Background and Necessity
Vietnam achieved a high GDP growth rate, averaging 6.6 percent per year, between 2000 and 2013. Due to a rising need for industrial human resources that has accompanied this economic growth, the number of universities and junior colleges has increased, along with the number of students in attendance between 2004 and 2012.

A number of problems have come to light, such as a shortage of teachers and research materials for the rising number of students, a low level of education and research due to limited budgets, and a gap between the demands of the labor market and fields of specialties (too few students majoring in the natural sciences and engineering). Human resource development for advanced industry is urgently needed.

In the Mekong Delta area, where Can Tho University is located, the agriculture and fisheries industries thrive, producing 53 percent of the domestic output of rice and 59 percent of aquatic products (including aquaculture). Now, the region faces major challenges such as promoting the industries of agricultural machinery, agricultural and fishery products, and addressing environmental problems such as the rising sea level due to climate change.

Objective and Summary
This project will strengthen the research and education capacity in the agriculture, fisheries and environmental fields at Can Tho University. This will increase the quality and number of students to address the environmental problems of the Mekong Delta area, including growing the agricultural and fisheries industries in Vietnam and combating climate change, thereby contributing to economic growth in the country.

The loan fund will be used for human resource development, research support, construction, the procurement of materials and equipment and consulting services.

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Project Implementation Schedule (planned)
(i) Completion of project: July 2022 – with completion of human resource development and research support
(ii) Issuing of letters of invitation for consulting services (including basic design work, detailed design work, procurement support, construction monitoring and human resource support): October 2015
(iii) Tender announcement of initial procurement package for international competitive bidding on project construction:
   Procurement package title: Package 1-1 Construction (Research Laboratory)
   Release date: May 2018