

U.N.E.S.C.O.

Bureau of Relations with Member States

VIE T-NAM

Profile

This preliminary profile has been prepared by the Asia and Oceanic Unit of BMS.

In order that this profile will be of maximum use within the Secretariat, it is suggested that the Programme Departments, Bureaux and Services send their proposed additions, alterations, corrections, etc. to the Area Officer, Mr. N. M. Tuyet.

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VIET-NAM

(Republic of Viet-Nam)

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A - Basic Data

1. Type of State

As a result of the Geneva Conference in 1954, Viet-Nam was de facto divided into two parts. The Ben-Hai river, near the 17th parallel divided the Republic of Viet-Nam from North Viet-Nam.

2. Government

President of the Republic and Head of the Government: Ngo-Dinh-Diem; Vice President: Nguyen-Ngoc-Tho; Council of Ministers corresponds to a Cabinet; National Assembly of 123 members, elected.

3. Area

65,726 square miles (out of a total of 129,086 square miles for entire Viet-Nam)

4. Population (1959 estimate)

13,500,000 (out of a total of 28,000,000 for entire Viet-Nam)

5. Chief Cities (1958 estimate)

Saigon, the Capital including the port of Cholon			1,794,360
Hue	113,000	Cantho	443,000
Bien-Hoa	202,000	Dalat	37,300
Mytho	430,800	Nhatrang	140,000

6. Language

Viet-Nameese. Beside the traditional writing modelled on Chinese Characters (chu-nôm), the "quôc-ngu", based on the Roman alphabet, is now widely used.

7. Religion

Mainly ancestor-worship, (influenced by Confucianism and Taoism), Buddhism, Roman Catholicism.

8. Economic Items

a) Money

Piastre (\$1 = 73,5 piastres)

b) Principal Products

Rice, rubber, sugar-cane, maize, tea, coffee, jute cotton, kenaf, forestry, fishing and stock-raising (oxen, buffaloes, pigs, ducks, and chickens).

c) Principal Exports

Rubber, rice and rice products, beer, duck feathers, cinnamon, scrap-iron, salt.

d) Principal Imports

Textiles, dairy products, petrol and related products, cement, machinery and transport equipment, chemicals.

e) Communication and Transportation

At the end of 1957, Viet-Nam had a total of 14,638 kilometres of roads. The South has an extensive network of waterways. The Trans Viet-Nam Railway, linking Saigon to Dalat, Nhatrang and Hue, which suffered serious damage during the war has been reconstructed. There is an airline; AIR-VIET-NAM mainly for domestic purposes. Saigon is served by many international airlines.

f) Per capita income (1956 estimate)

4,576 piastres (\$705)

g) National Budget (1959)

15,276 million piastres

h) Education Budget (1959)

811,4 million piastres. In addition the provinces and municipalities spend 563,3 million piastres

B - Data on Actual Status of the Development

1. Plan of Economic Development

The first economic Five-Year Plan, covering the period 1956-1961, aims at increasing the national income from 75,000 million piastres in 1956 to 87,000 million piastres at the end of the Plan period. Out of the 12,000 millions of the proposed increment 4,500 million piastres should be allotted to the formation of capital.

The Plan lays emphasis on 3 major points, namely:

a) Agriculture

b) Development of industry and Mining, including a survey of NONG SON coal mines.

c) Development of public facilities and modernization of equipment including construction of waterways and electric facilities for Saigon-Cholon. Construction of roads, bridges and railroads; improvement of airfields and port facilities; building of power stations and construction of DA-NHIM dam. In improving public facilities priority is given to Education and Public Health. The Plan lays emphasis on the exploitation of energy, a prerequisite to any programme of industrialization.

2. Present Situation and Future Plans in Domains of:

a) Education

i) Adult Education: In 1956, the Government launched a literacy campaign throughout the country. An "Anti-illiteracy Committee" was set up in each village.

ii) Elementary Education (1960-1961) :

Students (public & private schools)	1,343,777
Teachers	24,947
Schools	6,370
Classes	27,663

iii) Secondary Education:

Students (public, semi-private and private schools)	194,440
Teachers	6,301
Schools	404
Classes	3,648

iv) Technical Education and Fine Arts:

Students	4,813
Teachers	237

v) Higher Education:

Students	11,986
Teaching Staff	484
Universities	3

vi) Youth Associations:

The principal ones are: The Republican Youth Organization, The Boy Scouts' Association of Viet-Nam, etc..

b) Science

The 1959-1960 enrolment in some science courses in the University of Saigon are as follows: Faculty of Sciences - 2,135; Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacology - 1,490.

The National Technical Centre of Phu Tho has set up 3 Engineering Schools (College of Public Works, Electrical Engineering College, College of Arts and Crafts) and a Merchant Marine College. Other technical sections such as Chemical Engineering, Mining Engineering, etc., will be added later on.

Among scientific research institutions the most outstanding ones are: The Pasteur Institute, situated in Saigon, which is chiefly devoted to the preparation of serums; the Institute of Oceanography, located at Nha Trang, which has a fine collection of sea-fauna and flora. More recently, an Institute of Nuclear Energy has been set up by the Government.

Among scientific associations, the best known is the "Association of Engineers and Technicians", located in Saigon, which organizes periodic lectures on scientific or technological subjects.

c) Culture

Although Viet-Nameese art has been strongly marked by Chinese influence, it has evolved a style of its own. Few historic monuments remain nowadays, as most of them were made of wood rather than stone and were easily destroyed in the course of time. Among the best known vestiges of this art, may be mentioned: The Temple of Confucius (1070), The Palace of the Ly Emperors (1010-1214) at Ding Bang, The Langson Steles, the Pagodas of Phattich (1057), the Palaces and Imperial Tombs (1820-1923) at Hue. Viet-Nameese handicraft is also renowned throughout South East Asia. Two handicraft Centres are often visited by tourists. They are: Thu Dau-Mot specializing in lacker ware (the best known work shops have a permanent exhibition room in Saigon, Tado Str-Bienhoa, (a provincial town at 30 kilometres from Saigon) is known for its national School of Ceramics.

The KHAI-DINH Museum at Hue and the National Museum in Saigon contain a fine collection of old Viet-Nameese chinaware.

There is a National Library in Saigon.

d) Mass Communication Data (1958)

Press: 26 dailies with a circulation of 350,000
51 periodicals other than general interest newspapers
with a circulation of 320,000
Radio: 87,000 receiving sets
Cinema: 153 establishments with a total seating capacity of
83,100

e) International Relations in Education, Science and Culture

- i) Principal Services Concerned: Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
Ministry of Education, including National Commission for Unesco.
- ii) Bilateral Agreements in Educational Scientific and Cultural Fields:
(to be supplied later)
- iii) Multilateral Agreements in Educational Scientific and Cultural Matters: Unesco Constitution

3. Foreign Aid

- a) Under the French Technical Assistance Programme, an aid amounting to 1,800 million francs was granted in 1955-1956 for the restoration of CANTHO port, the resettlement of refugees, etc.. In 1957 a credit of 189 million piastres was granted for agricultural improvement.
- b) U.S.A. Aid - 90% of the total importation is financed with foreign currency-proceeds from this aid, and its counterpart fund is used to meet 50% of the national expenditures.
- c) Viet-Nam also receives technical assistance from other countries: Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Federal Republic of Germany, etc..

C - Bibliography

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Encyclopedia Britannica Book of the Year, Chicago: Encyclopedia Britannica, 1960 p.
Unesco, Basic Facts and Figures, Paris: Unesco, 1960, 180p. (525-527).
Department of National Education of Vietnam and National Commission of Viet-Nam for UNESCO, Thar van Kiem, Commercial Transworld Editions, 1956; Viet-Nam, Past and Present.
The Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer of the World, 1952 ; Columbia University.

II. CO-OPERATION WITH UNESCO

A - General Matters

1. Viet-Nameese Membership in Unesco: 6 July 1951
2. Viet-Nameese National Commission:

The National Commission began functioning in 1951, after which it was twice reorganized. It is under the Ministry of Education which provides it with a Secretariat. The Minister of the Education is concurrently the Commission's Chairman. Some 40 members, 13 of whom are representing governmental and non-governmental bodies, compose the Commission. In its work it is assisted by an Executive Committee, sub-commissions in Education, the Sciences, Cultural Activities and Mass Communication, Exchange of Persons Committee, Committee on Mutual Appreciation of East-West, Committee on Viet-Nameese Bibliography.

3. Contribution to Unesco (1961-1962): \$58,176; 0.19%.
4. Persons Concerned in Relations with Unesco:

a) National Commission

Chairman: Nguyen Quang Trinh
Executive Secretary: Nguyen Khac Kham

b) Ministers

Ministry of Education: Nguyen Quang Trinh
Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Vu van Mau

c) Delegation to the General Conference of Unesco

Tran Huu The, Minister of Education (leader),
Vu Quoc Thuc, Nguyenhuy Bao, Nguyen Khac Kham, Ly Chanh Trung,
Trinh dinh Tieu.

d) Permanent Delegation to Unesco

Secretary General: Tran van Minb
Secretary: Nguyen duy Toan

e) Viet-Namose Members of the Secretariat of Unesco

N. M. Truyet	BMS	Area Officer
Miss T. T. Nguyen	IES	Secretary
Nguyen Kim Hong	PER	Secretary

f) Source of Recruitment

National Commission for Unesco

5. Channel of Correspondence

The Minister of Education for official communications

6. Regional Offices and Institutes

Viet-Nam co-operates with the following:
Regional office in Asia for Free and Compulsory Education, Bangkok;
Regional Educational Bureau, Bangkok; The International Child Study
Institute, Bangkok; The Science Co-operation Office, Djakarta; The
Research Centre for Social and Economic Development, Delhi.

7. Resident Representative of the Technical Assistance Board

De Selys Longchamps with headquarters at Pnom-Penh, Cambodia.

8. Unesco Chief of Mission

Marcel De Clerck

9. National Affiliates of Non-Governmental Organizations

10. Last of Recent Reports in Viet-Nam

Chevalier, Report on Mission, January 1960.

De Selys Longchamps, Technical Assistance Activities

B - Main Features of the Unesco Programme in Viet-Nam (terminated and planned in 1961-1962)

1. Education

a) Educational Documentation

Unesco supplied equipment worth \$2000 to the Ministry of Education.

b) Role of Education in the East-West Major Project

Under the 1959-1960 Participation Programme Viet-Nam was assisted in the preparation of reading materials on Viet-Nameese culture for use in other countries.

c) Overall Planning of Education

Towards the end of 1960 a mission of 2 experts completed a survey of educational planning related to economic development. It recommended measures to enable the Government to plan educational improvements within the framework of economic development.

d) Primary and Secondary Education

One expert on Community Education, who started work in 1959, will continue through 1961 and possibly through 1962 in assisting the Ministry of Education in adapting the curriculum and methods of rural primary school-teaching to local needs.

Aid is also foreseen under the Asian Project on Free and Compulsory Education. Two fellowships are anticipated for Viet-Nameese educators to take part in training courses in 1962 in the New Delhi Regional Institute for Training Educational Planners, etc.. A Viet-Nameese participant is expected to attend each of two meetings on educational planning: a symposium in New Delhi on educational planning to be held from late December 1961 to January 1962, as well as a meeting in Tokyo of representatives of authorities in Member States concerned with educational planning in April 1962.

Viet-Nameese participation is also expected in the seminar of experts to be held in Manila in the Spring of 1962 to formulate the curriculum of the Regional Institute for Training Teacher-Educators. A fellowship for the first training course at the Institute is to be allotted to Viet-Nam.

e) Higher Education

The University of Saigon is co-operating with the Unesco aided International Association of Universities. It expects to participate in the Unesco sponsored Study in 1961-1962 concerning the status and needs of Universities in South and East Asia.

f) Vocational and Technical Education

One expert in Vocational Guidance is included for one year, starting in January 1962, under the 1961-1962 Programme. A fellowship in Technical Education was granted by the 1959-1960 Participation Programme.

g) Fundamental and Adult Education

Since December 1955 to the end of 1960 Unesco's aid in the form of experts and fellowships and equipment amounted to \$195,190. In 1961-1962 this project has the following: an expert in Adult Education for 2 1/2 months, an expert in Community Education for 12 months. (see also items II B d) and b)).

Two fellowships under the 1959-1960 Participation Programme were given to Viet-Nam. Equipment in Fundamental Education was furnished to Viet-Nam under the 1955-1956 Regular Programme.

Viet-Nam is the host to the December 1961 Regional Conference in Asia of Adult Education. Unesco has granted aid amounting to \$20,000 to this meeting.

h) Education of Women

Under the Fundamental and Adult Education Project, two experts on Home Economics and Education of Women worked one after another at Khanh Hau Centre to train Viet-Nameese teachers and Fundamental Education organizers in homemaking, home crafts, etc..

Viet-Nam expects to send a participant to the March 1962 Meeting of Experts on Access of Women in Rural Areas to Education.

2. Natural Sciences

a) Marine Sciences

A training course for Marine Science researchers was held in Nhatrang in 1959. Before this Viet-Nam acted also as host to a regional meeting of experts in Oceanography which was held in Saigon. One fellowship in Marine Biology was granted to Viet-Nam under the 1957-1958 Programme. Equipment in Marine Sciences amounting to \$2,300 was furnished under the 1959-1960 Programme.

Viet-Nam anticipates participation in the Regional Marine Science Seminar to be held late in 1961.

b) Mekong Project

Viet-Nam is participating with Cambodia in the Special Fund Project for the construction of a mathematical model within the framework of the Lower Mekong Project. The aid amounts to \$420,000 for experts' services \$25,000 for fellowships and \$160,000 for equipment.

c) Technological Training

Under the Technical Assistance Programme an expert in Electro technical instruction is to start work in 1961 in the Phu Tho Polytechnic Centre and will continue through 1962.

d) Participation in Other Regional Activities

Viet-Nam is interested in the following regional activities under the 1961-1962 Programme: Meeting on Basic Science Teaching, Manila, October 1961; Genetics Course, Tokyo, October 1961; Meeting on Scientific Research, Hong Kong, December 1961.

3. Social Sciences

a) Statistics Relating to Education, Science and Culture

Viet-Nam participated in the Unesco preliminary survey relating to the method of obtaining data on the supply and demand of technical and scientific personnel which was carried out in 1958. It participated in the Bangkok seminar on the standardization of educational statistics and will participate in the 1961 Tokyo seminar to review the work done in implementing the recommendations made in the first meeting.

b) Teaching and Basic Research in the Social Sciences

- i) Viet-Nam is co-operating with the Unesco Research Centre on Social and Economic Development at New Delhi.
- ii) Viet-Nam is participating in the 1961-1962 regional study of training facilities for economists, statisticians and other personnel concerned with economic development.
- iii) A regional seminar on the theme, "Research on the Social implications of technical progress in urban and rural areas in South East Asia," which was held in Saigon in early 1960

4. Cultural Activities

a) International Co-operation with NGO's

Viet-Nam participated in the international symposium held in Manila, 1960 under the auspices of the PAX ROMANA. The purpose of the Manila meeting is to explore the possibilities of finding common elements among religions so as to foster understanding

and tolerance.

b) Arts and Letters

Various Unesco travelling exhibitions, such as "Persian Miniatures" and Japanese Wood cuts, Two Thousand Years of Chinese Art, etc., were held in Saigon.

c) Museums and Monuments

Viet-Nam was granted \$500 for art reproductions under the 1959-1960 Programme.

d) East-West Major Project

- i) The Viet-Namese National Commission received financial aid for an amount of \$2,000 in the translation of five representative occidental works under the 1959-1960 Programme.
- ii) The Viet-Namese National Commission is preparing a publication giving a survey of the Viet-Namese culture, and social and economic pattern with the financial aid from Unesco for \$2,000

5. Mass Communications

a) Free Flow of Information

Viet-Nam is a signatory to the International Agreement on the Free Importation of Educational, Scientific and Cultural Materials and the Agreement to facilitate the Circulation of Audio-Visual Materials of an Educational, Scientific and Cultural character.

b) Audio-Visual Media

Two experts in Audio-Visual Aids served successively at the FUNDAMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE (see B 1 (g) above).

c) Promotion of Mass Media Services

Viet-Nam participated in the 1960 Meeting on Mass Media held in Bangkok.

d) Unesco Coupon Scheme

Gift Coupon Project - Thanh Quan International Foyer for Girl Students - Amount contributed since commencement of project in 1960 to 31 December 1960: \$1360. Contribution sent by U.S.A.

6. International Exchange Service

- a) Number of Viet-Nameese Granted Fellowships and Travel Grants up to 1960
- b) Number of Fellowships for Viet-Nameese under the 1961-1962 Programme

Approved under Education
Approved under Natural Sciences
Approved under Social Sciences
Approved under Cultural Activities
Approved under Mass Communications

7. Co-operation Between the Viet-Nam National Commission with Unesco

- a) Visits of the Secretary-General of the National Commission

In 1952 Unesco assisted the Commission by financing the visit of the Commission's Secretary-General to the Secretariat in Paris, a similar visit was made by this Secretary's successor in 1958.

- b) Translation of Unesco Publications

Unesco has helped the National Commission in financing the translation into quoc-ngu (national language) of the following publications: "Fundamental Education, description and programme", "Visual Aids in Fundamental Education", "The Use of Vernacular Languages in Education", "Education of Women for Citizenship", "Adult Education - current trends and practices", "Museum Techniques and Fundamental Education", "Co-operatives and Fundamental Education", "Youth and Fundamental Education", "The Originality of Cultures", etc..

- c) Aid to encourage the activities of National Commissions

Beginning in 1960 the Viet-Nameese National Commission has issued a quarterly review in the Viet-Nameese language entitled "Unesco - Viet-Nam", with financial assistance for the Organization.

- d) Regional Meetings of Asian National Commissions

Viet-Nam participated in the Regional Conference of Asian National Commissions for Unesco, held at Manila in early 1960.