(9) North Nghe An Irrigation System Upgrading Project

Background and Necessity
Increasing agricultural productivity is a critical issue to reduce poverty and reduce economic disparities in Vietnam. However, efforts to improve the agricultural productivity are undermined by the insufficient supply of water. Currently, most of large irrigation systems with capacity of more than 15,000ha of irrigated lands have been seriously aging, and has had a negative impact on agricultural productivity.

In Nghe An Province, there are 29,147ha of planned irrigated lands and the largest irrigation systems in the country, which mark 75 years since they were built and have been supplying significantly less water due to aging or other reasons. In the meantime, Nghe An Province has decided to use these irrigation systems not only for agricultural water, but also for water supply to the Dong Hoi industrial complexes in which Japanese steel manufacturers, etc. are planning to invest. Therefore, it has become an urgent issue to strengthen the capacity to supply water for all of agricultural, living and industrial needs. Furthermore, the irrigation systems have not distributed water based on accurate flow rate data. This has caused inefficient use of water. Thus, it has become imperative to enhance the capacity related to water control, as well as renovate the facilities.

Objective and Summaries
This project contributes to increasing agricultural productivity volume by upgrading Nghe An irrigation system and enhancing operation capacity and maintenance of irrigation systems in Vietnam, thereby contributing to poverty reduction and livelihood improvement. The loan funds are used to procure civil engineering works, materials and equipment necessary to upgrade irrigation systems and develop training centers for irrigation management, consulting services, etc.

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Planned Implementation Schedule
(i) Completion of project: in June 2019 - when the facilities are put into service
(ii) Issuing of letters of invitation for consulting services: June 2013
(iii) Tender announcement of initial procurement package for international competitive bidding on project construction: June 2014