

Forum Vietnam 21

Dr. Hong-An Duong
Email:forumvietnam21@googlemail.com
www.vietnam21.info

**Mr.
Sigmar Gabriel
Bundesminister for Economy and Energy
Scharnhorststr. 34-37**

10115 Berlin

09.11.2014

Subj.: Your official visit to Vietnam

Dear Mr Bundesminister:

It was with a great interest that we took the news of your official visit to Vietnam to attend the 14th Asia Pacific Conference. We appreciate it to know that in the dialogue with the Vietnamese side, beside the main thematic discussions in issues of economics, you will also attach subjects in Environment and Human Rights. Then, in such a dialogue it should be made clear to the Vietnamese side that, in the long run, a market economy cannot be workable without a context of freedom, democracy and human rights.

The economy in Vietnam, a mixture of Marxism and jungle-style Capitalism, despite its glitzy front-panel is only a system plagued with so many self-inflicted problems like: one-way dependence on China, rampant corrupt sub-units as run by clan connections, systematic corruption to the highest ranks in the government, a faulty credit system, ineffective state-run enterprises flooded in heavy bad debts to which investors from abroad have virtually no access ...The Vietnamese farmers themselves fall victims to policies as carried out by the Hanoi regime. To provide lands for industrial projects farm land was requisitioned by the government at no, or little, compensation. As consequence there is an unstoppable widening gap between Poverty in the rural areas and Affluence in the big cities.

Vietnam in the 21-st century has become anything but a democratic country, because of the monopoly as exerted by the Communist Party. It keeps the country under a very harsh reign. At this time Vietnam is known as the greatest enemy of the Internet. Bloggers criticizing the regime, activists for Human Rights and Democracy, human rights lawyers etc... are currently imprisoned indicted with year-long sentences.

Also, in the domain of Environment, Hanoi is conducting policies hostile to Mankind as well as to Nature. While we in Germany seek closure to nuclear plants, Vietnam still looks forward to importing nuclear reactors from Fukushima and Tschernobyl, or build nuclear plants in some sensitive regions.

Considering such a political and economic reality in Vietnam one cannot help asking whether it's a right thing to do investment in such a corrupt system. Not to mention the countless 'legal' problems, the complicate process, and risks, involved in the application for business permission.

We would appreciate it if you can have the time to get in touch with representatives of different civil societies. We do hope that, in the process, you would raise questions about the fate of the many political prisoners, and make a demand for the release of the activists like Mrs Ta Phong Tan, Lawyer Le Quoc Quan, Father Nguyen van Ly.

We sincerely wish you and your delegation a pleasant and successful trip to Vietnam.

Dr. Hong-An Duong
(Coordinator- Forum Vietnam 21)