

1. Location and capability of nuclear facilities

There are currently no nuclear power plants in Viet Nam, but the country is planning to build one to reduce its dependence on hydro- and fossil-fuel resources. The government has called for international support to help it overcome problems of experience, safety, technology, and management of a nuclear plant. In February 2006, the government announced that a nuclear power plant would be on line by 2017. South Korea has expressed interest in bidding on this project. <http://www.world-nuclear.org/info/inf102.html>; <http://english.vietnamnet.vn/tech/2006/05/570365/>; http://www.nuclear.com/nation-by-nation/Vietnam_news.html

Research Reactors

Operational: 1

Planned: 0

<http://www.iaea.or.at/programmes/a2/>

Power Reactors

Operational: 0

Planned: 1

<http://english.vietnamnet.vn/tech/2006/05/570365/>

Fuel Cycle: Viet Nam would import fuel for the first phase of operation of the planned power plants. Systematic exploration for uranium has been going on since 1978, with a number of findings. While unquantified amounts of unconventional resources have been found in coal, rare earths, phosphates and graphite deposits, no production of uranium has of yet been done. There are two deposits in the Nong Son basin, Quang Nam Province that are suspected to contain uranium.

<http://www.worldenergy.org/wec-geis/publications/reports/ser/uranium/uranium.asp>; <http://www.wise-uranium.org/uoasi.html#VN>

2. Fissile Material Holdings

Highly Enriched Uranium end of 2003: 0.0056 tons

Supplied by: Russia http://www.isis-online.org/global_stocks/end2003/civil_heu_watch2005.pdf

3. Nuclear Activities

Research Centers

Viet Nam Atomic Energy Commission (VAEC) consists of five main institutions:

NRI: Nuclear Research Institute in the Dalat City (Dalat)

CNT: Centre for Nuclear Techniques in the Ho Chi Minh City (HCM)

Irradiation Centre in the Ho Chi Minh City

INST: Institute of Nuclear Science and Techniques in Hanoi (Hanoi)

ITRE: Institute for Technology of Radioactive and Rare Elements in Hanoi (Hanoi)

<http://www.vaec.gov.vn/News/main.php?iddomain=8&EV=0>

Nuclear Cooperation

India: An agreement was signed in 1999 between the Indian Atomic Energy Commission and the Viet Nam Atomic Energy, on nuclear cooperation, scientists exchange and assistance in setting up a training centre at Vietnam. <http://www.vaec.gov.vn/News/main.php?iddomain=8&EV=0>

IAEA: Viet Nam is part of the IAEA Regional Cooperation Agreement (RCA) and South Asian Frameworks for Environmental Data-Sharing, a structure to increase nuclear transparency in South Asia. <http://www.acronym.org.uk/dd/dd55/55rajen.htm>

Along with Australia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, ROK, and Thailand, Viet Nam is part of the Forum for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia, which first met in 2000.

http://www.fnca.jp/english/newsletter/fnca_news_no2.pdf

US: In 2001, the US and Viet Nam agreed to work towards a framework for cooperation on nuclear research and safety. <http://hanoi.usembassy.gov/econ2.html>

Russia: In 2002, an intergovernmental agreement was made between Russia and Viet Nam on cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The two countries also maintain a coordinating committee on nuclear energy, which convenes to exchange information on nuclear development. In 2005, Russian and Viet Nam agreed that Russia will help build Viet Nam's first power plant.

<http://en.rian.ru/world/20050517/40370460.html>

Japan: In October 2006 Japan and Viet Nam agreed to promote cooperation on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, nuclear safety, security, and non-proliferation.

<http://www.mofa.go.jp/region/asia-paci/vietnam/joint0610.html>

4. International Nonproliferation Efforts

Treaties Signed and Ratified, date of deposit

Biological Weapons Convention, 20 June 1980

Certain Conventional Weapons Convention, signed 10 April 1981(not ratified)

Chemical Weapons Convention, 30 September 1998

Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, signed 24 September 1996 (not ratified)

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, 14 June 1982

Outer Space Treaty, acceded 20 June 1980 (not ratified)

Seabed Treaty, acceded 20 June 1980 (not ratified)

Treaty of Bangkok, 26 November 1996

Viet Nam has not yet signed the IAEA Additional Protocol.

Multilateral Groups

Conference on Disarmament

5. Positions Taken in International Fora on Various Issues of Nuclear Disarmament

Nuclear Disarmament: "Weapons of mass destruction which includes nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, are posing the most serious threat to humankind today. We wish to reaffirm our strong commitment to cooperate with the international community to get rid of such dangerous weapons. We also value the role of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as the cornerstone of global non-proliferation regime. Undoubtedly, all States Parties must comply fully with the Treaty's obligations." - **Statement by Mr. Hoang Chi Trung to the 61st General Assembly First Committee on Disarmament and International Security, 4 October 2006.**

<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/1com/1com06/statements/vietnamoct4.pdf>

CTBT: "One of the most significant achievements we have recorded relating to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation is the adoption of the CTBT 1996. The main objectives and purposes of the Treaty promote both nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. The treaty is an important measure to preserve world peace and international security." - **Statement by Mr. Hoang Chi Trung to the 61st General Assembly First Committee on Disarmament and International Security, 4 October 2006.** <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/political/1com/1com06/statements/vietnamoct4.pdf>

Security Assurances: "Having voluntarily opted not to acquire nuclear weapons, the non-nuclear weapon states have the legitimate right to receive security assurances from nuclear weapon states. Regrettably, while such assurances are essential to promote the confidence of non-nuclear weapon states, and thus strengthen the NPT, conditions are being attached to such assurances. Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, early conclusion of a universal, unconditional, and legally-binding instrument on security assurances to non-nuclear weapon states is an earnest demand, [to] which our Conference should pay adequate attention." - **Statement by Mr. Le Luong Minh to the Seventh Review Conference of the NPT, 5 May 2005.** <http://www.un.org/events/npt2005/statements/npt05vietnam.pdf>