Swiss-Vietnamese Intellectual Property Project (SVIP)

**Donor agency**
Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO)

**Implementing agency**
Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (IPI)

**Main project partners**
Ministry of Science and Technology of Vietnam, National Office of Intellectual Property of Vietnam (NOIP), Vietnam Copyright Agency

**Project duration**
Nine years (1 March 2001 – 31 May 2010)

**Project development goals**
The overall development objective was to boost economic development and trade by supporting Vietnam’s integration into the international trade system. The main objective was to support Vietnam’s efforts to establish a legal and institutional framework compliant with the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement) in order to fulfil the conditions for the country’s access to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

**Project specific objectives**
- Promoting economic development and trade by supporting Vietnam’s efforts to adhere to the international treaties in the area of intellectual property rights (IPRs).
- Supporting Vietnam’s efforts to establish a TRIPS compliant legal and institutional framework in order to fulfil the conditions for the accession to the WTO.
- Assisting Vietnam to issue implementing regulations to the new law on IPRs.
- Strengthening the IPR enforcement system.
- Supporting Vietnam in preparing a system to protect and capitalise on TK.
- Building the capacities of producers associations in establishing and using geographical indications (GIs) and introducing an IP curriculum at university level.

**The main outcomes:**

1. **Input on policy-making significantly contributed to Vietnam’s WTO accession**
   - Switzerland significantly contributed to TRIPS compliance of Vietnam’s IPR framework and to Vietnam’s access to the WTO by providing highly specialised policy advice.
   - A white paper on the establishment of specialised IP courts in 2007 contributed to Vietnam’s efforts to reform the judicial system.
   - The project provided support in amending the Vietnamese IP Law in 2008 and in the preparation of different implementing decrees, especially in the area of copyright.

2. **Public administration was strengthened through legal and institutional reforms**
   - Switzerland played an active role in modernising the Vietnamese IP administration and funded an English language website of the NOIP.
   - Closer collaboration with provincial authorities in the IP sector was advocated.
   - Data on over 2000 traditional medicinal plants were systematically collected and made accessible through a database on TK. This database, one of the first in the world, resulted in a high degree of demonstration effect. A delegation from China visited Vietnam in 2007 in order to study the database.
   - Vietnam established its own IP Institute, which serves as the centre of competence in IP.
   - Vietnam established its own IP project that was fully funded by the Vietnamese Government’s budget.
   - In 2008, Vietnam also entered into its own technical cooperation programme with the People’s Republic of Laos, which mainly focused on on-the-job training, capacity building and policy advice.
   - IPR enforcement was significantly improved, evidenced by the number of raids conducted and infringing goods confiscated.
• Staff training at the NOIP was institutionalised.

3. **Public awareness on IP among the private sector was significantly increased**
   • Increased public awareness was evidenced by a boom in IPR registrations.
   • Vietnamese media continued to provide extensive regular coverage on IP issues.
   • As a result of better public awareness, the private sector actively started to advocate for better IP protection.

4. **IP education for technical students was institutionalised**
   • IP modules were introduced in all major technical universities.
   • Awareness-raising activities in universities were institutionalised, for instance by events on the occasion of the World Intellectual Property Day annually taking place on 26 April.
   • By the end of 2008, “Technology Transfer Centers” responsible for facilitating the commercialisation of inventions were operational at all major public universities.

5. **Over twelve geographical indications registered**
   • The project successfully piloted the registration of three GIs, namely the Lang Son Star anis, the Doang Hung grapefruit and the Vinh orange.

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