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Localizing Agenda 21 Program in Vietnam and Its Implementations in Local Government

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베트남의 지역 아젠다 21과 그 실행에 대한 분석 연구

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Abstract

베트남은 1991년 이래로 지속가능한 개발을 국가계획에 반영하여 온 최초의 몇 안 되는 실행국가이다. 2004년 4월에는 베트남의 수상이 베트남 아젠다 21의 지속가능성과 연계한 전략적 접근에 대한 결정을 문서화하고 있다. 아젠다 21의 제28장에서 언급된 바와 같이 지역 자치단체장은 지역 아젠다 21을 실행하기 위한 과정에 참여하고 있으며 이는 지역사회, 지역의 정책 및 프로그램이 국가계획과 연계되어야 하며 지역의 단체들은 이 부분에 준비 및 참여를 수행하였다. 본 논문은 이러한 국가계획하에 아젠다 21을 수행한 2개의 지방자치단체에 대한 참여프로그램 분석을 수행한 연구이다. 랑손시의 대중위생관리 및 미칸마을의 녹색성장에 대한 참여프로그램을 분석하였다.

주요어 : Agenda-21, Vietnam, Sustainable Development, Waste Management, Sanitary management

I. Introduction

1. What is Sustainable Development?

Sustainable development has been defined as balancing the fulfillment of human needs with the protection of the natural environment so that these needs can be met not only in the present, but in the indefinite future (United Nations, 1983). The term was used by the Brundtland Commission which coined what has become the most often-quoted definition of sustainable development as development that "meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

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The Brundtland Commission, formally the World Commission on Environment and Development, known by the name of its Chair Gro Harlem Brundtland, was convened by the United Nations in 1983. The commission was created to address growing concern "about the accelerating deterioration of the human environment and natural resources and the consequences of that deterioration for economic and social development." In establishing the commission, the UN General Assembly recognized that environmental problems were global in nature and determined that it was in the common interest of all nations to establish policies for sustainable development.

In 1987 Brundtland Commission had published their report titled as "Our Common Future", where key concepts on sustainable development had been defined and request to change world politics toward common development had been voiced.

The UN initiative had been shaped into the "ready to act" form, recognized by almost all countries, during the Earth Summit or United Nations Conference on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June of 1992. The Earth Summit resulted in the following documents: 1) *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development*, 2) *Agenda 21*, 3) *Convention on Biological Diversity*, 4) *Forest Principles*, and 5) *Framework Convention on Climate Change* And soon, in December of 1992, the UN Commission on Sustainable Development had been established to ensure effective follow-up of UNCED, to monitor and report on implementation of the agreements at the local, national, regional and international levels. Sustainable development issues have been developed further and detailed according to some specific period of time in the "Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21" approved at GASS (General Assembly of Special Session) 19 in 1997 and so called "Johannesburg Declaration" adopted at Earth Summit 2002.

The new concept of sustainable development represents a revolutionary shift in how societies work. For the first time, the world is being offered an approach to decision-making that reflects a coherent, comprehensive and powerful process that simultaneously advances economic well-being and the fare allocation of wealth and resources while preserving ecological and environmental health, fundamental human values, and intergenerational equity.

Agenda 21 is a comprehensive plan of action to be taken globally, nationally and locally by organizations of the UN System, Governments, and Major Groups in every area in which human impacts on the environment (United Nations, 1987).

The full implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Commitments to the Rio principles, were strongly reaffirmed at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held in Johannesburg, South Africa from 26 August to 4 September 2002.

2. UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)

The Commission is responsible for reviewing progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration; as well as providing policy guidance to follow up the Johannesburg Plan at the local, national, regional and international levels. The CSD has opened its sessions to broad participation from both governmental and

non-governmental actors, and it supports a number of innovative activities, such as the Partnerships Fair, the Learning Centre and a series of panels, roundtables and side events. The High-level segment features dialogue among Ministers, and Ministers also hold a special dialogue session with Major Groups.

This paper reviewed a glimpse of sustainable development programs at local level in Vietnam (Meynell, 2005). It will be about a private company which provides public sanitary service in Lang Son city and about a My Khanh village of Green Productivity programs in Ho Chi Minh City.

II. Public Sanitary Service in Lang Son City

Establishing in June 1993, Huy Hoang Company, Ltd. replaced the state-managed urban environment team in taking care of sanitary services for Lang Son City. To ensure a sanitary environment for the city, Huy Hoang Company not only runs the collection of garbage but also does additional business based on these sanitation activities. Specifically, it builds and operates an assembly line for processing garbage and producing organic fertilizers to be used in reforestation (Shinkuma and Huong, 2009).

As the first private company in Vietnam that does business in collection and processing of garbage in combination with reforesting bald hills, Huy Hoang Company is considered an outstanding example of how private businesses can provide public services. Without receiving no outside capital investment, currently the company owns more than 20 garbage collection machines, and 250 employees of whom are 80% women with the average monthly income of employee is 850,000 VND(approximately $40.84), compared to average monthly income of VND 500,000 among public employees in Lang Son.

To do business as a public service provider, the company had to face a major challenge: develop the business and ensure business income through appropriate sanitation fee for private households. Huy Hoang Company prepares a contract to be signed with each household, listing the commitments on both sides. With this contract, the company is able to specify responsibilities and ensure the participation of households in maintaining a clean urban environment. At the same time, the company also applies other awareness raising measures such as hanging banners and slogans, distributing leaflets, etc. The company also installed an assembly line to produce garbage bins from recycled plastic. These bins are distributed to every household in an effort to encourage people not to throw garbage on the streets. The company also pays 200,000 VND per month to ward officials to get their support in educating the people on the topic of environmental sanitation.

In 2002, the company received 800 million VND (in cash and in kind) from local households and 1.4 billion VND from the state budget to cover operation costs. This is an outstanding example when compared to the rest of the country, where sanitation services are typically provided by state companies that are fully dependent on the state budget. Huy Hoang provides better services with lower cost because it operates as a cost minimizing business. Furthermore, out of the company's need for streamlining its operations has arisen the environmental-friendly initiative to produce recycled products from garbage

collected. Among the 250 employees of the company, only four are indirect laborers (intermediaries). Besides Lang Son, the company also does business in five of the other eleven districts in the province. Daily, the company is able to collect more than 200 m^3 of garbage.

As a result, the environmental cleanliness in Lang Son City has improved while sanitation fees have stayed the same as before. More importantly, people have begun to raise their awareness because now they directly participate in maintaining a clean environment.

From the experiences of Huy Hoang Company, it can be seen that its success is due in part to active contribution and strong support by the government of Lang Son city. New ways of thinking by city leaders have opened the door for a private company such as Huy Hoang to receive and successfully fulfill an assignment that is usually assigned to state owned enterprises. The cooperation and assistance of local ward officials was also crucial in accelerating the company's progress.

It can be concluded that this is an effective model of combination between business activity and environmental protection. In addition, the model can be multiplied because of its suitability to the general development trend: the state assists and creates maximum favorable conditions for the private sector of the economy (www.va21.org).

III. Green Productivity Programs Implemented in Ho Chi Minh City: My Khanh B village

My Khanh B village was selected for the initial Green Productivity Demonstration Program (GPDP) during 1998 and 1999. The Green Productivity (GP) program was extended in My Khanh B village during 2000 and 2001 under the GP Development Assistance program. My Khanh B village is located in Thai My commune of the Cu Chi district, approximately 45km from Ho Chi Minh City. The village is 254 ha, cultivated land occupies 116 ha of this total with its population at 1285 within 302 households. The average income is 2.800.000 VND/person/year. Their main activity is agriculture which mostly is cultivation and breeding livestock. Besides, there are 80% of the population produces handicrafts made from rattan-bamboo.

There were many main issues in My Khanh B village :

First of all, the villagers faced limited availability of potable water. This was due to the high iron levels, which resulted in local water not meeting the drinking water quality standards, according to the Ministry of Health regulation of 505/BYT Potable Water Quality Standards.

Secondly, due to the shortage of hygienic latrines, the sewage was generally discharged directly into ponds and lakes. This caused numerous environmental and health hazards. In the wet season, the topography of the area is sloped, in flat or depressed land, water containing sewage formed ponds.

Thirdly, chemical pesticides and fertilizers were dependently overused in cultivations by the farmers.

In addition, because many villagers of My Khanh B are skilled rattan-bamboo craftsmen, they are able to produce high-quality products to improve their income and standard of living. However, due to middlemen whom their products sold to, much of their income was lost.

Understanding these problems, the Green

Productivity gave out some solutions to improve the situation. A suitable water treatment model was applied with a biogas technology for treating sewage. A drainage system for waste water was installed. Besides, methods for collecting and classifying waste before treatment were also introduced to villagers. In all cultivation activities, the integrated pest management (IPM) technique was incorporated to reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers by the farmers. To help selling the rattan-bamboo products, a cooperative of rattan-bamboo productions was founded.

After a period time of implementation, all the villagers now use ground water from wells rather than pond water for their domestic needs, this reduces cross contamination from sewage in the ponds and prevents the spread of disease in the village. One central water supply plant with a capacity of 30 m3 per day has been installed. This can supply drinking water for 30 to 40 households. Consumers pay the costs associated with the maintenance and operation of the plant. Other houses have applied a simple sand filtration system in their households. After testing water from this system, the sand filtration system produces water to potable water quality standard (505/BYT Potable Water Quality Standard (Ministry of Health). One biogas construction team was established in the village; members of the village GP team were trained and now have technical knowledge about biogas construction. Several biogas chambers have been successfully installed in this village and in other nearby villages. Two open drains with a total length of 3km were established within the village. These were designed to drain localized water in the wet season and to drain wastewater discharges from households. This is helping to protect people from bacteriological diseases. Training courses were conducted for IPM and an experiment using IPM on 6000m2 of rice fields was completed. After training and using this experiment plot, the villagers were competent and confident in their knowledge and use of IPM. A rattan-bamboo production co-operative with 80 members was established in My Khanh B village. The members are technicians and craftsman of rattan-bamboo in both My khanh B and other neighboring villages. The rattan-bamboo products will be sold in local markets and various markets throughout Viet Nam therefore it will enhance the living standard by increasing incomes for households. The most beneficial result achieved within these 3 villages was to change the way the people view environmental protection and conservation thus contributing to the environmentally sustainable development of the community (www.apo-tokyo.org).

IV. Conclusion

The two above programs are among the multi sustainable development programs have been carrying out by the localities and sections. In local Agenda 21 encourages environment safety and enhancement program for local people and in Vietnam it showed a strong organization to implement Agenda 21 (Fig.1). In this paper we introduced two cases, one for public sanitary service (Lang Son City), and the other for green productivity program (My Khanh B village). It is hopefully that there are more and more places over the nation create and implement their own programs because of the improvement of living habitations and the sustainable development for the future generations.

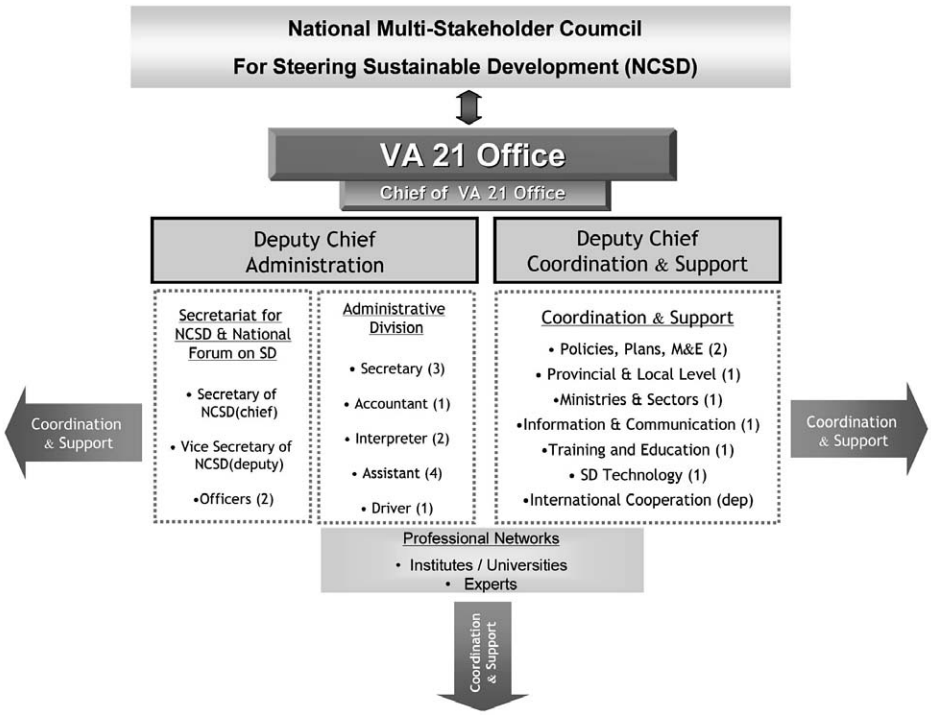

Fig 1. A hierarchy of National Council of Sustainable Development (NCSD) in Vietnam. The Council is composed of VA21 and its office is divided into Deputy Chief of Administration and Coordination and Support.

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