

# Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) on Sport Development and Cooperation - Vietnam Case

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## COUNTRY PARTNERSHIP STRATEGY (CPS)

### ON SPORT DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION - VIETNAM CASE

#### **I. Vietnam overview:**

##### ***1. Political system:***

###### *a. Feature of political system in Vietnam*

According to Vietnam Government portal, (2016), the political system in Vietnam has both common and particular feature. Therefore, basically it has some same point with other political system in the world. In other hand, the political system has been organized and operated in the condition of history, economy-society and specific political-culture feature. That is why Vietnam political system has its own characteristics.

- Firstly in Vietnam, there is only one Communist Party to control the country. This particular feature was defined by the role, position, leading ability and leading prestige of the Party.

- This model in Vietnam was built follow the model of old Soviet Union. Although in the process of innovation and perfection, but the impact of centralized bureaucratic regime, subsidies in that model were still heavy.

###### *b. Structure of political system in Vietnam*

The organizational apparatus in Vietnam which included Communist Party of Vietnam; the State; Vietnam's Fatherland Front and other political-social organizations such as: Vietnam Federation of Trade Unions, Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, Vietnam Women's Union, Vietnam Youth Federation (Vietnam Government portal, 2016).

In the political system of Vietnam, the communist party led the state and society and it was the core of the political system.

Vietnam Government portal (2016), also described the apparatus of Socialist Republic of Vietnam that including the National Assembly, the State President, the government and the judiciary (courts and the Institute of People's Supreme Inspectorate) and local authorities.

- National Assembly: The National Assembly is the highest representative of Vietnam people; highest body of power state of the Republic socialist Vietnam.

National Assembly exercised the constitution, legislation; deciding important issues of the country and conduct the supreme supervision over the activities of the State

- State President: President is head of state, representative of Republic Socialist of Vietnam in internally and externally.

President has been elected by National assembly within all the deputy. President had responsible and report to National Assembly.

- Government: This is the highest state administration office of the Republic Socialist of Vietnam which implements the executive power. It was also the executive organ of National Assembly. Government had responsibility and has to report to National Assembly; National Assembly Standing committee and President of the State.

- People's Court: People's Court is the judicial authority of the Republic of socialist Vietnam, implementing judicial power. People's courts include the Supreme People's Court and other courts established by law. People's Court is responsible for the protection of justice, protection of human rights, civil rights, protecting the socialist regime, to protect the interests of the State, the legitimate rights and interests of organizations and individuals.

- Institute of People's Inspection: This institution was to implement the public prosecution and control the judiciary. Institution of people's Inspection included People's Supreme Procuratorate Inspection and other institution established by law.

- Local authorities: Local authorities were held in the administrative units of the Republic of Socialist of Vietnam.

Local authorities including the People's Council and People's Committee was held in line with the characteristics of rural and urban areas, islands, administrative - special economic units which determined by law.

Although, the state power was concentrated, united and undivided but still has been assigned and controlled among state agencies in implementing the right of executive and judiciary (Vietnam Government portal, 2016).

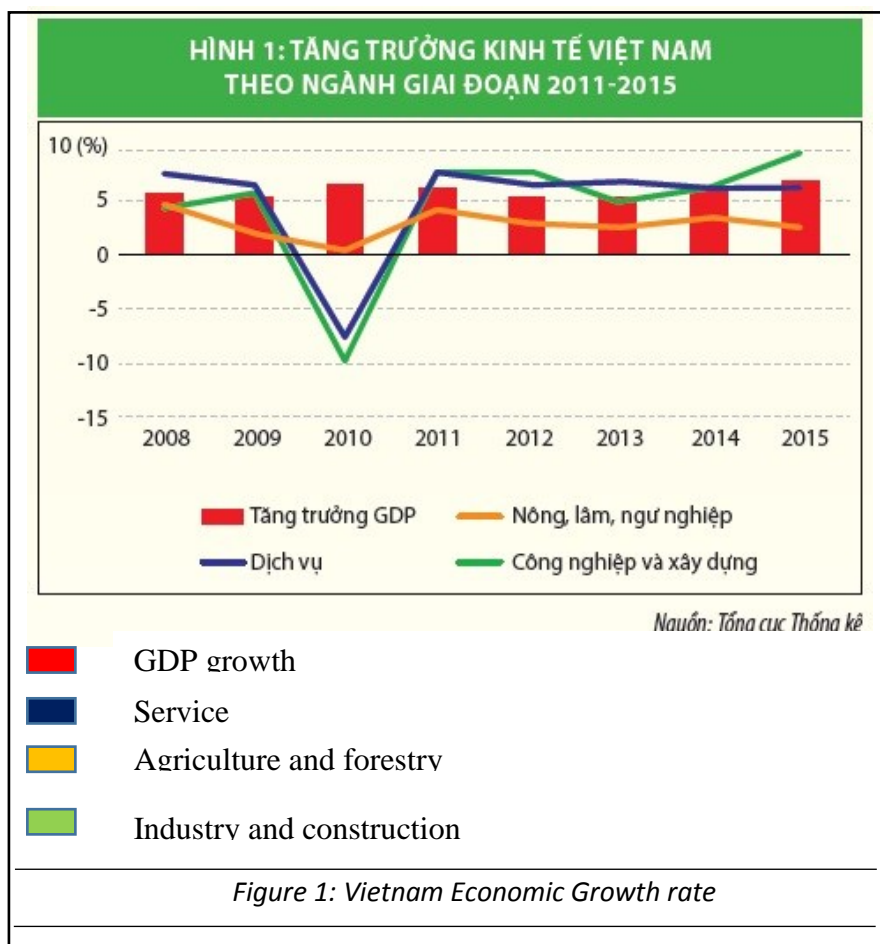
### *c. Economic overview*

According to World Bank report (2016), In the past 25 years, Vietnam has achieved encouraging results in the development process. The process of political and the economy reform during *Đổi mới* (renovation) period, which was launched in 1986, Vietnam has turned from one of the poorest countries in the world become a lower middle income country. Vietnam's economy has grown quite strongly in recent years. During decade of 1990s, Vietnam's GDP has been within the fastest growing group in the world, reaching 5.5% in 1990s and 6.4 in the decade of 2000. Vietnam's economy continued to grow in 2015, with growth rate estimated at 6.7%. It felt slightly in the first half of 2016, with GDP growth reaching 5.5%, compared with 6.3% for the same period in 2015. This decline was the result of the effects of severe drought which affect to agricultural production and slower industrial growth.

The World Bank report (2016) also stated that “The growth has been equitable - with a dramatic reduction in poverty and social outcomes have improved significantly”. Per capita income about \$100 in 1980 has increased, reaching about \$2,100 in 2015. The social

indicators of Vietnam has improved significantly in the past decade, with several Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were achieved before the deadline. Not only income increasing but also education and the life expectancy is also higher than other countries which has similar level of per capita income.

A report from Vietnam General Statistics Office (2016) showed that although faced with adverse happenings of the world economy, when finished 2015 Vietnam’s economy still has several “bright spot”. The most bright spot was the positive signals from economic growth rate in 2015 which was 6.68% GDP, the highest since 2008 (figure 1)<sup>1</sup>



The industrial production and construction continued to be an important element contributing to the improvement in growth speed. This area has been grown up 9.64% in 2015 which higher than the number of 5.08% and 6.42% of 2013 and 2014.

Entered a period of recovery, agriculture was no longer the main driving force for economic development. Growth in this region was only 2.4% in 2015, the lowest in the period of 2011-2015. Meanwhile, the services sector did not have many positive changes only when growth rate of 2015 was equivalent with 2014 and lower than the previous year. (Vietnam General Statistics Office, 2016)

<sup>1</sup> General Statistics Office of Vietnam

### *Economic Outlook*

Continuing the trend of economic growth in 2015, the government set a target economic growth rate reached 6.7% in 2016 and CPI growth rate was less than 5%, exports increased by 10% and the trade deficit not exceeding 5% of the exports. It means that government continues to evaluate country's economy will growth and the macro economy stabilized in next years. (Vietnam government portal, 2016)

### *Opportunities and challenges from integration*

The past two years have marked a major turning point in the process of integration to world economy of Vietnam. Basically, Vietnam has completed a series of negotiating the free trade agreement such as TPP, AEC or EVFTA which was not constrained in terms of traditional trade but also extended the issues related to economic institutions such as: legal framework related to intellectual property, state enterprises, investment, financial services, government procurement. This strengthened many opportunities and development motive for Vietnam for next years as well as created additional impetus for the process of economic restructuring.

### *d. Education, culture and religion*

Research by luanvanaz.com (2015), illustrated that education and training played an important role as the key factor, driving force for economic development. Not only in Vietnam but also in the most other countries, governments were always considering education as a top national policy, because:

- Education and training was a prerequisite to contribute to economic development.
- Education contributed to social and political stability.
- And above all, education and training contribute to improving the Human Development Index.

Understand this point, Vietnam was one of the country which attached the development of the education. Vietnam government has been focusing to strengthen education background and also it has been investing many resources for education during past years.

However, Vietnam education still hiding many weaknesses and shortcomings, such as:

- The quality of education was low if compare with countries in the region
- Content, program, methods of education were backward, slow innovation, slow modernization, not linked to social life and professional employees; not to promote creativity, practical ability of students, pupils.
- The national education system was not logical, not comprehensive and imbalanced.

Vietnam Education in environment situation was not highly evaluated. In the world ranking, Vietnam have never named in the top 200. However, Japan had 4 universities, Singapore, Korea or China were all countries which have proud position (luanvanaz.com, 2015). Ngoc (2015) reported that Vietnam had more than 376 universities with more than 12.000 associate professors and professors. However, compared with international quality, only 15-20% was commensurate with that title.

### *Culture*

Vietnam had a quite large cultural community which has been formed in the first half of the first millennium BC and flourished in the middle of this millennium.

Research by lichsuvietnam.vn (2007), in the stage of Van Lang - Au Lac (about the year 3000 BC to 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC) in the early Bronze Age, Vietnam Culture has experienced over 18 Hung Kings and grown to a peak of Dong Son culture.

The stages of against Northern domination, the two trends were anti-china and support-china culture.

The phase of Dai Viet started at the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> century, Vietnam culture has developed to its peak in Tran and Le dynasties.

Since 16<sup>th</sup> century to the end of 19<sup>th</sup> century was the period that Vietnam culture contacted with Western culture, especially was French culture.

Vietnam modern culture was formed since the year of 20-30s of this century.

It could be said that, throughout the entire history of Vietnam, there were three overlapping culture layers: local culture; China-exchanged culture and culture contacted with Western and the world.

With the reformation and development of all aspects of the country, Vietnam culture was also on the momentum of development. Many cultural center, theater, cinema, universities of art and culture has been building throughout the country.

Traditional culture was focused on conservation and promotion. The modern one has been focused by the managers, government on reformation and mixing with traditional and local culture.

### *Religion*

Vietnam was a country of many religions and beliefs. Vietnamese people had a tradition of practicing age-old beliefs. Every ethnic groups had their own belief which connect closely with their economic life and their spirituality.

Vietnam government portal (2016), demonstrated that in Vietnam, there were almost all the religions with a large number of believers, dignitaries, monks of Buddhism, Catholic,

Protestant, Muslim and some indigenous religions such as Cao Dai, Hoa Hao (located mostly in the south of Vietnam).

**Buddhism:** There were two main branches, Theravada and Mahayana. Buddhism developed rapidly after entering Vietnam since the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. Currently, there were more than 10 million believers and more than 20.000 Buddhist temples with more than 38.000 Buddhist clergy. There were also many training centers of religious leaders throughout the country.

**Catholic:** Catholic was spread to Vietnam by Western Catholicism from 15<sup>th</sup> century. Christian was first disseminated in the coastal inhabitants of Thai Binh, Nam Dinh, Ninh Binh (Northern of Vietnam) and Thanh Hoa, Nghe An (Center of Vietnam). Now, there are about 6 million of Catholics, 6000 churches with more than 15.000 dignitaries.

**Protestant:** Protestant has been entered Vietnam at late 19<sup>th</sup> century, early 20<sup>th</sup> century. However until 1920, protestant has started its missionary work in many places in Vietnam and currently had around 1 million followers, 500 churches.

**Muslim:** has been entered to Vietnam through the Cham community in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. At present, there are more than 100 Islam temples with 70.000 followers and 700 dignitaries in the provinces of Binh Thuan, Ninh Thuan, Hochiminh City (Mostly in the south of Vietnam) (Vietnam Government Portal, 2016).

## ***2. Vietnam Sports structures and current situation:***

Vietnam Prime Minister approved a decision No.66/2008/QD-TTg (2008) which defined Vietnam sports administration (VSA) as the highest sports authority in Vietnam. The decision defined functions, tasks, powers and organizational structure of VSA. Accordingly, VSA was an organization under the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism (MCST) with 18 subordinate units. The following units that assist Chairman of VSA to implement state management functions are: Department of Elite sports 1 which manages martial-art, athletics, gymnastic, swimming, and weight-lifting sports, Department of Elite sports 2 that manages ball sports such as football, volleyball, basketball, and some other small sports, Department of Sports for all, Department of International Cooperation, Department of finance and planning, Department of personnel and organization, Administration office. The following units are public service units under control of VSA: Vietnam sports science institute, Sports magazine, Sports newspaper, Hanoi National sports training center, Hochiminh city National sports training center, Danang National sports training center, Can Tho National sports training center, Vietnam Anti-Doping & Sports medicine Agency, Sports information Center, Ba Dinh sports center, and Vietnam Sports hospital (Chinhphu.vn, 2008).



Chairman of VSA decides functions, tasks, powers and organizational structure of the above units. In the VSA structure, there are the chairman and less than three vice-chairman. These titles are decided and approved by Minister of MCST.

According to chinhphu.vn (2008), VSA's duty and authority has been defined as following:

- Submit official documents to Minister of MCST and Prime Minister to approve Law, regulation, decrees of sports or other documents which was assigned by Minister of MCST; Strategies, master plan, national programs for sports development;

- + Negotiation; signing and joining the international treaty of sports.

- + Organization of National sports festival; regional, continent and International sports Games.

- Submit official documents to Minister of MCST to approve Long-term plan; 5 years and annual plans for sports development and other project of sport and physical education; Circulars, decisions and directives on the management of sports activities, sports for the disabled, recreation sports, elite sports; professional sports and other activities in sports area; Decision on organization of regional, continent and International championship tournaments in Vietnam; Norms, national technical regulations of the sports facilities, equipment for training and competition.

Chinhphu.vn (2008), also defined the functions, duties of each part of Vietnam Sports Administration (VSA) as follows:

*a. Elite and professional sports*

- Assisting Minister of MCST to implement the bonus policy and regulations for athletes, coaches and sports referees.

- Organizing or coordinating sports festivals, sport championships in regional, continental or international level which happened in Vietnam or National Sports festival which approved by authorities.

- Submitting official documents to Minister of MCST to issue the regulation, standard, sequences and procedures in bestowing ranking for athletes, coaches and sport referees.

- Promulgating sports events regulation and competition regulation for national sport festivals.

- Organizing and applying science research, technology and medical on sports areas according to regulations of the Law

- Issue guidelines in making plan of training and education for athletes, coaches and sport referees.

- Issue guidelines in registration for professional sports clubs.

*b. Physical education*

- Assisting Minister of MCST to coordinate with Ministry of Education and Training to implement the duties of: Setting up and implementation of physical education programs in schools; Making standard for physical exercise and evaluating the result of physical exercise in schools; Assigning system of school sports competition; Training, improving and making guidelines of regulations and bonus policy for physical educators; trainers

*c. Sports for all*

-Disseminating and mobilizing people to participate in sports activities; guiding the training methods that suitable for people with different ages, gender, occupation, health and disability.

- Directing and organizing sports for all competition at the national level.
- Guiding, checking and evaluating the development of sport for all movement.
- Guiding the registration of clubs, sports for all foundation and sport fan clubs.

*d. Sports for armed forces*

-Advising Minister of MCST to co-ordinate with Ministry of Defence in guiding the organization of defence sports for people.

-Advising Minister of MCST to co-ordinate with Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Home Security to issue standard of physical exercise for people's army and people's police.

- Organizing the training and fostering athletes who serve in armed services.
- Defining the regulation for armed services competition events.

*e. Vietnam Olympic Committee (VOC)*

Vietnam Prime Minister, Pham Van Dong has approved to form Vietnam Olympic Committee in 1976. However, its regulation has been defined by the congress of VOC. According to VOC's structure (2016), Vietnam Olympic Committee has following members: Leaders of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Sports Sector; representatives of the Federation, National Sports Association, the voluntary sports organizations, representatives of provincial-city, the agencies of mass media, and some typical athletes and coaches, etc.

- Those members elected the standing committee; standing committee shall elect the chairman, vice chairman, General Secretary in term of 4 years.

- At present, the standing committee of VOC consisted of 15 members, conducted regular meetings twice a year to decide important issues.

- Congress of VOC was the highest leading body that has meetings every 4 years including all members to discuss and approve the summary and financial report, term

orientation, amend statutes, approve the new organization structure, elect the standing committee, and approve list of function department.

- Vietnam Olympic committee periodically holds a meeting once a year to review the past year activities and approve the next year activity programs.

VOC's structure (2016) also defined the assistance agencies for VOC and VOC authorized the standing committee to executive the following function department: Commission of inspection; Commission of sponsor; Sports for all commission; Professions and Law commission; Information, Press and Education commission; Commission for International cooperation; Anti-doping and Medical commission; Administration office.

- Financial resource: The main resource annually for VOC was from sponsors like IOC, OCA and other organization to maintain its activities.

VOC structure was organized as follow<sup>2</sup>:

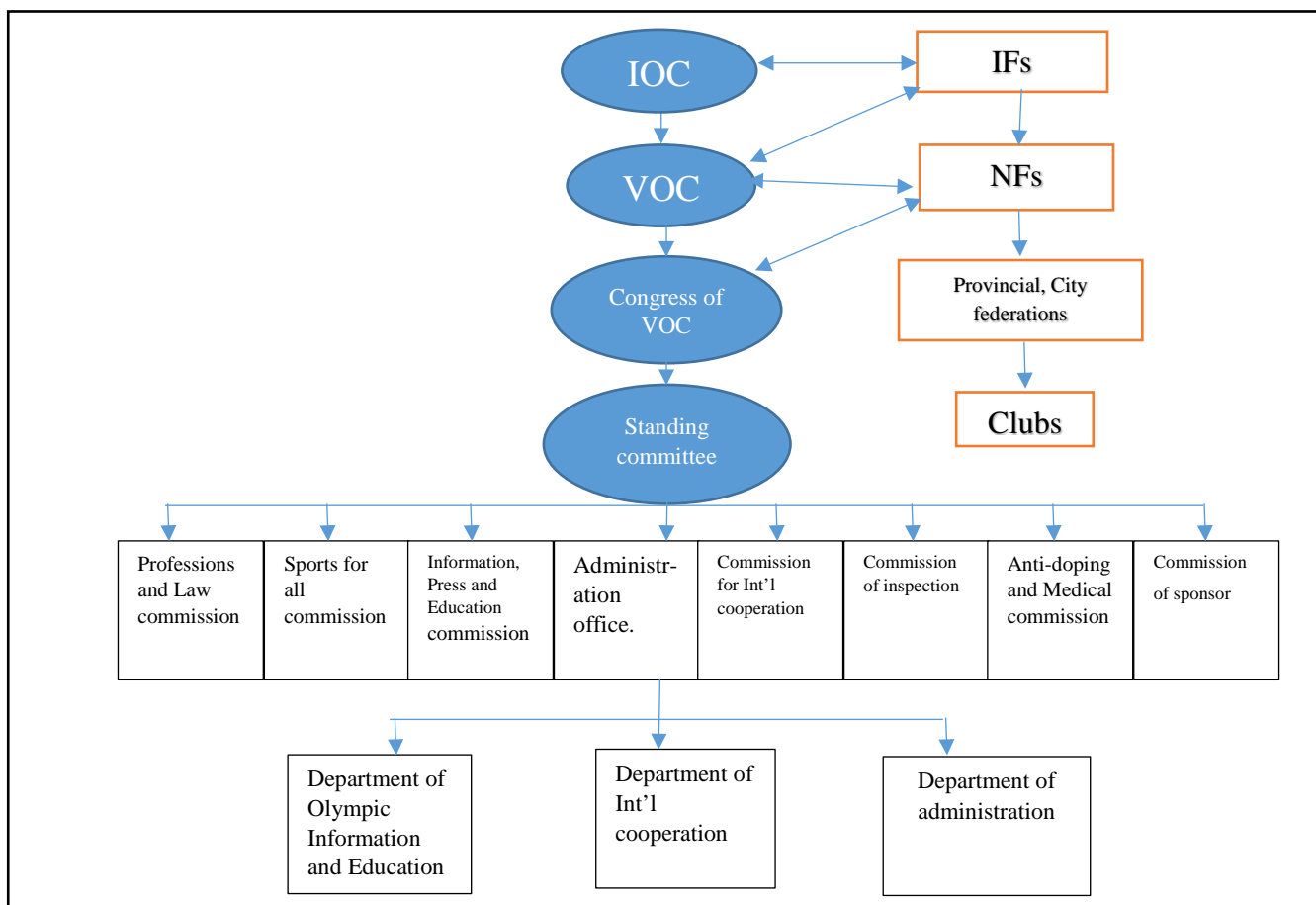


Figure2. Vietnam Olympic committee's structure

<sup>2</sup> www.voc.org.vn

#### *d. Current situation*

##### Sports for all:

An Le (2017), currently reported that the number of population who have exercised regularly increased to 29.5% and the number of families that have exercise regularly increased to 21.2%. For physical education in school, the number of schools that has physical education curriculums reaches to 100% in 2016 and in the extra-curriculum increases to 71%.

An Le (2017) also reported that sports for armed force has always been focused to develop in order to strengthen the physical ability for armed forces. Physical training is one the four mandatory subjects for each serviceman. Meanwhile, the home security force focused to develop the martial-art, shooting, swimming and armed running which aim to enhance the combat readiness for each serviceman and officer.

Sport for the disabled people was also reported that it has achieved the outstanding achievement when completing their task in Paralympic - Rio 2016 with 1 gold, 1 silver and 2 bronze medals. Sport for disabled movement is expanding in many provinces. Vietnam sports for the disabled would focus on some sports which are strong in the regional competition such as swimming, weightlifting and athletics.

Besides that, many recreation (leisure) sports have been developed in Vietnam such as: dance sport, fishing, paragliding, eSports which attracted many young people to participate. (An Le, 2017)

## **II. Institutional environment and sport policy for sport development.**

### ***1. Social and Economic development plan***

In April, 2012, Vietnam Prime Minister has signed the strategy on sustainable development for Vietnam in the period of 2011-2020 which strives for the country to become basically an industrial modern state with stable socio-economics, democratic, disciplinary and conscientious; people's spiritual and material lives to be significantly improved.

#### *General objective:*

Strategy on sustainable development (2012) specified, that though sustainable and effective growth remain primary objectives, they must not be achieved at the cost of the progress of society and its equality, the conservation of national resources and environment, socio-political stability, firm protection of independence-sovereignty-unification, and territorial integrity of the country.

#### *Specific objectives:*

Strategy on sustainable development (2012) also specified, the macro economy must continue to develop stably, especially macro indicators, accompanied by food, energy, and financial security. The objective also covers the harmonious, deep and wide transformation of

the economic structure into green growth and low-carbon economic development, guaranteeing the economical and effective use of all resources.

The next objective focuses on the development of a democratic, disciplined, harmonious, equal and civilized society, the development of a unique culture which is filled with distinctive national features, maintaining the mental, physical, and financial well-being for families, the provision of comprehensive development in all physical, spiritual, intellectual aspects, having creativeness capacity, a sense of citizenship, and a sense of law observance for every citizen. The objective also emphasizes that education and training, science and technology must become the major driving force for development and socio-political stability, independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity must be protected firmly.

Another objective is to emasculate the repercussion of economic activities for the environment, including ensuring the reasonable exploitation and effective use of natural resources, especially non-renewable ones; making efforts to prevent, mitigate and fix environmental pollution and degradation; the improvement of environmental quality, the protection and development of forests and conservation of bio-diversity; the reduction of detrimental influences of natural disasters, the production of active and effective respond to climate change, especially sea level rise.

#### *Economic target*

Gross domestic product (GDP) mentioned in the strategy (2012) shall be around 6.5%-7% on average in five years. Meanwhile, the GDP per capita will be approximately USD 3,200-3,500 by 2020 and Industry and services sectors will account for 85% of GDP by 2020.

Strategy on sustainable development (2012), also referred to the total social investment will account for approximately 32-34% of GDP on average in five years and State budget deficit will be below 4% of GDP by 2020. The Total Factor Productivity (TFP) shall contribute 30-35% to economic growth and social labor productivity will increase by about 5%/year. Energy consumption based on GDP will reduce by 1%-1.5%/year. Rate of urbanization will reach 38-40% by 2020.

#### *Social target*

Strategy on sustainable development (2012), aimed to increase the rate of agricultural labor among the total workforce will be around 40% by 2020 and rate of trained laborers will reach approximately 65-70% by 2020, in which the rate of laborers having diplomas and certificates will reach 25%. Meanwhile the urban unemployment rate will be below 4% by 2020.

For the social welfare in 2020, the number of doctor shall increase to 9 or 10 doctors and more than 26.5 patient beds per 1000 people. The number of people who have health

insurance shall be over 80% of the population and the rate of poverty shall go down by about 1.0-1.5%/year.

#### *Education and human resources*

Strategy on sustainable development (2012) specified that continuing education framework innovation can offload general education levels and promote self-thinking, creativeness, self-study capacity at university level. Innovative content and forms of inspection, and examination and evaluation of the results of education and training can create specific policies to recruit and promote talents.

Strategy on sustainable development (2012) confirmed that “Speed-up our science and technology capabilities, and develop a national creative system to promote innovation capacities of people, companies and institutions. Study and approve better mechanisms to encourage scientific research and technological innovation, application of science and technology in production to increase labor productivity and strengthen value of products”.

#### **2. National sport promotion plan**

As mentioned above, Vietnam government always cared about people’s health and they had many policies to develop Vietnam sport and physical education. Vietnam had Sports Law since 2006 which promulgated by National Assembly; Strategy to develop physical education and sports towards 2020, orientation to 2030 which signed by Prime Minister in 2013.

The strategy to develop physical education and sports (2010) defined the target for Vietnam sports which included:

##### *Sport for all*

- People who practice physical activities and play sports reach 28% of population in 2015, 33% of population by 2020 and more than 40% of population by 2030.
- Sport family reaches 22% of household in 2015; 25% in 2020 and more than 30% in 2030.

##### *Physical education in school*

- Percentage of student who had physical education in curricular subject attains 100% from 2015 onwards for all level.

After 2015, Vietnam government will improve the quality of the curricular physical education which meets the demand and the trend of development of the country.

- Number of students which participate regularly in extra-curricular sports program in all level:

- + Primary education: 45% in 2015, 60% in 2020 and more than 70% in 2030.
- + Secondary school: 50% in 2015, 80% in 2020 and more than 85% in 2030.

+ High school: 75% in 2015, 80% in 2020 and more than 90% in 2030.

- The area for training courts and sport in school in all level (square meter/student):

Primary school had 01m<sup>2</sup> in 2015; 1.5m<sup>2</sup> in 2020 and 2m<sup>2</sup> in 2030.

Secondary school and high school: 1.5m<sup>2</sup> in 2015; 2m<sup>2</sup> in 2020 and more than 2.5m<sup>2</sup> in 2030.

#### *Physical education and sports for armed services*

- The number of officers and soldiers who practice regularly reaches to 90% for people's army and 85% for police force from 2015 onward.

#### *Elite and professional sports*

The strategy to develop physical education and sports (2010) aimed at the development of the number of elite athletes or national athletes which reaches 2500 athletes in 2015 or 4000 in 2020 and more than 5000 athletes in 2030. It also focuses on the athletes in professional sports club and the national athletes who would participate in the international sports events. Senior coaches and sport referees were also the target of the plan with the number continuously increased up to 300 coaches and more than 350 referees in 2030.

The strategy to develop physical education and sports (2010) mentioned that the other important point of the strategy was athletes training. It focused on different parts from young talents to elite athletes, such as: The number of young athletes in each province, city should be 500 to 2000 depend on situation in each province or city and The number of provincial elite athletes should increase 200-1000 athletes annually depend on the situation of each province.

Annually, Vietnam government organizes training methods with the number from 1000-1500 national young athletes and 2000-2500 national elite athletes at national sports training centers. In which, there would be special regulations for national athletes who participate in big sports event like ASIAN Games and SEA Games.

The Strategy to develop physical education and sports (2010) also focused sport's performance in International sports events, with some main targets:

- SEA Games: 2013 could win 70-90 gold medals and 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> ranking; 2015-2019 could win 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> ranking and 2020-2030 would rank 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup>.

ASIAN Games: 2014 could win 2-3 gold medals with 15<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> ranking; 2019 win 10-15 gold medals.

In general, the target towards to 2020 would be: Maintain the top three positions in South East Asia sport (SEA Games); Strive to have around 45 athletes who could qualify and have medal at 32<sup>nd</sup> Olympic (Tokyo 2020).

One of the important points of the strategy was to mention to major sports which divided 2 level:

Level 1, 10 sports: Athletics, swimming, Taekwondo, Wrestling (light weight), Shooting, Karatedo, Boxing (female), Badminton, Table-tennis.

Level 2, 22 sports: Football, volleyball, Judo, Wushu, Sepaktaraw, Fencing, Gymnastic; Pencak Silat, Archery, Cycling, Chess and Chinese Chess, Pentanque, Dance Sport, Sport Aerobic, Tennis, Body-building, Canoe-Kayak, Rowing, Billiard-Snooker and Vovinam.

### ***3. Institutional environment.***

As mentioned above, the highest sport authority in Vietnam is Sports Administration (VSA) which under umbrella of Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism - MCST.

Therefore, sport policy procedures should follow circulars made by MCST. All these circular must be pursuant to the Sports Law No. 77/2006/QH13 dated November, 29<sup>th</sup> 2006; the Decree No. 76/2013/ND-CP stipulates function, task, authority and structure of Ministry of Culture Sports and Tourism and based on the proposal of VSA's Chairman.

Sport Law (2006) was the term which approved and enforced by National Assembly and it included the following contents: Define the government's policy for sport and physical education, activities and through the policy, sports agencies could develop the plan of development for sports and physical education as well as sport for all and elite sport. It also aimed to define the usage of infrastructure for sport development and sport talents development funds. The Law also mentioned to the copyright of elite sport and professional sport tournaments. Prohibited behaviors in sports and physical activities also included in the Law. The application objects were agencies, organization and individuals and also international organizations, institutions, foreigners and oversea Vietnamese who participate in sports and physical activities in the territory of Vietnam.

According to Chinhphu.vn (2013), The Decree No. 76/2013/ND-CP stipulates function, task, authority, and structure of Ministry of Culture Sports and Tourism which has been approved and promulgated by the Prime Minister. It defined the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism is a governmental agency, performing the function of state management, of culture, family affairs, physical training and sports and tourism nationwide, and the state management of public services in the domains of culture, family affairs, sports and physical training and tourism in accordance with law.

The decision making process for sport policy had to follow the regulations, guided by related department in MCST. The procedures of circular promulgate may include:



-Appropriate authorities submit a draft circular along with supported documents to legislation unit in VSA. For instance, Vietnam anti-doping agency (VADA) needs legislation documents which could stipulate doping control works in Vietnam. The agency had to submit a draft of circular of anti-doping in sports to VSA and MCST with world anti-doping Code; International standards (Prohibited List; Testing and investigations; Laboratories; Therapeutic Use Exemptions (TUEs); Protection of Privacy and Personal Information). Then, VSA and MCST's legislation officers could revise the draft to make sure the draft follow all the legislation standards. After that, MCST and VSA host several meeting which included sports experts, sports representative (coach, athlete, referee, organizer, etc.) in order to get their opinion on the draft. After finish the revision process, VSA will officially submit all the documents to Minister of MCST to be approved.

If the circular or decree need approval from a higher authority such as National Assembly or Prime Minister, Minister should submit the documents to appropriated authority.

Meanwhile, according to Vietnam Sports Administration (2016), to host a sport event, the organizer needs to submit competition profiles which include:

- A presentation on the competition organization, in which it must mention to the aim of the competition, name of the competition, equipment and technology needed for organization, time, location and other security condition.

- Draft of regulation of the sport event.

- Expectation list of organizers.

- Finance recourse.

- Opinion of stakeholder (if available).

The organizer should report to VSA at least 30 days before the opening ceremony and VSA would response within 15 days after receive all the necessary documents.

According to the National Assembly Portal (2015), legal documents in Vietnam are issued or jointly issued by state agencies in accordance with the authority, formats, sequence of steps and procedures prescribed in this Law or the Law on the Promulgation of Legal Documents of Peoples Councils and Peoples Committees, which includes common rules of conducts and has compulsory effectiveness and the implementation of which is guaranteed by the government to regulate social relations.

National Assembly Portal (2015) showed that system of legal documents includes:

- Constitution, laws and resolutions of the National Assembly.

- Ordinances and resolutions of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly.

- Orders and decisions of the State President.

- Decrees of the Government.

- Decisions of the Prime Minister.
- Resolutions of the Justices Council of the Supreme People's Court and circulars of the Chief Justice of the Supreme People's Court.
- Circulars of the President of the Supreme People's court.
- Circulars of Ministers or Heads of Ministry-equivalent Agencies.
- Decisions of the State Auditor General.
- Joint resolutions of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly or the government and the central offices of socio-political organizations.
- Joint circulars of the Chief Justice of the Supreme People's Court and the President of the Supreme People's Court; those of Ministers or Heads of Ministry-equivalent Agencies and the Chief Justice of the Supreme People's Court, the President of the Supreme People's Court; those of Ministers or Heads of Ministry-equivalent Agencies.
- Legal documents of Peoples Councils and Peoples Committees.

In the process of developing legal documents, the lead drafting agencies/organizations and other concerned agencies/organizations shall be responsible for enabling agencies, organizations, groups and individuals to provide comments on the draft documents and organizing the collection of comments from the direct objects of the legal documents.

Comments on the draft documents shall be considered and taken into account during the process of improving and finalizing the documents (National Assembly Portal, 2015)

### **III. International cooperation in sports**

Mrs. Van, Vice-Director of International Cooperation department said that since established by Ho Chi Minh, President of Vietnam in 1946, Vietnam sports has always paid attention to the expansion of international relations and cooperation. This contributed positively to the strengthening of solidarity, friendship and mutual understanding between Vietnam and international friends and took advantages of the help of foreign countries and international sports organizations to train athletes, coaches, applied research in sports science and technology to gradually improve sport achievements of Vietnam (Mrs. Van, personal communication, December 29, 2016).

Through International cooperation, Vietnam government always desired to enhance the traditional friendship relations and mutual cooperation with other countries in the fields of culture, education, science, youth and sports was the one of the most important factors in the relationship.

Through sport cooperation, Vietnam people convinced that it would contribute to better mutual awareness and to the deepening of knowledge about the customs and culture of countries.

Sport Law (2006) specified in the 75<sup>th</sup> article that international sports cooperation needs to:

- Join the international sports organization, sign, participate, and approve the international treaty of sports.

- Organize and involved in organization of international sports events in Vietnam.

- Participate in sport competition and exhibition events.

- Train, educate, foster, exchange experts, coaches, athletes and referees.

- Research, apply science and advance technology in the field of sports.

- Exchange the sports information and experiences.

- Invest in building sports infrastructures.

- Setup and carry-out the program and project of sport cooperation.

- Exchange and introduce the ethnic sports.

- Anti-corrupt in sports activities.

There were two trends of sports cooperation in Vietnam. One was the relationship with old Soviet Union countries and the other was the support from developed countries like Korea and Japan or China.

### ***1. Cooperation with old Soviet Union countries:***

- Since 1945 when Ho Chi Minh declared Vietnam as an independent state, Vietnam had received many support from Soviet Union, especially in the postwar years, Vietnam joined an alliance with the Soviet Union, securing substantial Soviet aid to help rebuild its war-ravaged country and modernize its economy.

- According to Vietnam Sports Administration (2016), When Soviet Union collapsed, Vietnam still kept its good relations with many countries in the Union. Russia is one of the most important strategy partners of Vietnam in many aspects. Sport was also in the priority support from Russia. Two sides had several Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding to sports cooperation. The latest MOU was happened in Sochi, Russia in 2014 between Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Vietnam and Ministry of Sport of Russia. It aimed to consolidate the mutual cooperation in sports. In which, two sides has encouraged its sports institutions, sport universities, national federations and other sports organization to strengthen cooperation in the fields such as: Elite sport; Sport for all; Sport for disable people; Sport science; Sport technology and sports infrastructure; Anti-Doping and anti-cheating in sports.

Vietnam Sports Administration (2016) also reported that cooperation within the MOU was carried-out under several forms like:

- Organize the consultants

- Exchange delegates
- Support to establish the direct cooperation between sports education centers, sports organizations which aim to organize sports training course, sports seminar.

Financial article was also mentioned in the MOU however it has been only mutually agreed before implementation.

Vietnam Sports Administration (2016), also indicated that Russia usually offered some delegates from Vietnam to visit sports infrastructure, sports facility, etc... Through these visits, some of other MOU between sports university or sports institute has been signed.

In the past, Vietnam often sent athletes, coaches... to Soviet (Russia) for long-term training and studying with full support from Soviet. Nowadays, many alumni's from those studying trips has become leaders in sports institutions or National federations in Vietnam. Currently, there was no more assistance like that. Vietnam students had to pay for their own cost if they like to study in Russia. Only some of them have small scholarship and also Vietnam no longer sent athletes to Russia for training and financial issues were the biggest barriers.

Vietnam Sports Administration (2016) also showed that beside Russia, Vietnam also had signed MOU with other Soviet Union countries like Czech Republic, Azerbaijan, Hungary, and Kazakhstan. Since the last several years, most of these MOU had focused on the common cooperation such as sports delegation and exchanges. It was not focused in detail of sports cooperation between each NOC or each National federation.

One of the other limitations in these MOU was too broad. It may involve not only sports but also youth, culture, education, science. However, sports institutions had to sign these MOU because of the diplomatic links between these countries in the old Soviet Union (Mrs. Van, personal communication, December 29, 2016).

## ***2. Sports cooperation with developed countries:***

According to Vietnam Sports Administration (2016), cooperation with developed countries in sport field was one of the most priority policies of Vietnam sports institutions. The typical example of this cooperation was China. With the fast development in sports, the distance between two countries became close and with a long-standing relationship. China sponsored for Vietnam many years ago in many aspects such as:

- Vietnam sent athletes and coaches to Chinese sports training center before important sports event like ASIAD or South East Asian Games (SEA Games).
- China sent experienced coaches in some sports to Vietnam to support Vietnamese coaches or directly trained Vietnam athletes with long term contracts.

- Some sports company sponsored for Vietnam team in sports events like Li-Ning Company provided clothes, shoes or other training equipment for Vietnam Team.

- Sports education was also the most positive aspect in cooperation between Vietnam and China. Vietnam Sports institutions may send their staff to China to learn technology, management.

Vietnam Sports Administration (2016), reported that the latest MOU between Vietnam Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism with China Sports Department was in 2010 and there was also several other MOU of cooperation and support between two countries national federations. The effective supports from China were receiving Vietnam athletes to train in China with Chinese athletes. That was the good opportunity for Vietnam sports to have contact with professional and world-level athletes. Vietnam sports leaders preferred to send athletes to China because of finance support from China sports authorities and the distance between two countries was one of the priority too.

Support from major donors for hosting big sport event was a clear example of sports cooperation. In 2014, when Vietnam Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism planned to host ASIAN Games in 2019, there were several supports from developed countries like Japan, UK, especially Korea.

According to Vietnam Sports Administration (2016), In August 2014 Vietnam has signed an agreement with UK to enhance sports cooperation. Through the agreement, UK agreed to share their experiences in hosting Olympic London 2012 in order to support the hosting preparation for ASIAN Games 2019 in Hanoi. It also focused on strong and sustainable development of economic and trading legacy between two countries, promote trading and investment opportunities for UK businesses in the ASIAN Games 2019. Two sides had considered this agreement as an important milestone to contribute to strengthening the friendship and bilateral cooperation between Vietnam and UK.

Japan was also willing to support Vietnam for not only the preparation of ASIAN Games hosting and also for the development of sports in general. In the trend of comprehensive cooperation between the two countries, the exchanges in the field of sports were continuously promoted. Vietnam young football player have chance to come to Japan for long-term training with the hope to become key factors in Olympic team for Tokyo 2020. That program called “Dream to Olympic Tokyo”. Japan had many other projects in supporting Vietnam football. They sent many experts, coaches and referees in order to support for the development of Vietnam football which head to Olympic Tokyo 2020. The Japan football Club named Consadole Sapporo has agreed to receive Vietnam football players for long-term training (Vietnam Sports Administration, 2016).

Vietnam Sports Administration (2016) confirmed, ASIAN Games hosting was one of the priority in sports cooperation between Vietnam and Korea. Since March 2014, Vietnam Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and Korea Sports Promotion Foundation (KSPO) have signed an MOU regarding to the preparatory cooperation for 18<sup>th</sup> ASIAN Games and for “Hanoi Velodrome Project” which will develop an indoor cycling racing dome in My Dinh Sport Complex.



The two sides has agreed to cooperate that KSPO would support the training of Vietnam elite cyclist and coaches who participated in the 17<sup>th</sup> ASIAN Games in Incheon, Korean 2014 and the 18<sup>th</sup> ASIAN Games in Hanoi, 2019. KSPO also contributed to support for the successful preparation and execution of the 18<sup>th</sup> ASIAN Games in Hanoi through sharing experience and technology transfer.

Unfortunately, Vietnam had to cancel of hosting ASIAN Games in Hanoi due to financial issues. But the cooperation with Korea still developed through other project and MOU.

### ***3. Support from International organization***

Since re-integration to International sports events, Vietnam sports had received many support from International organization such as UNESCO or FIFA.

Xuan Ha (2016), summarized, Vietnam Football Federation's international cooperation in the past 20 years have contributed positively, effective for Vietnam football and Vietnam sports in the process of development and integration after the victory of Vietnam war.

Xuan Ha (2016), reported that as the member of FIFA and AFC, Vietnam football has been beneficiary of professional assistance for training, finance, infrastructure investment from International football organizations, such as:

- Finance support from FIFA-FAP (250.000USD/year) since 1997
- “Goal” program from FIFA – phase 1 (400.000USD for headquarter construction); phase 2 (400.000USD to build 2 stered artificial-glass football field); phase 3 (400.000 for lighting system construction; equipment for training and 45 seat car for young talent football training center).
- AFC also supports the budget 72.000USD/year in the AID program.
- Some province has received technical support from Asian Vision program.
- VFF has received 30.000USD/year for their office operation.

By different way, UNESCO expressed their interest to the development of Vietnam sports and “their desire to preserve fair and equitable sport and to protect young people involved in sport” (UNESCO, 2016) in some project on anti-doping education in Vietnam.

According to Vietnam Anti-Doping Agency (2014), UNESCO has sponsored two project called “Fund for elimination of doping in sport” in 2013 and 2014 which aimed at education for Vietnam athletes, coaches, support personnel and stakeholders by coordinating with Vietnam anti-doping Agency. The projects included some seminar in National Sports Training Center in Hanoi, Hochiminh city and Danang. It was involved of hundreds of athletes and coaches in different sports. The project also provided brochures, leaflets, banner on anti-doping which could help those who involved in sport to understand about doping control in sports.

The main objectives of the anti-doping education programmed included:

Provide detailed information on the anti-doping code, process of doping control test, Prohibited list etc.

Provide information on the Health consequences of Doping.

Provide information on sanctions on anti-doping rule violation, the athletes’ rights, process of appeals etc.

These projects which attracted some international experts will include anti-doping experts who have the training and have the experience in conducting/lecturing at similar education programs. In addition, local expertise from the NOC and Institute of Nutrition will also be tapped to assist in translation and future teaching.

It was a successful program for Vietnam Anti-Doping Agency when they identified education as key factor in the doping control works (Vietnam Anti-Doping Agency, 2014).

#### **IV. Sport cooperation with Korea Government.**

##### ***1. Current situation***

According to the Vietnam Sports Administration (2016), the cooperation in the field of sports between Vietnam and Korea has been started since 1988, when South Korea was the host of the Olympic Games XXIV. After Vietnam and Korea established formal diplomatic relations, the two sides have carried out cooperation activities such as exchange of delegations lead by leaders and managers and sending sports delegation to the training and participate in regional and international sports tournaments.

Vietnam Sports Administration (2016) indicated that in 1999 Vietnam Sports Committee (now is Vietnam Sports Administration), in collaboration with Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) received Korean volunteers to work in Vietnam (mostly for taekwondo training). Every year, KOICA appointed hundreds of volunteers to work in many

countries, including Vietnam. This was one of the regular activities of KOICA with the purpose of technology transfer and sharing of experiences, and contributing to enhancement of mutual understanding between the two peoples through the work of volunteers at local. This program has been started in Vietnam in 1994 with 2 Taekwondo trainers and 4 Korean language tutors. So far, KOICA has sent more than 245 volunteers to Vietnam, working in over 30 provinces and cities.

A report by Thao.D.T & Lan.N.T.P (2013), showed, the main activities that KOICA implement in Vietnam was teaching Korean language at Universities, Taekwondo training in Sports department in different provinces, medical or education training officers and other fields such as mechanical engineering, automobile, electric, electronics, rural planning and development. In which, the number of volunteer for Korean teaching was the largest number (about 29.73%), next was volunteer of medical (22.7%) and informatics (17.57%).

Also in 1999, Vietnam Olympic Committee and Korean Olympic Committee signed a cooperation agreement on the cooperation of sports.

Vietnam Sports Administration (2016) proclaimed that from 2000 to now, Vietnam has often sent a delegation of Vovinam and Traditional Martial Arts to participate in the World Martial-art Festival at Chungju, Korea. In particular, at the Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia 2000, with the special assistance from Korea, Taekwondo player Tran Hieu Ngan had won the first ever Olympic silver medal for Vietnam Sports. After the victory in Sydney, Vietnam has sent more often Taekwondo athletes to train and compete in Korea every year. Besides that, in 2009, within Korean Cultural Week's activities in Vietnam, the VSA has cooperated with the Korean Cultural Center organized a friendly football match between Vietnam U23 team and club POSCO, Korea. At the same time, South Korea sent a delegation consisted of 103 members attending 3<sup>rd</sup> Asian Indoor Games which was held in Hanoi, Vietnam.

According to Vietnam Sports Administration (2016), Vietnam had signed a cooperation agreement with Korea National Sport University (KNSU). Under the framework agreement, Vietnam sent a delegation of managers, athletes of Gymnastics, Shooting to train at KNSU in the preparation for Olympic of London. They also collaborate and coordinate closely in the training of postgraduate students and exchanging student, cooperation in scientific research.

This first MOU in 2006 between Korea and Vietnam endeavored to promote cooperation in the fields of sports and physical activities between two countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit in conformity with each country's national rules and regulation. The cooperation could be in a different way, such as: Exchange athletes or national team for competition and training; Exchange officers, coaches, referees, researchers or sport management officers; Invite to sports seminar, meeting, training or other sport activities



which organized in each country; Exchange the sports information, documents or research results of sports science.

If necessary, two sides shall host a meeting in Vietnam or Korea to evaluate this MOU's outcome and meanwhile providing specific exchange program and discuss key issues related to the development of sports between the two countries (Vietnam Sports Administration, 2016).

After that, sports cooperation between Vietnam and Korea has been strengthening with other MOU, especially the preparation period for Asian Games 2019 or preparation period for Olympic Games. For instance, according to Vietnam Sports Administration (2014), to promote and develop Taekwondo in Vietnam and support for Vietnam Taekwondo achieving medals in the 17<sup>th</sup> Asian Games in Incheon, Korea; the 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth Olympic Games 2014 in China; the 31<sup>st</sup> Olympic Games 2016 in Brazil, VSA and CJ Group, Korea has signed an agreement with the period of 6 years (until 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019). In which, CJ Group shall pay for the cost of hiring Korean coach from 2013 to 2019 and for Vietnam national young female Taekwondo athletes. They also mentioned to the sponsorship of awards for those who could win medal at the Games. During the course of the validity of the MOU, CJ Group shall be free to use the images of Taekwondo athletes sponsored by CJ in the advertising/printing activities or in the Internet and social volunteer activities, events for customers of CJ.

Meanwhile, VSA had the responsibility to approve and provide the fund for the activities of the national team as annual plan in accordance with the MOU and responsibility of Vietnam Taekwondo Federation was to cooperate with Korean coach and Vietnamese coaches to build up the plan of training, competition in Vietnam as well as overseas from 2013 to 2019.

Before this agreement, VSA and CJ Group had another MOU with support of Korean Culture Center in Vietnam which support for Vietnam Taekwondo team in Olympic London, 2012. It aimed at supporting Vietnam to achieve a good performance in Olympic London and also through this project, supporting to develop and strengthen Taekwondo in Vietnam. CJ Group offered Vietnam athletes to be trained in Korea with full financial support which included fee for coaches, interpretation, accommodation, local transportation and training equipment. The reward also was mentioned in the MOU if



Vietnam win medal at the Olympic, CJ Group would grant directly at the competition venues with different prize (Vietnam Sports Administration, 2016).

According to Minh (2017), for the continuous cooperation between CJ Group and VSA, in the very early 2017, CJ Group has sponsored and introduced new head coach for Vietnam Taekwondo team in 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2017 in the meeting with Chairman of VSA. Chairman of VSA would like CJ Group will further support for Vietnam Taekwondo in the next objective which especially for 29<sup>th</sup> SEA Games and forward to Asian Games and Olympic 2020. He also confirmed that Vietnam sports will continuously support for the cooperation between CJ Group and Vietnam Taekwondo which heading to the future success in big sports events.

In the meeting, CJ representative said, there were more than 20 candidates for the position of Head coach for Vietnam team and they have chosen Mr. Kim Tea Kil who has a very well-known profile in Korea. He has got his own Taekwondo training center in Korea. But when he was selected for the position, Mr. Kim Tea Kil sold his training center and moved to Vietnam with his family. This confirmed the sincerity and determination of the CJ as well as Mr. Kim in helping Vietnam to reap success in the future (Minh, 2017).

Vietnam Sports Administration (2016), indicated that along with MOU for Taekwondo support from CJ Group, Vietnam Sports also signed MOU with other Korean companies for cooperation in sport. 2013, VSA and Doosan heavy industry and construction company and Vietnam Doosan heavy industry limited company has signed an MOU to support for Vietnam Archery. In which, Vietnam Archery federation could send athletes to Korean for training and competition with Doosan archery players. Doosan Archery team would send their coaches and athletes to Vietnam for friendly competition with Vietnam athletes.

In summary, sports cooperation between Vietnam and Korean had many glory and memorable moments, and the first ever gold medal in shooting event at Olympic Rio, 2016 for Vietnam was the pinnacle. It could be said that the cooperation between two sides, namely the support and talent of the Korean shooting expert, Mr. Park Chung Gun, the effectiveness of athlete's training in Korea helped Hoang Xuan Vinh, shooting player won the glorious victory.

## *2. Proposal for future sport cooperation between two countries*

Entering the twenty-first century, Korea is a newly industrialized country with rapid, strong, solid development which had many potential in economic, science and technology. Moreover, Korea is country with very strong sport background in Asia, especially in the sport events like shooting, Taekwondo, football, archery, and fencing. 11 gold medals and the 5<sup>th</sup> ranking in Olympic London and 9 gold medals in Rio, 2016 was forceful evidence.



Shooting team in the sponsor for shooting team announcement ceremony before Rio 2016 (Korean coach on the left who wear glasses)

Photo by: Vietnam Sports newspaper

In the sport field, Vietnam and Korea had great potential which can complement each other in order to work and develop together. To achieve these objectives, the two countries need greater effort (Thang, 2012).

One is to continuously further strengthening the good existing cooperation relations. Consider to sign a new cooperation agreement for period of 2017-2020; regularly exchange of visits, high-level contacts between leaders of the state management agencies on physical education and sports; enhance student and lecturer exchanges; promote the participation to sport activities which held in the two countries.

Second is to support the mutual cooperation in the international sports forum;

Third is to realize the cooperation agreements signed previously which could encourage Korean firms to invest in the construction of sport facilities at National My Dinh sports Complex or Rach Chiec Sports complex in Hochiminh city.

Fourth is Korea shall support the research and high-tech application in recruitment, training for athletes in some important sport events of Vietnam. Propose Korea to support in building and providing equipment for some laboratory and sport training centers for elite athletes.

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