

Hanoi, 26 February 2003

**DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROJECT  
“VIETNAM ECONOMIC RESEARCH NETWORK” (VERN)  
ON RESEARCH IDEAS  
QUALIFIED FOR THE SECOND ROUND OF THE SELECTION PROCESS**

Director of Project “Vietnam Economic Research Network” received the minutes of meeting of the Selection Committee of VERN held on 17 February 2003, which recommend research ideas 13, 6, 9/34, 26 (ranked as belonging to the top group or Group A), 1, 12 (ranked as belonging to Group A/B) and 8, 23 (ranked as belonging to Group B), all as being qualified for the second stage of the selection process. The Selection Committee also recommends that the Director of VERN choose one from three research ideas 28/29/31 ranked as belonging to Group B/C. After a careful study of the minutes of the meeting and the individual marks provided by members of the Selection Committee, the Director of VERN had a meeting with and listened to verbal reports by Ha Huy Thanh, Chairman and Nguyen Thang, Secretary of the Selection Committee on 22 February 2003. Then on 7 March 2003, the Director of VERN had a meeting with other members of VERN’s Advisory Group comprising of Le Dang Doanh, Vo Dai Luoc and Vu Quoc Huy. All members of the Advisory Committee then agreed that research ideas in Group B/C have received only a small number of favourable votes, and therefore is unlikely to be qualified for the second stage of the selection process. On the basis of these consultations, the Director of VERN has decided that only the following eight research ideas are selected for the second round of the selection process, from which up to 6 (six) proposals will be awarded research funding:

	<b>VERN No</b>	<b>Leader</b>	<b>Institutes/ Organizations</b>	<b>Proposed Titles of Research</b>
1	13	Tran Quoc Trung	Industry Department, MPI	Trade Liberalization and Non-farm Household Enterprises in Vietnam: Challenges or Opportunities ahead?
2	6	Dang Nhu Van	Institute of Economics	From Productivity to Competitiveness: Three Essays on How Competitive Edge of Vietnam's Textiles and Garments Firms Can Be Improved
3	9/34	Nguyen Thi Lan Huong (RCFL)/ Doan Hong Quang	Institute of Labour Science and Social Affairs (MOLISA)/ Institute of World Economy	Measuring Effects of Trade Liberalization on the Labor Market in Vietnam/Employment and wage effects of trade reform: The case of Vietnam manufacturing
4	26	La Hai Anh	Hanoi National Economics University	Export Competitiveness of Vietnam, China, and members of ASEAN in US and Japan Markets
5	1	Bui Thi Tam	Hue university	Trade Liberalization and Employment in Agricultural Sector - The Case of Central Provinces, Vietnam
6	12	Dao The Anh	Vietnam Agricultural Science Institute	Influence of maize free trade to this commodity chain and Vietnam animal husbandry
7	8	Dinh Le Hai Ha	Hanoi National Economics university	The global software battlefield: How can Vietnam David stand up to China Goliath
8	23	Nguyen Thi Canh	Ho Chi Minh City National university	Identifying factors affecting competitiveness of HCMC-based textiles and garments private enterprises in economic integration process (case study of Hochiminh city)

Based on the suggestions of the Selection Committee as specified in the minutes of the meeting on 17 February 2003, the Director of VERN also recommends that the team with research idea 23 ("Identifying factors affecting competitiveness of HCMC-based textiles and garments private enterprises in economic integration process (case study of

Hochiminh city)”, Team Leader Nguyen Thi Canh) should explore the possibility of working on other sectors to avoid overlap with the team with idea 6 (“From Productivity to Competitiveness: Three Essays on How Competitive Edge of Vietnam’s Textiles and Garments Firms Can Be Improved”), which also works on the textile and garments sector.

This decision is effective from the signing date. The VERN office is required to implement it based on the VERN project document.

Director of the Institute of Economics,  
Director of VERN,

Prof. Dr. Do Hoai Nam