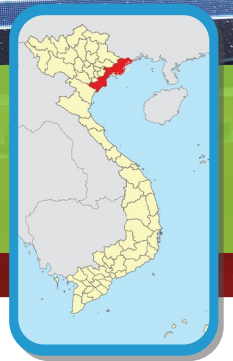




## The 2nd Red River Delta Symposium

An initiative from Vietnam Forests & Deltas Program to call for more attention & investment to Red River Delta



Climate change poses a serious threat to the livelihoods of the people of the Red River Delta. Sea level rise and decreased flows in the Red River increase the salinity of the water and decrease the amount of water available for irrigation, threatening crops in the region. These issues are widely recognized in the Mekong Delta, but the Red River Delta was yet to receive the same level of attention.

The 2nd Red River Delta Symposium, organized by the USAID - funded Vietnam Forests and Deltas (VFD) Program in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development, brought leaders and policy makers from the five delta provinces (Hai Phong, Nam Dinh, Ninh Binh, Thai Binh, and Quang Ninh) together with representatives from the Government of Vietnam including the Vice Minister of MARD Mr. Le Quoc Doanh, the Vice Chairman of Haiphong PPC Mr. Nguyen Van Tung, Government Office, MONRE, MPI, other donors and international organizations and the United States Ambassador to Vietnam Mr. Ted Osius.

Together they listened to experts, highlighted the issues, discussed potential solutions, and examined progress made so far.

The symposium reinforced the links between the affected provinces and proved an effective place to share information between donors and international organizations so that they better understand the risks faced by the region. A key outcome was increased commitment by the five affected provinces to work together to tackle their shared challenges and develop inter-provincial strategies to address local livelihoods and coastal zone protection.

MARD's Vice Minister Le Quoc Doanh confirmed the strong commitment of the Government of Vietnam to joint efforts with the international community to respond to climate change. He also called for strengthening cooperation with international organizations and donors to support adaptation to climate change in the Red River Delta region. "The symposium is a place for



us to share the challenges faced by the RRD provinces and is the first step for us to be able to work together more closely on issues relating to climate change in RRD from government level to non-governmental organizations, private sectors and farmers as well. Through this symposium, we will better understand the main vulnerabilities of the region and will look for solutions to address them in a coherent way with a synchronous coordination mechanism.”

In addition, Mr. Ted Osius, the US Ambassador to Vietnam, attended the symposium and reaffirmed that: “The Red River Delta remains a priority for U.S. support. Our existing cooperation programs in the region include the Forests and Deltas Program, the Halong Bay – Cat Ba Alliance, the Red River Delta Adaptation and Youth program, and U.S. Sister Cities Disaster Preparedness initiative. The United States also welcomes any opportunity to collaborate with other development partners and donors to assist the Red River Delta in responding climate change impact”

The 2nd RRD symposium received widespread media coverage in newspapers and on television that highlighted the need for increased investment to respond to the climate change impacts that this region has been facing. Media and participants agreed that tackling climate change is vital for the socio-economic development of the region but also for the sustained development of the country.

*The symposium was organized as part of the Vietnam Forests and Deltas Program funded by USAID. This 5-year project aims to help the Vietnamese Government, communities, and people to improve their resilience to climate change as well as support the country’s commitment in reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the forestry and agriculture sectors.*