

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE IN VIETNAM



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IN VIETNAM

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FOREWORD

Social enterprises operate with the dual aim of generating financial return while simultaneously advancing a social mission. In Vietnam, the term social enterprise is used to refer to a business that is created to address or solve a critical social or environmental problem in a financially sustainable and potentially profitable way. Some social enterprises are created, operated or owned by non-profit, charitable organisations as a means of generating income or to otherwise further their social mission. Other social enterprises are incorporated as for-profit entities and have a business strategy that is designed to achieve a social objective. They reinvest their financial returns into the community to further their social or environmental purpose or to create employment or other economic and social benefits for society, especially marginalised communities.

Before 2012, the term social enterprise attracted little attention in Vietnam. It was not until 2014 that the term social enterprise was officially recognised as a distinct type of organisation in Vietnam's Enterprise Law, thereby paving the way for a more developed ecosystem of social enterprise support. However, five years on, the development of the social enterprise sector has been more modest than some would have hoped. Social enterprises can face many challenges and difficulties, such as lack of funds, skills, technology, land and information. In addition, the government's policies need further improvement. This overview of the state of social enterprise in Vietnam can help identify the state of play, recent challenges and potential for further development.

On that basis, CIEM has partnered with the British Council's Global Social Enterprise programme to conduct a baseline survey of social enterprises in Vietnam, as part of a wider programme across the globe. This overview of social enterprises in Vietnam can help to address key issues that can enable social enterprises across the country to grow their business and increase their impact. We hope it can be helpful for a range of stakeholders in Vietnam, for potential partners, policymakers, academics and representatives from the business community.



Dr Nguyen Dinh Cung

President

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ABOUT THE BRITISH COUNCIL

OUR WORK IN VIETNAM

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We create friendly knowledge and understanding between the people of the UK and other countries. We do this by making a positive contribution to the UK and the countries we work with – changing lives by creating opportunities, building connections and engendering trust.

We work with over 100 countries across the world in fields of arts and culture, English language, education and civil society. Last year we reached over 75 million people directly and 758 million people overall including online, broadcasts and publication. Founded in 1934, we are a UK charity governed by Royal Charter and a UK public body. We have been working with Vietnam since 1993.

We aim to contribute to inclusive economic growth in Vietnam through our social enterprise programme. We promote the development of social enterprise as a means of addressing entrenched social and environmental problems and delivering positive change to our communities and societies. Our Global Social Enterprise programme draws on UK and global experience and is delivered across more than 30 countries with local and international partners.

This research is one in a series of surveys undertaken by the British Council around the world (<http://www.britishcouncil.org/society/social-enterprise/reports>).

The objective of this survey is to provide a summary of the current size, scale and scope of the social enterprise sector in Vietnam.

In addition, this study aims to contribute to the development of social enterprise globally by allowing other actors to assess the sector's progress, and identify possible entry points for supporting growth or for participating in social enterprise.



ABOUT THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (United Nations ESCAP) serves as the United Nations' regional hub, promoting co-operation among countries to achieve inclusive and sustainable development. The largest regional intergovernmental platform with 53 member states and nine associate members, United Nations ESCAP has emerged as a strong regional think-tank, offering countries sound analytical products that shed insight into the evolving economic, social and environmental dynamics of the region.

The Commission's strategic focus is to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is reinforced and deepened by promoting regional co-operation and integration to advance responses to shared vulnerabilities, connectivity, financial co-operation and market integration. United Nations ESCAP's research and analysis, coupled with its policy advisory services, capacity building and technical assistance to governments, aims to support countries' sustainable and inclusive development ambitions.

In February 2017, the British Council and United Nations ESCAP signed a collaborative agreement to promote the growth of social enterprise and impact investment across the Asia-Pacific region, as a means of supporting progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Together, we are co-operating to provide research, analysis, training and policy dialogues, and are offering guidance to support policy makers and other stakeholders in formulating and implementing policies and strategies that foster social enterprise and create enabling environments for impact investment.

This survey of social enterprise in Vietnam is an example of this work, and will provide information as to the size and scale of the social enterprise sector in the country. Social enterprises harness trade, investment and business activity towards social and environmental objectives, and are increasingly recognised as critical drivers of innovation for sustainable development.



ABOUT CENTRAL INSTITUTE FOR ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT

The Central Institute for Economic Management (CIEM) was established in 1978 as the Central Party's Economic Management Research Institute. For 40 years, CIEM has been contributed directly and indirectly to and promoted the process of innovation and comprehensive reform of the economy. It has also helped to develop a contingent of senior economic management officials of the Party and the State. CIEM has been a leading research agency in Vietnam for economic research and policy advice on innovation and economic development. The institute focuses on the strategic and practical issues of reform and development of the Vietnamese economy. In 2012, it was rated as one of the world's top 80 policy research institutes in the field of national economic policy (according to 2013 Global Go-To-Think-Tank Index). With its contributions, the Central Institute for Economic Management has been recognised by the Party and the State, and has received awards such as the First-class Independence Medal (2013), the Second-class Medal Independence (2008) and the First-class Labor Medal (2003), and other noble awards such as the Emulation Flag of the Government, the Merit of the Prime Minister, and the Merit of the Minister of Planning and Head Investment. In 2017, the Central Institute for Economic Management was honoured to be one of 12 national teams with outstanding achievements in the cause of national renovation recognised at Vietnam Glory - imprint 30 years of renovation.

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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_1045

