnerships, improving information sharing and networking in an effort to better meet the needs of VUSTA's membership.

#### What the project will do:

- Strengthen VUSTA's ability to represent its member organisations' interests in contributing to the Government's policy-making processes, so that VUSTA can better represent, promote and protect its member organisations' rights and interests by monitoring and providing inputs to government policies, programmes and projects.
- Strengthening VUSTA's internal governance structures and capacity to work as an effective coordinating organisation, so that VUSTA's management structure is improved and made more efficient and transparent.
- Strengthening VUSTA's capacity to become an effective bridge for its member organisations, so that the Union is able to create long-term and sustainable linkages between its members, with the Government as well as with international organisations.

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### About UNDP

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in 166 countries, working with governments and people on their own solutions to global and national development challenges.

### About VUSTA

The Viet Nam Union of Science & Technology Associations (VUSTA) is one of the biggest umbrella organizations for science and technology and civil society organizations in Viet Nam. We have 66 central discipline associations, 53 city/provincial union of associations and over 450 research/training centres nationwide as well as 150 magazines, reviews, journals, newsletters, special issues. Our first and foremost mission is to contribute to the national socio-economic development.

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