

## Preface

The Vietnam Development Forum (VDF) is a policy research project between the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo and the National Economics University (NEU) in Hanoi. It is funded by the Japanese government.

Since its establishment in early 2004, VDF has cooperated very closely with the Ministry of Industry (MOI) of Vietnam. The central theme of our cooperation is exploring the way to improve the methodology of industrial policy formulation.

In Vietnam, a significant gap has emerged between the old policy method based on quantitative planning and the designation of public investment projects on the one hand, and the rapidly changing reality under market-orientation and global integration on the other. Many MOI officials are well aware of this gap, and seek concrete and practical intellectual inputs to revise their policy method.

To support this effort, VDF and MOI have organized three joint missions to Thailand, Japan and Malaysia from early 2005 to early 2006. In each country, we collected key industrial policy documents, and asked how policies were designed, implemented, and reviewed. We also learned how the government and the business community talked to each other, what organizational structure was adopted to draft policy documents, and how inter-ministerial coordination was ensured.

By publishing this report, we would like to share our findings with a broader community of policy makers and researchers in Vietnam. While political situations and policy methods may shift over time in each surveyed country, we believe that information gathered by our missions, when regarded as clues to improve policy formulation, has value largely invariant to such changes.

VDF takes full responsibility for the content of this report. No assertion in this volume should be construed as the official views of either MOI or the organizations and people whom we interviewed. The titles of the officials and other participants of our research are those at the time of the interview.

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