

**No. 30458**

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**FRANCE  
and  
VIET NAM**

**Convention on the establishment of a Vietnamese-French Law  
Centre in Hanoi. Signed at Hanoi on 10 February 1993**

*Authentic texts: French and Vietnamese.*

*Registered by France on 1 November 1993.*

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**FRANCE  
et  
VIET NAM**

**Convention pour la création de la maison du Droit vietnamo-  
française à Hanoi. Signée à Hanoi le 10 février 1993**

*Textes authentiques : français et vietnamien.*

*Enregistrée par la France le 1<sup>er</sup> novembre 1993.*

## [TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

CONVENTION<sup>1</sup> BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A VIETNAMESE-FRENCH LAW CENTRE IN HANOI

The Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam,

Considering the memorandum signed on 6 September 1991 between the Keeper of the Seals, Minister of Justice of the French Republic, and the Minister of Justice of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam,

Considering the report of the eighth meeting of the Joint Franco-Vietnamese Commission on 23 October 1991,

Considering the memorandum signed in Hanoi on 24 July 1992 by the Minister of Justice of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the representatives of the Paris Bar Association, of the Court of Cassation, of the University of Paris and of the French Embassy in Hanoi,

Considering the declaration of intent signed in Paris on 23 November 1992 by the Keeper of the Seals, Minister of Justice of the French Republic, the Secretary of State for Culture and Francophone Affairs and the Minister of Justice of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam,

Have agreed as follows:

*Article 1*

The Government of the French Republic and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam have decided to establish a Vietnamese-French Law Centre, whose head office shall be located at the Ecole Supérieure de Droit, Avenue Lang Trung, Hanoi.

*Article 2*

The Ecole Supérieure de Droit shall provide the Law Centre at no charge with premises measuring 270 m<sup>2</sup>. These premises are intended to house a library, a classroom and staff offices.

For lectures, Viet Nam shall provide speakers with a lecture hall located on the premises of the Ecole Supérieure de Droit or, should that prove impossible, those of the Ministry of Justice.

*Article 3*

France shall be responsible for the internal renovation of these premises, the furniture and the office and computer equipment.

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 10 February 1993 by signature, in accordance with article 15.

#### Article 4

The goals of the Law Centre shall be as follows:

- (a) The establishment of an up-to-date, computer-based system of documentation of French and Vietnamese law which will be available to all jurists;
- (b) The centralization of all information concerning Franco-Vietnamese legal cooperation;
- (c) The organization of lecture series in the legal field on topics to be mutually agreed upon;
- (d) Participation in the monitoring and planning of internships and support for the organizing of exchanges;
- (e) Support for cooperation with universities and the development of research in the legal field.

#### Article 5

The Law Centre shall offer the following services:

- (a) Instruction in legal French according to a curriculum to be mutually agreed upon by the Parties.

Participants in the course in legal French must possess either a university degree with a specialization in law or significant professional experience in the legal field. The Law Centre shall be open to students in their last year at the Ecole Supérieure de Droit, the Law Faculty of the University of Hanoi and the Institute of International Relations and to managerial staff of the Académie Nationale d'Administration and the Institut du Droit et de l'Etat;

- (b) Intensive instruction in legal French during the months of July and August;
- (c) Linguistic preparation of Vietnamese students for study in schools, institutes or other institutions engaged in cooperation in the legal field, such as the Institut International d'Administration Publique and the Institut International du Droit du Développement, in advanced educational institutions such as the Ecole Nationale d'Administration and the Ecole Nationale de la Magistrature, in training centres for lawyers and notary publics, in the offices of lawyers and notary publics, in universities and in administrative bodies such as the Council of State;
- (d) The Organization of regularly scheduled lectures and missions on topics to be mutually established. The Law Centre shall also produce bilingual texts of documents used in seminars, audiovisual materials and translations of lectures;
- (e) A centre for documentation of French and Vietnamese legal texts, which will be open to professionals and students.

#### Article 6

The Law Centre shall be organized to include:

- An Advisory Committee;
- A Director and a Deputy Director.

#### Article 7

The Advisory Committee shall be composed of 12 members with equal representation:

For Viet Nam:

- The Minister of Justice or his representative;
- A justice of the Supreme People's Court;
- The Director of the Ecole Supérieure de Droit or his representative;
- A representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- A representative of the Government Cabinet;
- A representative of the legal profession.

For France:

- The Minister of Justice or his representative;
- A high court magistrate of the judicial branch;
- A representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- The Cultural and Scientific and Technical Cooperation Attaché to the French Embassy in Hanoi;
- The President of the Paris Bar Association or his representative;
- A legal professional.

Mindful of the need for equal representation on the Committee, the two Parties may decide by mutual agreement to include additional members.

The Advisory Committee shall be jointly presided over by a representative of each Government, to be chosen by each delegation.

The Director and the Deputy Director shall be *ex officio* members of the said Committee in an advisory capacity.

#### Article 8

The Committee shall meet at least once a year. It shall appoint the Director and the Deputy Director for a period of two years, with the possibility of renewal. It shall set the general goals of the Law Centre and decide upon the number of Vietnamese and French staff needed for its operation. It shall approve the annual budget and receive the Director's annual report.

The Committee may, where necessary, be summoned to meet at the request of either Party in a smaller but equally representative form.

The Committee shall take its decisions by simple majority vote of its members.

#### Article 9

The Director, assisted by his deputy, shall be responsible for implementing the goals of the Law Centre in the framework of the guidelines to be defined by the Committee. He shall recruit the teaching and administrative staff, oversee the curriculum, monitor the enforcement of the internal regulations adopted by the Committee and manage the financial resources allocated to the Law Centre.

#### Article 10

During the initial phase of the project, which shall end with the expiry of this Convention, the Director shall be a project head appointed by France; the Deputy Director and assistant project head shall be appointed by Viet Nam.

*Article 11*

Until the expiry of this Convention, France shall be responsible, within its available budgetary resources, for the operating costs of the Law Centre, including the costs of expatriate and Vietnamese staff, teaching materials and computer and office supplies.

Viet Nam shall be responsible for the daily maintenance of the premises and any necessary repairs to the building.

At the end of this initial phase, the sharing out of expenses shall be decided by mutual agreement between the Parties.

*Article 12*

Viet Nam shall make all arrangements, under Vietnamese law, for facilitating the entry and residence of permanent expatriate staff and their families, of lecturers and of experts assigned to technical support missions.

*Article 13*

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam authorizes, under Vietnamese law, the import of the goods listed below. They shall be exempt from customs duties and other taxes and charges, with the exception of the costs of storage and transport.

(1) The furniture, office equipment and supplies necessary for office operations, including motor vehicles;

(2) Personal effects, household appliances, furniture and consumer goods for the use of expatriate staff, including one motor vehicle for each staff member.

*Article 14*

The Parties undertake to fulfil all the necessary conditions and formalities so that this project may be implemented as soon as this Convention is signed.

*Article 15*

This Convention shall enter into force from the date of its signature. It shall be concluded for an initial stage which shall end on 31 December 1994. After that date, it shall be renewable automatically unless one Party notifies the other in writing, at least three months before the date of expiry of the current term, of its decision to terminate the Convention.

If the Convention is terminated, the apportionment of the real and movable property of the Law Centre shall be dealt with in a separate agreement.

This Convention may be amended by mutual agreement between the two Parties.

Any dispute concerning the interpretation and implementation of this Agreement shall be resolved through negotiation.

DONE at Hanoi on 10 February 1993 in two copies, in the French and Vietnamese languages, both texts being equally authentic.

For the Government  
of the French Republic:

MICHEL VAUZELLE  
Keeper of the Seals  
Minister of Justice

CATHERINE TASCA  
Secretary of State  
for Relations  
with French-speaking  
Countries and for Foreign  
Cultural Relations

For the Government  
of the Socialist Republic  
of Viet Nam:

NGUYEN DINH LOC  
Minister of Justice

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