

***Memorandum of Understanding
on Research and Development Cooperation
between the Ministry of Science and Technology of Vietnam
and Flanders (Belgium)***

The Minister of Science and Technology of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and the Vice-Minister-President of the Flemish Government and Flemish Minister for Economy, Enterprise, Science, Innovation and Foreign Trade,

RECALLING the strong and friendly partnership between Vietnamese and Flemish universities, as developed under the Flemish Interuniversity Council Institutional Programme;

RECALLING the growing possibilities of bilateral research and development cooperation in the multilateral ASEM context;

RECOGNIZING the major challenges and opportunities created by the growing internationalization of research and development;

WISHING to use the existing capacity building partnership between Flanders and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam as a stepping-stone towards full-fledged research and development cooperation;

EXPRESS their intention, as far as this is within the remit of their responsibilities, to intensify the science and innovation cooperation between the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and Flanders.

To this end a dedicated task force will be established, which will put forward by December 2007 at the latest a concrete action plan for cooperation over the period 2008-2010. Actions to be proposed should take into account both thematic and horizontal priorities:

Thematic priorities

- new materials;
- aquaculture;
- information and communication technologies;
- tropical medicine;

Horizontal priorities

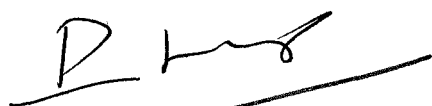
- the cooperation between universities and public research institutes;
- the exchange of highly-qualified knowledge workers;

- the joint participation in multilateral research and development programmes.

The task force will be chaired by the Director general of Department of International Cooperation on behalf of the Ministry of Science and Technology of Vietnam, and by the Head of Cabinet for Science and Innovation on behalf of Flanders.

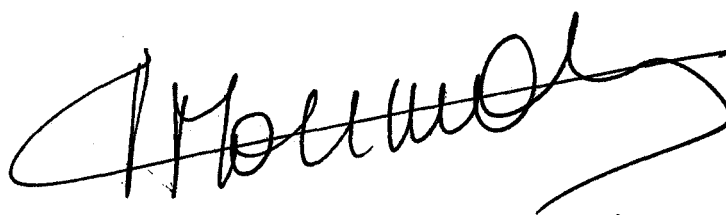
This Memorandum of Understanding is signed in Hanoi, on 10 May 2007, in two copies, each Party acknowledging receipt of one copy.

For the Ministry of Science and
Technology of Vietnam



HOANG VAN PHONG
Minister

For Flanders



Fientje MOERMAN
Vice-Minister-President of the Flemish
Government and Flemish Minister for
Economy, Enterprise, Science,
Innovation and Foreign Trade