* Dr Tran Thi Giang Huong, Director General of the International Cooperation Department
* Mr Alejandro Montalban Carrasco, Minister Counsellor, Head of Development and Cooperation Section, EU Delegation of Viet Nam
* Dr Socorro Escalante, Health System Development Team Coordinator, WHO
* Heads/Representatives of MoH Departments,
* Heads/Representatives of Development Partners,
* Delegates from INGO,
* Distinguished Guests, Friends and Colleagues,
* Ladies and Gentlemen,

Vietnam has made remarkable achievements in the delivery of health services to protect people from communicable and non-communicable diseases. All this work has been done in the context of a long period of rapid economic growth, combined with various policies targeted to the poor. This has enabled Vietnam to reduce poverty dramatically and to improve health conditions. Despite the various and tremendous achievements in the country, the health sector is struggling with major issues related to the changing health needs of the population and the new challenges facing the Vietnamese health system which are linked to changing disease and demographic patterns, the impact of development and globalization on health, and the persistent disparities in health outcomes among the poor and vulnerable populations. In the face of these challenges, the Ministry of Health (MoH) and its in-country health DPs have continued to demonstrate a strong commitment to development cooperation effectiveness through the forum of the Health Partnership Group (HPG) and by developing and endorsing the [Viet Nam Health Partnership Document (VHPD)](http://hpg.icdmoh.gov.vn/attachments/article/377/SachdoitacyteEngFINAL.pdf) in 2013 as well as participating in the [IHP+ monitoring exercise](http://www.internationalhealthpartnership.net/fileadmin/uploads/ihp/Result_2014/Documents/IHP_CS_Vietnam_final.pdf).

We are here today, in the HPG meeting, to discuss about challenges and concrete solutions for more effective development aids that maximize the impact on health outcomes. And for sure, we will be able to agree on effective mechanisms to improve quality of aids and coordination.

We all welcome the opportunity to optimize aids transparency, alignment to national health priorities, harmonization of development cooperation, complementary of DP funding, and predictability of health development support.

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate the Viet Nam Ministry of Health on its commitment to development cooperation effectiveness. This has been translated into a strong national leadership, country ownership, and continuous work to streamline external efforts.

Acting upon our mission, we acknowledge our joint responsibility – MoH, DPs, INGOs – to achieve health goals. The 2013 VHPD demonstrate the willingness for mutual accountability and favorable environment for more effective participation of all health development cooperation actors, including INGOs and the private sector.

Mrs. Chairwoman, in view of the importance of the harmonization of DP/INGO support in the health sector for 2016-2020 in Viet Nam, it becomes essential to concretely optimize development cooperation. It becomes crucial to find out the ways and means of fostering the collaboration with DPs, INGOs and VNGOs.

During this meeting, we hope to address the impediments to the cooperation and coordinationwithDPs and INGO which are (1) the lack of mechanism for sharing information between INGOs, the MoH and other DPs, (2) the needs for clarifying the role of INGOs in the implementation of the VHPD, (3) and the absence of agreed way of working for more active engagement and alignment of INGOs in the execution of the new five-year health sector plan and its health-related SDG agenda.

We hope that the present meeting will engage to fruitful debates, in order to make it productive and relevant. I am confident that the discussions held during the meeting will lead us at the end to important technical conclusions on the subject of harmonization of DP/INGO support in the health sector for the upcoming five years.

In conclusion, I should like to wish you every success in your work.

Thank you for your attention.