

THE PRIME MINISTER

Decision No. 939/QĐ-TTg of July 19, 2012, approving the master plan on socio-economic development of the Mekong River delta through 2020

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Pursuant to the December 25, 2001 Law on Organization of the Government;

Pursuant to the Government's Decree No. 92/2006/ND-CP of September 7, 2006, on the elaboration, approval and management of socio-economic development master plans, and Decree No. 04/2008/ND-CP of January 11, 2008, amending and supplementing a number of articles of Decree No. 92/2006/ND-CP;

At the proposal of the Ministry of Planning and Investment,

DECIDES:

Article 1. To approve the master plan on socio-economic development of the Mekong River delta through 2020, with the following principal contents:

I. POSITION AND ROLE

- With its potential and advantages in land and water surface, the Mekong River delta is the country's key area for food, aquatic product and fruit production, greatly contributing to national food security and agricultural and aquatic product export.

- It has an interlacing river and canal system

and submerged forests and is a hub where the cultural traits of Viet, Cham and Khmer ethnic groups converge and intermingle, thus providing favorable conditions for the development of eco-tourism and cultural tourism imbued with the region's particular features; and plays an important role for the eco-environment of South Vietnam and the Mekong River lower section.

- It is a geographical area of strategic importance to national defense, security and external relations.

II. DEVELOPMENT VIEWPOINTS

1. The master plan on socio-economic development of the Mekong River delta through 2020 must be in line with the national socio-economic development strategy, Vietnam's marine strategy and sectoral master plans; and aim to build and develop the Mekong River delta into a driving force for promoting the national development.

2. To bring into the fullest play the potential and advantages of localities in the region, especially advantages in agricultural production, aquaculture and marine economy; to step up economic restructuring and growth model renewal along the line of in-depth development; to sustainably develop the delta and coastal areas.

3. To develop a synchronous and eco-friendly system of urban centers and residential areas and a system of technical and social infrastructure facilities in close relation with rice fields, orchards, rivers, sea areas and islands.

4. To closely combine economic

development with development of social affairs, education-training, health care and culture and realization of social progress and justice so as to step by step improve the quality of people's life; to step up the hunger eradication and poverty alleviation and reduce the social development gap between areas and between ethnic groups in the region.

5. To focus on training and developing human resources, especially high-quality ones, so as to meet market demands, combining human resource development with scientific and technological development and application.

6. To pursue sustainable development, combining socio-economic development with economical use of natural resources and protection of the eco-environment; to adopt solutions to proactively prevent and respond to climate change and sea level rise; to closely combine socio-economic development with assurance of national defense and security and maintenance of political stability and social order and safety.

III. DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

1. General objectives:

To build and develop the Mekong River delta into a national key region for agricultural commodity production and aquaculture with high economic growth and sustainable development; to strongly develop marine economy and accelerate cultural and social development to reach the national average level; to build the region into a hub for proactive integration, trade exchange and economic cooperation with regional countries; and to

firmly maintain political security, national defense and social order and safety.

2. Specific targets:

a/ Economically

- The economic growth rate will be 7.7% during 2011-2015 and 8.6% during 2016-2020. Per-capita GPD will reach VND 30.2 million (USD 1,550-1,600), and VND 57.9 million (USD 2,750-2,850) by 2015 and 2020, respectively.

- By 2015, the agriculture-forestry-fisheries proportion in the region's GDP will be 36.7%, while those of industries-construction and services will be 30.4% and 32.9%, respectively. By 2020, these figures will be 30.5%, 35.6% and 33.9%. To assure national food security and maintain an annual rice export volume of about 6-7 million tons.

- Export turnover will annually increase over 12% on an average during 2011-2015 and over 11.5% during 2016-2020. The average export turnover per capita will reach USD 630 and over USD 1,000 by 2015 and 2020, respectively; the technology renewal rate will be around 8-10%/year.

b/ Culturally and socially

- The region's average population growth rate will be around 0.8% during 2011-2015 and 0.85% during 2016-2020. The region's population will be around 18 million and 18.8 million by 2015 and 2020, respectively. The poor household rate will annually drop by 2-2.5% on an average.

To satisfy the standard of pre-school education universalization for 5-year-old

children by 2015. The rates of children in eligible age groups attending school will be 99% for primary education, 85% for lower secondary education, and 60% for upper secondary education. By 2020, these rates will be 95-97% for lower secondary education and 65% for upper secondary education. To strive for the target that by 2020, the region's education, training and vocational training sector will reach development targets higher than the national average in different disciplines and at different educational levels.

- The malnutrition rate among under-5 children will be reduced to below 16% by 2015 and below 12% by 2020; the mortality rate among under 1-year infants will be reduced to 0.85% and 0.75% by 2015 and 2020, respectively.

- To create 350,000-400,000 jobs every year. By 2020, the urban unemployment rate will be 3.5-5%; the percentage of working time in rural areas will reach 88-90%; the percentage of trained laborers will be 35-40% by 2015 and 50-55% by 2020.

- The urbanization rate will be 28% by 2015 and 34.2% by 2020; by 2020, around 50-55% of communes in the region will reach the standards of new countryside; makeshift or thatched houses will no longer exist while people living on rivers and canals will be resettled.

c/ Environmentally

- By 2015, over 90% of urban inhabitants and 85% of rural inhabitants will have access to hygienic water. By 2020, these figures will all be 100%.

- By 2015 and 2020 respectively, over 85%

and 95% of urban solid waste will be collected and treated up to the sanitation standards. To remedy and basically end inundation in urban centers. By 2020, over 70% of urban wastewater will be collected and treated.

- To increase the forest coverage to 8.5% by 2015 and over 9% by 2020. To protect marine and coastal ecosystems, national parks and nature reserves; to take the initiative in preventing and controlling storms, floods, natural disasters, climate change and sea level rise so as to mitigate their impacts.

d/ Security and defense

- To complete the system of roads to border areas, border-guard stations, defense areas, residential areas and socio-economic infrastructure in association with the protection of border areas, islands and areas inhabited by Khmer people.

- To step up propaganda and education work to mobilize people to properly abide by the State's law so as to curb traffic accidents; to provide education about new cultured lifestyles and fight against superstition among the population.

IV. DEVELOPMENT ORIENTATIONS FOR DIFFERENT SECTORS

1. Agriculture, forestry and fisheries:

To develop the Mekong River delta into a key agricultural development region, focusing on large-scale production of high-quality and competitive commodities, with rice and aquatic products as two national strategic exports. To form large-scale specialized production areas in combination with hi-tech application and new-countryside development; to further

restructure agricultural production along the market orientation. To strive for an annual agricultural growth rate of 5.2% during 2011-2015 and 4.9% during 2016-2020.

- Agriculture: To further make scientific, technical and technological investment in the production of rice as the main crop so as to increase its yield and quality for domestic consumption and export; to promote the development of large-scale rice production areas (large model fields), especially in localities with rice production advantages, including An Giang, Kien Giang and Dong Thap provinces.

To plan and develop concentrated and intensive areas under fruit trees, focusing on the creation of new plant varieties of high economic value. To attach importance to developing cash crops and seasonal industrial plants, such as maize, cotton, soybean and sugarcane, in order to substitute for imported agricultural materials. To maintain a total rice-growing land area of 1.8-1.85 million ha by 2020.

To develop concentrated husbandry in association with processing industry, epidemic prevention and control and food hygiene and safety assurance.

- Fisheries: To develop fisheries into a spearhead industry with large-scale production, high competitiveness and export turnover. To continue developing intensive and concentrated aquaculture while expanding aquaculture on the sea and in islands, freshwater and brackish water areas. To apply models of aquaculture applying new and modern technologies and techniques so as to increase productivity, quality and effectiveness and protect the eco-

environment. By 2020, the total land area under aquaculture will reach 550,000-600,000 ha.

To assure sustainable development of aquatic resources and protection of the eco-environment in the exploitation of aquatic resources; to develop offshore fishing models and offshore and onshore logistics services.

- Forestry: To concentrate on consolidating and perfecting the special-use forest system; to form a protection forest system able to protect coastal and border areas and infrastructure facilities in flooded areas; to further plant production forests and scattered trees in a more effective way, and develop combined agriculture-forestry-fisheries toward sustainable development in association with eco-environmental protection.

2. Industries:

To boost industrial development as a driving force for regional economic development, focusing on the industry of processing agricultural, forestry and fishery products for export; power and energy industries, textile-garment and leather-footwear industries; and mechanical engineering. To strive for an average industrial production value growth rate of 16%/year during 2011-2015 and 16.5%/year during 2016-2020.

- To build a large-scale hi-tech processing industry in combination with development of raw material zones; to form processing centers with modern and chained technologies and complete-set equipment for the production of deeply processed products; at the same time, to encourage small- and medium-sized enterprises to make investment and procure equipment to

turn out products to meet market demands; to concentrate on developing processing of rice, aquatic products, vegetables, fruits, coconut and meat and the production of animal feeds.

- To develop textile-garment and leather-footwear industries to meet local labor demands; to attach importance to equipment procurement and skill improvement so as to directly produce exports and gradually reduce processing; to diversify models and products; to research and expand domestic and overseas markets.

- To make in-depth investment in existing establishments that produce mechanical engineering products for agriculture; to study the building of a regional mechanical engineering center in Can Tho city to promote and improve the technological level of the regional localities; to attach importance to the development of ship building and repair in Can Tho city and Tra Vinh, Soc Trang and Ca Mau provinces.

- Industrial parks will be planned and developed in a synchronous manner in association with the retraining of highly skilled human resources and workforce and investment in social infrastructure facilities, such as houses, schools, medical establishments, and with environmental protection. To minimize the use agricultural land for development of industrial parks and complexes. To strictly comply with regulations on formation of new industrial parks. To attach importance to the development of industrial- cottage industry complexes and craft villages in localities.

3. Service, trade and tourism development:

- Services and trade:

To develop trade of various organizational and operational modes so as to meet people's needs. To form big commercial and exchange hubs in Can Tho, Phu Quoc and other big urban centers; to attach importance to trade development in rural, deep-lying, remote, border and island areas so as to serve ethnic minority people; to complete the building of goods distribution networks from urban to rural areas.

To invest in building a synchronous trade infrastructure system, including trade-service centers, logistics centers and marketplaces of appropriate size; to attach importance to the construction of farm produce storage and preservation warehouses, especially rice warehouses up to standards; to expand trade relations with neighboring localities, especially those in South eastern Vietnam and regional countries; to develop the border economy through boosting border trade exchange. To strive for an annual retail and consumption service turnover growth rate of 15.5% during 2011-2015 and over 14.5% during 2016-2020.

To support and encourage enterprises to operate effectively and jointly form a number of specialized trade groups capable of competing and effectively cooperating with foreign distribution groups.

To strongly develop financial, banking, insurance, audit, accounting, technology transfer and other services so as to meet the demands of a socialist-oriented market economy; to encourage and support various economic sectors to procure vehicles for road and waterway

transportation and invest in mass transit.

- Tourism:

To develop tourism into an important industry based on the region's competitive edges in geographical position and natural resources, including the submerged forest eco-system, the canal network and ethnic minority groups' cultural festivals, so as to create unique ecological and cultural tourism products associated with the countryside and river and canal areas. To create a close link among the regional localities and neighboring areas, especially Ho Chi Minh City, to develop inter-provincial and international tourist routes.

To form and develop 4 major tourist clusters, including Can Tho city and its vicinity, My Tho and its vicinity, Bay Nui-Rach Gia and its vicinity; and Nam Can and its vicinity.

4. Cultural and social development:

- Education and training

To develop education and training in the direction of standardizing and improving the quality of teachers and educational administrators, build a learning society, create conditions for every person to learn and unceasingly raise educational quality; to further renew teaching methods and teaching organization forms; to mobilize more children to go to school, especially in economically difficult and ethnic minority areas; to reduce the school dropout rates at all educational grades. To further properly implement the program on solidification of schools and classrooms within the preschool and general education system.

To attach importance to job training at the collegial and professional secondary levels in order to form a technical workforce up to national standards to meet the demand for labor for industrial parks, economic zones, spearhead industries and for export; to intensify short-term job training for rural laborers, ethnic minority people and laborers whose land is converted for other use purposes; to develop mobile job training and create favorable conditions for disadvantaged people to receive job training and self-employ.

To further invest in upgrading the Can Tho University with physical foundations and lecturing staff attaining the level of advanced regional countries; to invest in the Nha Trang university's branch in Kien Giang; to expand tertiary and postgraduate education and develop a number of colleges and universities in the region in order to gradually restructure and improve the qualifications of the workforce.

- Public health care:

To properly perform family planning and reproductive health care. To keep the natural population growth rate at 1.27% during 2011-2015 and 1% during 2016-2020.

To build and modernize the regional health system to achieve the objectives of fairness and effectiveness and develop at the national average rate in order to meet the people's needs for protection, health care and living standard improvement. To consolidate and improve the grassroots health network so that by 2015 all commune or ward health stations will reach national standards.

To complete the building of a specialized

health center in Can Tho city. To build regional general hospitals in Tien Giang and Kien Giang provinces, and upgrade provincial-level general hospitals to grade-I standards with 500-800 patient beds each; to further consolidate obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, psychiatry, tuberculosis and traditional medicine hospitals in the regional provinces.

- Culture, physical training and sports:

To conserve and promote traditional cultural values deeply imbued with the national identities to serve cultural exchange among ethnic communities in the region; to build and develop new cultural values, forming a civilized lifestyle and new cultured families in the region; to step up the building of a synchronous system of cultural and information institutions from the provincial to grassroots level.

To continue stepping up the movement "All the people do physical exercise following the example of Uncle Ho". To implement the program on development of physical training and sports in communes, wards and townships, especially in deep-lying, remote and ethnic minority areas, areas along the southwestern border and coastal areas. To continue investing in national-standard infrastructure facilities for sports training and competition; for the immediate future, to build a regional physical training and sports center in Can Tho city.

- Poverty alleviation, employment and assurance of social security benefits:

To synchronously, comprehensively and effectively implement poverty alleviation programs and projects; to create opportunities for the poor to benefit from policies on supports in

land, credit, job training, employment, industrial extension, agricultural-forestry-fishery extension and product sale; to build poverty alleviation models and concentrate supports on creating conditions for poor households to develop production and increase incomes

To develop social security and protect and care for children; to mobilize all people to participate in "gratitude" activities and care for people with meritorious contributions to the nation; to pay attention to training, job training and employment of children of policy beneficiary families; to intensify charity and humanitarian activities to help the poor integrate into the community. To exercise the rights of children to be cared for and protected; to create a healthy and safe environment for their comprehensive development; to prevent and ward off violence against children.

5. Infrastructure development:

To synchronously develop the economic and social infrastructure system to serve as a driving force for the region's socio-economic development. To closely combine investment in transport infrastructure with irrigation, flood control and development of the network of urban centers, rural residential areas and population clusters and lines in flooded areas.

- Transport development:

Roads: To form 5 corridor road systems linking the Mekong River delta with South Eastern Vietnam and the whole country, including the coastal roads (national highways 50 and 60), national highway 1A, Ho Chi Minh City-Can Tho city expressway, N2 and N1 roads; to complete the upgrading of the

transversal axial roads to grade-III standards with 2 motor lanes; particularly, N1 road will reach grade-IV standards with 2 motor lanes; to complete the building of the big bridges of Vam Cong, Cao Lanh, Co Chien and Nam Can and step by step upgrade weak bridges on national highways. To upgrade and build provincial and district roads as planned.

To strive for the target that by 2020 there will be motor roads to all commune centers; 100% of district roads and at least 70% of commune roads will be asphalted or concreted; to eliminate all foot bridges; to further invest in a number of important and urgent works to serve the socio-economic development of the regional localities.

• Internal waterways: To build the waterway transport routes of Ca Mau-Nam Can, Kien Luong-Ha Tien, Bac Lieu-Ca Mau and cargo-loading-unloading ports. To complete the project to upgrade Cho Gao canal route and the project to develop the transport infrastructure in the Mekong River delta, which are funded with WB5 capital source. To further upgrade the existing waterway transport routes to technical standards. To promote multi-modal transportation, focusing on fully tapping waterway transport advantages.

Seaways: To complete the investment project on port entrance fairways on Hau river through Quan Chanh Bo canal; to study the upgrading of Cua Lon river fairways. To invest in building seaports capable of receiving ships of 30,000-50,000 DWT. To further upgrade the system of ports and fairways in a synchronous manner to meet the region's transport needs.

Airways: To complete soon and commission the new Phu Quoc international airport (phase I) which can accommodate B777 and B747 airplanes. To upgrade and expand the Ca Mau airport. To further invest in upgrading and raising the capacity and service quality of these airports to receive growing passenger arrivals.

Railways: To study investment in a 1,435-mm railway from Ho Chi Minh City to Can Tho city at an appropriate time.

- Electricity supply:

To develop gas-fired thermal power plants which use gas exploited from Cuu Long, Southern Con Son and Malay-Tho Chu deposit basins. To build coal-fired thermal power plants in Duyen Hai-Tra Vinh, Long Phu-Soc Trang, Hau river-Hau Giang and Kien Luong power centers and Long An power plant. To build Phu Quoc thermal power plant and an undersea power line to Phu Quoc island. To invest in a synchronous power distribution system to meet increasing power consumption needs of urban and rural inhabitants.

- Information and communications:

To build modern telecommunications infrastructure facilities of large throughput and high reliability and capable of integrating services on a transmission network. To build Can Tho city into a major postal and telecommunications service center of the region and the whole country. To build industrial parks for information technology (IT parks) and IT enterprise nurseries in Can Tho city and major urban centers in the region.

- Water supply and drainage and environmental sanitation:

Water supply: To step by step upgrade existing and synchronously build new water supply systems to meet production and daily-life needs of urban centers. For rural and coastal areas and islands, to study water supply models and scales suitable to the characteristics of each sub-region (flooded areas, coastal areas and islands). To build a network of observation of surface water and groundwater quality in the whole region for contamination and salinity inspection and checking of water sources.

Water drainage and environmental sanitation: To step by step invest in upgrading existing and building new wastewater and rain water drainage systems in urban centers; to assure that wastewater from households, industrial parks, hospitals and craft villages will be treated up to set standards before being discharged into the centralized drainage system. To collect and treat garbage in a concentrated manner; to apply advanced technologies to treating garbage for recycling, and limit the use of landfills so as to conserve land and assure environmental sanitation.

- Irrigation development:

To complete the multi-purpose irrigation and dike system to serve agricultural production, forestry, fisheries and rural development, address socio-economic issues, protect the environment and assure sustainable development.

To continue improving flood mitigation and water salinity control works and irrigation canals; to build water supply works for aquaculture in coastal areas and combined rice farming and aquaculture models in freshwater ecological zones. To study and build large-scale

irrigation works in river estuaries, ensuring sufficient fresh water for production, water salinity control and environmental protection. To consolidate and upgrade the existing dikes, build new dikes, plant and protect land protection forests along the dikes in coastal localities for socio-economic development.

6. Scientific and technological development:

To strongly and diversely develop the scientific and technological potential of the region, and build Can Tho city into a regional scientific and technological center. To establish the Scientific and Technological Institute, Biological Technology Institute, Fishery Research Institute and Techniques and Technological Application Center in the Mekong River delta.

To develop the system of centers for application of scientific and technological advances in all provinces and cities in the region in order to intensify scientific and technological research and transfer. To prioritize and support the application of GAP standards (good agricultural/fishery practices) to agricultural production, forestry and fisheries; to prioritize and support the application of technical advances to mechanizing harvesting activities and reducing harvest and post-harvest losses; to support enterprises in processing agricultural and aquatic products.

7. Response to climate change and assurance of sustainable development:

- To assure sustainable socio-economic development to limit the adverse impacts of climate change. To plan and build a system of works to combat flood and salinization, taking

into account the impacts of climate change and sea level rise. To apply new technologies to the treatment of wastewater and garbage in industrial parks; to modernize the daily-life wastewater and rainwater drainage systems in urban centers and transfer environment-friendly technologies for production.

To survey, warn and devise measures to prevent and control natural disasters (embanking river banks, relocating people, planting trees to protect river banks, etc.) in areas highly vulnerable to landslide along rivers and canals. To incorporate the tasks of response to climate change and sustainable development in all activities involved in the development strategies of the sectors and localities in the region, especially in economic development of the coastal localities.

- To protect the ecosystem of coastal protection forests, essential infrastructure facilities and population clusters in flood-hit areas and the southwestern border corridor. To protect national parks and nature reserves; to conserve standard models of the wetland ecosystem, bio-diversity and gene sources.

8. Combination of socio-economic development with defense and security:

- To plan and build defense economic zones and closely associate the two strategic tasks of socio-economic development and defense and security consolidation, enhancing the defense potential through building the all-the-people defense and people's security disposition and assuring the readiness of all forces to frustrate all plots and tricks of hostile forces.

- To accelerate the upgrading and expansion

of roads along the border; to build border patrol roads so as to combine economic development with security and defense consolidation. To build works in fishing ports, especially those in islands, creating a synchronous system of infrastructure and logistics services from coastal areas to outermost islands to serve offshore fishing, storm sheltering and security and defense maintenance.

V. ORIENTATIONS FOR ORGANIZATION OF DEVELOPMENT SPACES

1. Development of urban spaces:

- The system of urban centers: To develop the urban network in combination with the development of industrial parks and trade and service centers; to create a network closely linked with the South eastern Vietnam, East Sea and West Sea and border areas through a convenient transport system.

The central urban area: This area embraces Can Tho city and the satellite cities of Cao Lanh, Long Xuyen and Vinh Long and Sa Dec town. To build Can Tho city into a regional industrial, service, commercial, scientific, technological, health, education, training, cultural and sport center, and Long Xuyen city into a central urban center of the Long Xuyen quadrangle.

The northeastern urban area: To develop My Tho city into a key urban center linked with the urban centers of Go Cong, Tan An, Tra Vinh, Ben Tre and Tan Thach. This area links the Mekong River delta with Ho Chi Minh City.

The southwestern urban area: To develop Cam Mau city into a key urban center linked with the urban centers of Rach Gia, Ha Tien,

Bac Lieu, Soc Trang and Vi Thanh. To step by step build and develop Phu Quoc island into a high-quality eco-tourism center and major trade exchange hub of the delta, the whole country and the region.

- Development of rural residential areas:

To complete the program on population clusters and lines and houses in frequently flooded areas and provide supports for abolition of thatched and makeshift houses in the region. To build rural residential areas under the master plan and in conformity with the cultural traditions and production conditions of local people. At the same time, to concentrate investment on building essential infrastructure in order to stabilize the people's life.

2. Development of economic zones

- The key economic zone (embracing Can Tho city and An Giang, Kien Giang and Ca Mau provinces) will be a major center for rice production, aquaculture, fishing and aquatic product processing, greatly contributing to the country's export of agricultural and aquatic products. To prioritize developing such important services as transfer of bio-technology, supply of plant seeds and animal breeds and technical services, processing and export of agricultural products for the whole region.

To develop power centers in Can Tho (O Mon), Ca Mau (the gas - power generation - nitrogenous fertilizer complex), Kien Giang (Kien Luong) and supply fuel gas from the southwestern gas fields, playing the role as the major energy center of the region.

To develop trade and service centers in Can Tho, Long Xuyen, Rach Gia and Ca Mau; and

tourist sites in Phu Quoc island and Bay Nui area; to develop the border-gate economic zones in An Giang and Ha Tien; to invest in education, training, health, science and technology in these provinces, ensuring that they play the role as the socio-economic development driving force of the whole region.

- The zone in the north of Tien river (embracing the eastern part of Long An and Tien Giang provinces in the Ho Chi Minh City region):

To concentrate on developing planned industrial parks; to prioritize labor-intensive industries, support industries, and agricultural, forest and aquatic product processing industry; to promote goods exchange services, build a system of wholesale markets for fruits and rice, provide high-quality health and training services (in My Tho and Tan An); to step by step form a tourist site on Thoi Son islet; and to develop concentrated fruit tree zones in Tien Giang.

- Dong Thap Muoi zone (embracing the western districts of Long An and Tien Giang provinces and Dong Thap province):

To develop agricultural production, especially in non-flood seasons, study and restructure crops and production to improve their yields. To develop cross-border trade and border-gate zones in Long An and Dong Thap provinces.

To develop eco-tourism combined with cultural and historical tourism in such tourist sites as Tram Chim and Go Thap; to concentrate on building and upgrading arterial transport routes linking Dong Thap Muoi with the southern key economic region; to complete the building of flood-resistant residential clusters and lines for stabilizing the people's life; to develop small-

and medium-sized industrial establishments suitable to the regional conditions.

- The zone on the East Sea's coast (embracing the coastal districts of Tien Giang province and the coastal provinces from Ben Tre to Bac Lieu):

To concentrate on developing saltwater and brackish water aquaculture in coastal areas; to combine the rearing of shrimps and fishes with gardening and rearing of crustaceans in tidal shores. To develop the production of specialty rice varieties of high quality and build concentrated fruit tree zones in freshwater ecological zones. To develop agricultural and aquatic product processing and cottage industries; and to form some major aquatic product processing centers.

To attach importance to developing the infrastructure network in the coast (coastal roads and water supply systems), renovate the channels and fairways in Tien and Hau rivers; to develop Dinh An economic zone (Tra Vinh) together with port services and shipbuilding. To study investment in synchronous infrastructure and necessary conditions for forming Ganh Hao marine economic zone when having sufficient conditions.

VI. LIST OF PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS PRIORITIZED FOR INVESTMENT STUDY

(See the attached Appendix)

VII. MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION SOLUTIONS

1. For the sectors prioritized for development

- Perfecting the system of mechanisms and policies favorable for the regional economic development; creating an environment for equal and transparent competition among enterprises; reforming administrative procedures.

- Synchronously developing the infrastructure system, especially the transport network to link the regional localities with neighboring localities; the irrigation system to serve rice production and aquaculture and large-scale fruit tree zones; and works for preventing and mitigating the impacts of the global climate change.

- Concentrating on improving the quality of education, training and job training, quickly developing high-level human resources to meet the society's needs. To step up the application of high technologies to agricultural production to increase the yield and quality of products and production value per hectare of cultivated land.

2. Investment capital solutions

Effectively mobilizing all resources, especially internal strengths, for investment in socio-economic development.

- Striving to increase state budget revenues, intensifying the combat against revenue loss and strictly handling tax evasions and trade frauds; ensuring correct, adequate and prompt collection of state budget revenues.

- Prioritizing the investment of state budget capital in works and projects that are strategically significant for the region, see no possibility of capital recovery, or treat environmental pollution, essential social infrastructure facilities and agricultural and rural development projects: at the same time, balancing the state budget for realizing the

social security policies, especially for the poor and policy beneficiary households; intensifying the control of expenditures, ensuring the effective use of budget funds for socio-economic development in the region.

- Drawing up and promulgating a list of programs and projects calling for investment through 2020; intensifying investment promotion in order to attract investment capital from all economic sectors; using and making the best use of ODA sources for investing in the development of large-sized, synchronous and modern socio-economic infrastructure facilities.

- Organizing auctions of land use rights to mobilize capital from domestic and foreign investors for development investment, effectively exploiting land resources; promulgating policies to promote investment and concurrently creating a favorable investment environment; developing the financial market; stepping up the socialization of investment in health, education, culture and sports.

- Expanding the investment forms of BOT, BT, BTO and PPP, creating favorable conditions for developing capital markets; developing forms of joint venture, investment partnership and contribution of assets as investment capital.

3. Solutions regarding mechanisms and policies

- Adopting policies to support rice production zones in order to assure the national food security (grant of preferential credit for the purchase and storage of rice to stabilize rice prices, investment in infrastructure and warehouses in the direction of partnering with localities, creation of a driving force for

development): supporting the development of clean and hi-tech agricultural products, especially export products, and building brands for agricultural commodities.

- Adopting policies to further develop the industry of preliminary processing and processing of agricultural, forest and fishery products in deep-lying, remote and difficulty-hit areas. Adopting special investment, financial and credit incentives for sub-regions with many rivers and canals, including application of appropriate investment rates and ratios to development projects funded with the state budget or credit loans originating from the state budget.

4. Human resource solutions

- Introducing policies to promote and attract talents and highly qualified technicians to work permanently in the regional localities, and at the same time accelerating the training of local human resources suitable to the schedule of the regional socio-economic restructuring.

- Intensifying investment in education, training, health and culture to improve the people's intellectual standards, percentage of trained labor, people's health and professional qualifications of economic managers and state administrative officials and civil servants. Expanding job training, employment promotion, assistance and recommendation in many appropriate forms; adopting policies on job training for laborers who shift to non-agricultural occupations and trades.

- Accelerating the elaboration and announcement of a master plan on the network of schools at all levels (general education, job training, college and university); reserving land

for non-public schools in order to step up the socialization of education and training. Completing the master plan on development of the health sector and the master plan on training of health workers, focusing on development of hi-tech medical establishments; increasing investment in specialized health centers and training human resources for the grassroots health network and preventive medicine.

5. Scientific and technological solutions

- Concentrating on scientific and technological research and application, creating a new and effective development in the research and application of scientific and technological advances to production, business and state management. Promoting inventive research to meet requirements of local and regional socio-economic development.

- Promoting internal strengths combined with international cooperation and socialization of scientific and technological activities, founding a scientific and technological market associated with eco-environmental protection and sustainable development.

6. Administrative reform solutions

- Further improving the effectiveness of administrative reforms toward publicity and transparency, and at the same time raising the quality of the contingent of cadres and civil servants so as to create a favorable environment for attracting investment and properly settling administrative procedures.

Promptly and fully elaborating and promulgating regulations, mechanisms and policies to promote democracy, innovation and

creativity and facilitate effective operation of the entire administration system, thus meeting development requirements.

- Raising the effectiveness of management activities of local administrations at all levels; clearly defining the powers and responsibilities of different agencies to prevent overlapping functions and tasks; and at the same time intensifying the combat against red tape, corruption and wastefulness in the performance of task of the state agencies.

7. Cooperation and market development solutions

- Expanding cooperation on the development of agriculture, training, health, tourism, scientific research, technology transfer and labor supply between the Mekong River delta and south eastern Vietnam, especially Ho Chi Minh City, in order to bring into full play the potential of the region.

- Enhancing cooperation among the regional localities on investment promotion, building of material zones and development of the processing industry, and expansion of product outlets; facilitating the common use of the regional infrastructure for industrial production, treatment of solid waste, water supply, and wholesale markets; conducting coordinated tourism promotion, forming tours; exploiting, using and protecting water resources and protecting the environment.

- Enhancing cooperation on the development of cross-border trade with Cambodia, developing border-gate economic zones, building transport and power supply networks

for neighboring Vietnamese and Cambodian localities. Stepping up cooperation with the countries in the Mekong River lower basin on the exploitation and use of Mekong River water sources, especially for the purposes of agricultural development, fishing and aquaculture and mitigation of flood impacts.

Article 2. Organization and supervision of the master plan implementation

1. After being approved by the Prime Minister, this master plan will serve as a basis for the elaboration, submission for approval and implementation of sectoral master plans in the region, and socio-economic development master plans of the regional localities.

2. The Ministry of Planning and Investment shall assume the prime responsibility for, and coordinate with related ministries and sectors and regional localities in:

- Announcing and publicizing the master plan, organizing investment promotion, propaganda and advertisement in order to attract domestic and foreign investment and all economic sectors to take part in implementing the master plan.

- Monitoring, urging, supervising and inspecting the implementation of the regional master plan and master plans of ministries, sectors and regional localities; supervising the implementation of regional key programs and investment projects.

- Studying and proposing a mechanism for coordination and policies on partnership and coordination among local localities and between the region and other regions. Calling for

investment in regional key projects.

3. Related ministries and sectors shall:

Elaborate, adjust and submit for approval their master plans and plans on major products of the region suitable to the development objectives, tasks and orientations approved in Article 1 of this Decision.

- Study, formulate and submit to competent state agencies for promulgation a number of special mechanisms and policies mentioned in Clause 5, Article 1 of this Decision for successfully achieving the objectives and performing the tasks set forth in the master plan.

- Coordinate with the Ministry of Planning and Investment in organizing and supervising the implementation of the master plan, supervising the implementation of regional key programs and investment projects in the priority order under their management, with a view to promoting the socio-economic development of the region.

These ministries and sectors have the following specific tasks:

a/ The Ministry of Transport shall:

- Direct the building and completion of important transport works in the region, such as Quan Chanh Bo canal fairways, Trung Luong - My Thuan - Can Tho expressway, new Phu Quoc international airport, upgraded Cho Gao canal, southern coastal roads, and Cao Lanh, Vam Cong, Nam Can and Co Chien bridges.

- Study investment in building a seaport capable of accommodating ships of 30,000-50,000 DWT.

- Propose a mechanism to raise capital for

large-sized transport development projects in the region.

b/ The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development shall:

- Complete the elaboration and organize the implementation of master plans on irrigation, and key agricultural and aquatic products in the region.

- Propose support mechanisms and policies and provide supports for the regional localities in building hi-tech agricultural zones.

c/ The Ministry of Education and Training shall:

- Study and propose mechanisms and policies to promote partnership between training establishments and enterprises employing trained human resources in the region; create conditions for the Can Tho University and some other universities to modernize their physical foundations and develop their lecturing staffs and training programs to reach the level of the developed regional countries.

- Coordinate with the Ministry of Planning and Investment, the Ministry of Labor, War Invalids and Social Affairs, Can Tho city and related agencies in building Can Tho city into a regional center for training high-quality human resources.

d/ The Ministry of Industry and Trade shall:

- Assure the building of power centers and power distribution networks in the region according to set schedules and master plans.

- Assume the prime responsibility for, and coordinate with related localities in, building a network of regional wholesale markets and

trade centers.

e/ The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment shall assume the prime responsibility for, and coordinate with related localities in, responding to climate change and sea level rise; protecting and rationally exploiting water sources; protecting national parks and nature reserves, and conserving bio-diversity.

f/ The Ministry of Construction shall assume the prime responsibility for elaborating and adjusting general master plans in association with the planning, inspection and supervision of the building of regional hazardous waste treatment facilities, cemeteries and water supply systems; coordinate with the regional localities in building water drainage and wastewater treatment systems, step by step remedying inundation in urban centers.

4. The provincial-level People's Committees in the Mekong River delta shall:

- Take the initiative in reviewing, adjusting, supplementing and submitting to competent authorities for approval their adjusted master plans on socio-economic development through 2020 in line with the objectives and tasks approved in this Decision.

- To coordinate with ministries and sectors in organizing investment promotion, publicity and advertisement, thereby attracting domestic and foreign investors and all economic sectors to take part in implementing the master plan.

- To supervise and inspect the implementation of development investment projects in their localities according to their assigned functions, and report to the Prime Minister.

Article 3. This Decision takes effect on the

date of its signing.

government-attached agencies shall implement this Decision.

Article 4. Chairpersons of provincial-level People's Committees in the region, ministers, heads of ministerial-level agencies and

Prime Minister
NGUYEN TAN DUNG

Appendix

**List of programs and projects prioritized for investment study
in the Mekong river delta through 2020**
(*To the Prime Minister's Decision No. 939/QĐ-TTg of July 19, 2012*)

No.	Sector
I	<p>Agriculture</p> <p>Program on 1 million hectares of high-quality rice; program on plant varieties and livestock and aquatic animal breeds;</p> <p>Programs to build and upgrade the system of fishing ports; to build hi-tech agricultural production areas and zones, zones of high-quality rice for export and intensive farming of specialty fruit trees;</p> <p>Projects to develop semi-industrial and industrial-scale husbandry; raising of high-quality beef cattle;</p> <p>Project to protect and develop national parks.</p>
II	<p>Industry</p> <p>Power centers: O Mon in Can Tho; Duyen Hai in Tra Vinh; Long Phu in Soc Trang; Song Hau in Hau Giang; Kien Luong in Kien Giang; and Phu Quoc thermal power plant (200 MW);</p> <p>Power transmission network: Tra Vinh - My Tho 500 kV transmission line, O Mon - Soc Trang 500 kV transmission line; and an undersea power cable line to Phu Quoc island.</p>
III	<p>Services and tourism</p> <p>Infrastructure of border-gate economic zones: Tinh Bien, Vinh Xuong, Khanh Binh (An Giang province), Ha Tien (Kien Giang province); Dong Thap; Long An;</p> <p>Tourism: Tourist sites in Phu Quoc island; Bay Nui (That Son) - An Giang; Thoi Son islet - Tien Giang; U Minh Ha national park eco-tourism site - Ca Mau.</p>
IV	<p>Infrastructure facilities</p> <p>1 Transport</p> <p>Roads:</p>

2	<p>Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Can Tho central general hospital; and regional general hospitals in Tien Giang and Kien Giang provinces; - Oncology and pediatrics hospitals in Can Tho, and a cardiovascular hospital in An Giang province.
3	<p>Culture and sports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building of Dong Thap Muoi museum in Go Thap (Dong Thap); - Building of Tay Do cultural center and O Mon cultural center (Khmer cultural center) in Can Tho; - Building of a regional physical training and sports center in Can Tho.
VI	<p>Science, technology and environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compilation of cadastral dossiers and a land management database, and building of environment observation centers in the regional provinces; - Upgrading of the Rice Institute for the Mekong River delta; the Fruit Tree Institute for South Vietnam; the Aquatic Research Institute for the Mekong River delta in Can Tho; and the Technical and Technological Application Center for the Mekong River delta.