

Swiss-Vietnamese Intellectual Property Project (SVIP)



Donor agency

Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)

Implementing agency

Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (IPI)

Main project partners

Ministry of Science and Technology of Vietnam, National Office of Intellectual Property of Vietnam (NOIP), Vietnam Copyright Agency

Project duration

Nine years (1 March 2001 – 31 May 2010)

Project development goals

The overall development objective was to boost economic development and trade by supporting Vietnam's integration into the international trade system. The main objective was to support Vietnam's efforts to establish a legal and institutional framework compliant with the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) in order to fulfil the conditions for the country's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Project specific objectives

- Promoting economic development and trade by supporting Vietnam's efforts to adhere to the international treaties in the area of intellectual property rights (IPRs).
- Supporting Vietnam's efforts to establish a TRIPS compliant legal and institutional framework in order to fulfil the conditions for the accession to the WTO.
- Assisting Vietnam to issue implementing regulations to the new law on IPRs.
- Strengthening the IPR enforcement system.
- Supporting Vietnam in preparing a system to protect and capitalise on TK.
- Building the capacities of producers associations in establishing and using geographical indications (GIs) and introducing an IP curriculum at university level.

The main outcomes:

1. Input on policy-making significantly contributed to Vietnam's WTO accession

- Switzerland significantly contributed to TRIPS compliance of Vietnam's IPR framework and to Vietnam's accession to the WTO by providing highly specialised policy advice.
- A white paper on the establishment of specialised IP courts in 2007 contributed to Vietnam's efforts to reform the judicial system.
- The project provided support in amending the Vietnamese IP Law in 2008 and in the preparation of different implementing decrees, especially in the area of copyright.

2. Public administration was strengthened through legal and institutional reforms

- Switzerland played an active role in modernising the Vietnamese IP administration and funded an English language website of the NOIP.
- Closer collaboration with provincial authorities in the IP sector was advocated.
- Data on over 2000 traditional medicinal plants were systematically collected and made accessible through a database on TK. This database, one of the first in the world, resulted in a high degree of demonstration effect. A delegation from China visited Vietnam in 2007 in order to study the database.
- Vietnam established its own IP Institute, which serves as the centre of competence in IP.
- Vietnam established its own IP project that was fully funded by the Vietnamese Government's budget.
- In 2008, Vietnam also entered into its own technical cooperation programme with the People's Republic of Laos, which mainly focused on on-the-job training, capacity building and policy advice.
- IPR enforcement was significantly improved, evidenced by the number of raids conducted and infringing goods confiscated.

- Staff training at the NOIP was institutionalised.
- 3. Public awareness on IP among the private sector was significantly increased**
 - Increased public awareness was evidenced by a boom in IPR registrations.
 - Vietnamese media continued to provide extensive regular coverage on IP issues.
 - As a result of better public awareness, the private sector actively started to advocate for better IP protection.
 - 4. IP education for technical students was institutionalised**
 - IP modules were introduced in all major technical universities.
 - Awareness-raising activities in universities were institutionalised, for instance by events on the occasion of the World Intellectual Property Day annually taking place on 26 April.
 - By the end of 2008, “Technology Transfer Centers” responsible for facilitating the commercialisation of inventions were operational at all major public universities.
 - 5. Over twelve geographical indications registered**
 - The project successfully piloted the registration of three GIs, namely the Lang Son Star anis, the Doang Hung grapefruit and the Vinh orange.

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