



5 August 2015

## **“Growth, Structural Transformation and Rural Change in Viet Nam: A Rising Dragon on the Move” - Report launch 5 August, Hanoi, Vietnam**

On 5 August 2015 the report “Growth, Structural Transformation and Rural Change in Viet Nam: A Rising Dragon on the Move” is launched in a Workshop at the Central Institute for Economic Management (CIEM) from 9 am to 11.30 am in the Main Hall, 68 Phan Dinh Phung Str. Ba Dinh, Ha Noi.

The launch is chaired by Dr Nguyen Thi Tue Anh, Vice President of CIEM, and Dr Finn Tarp, Director of UNU-WIDER and Professor at the University of Copenhagen, who led the study team, presents key findings and recommendations from the report.

Following Professor Tarp’s presentation three commentators are in the agenda: Dr Hoàng Vũ Quang, Vice-Director of the Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development (IPSARD), Associate Professor Vu Thi Minh, Dean of the Faculty of Real Estate and Resource Economics at the National Economics University (NEU), and Dr Nguyen Thi Lan Huong, Director of the Institute of Labour Science and Social Affairs (ILSSA).

The 409 page synthesis report is based on five rounds of the Vietnam Access to Resources Household Surveys carried out every two years between 2006 and 2014. The VARHS surveyed the same 2,162 households in 12 provinces in Viet Nam. The provinces are: Ha Tay, Nghe An, Khanh Hoa, Lam Dong, Dak Lak, Dak Nong, Lao Cai, Dien Bien, Lai Chau, Phu Tho, Quang Nam, and Long An.

The aims of the VARHS report are to:

- Provide an in-depth evaluation of the development of rural life in Viet Nam over the past decade, combining a unique primary source of panel data with the best analytical tools available.
- Generate a comprehensive understanding of the impact of rural household access to markets for land, labour, and capital, on the one hand, and government policies on growth, inequality, and poverty at the village level in Viet Nam, including the distribution of gains and losses from economic growth.
- Make available a comprehensive set of materials and studies of use to academics, students and development practitioners, including policy makers, interested in an integrated approach to the study of growth, structural transformation, and the microeconomic analysis of development in Viet Nam.

Five key findings include:

- Living conditions: improved in general for rural households in absolute terms.
- While VARHS confirms Viet Nam experienced very significant poverty reduction in rural areas – this is not true (in absolute terms) for all (there are important numbers of households for whom the situation worsened).

- Having a sufficient level of assets, including education, social capital, and productive assets is associated with a greater likelihood of becoming better off and the same goes for having more prime-age household members.
- Facing shocks and being of non-Kinh ethnicity cause significant reductions in food expenditure and other welfare indicators.
- Social capital and patronage relations important in Vietnamese politics and social and economic interactions.

VARHS was implemented with support from Danida and is the result of 10 years of research collaboration between CIEM, ILSSA, IPSARD, University of Copenhagen and UNU-WIDER.

**For further information on the launch please contact:**

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