

THE PRIME MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
Independence-Freedom- Happiness

No. 651/QĐ-TTg

Hanoi June 1, 2012

DECISION

APPROVING THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO OVERCOME FUNDAMENTAL
CONSEQUENCES OF TOXIC CHEMICALS USED BY THE US IN THE WAR IN VIETNAM
TO 2015 AND ORIENTED TO 2020

THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE GOVERNMENT

Pursuant to Law on Organization of the Government dated Dec. 25, 2001;
Pursuant to Decision 33/1999/TTg dated March 1, 1999 of the Prime
Minister on establishment of The National Steering Committee to overcome
consequences of toxic chemical used by the US during the war in Vietnam;
At request from the Minister of MoNRE, the Head of Committee 33,

DECIDES:

Article 1. Approve the “ National Action Plan for basically overcoming
consequences of toxic chemicals used by the US during the war in Vietnam to 2015
and oriented to 2020” with the key contents below:

1. Overview

- Consequences of toxic chemicals used by the US during the war in Vietnam are still heavy on the environment and people in Vietnam.
- The overcoming of the consequences of toxic chemicals requires participation of many ministries, sectors, localities, political, social organizations, humanitarian and charity organizations, international organizations, governmental organizations and international NGOs.
- Overcoming consequences of toxic chemicals must draw on results achieved in previous periods, to avoid duplication and must be effective in practice.
- The national Action Plan to overcome basically the consequences of toxic chemical used by the US during the war in VN to 2015 and oriented to 2020 (hereinafter called the Action Plan) should be integrated into strategies, planning and socio-economic development programs.
- Activities of overcoming consequences of toxic chemicals must be implemented in a systematic way which is comprehensive, focused, targeted with unified direction and close coordination from the central to the local authorities.

2. Overall Objective:

Fundamentally solve the consequences of toxic chemicals used by the US during the war on the environment and people in Vietnam.

3. Specific objectives:

- a. Treat completely toxic chemicals in heavily contaminated areas.
- b. One hundred percent (100%) of the people who took part in the resistance war and their children and grandchildren who are exposed to toxic chemicals will benefit from the preferential (favored) policy on people who rendered meritorious services.
- c. Families of victims who are in difficult circumstances will receive monthly allowance and health insurance, including 100% households with 2 or more people with severe disabilities.
- d. 95% of pregnant women in heavily contaminated areas and victims of toxic chemicals will be cared for.
- đ. Plant 300,000ha of new forests on bare lands degraded by toxic chemicals.
- e. Enhance the capacity for research on toxic chemicals and analysis of the dioxin content in samples of fat, blood and environment to international standards.

4. Tasks:

- a. On environment and resources
 - Comprehensive assessment of damage on natural resources and environment by toxic chemicals.
 - Test of technologies that have the ability to treat completely dioxin in soil and sediments.
 - Proceed with treatment of dioxin contaminated soil and sediment at airports in Danang, Bien Hoa, Phu Cat and newly found spots with levels of dioxin contamination higher than allowed.
 - Choose solutions and conduct activities to restore ecosystems which were sprayed with toxic chemicals; Plant forests on lands laid bare by toxic chemicals.
 - Build a model of recovery of biodiversity at a number of heavily sprayed areas.
 - Monitor dioxin in environment (soil, water, air, foods) in heavily contaminated areas.

- b. On people
- Assess potential and long lasting consequences of toxic chemicals on human health
 - Build programs and plans for health check for victims of toxic chemicals at heavily contaminated areas and areas sprayed with toxic chemicals many times during the war time.
 - Finalize policies and systems to support victims of toxic chemicals who joined in the resistance war and their children and grandchildren who were exposed to toxic chemicals so that they can benefit from favorable policies toward people with meritorious service.
 - Provide allowance and health insurance to households of victims of toxic chemicals who are in difficult circumstances and who have many family members with severe diseases/disabilities.
 - Issue process of identifying victims of toxic chemicals and criteria for diseases caused by toxic chemicals.
 - Carry out census of victims of toxic chemicals.
 - Build capacity and facilities for social protection installations to accommodate, care for, and nurture victims of toxic chemicals.
 - Build capacity and facilities for health clinics, rehabilitation centers, establishments for detoxification, reproductive health and genetic counseling and pre-natal diagnosis in heavily contaminated areas.
- c. Raise public awareness and responsibility to participate of organizations and individuals in the country and from outside.
- Continue communication activities to raise public awareness and the responsibilities of communities to take part in research and activities to overcome the consequences of toxic chemicals.
 - Step up mobilizing international organizations, governmental organizations and international NGOs to take part in research and activities to overcome consequences of toxic chemicals.
- d. Capacity building in research for overcoming consequences of toxic chemicals.
- Build a center for research on toxic chemical/dioxin in Vietnam based on resources from the dioxin testing laboratory and the Office of Committee 33 under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.
 - Strengthen the operational capacity and efficiency of the dioxin testing laboratory under the Vietnamese-Russian Tropical Center and the dioxin testing laboratory under the Military Academy of Medicines (Ministry of Defense).
 - Implement scientific research programs for addressing remaining problems in diagnosis, treatment, prevention of diseases/disabilities for victims of toxic chemicals, treatment of toxic chemicals in heavily contaminated areas and providing additional scientific evidence for the diplomatic struggle;

combine with training and building a team of scientific researchers on toxic chemicals /dioxin in Vietnam.

- Collect and compile information and documents on toxic chemicals.
- Develop and implement a project “Evidence of Toxic Chemicals in Vietnam Zone”.

5. Implementation

a. Complete the system of organization and management

- Complete a system of organizations providing guidance and management of the Action Plan from the central to the local level. Based on specific conditions and requirements, specialized teams may be established in ministries, sectors and localities.
- Strengthen managerial capacity of steering agencies of each locality to be able to organize, guide and implement the Action Plan.

b. Assignment of responsibilities

- Committee 33: give guidance and organize implementation of the Action Plan; from monitoring, summarizing and assessing results of the Action Plan, submit to the Prime Minister adjustments of contents of the Action Plan; organize monitoring and periodic assessment of the implementation of the Action Plan; submit annual reports on results of the Action Plan to the Prime Minister; coordinate activities on information, education and communication relating to the Action Plan.
- Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment : assist Committee 33 in coordinating ministries, sectors and localities to organize implementation of the Action Plan; guide and organize the setting up of the Vietnam Research Center on toxic chemicals/dioxin based on resources of the dioxin testing laboratory and Committee 33; compile & archive information & documents on toxic chemicals; publish toxic chemical spray maps; coordinate with Ministry of Science & Technology to issue threshold levels of dioxin in the environment.
- Ministry of Defense: Convene, coordinate with relevant Ministries, sectors and localities to map, treat completely heavily contaminated areas; guide relevant agencies under the Ministry to participate in research and treatment of diseases/disabilities for victims of toxic chemicals; decode and publish the number (designation) of army units operating in areas sprayed with toxic chemicals.
- Ministry of Labor, Invalids & Social Affairs: Evaluate results of implementation of policies to victims of toxic chemicals, and amend, add or submit to agencies authorized to amend and add policies toward victims of toxic chemicals; build capacity and installations caring and nurturing victims of toxic chemicals; convene and coordinate with the ministries of Health and Defense in developing a system to identify victims of toxic chemicals and organize a census of victims of toxic chemicals.

- Ministry of Health: Review the list of diseases/disabilities and issue criteria for diagnosis of diseases/disabilities related to toxic chemicals; prepare, implement plans for treatment and healthcare and treatment of diseases/disabilities for victims of toxic chemicals; develop programs for early detection, reproductive counseling, detoxification and rehabilitation for victims of toxic chemicals; coordinate with the Ministry of Finance to study and suggest a health insurance system suitable for victims.
- Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development: Convene, coordinate with the Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment and relevant localities to organize implementation of projects of environment recovery and forest plantation in areas heavily degraded by toxic chemicals.
- Ministry of Science & Technology: Coordinate with Committee 33 to give guidance to relevant agencies in organizing implementation of scientific research on toxic chemicals and capacity building in research on toxic chemicals.
- Ministry of Justice: Convene and coordinate with relevant agencies to study legal bases to request the US government and chemical companies which produced toxic chemicals to be responsible for rectifying consequences of toxic chemicals in Vietnam.
- Ministry of Planning & Investment: Convene, coordinate with ministries, sectors and localities to prepare and guide integration of the Action Plan into strategies, planning and the socio-economic plan; coordinate with Committee 33 and the Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment to develop a monitoring system to evaluate the implementation of the Action Plan; coordinate with the Ministry of Finance in allocation of resources, coordinate the budget and sources of funding for programs and projects related to the Action Plan.
- Ministry of Finance: Coordinate with the Ministry of Planning & Investment in allocating resources, coordinating budgets and sources of funding for the Action Plan.
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Lead the preparation, organization and implementation of an advocacy and diplomatic struggle plan in research and in overcoming the consequences of toxic chemicals.
- Ministry of Communication and Information: guide the communication and education work to raise the awareness and responsibility of the entire society in overcoming the consequences of toxic chemicals. Guide the preparation of specialized theme, columns on consequences of toxic chemicals; organize external communication for the international community, in particular the American people, to better understand the consequences of toxic chemicals in Vietnam.
- Vietnam TV, Voice of Vietnam, Vietnam News Agency: develop specialized themes and columns on overcoming consequences of toxic chemicals for the environment and people in Vietnam.

- Ministries and ministerial level agencies and government agencies: implement tasks assigned in the Action Plan, take initiatives in participating in coordinated activities under guidance from Committee 33.
- Provincial and city Peoples Committees: Prepare and organize implementation of the Action Plan at each locality; coordinate with ministries, sectors to implement programs, projects in the Action Plan; mobilize all resources and integrate relevant activities in other programs in the locality to achieve targets set by the Action Plan; consolidate a point agency for implementation of the Action Plan.
- Social organizations, businesses and communities: Encourage political, social and mass organizations, NGOs, businesses, communities in the country and from outside to participate in activities to overcome the consequences of toxic chemicals.

6. Financial structure & investment capital

- The State guarantees necessary resources and at the same time mobilizes contributions from domestic and foreign communities; creates favorable legal and environmental conditions to attract participation of economic, political-social sectors, charity and humanitarian organizations, international organizations, governmental organizations and international NGOs to participate in the Action Plan.
- The budgeting, allocation, decisions to allocate funds; management, usage and settlement of expenditures of the Action Plan will be done according to regulations of the State Budget Law. Ministries, sectors and localities based on the tasks assigned on them will be responsible for preparing projects and estimated budgets to submit to authorized agencies: for scientific researches, include them in the scientific and technological planning of the ministries, sectors and localities and implement them according to guidelines of the Ministry of Science & Technology and Ministry of Finance; for projects under investment and development funds, implement them according to guidelines of the Ministry of Planning & Investment and the Ministry of Finance; projects to be funded from the funding source for the environment should be integrated into the plan for environment protection of ministries, sectors and localities and implemented according to regulations of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment.

7. Reporting system

- Ministries, sectors and localities are responsible for submitting annual reports on results of implementation of the Action Plan to Committee 33.
- Committee 33 is responsible for putting together activities of implementation of the Action Plan of ministries, sectors and localities into annual reports to the Prime Minister.

Article 2. This decision will take effects as from the date it is signed.

For the Prime Minister
(signed)
DPM Nguyen Thien Nhan

CC:

- Party Secretary
- Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Ministers
- Ministries, ministerial level agencies, Government agencies
- People's Councils, Peoples Committees of provinces and cities under central government
- Office of the Party Central Committee and Party Commissions
- Office of the Party Secretary General
- Office of the President
- Council of Ethnic Minorities and National Assembly Commissions
- Office of the National Assembly
- Committee 33
- Vietnam Association of Victims of Agent Orange (VAVA)
- Office of the Government