



Inter-Parliamentary Union

Technical Cooperation Programme

PROJECT PROFILE: VIET NAM

(PHASE 1)



Created 18/09/2006

Project details

Title:	Development of the Centre for Information, Library and Research Services
Status:	Closed
Duration:	2 Years (1991-1993)
Budget:	US\$ 49,467
Donor partner:	Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)

Background

In the mid-1980s, Viet Nam adopted a policy of renovation (Doi Moi), which inter alia aimed at shifting the economy from a centralized to a market-oriented one.

This change also implied a need for institutional reform and, among other things, a new constitution, which was drafted at the end of the 1980s and adopted in 1991.

It was in this context that the authorities of the country's National Assembly requested the IPU to field a needs-assessment mission in 1991. The mission made a number of detailed recommendations on how to establish a centre and proposed assistance in specific areas of activity.

Areas of activity

IPU assistance focused on establishing an Information Centre, responsible for documentation, research and library services.

In order to establish such a centre and enable it to work effectively, the following was planned:

- The library's staff would receive training in the form of study tours to foreign parliaments.
- The Assembly's library would establish cooperation with other libraries in Viet Nam.
- In October and November 1993, another mission was conducted with the aim of training the Information Centre's staff on indexing library documents, recommending a list of core reference works and establishing a thesaurus corresponding to the index.

Target beneficiaries

The principal target beneficiaries were the employees of the Information Centre, which was created in keeping with the first mission's recommendations.

An improved Information and Research Service would obviously also benefit the members of the National Assembly and ultimately, society in general would benefit from more efficient legislation.



The National Assembly of Viet Nam

Results

Overall, the assistance provided led to an improvement of the National Assembly's effectiveness as a lawmaking and oversight institution, adapting it to the changes brought about by the new constitution.

In particular, the following was achieved:

- Establishment of an Information Centre in accordance with the recommendations made by the first mission.
- A study tour of three library staff members to the Parliaments of Sweden, Denmark and France to get insight into the organization of professional information work in other parliaments.
- The staff of the Centre received training in Viet Nam, paving the way for further development of its Services.

Based on the success of the above-mentioned activities, a follow-up project was developed to assist the Information Centre with the acquisition of an adequate stock of reference titles and overall computerization of the facility (Phase2).

Experts providing advice to the project included:

- Ms. Nguyen Thi Phuong-Khanh, Senior Foreign Law Specialist, Library of Congress of the United States.
- Mr. Michel Ameller, former Secretary General of the French National Assembly.
- Ms Elise Holt, Head of the Documentation Department of the Danish Parliament.

Parliaments supporting the project were:

- Parliament of Sweden
- Parliament of Denmark
- Parliament of France