

# Abstract

## SESSION 1:

A Decade of Partnerships in Sustainable Development of the Seas of East Asia: Synergies and Achievements

## WORKSHOP 1.1:

Managing Risks in Climate Change and Disasters in the Seas of East Asia

## Strengthening Public-Private Partnerships for Disaster Risk Management and Community Resilience in Vietnam



### Nguyen Tri Thanh

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Vietnam's hundreds of thousands of small and medium sized enterprises, which make up the backbone of the nation's economy, will have to play a critical part in reducing the risk of natural disasters and climate change on their businesses and their communities. While there has been a substantial increase in initiatives to help communities respond to disasters, most efforts have not effectively engaged local businesses in disaster preparedness and response. With support from the United States Agency for International Development's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA), the Strengthening Public-Private Partnerships for Disaster Risk Management and Community Resilience in Vietnam project is increasing resilience against natural disasters by collaborating with a broader spectrum of stakeholders including businesses and business associations, to increase the DRM capacity of Vietnamese businesses, and support local innovations in areas vulnerable to natural disasters.

Since April 2011, The Asia Foundation has been implementing a project to build the DRM capacity of Vietnamese businesses in areas vulnerable to natural disasters. Focusing primarily on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the project has built resilience and strengthened public-private partnerships (PPPs) for DRM and disaster relief activities. The project is being implemented through strategic partnerships with the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI), the largest business chamber association in the country, other business associations, relevant government agencies such as the Disaster Management Center, and local non-governmental organizations. At the end of phase 3 (September 2014), it has to date established a DRM training curriculum for SMEs, developed a group of 120 master trainers from over 60 organizations, trained more than 2000 individuals (including 30% women and staff from over 1000 SMEs in 15 provinces and cities in Central and South Vietnam), and conducted a series of research and pilot activities to enhance disaster-related PPP and corporate social responsibility (CSR). The project's website ([www.ungphothientai.com](http://www.ungphothientai.com)) has become a resource hub for Vietnamese businesses to access information on DRM, including publications and training manuals. More specifically, The Asia Foundation has worked closely with VCCI to pursue policy advocacy and encourage innovative PPP and CSR initiatives on DRM among the Vietnamese business community. Activities have included national and regional public-private dialogues, business recommendations on the content of Vietnam's Law on Disaster Control and Prevention, and local initiatives to support CSR on DRM. The project has made significant strides toward establishing PPP dialogue mechanisms, encouraging local PPP initiatives, and supporting businesses to have a much-needed voice in policy development. This foundation for cross-sector collaboration will support more extensive and sophisticated partnerships in the future.



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## Global Targets Local Benefits

Setting the Sustainable Development Agenda for the Seas of East Asia beyond 2015

### **About Nguyen Tri Thanh:**

Mr. Nguyen Tri Thanh is the Senior Program Officer for the Environment in The Asia Foundation's Vietnam Office. He has in-depth experience in managing environment governance, environment policy and regulations, climate change mitigation, and adaptation and disaster risk management programming engaging the government and private sector in Vietnam.

He has worked with public and private partners including Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Vietnam Chamber for Commerce and Industry (VCCI) to improve disaster risk management and resilience in the private and public sectors. In this regard, Thanh's works currently focus on assessing Climate change and disaster risk on businesses. Mr. Thanh also has experience working with local authorities and Ministry of Industry and Trade to develop Low carbon industrial zone models in Danang city, Vietnam. Previous to joining TAF, Mr. Thanh worked for six years at the Vietnam Environment Administration of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.