PRESS RELEASE

RECORD OF DISCUSSION SIGNING CEREMONY

PROJECT ON CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT
OF PARTICIPATORY AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR
POVERTY REDUCTION IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS IN VIETNAM

On January 07th 2009, Mr. Motonori Tsuno, Chief Representative of Japan
International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Mr. Phung Ngoc My – Vice Chairman of
Gia Lai Provincial People’s Committee will sign the Record of Discussion for the Japan
– Vietnam Technical Cooperation Project on Capacity Development of Participatory
Agricultural and Rural Development for Poverty Reduction in the Central Highlands in
Vietnam. There will be representative from Ministry of Agriculture and Rural
Development and Ministry of Planning and Investment to witness the signing.

Targeting the two communes of Kon Thup and Lo Pang in Mang Yang District,
Gia Lai Province, the project is expected to directly benefit 1,300 households, of which
ethnic minority people are dominant with high poverty rate, agricultural extension
officers as well as staff of social organizations.

Rather than merely providing financial support to the inhabitants of the two
communes, the Project will try to improve their capacity to analyze difficulties,
formulate community development plans and mobilize financial resources to fund the
plan implementation, the skills helpful for them the make their self-reliant efforts in
improving living conditions even after the Project ends in 5 years.

The Project also aims at establishing a network of extension, including related
governmental agencies, social organizations and research institutes and enhancing their
capacity to deliver extension services to farmers using more effective and participatory
approach.

It is hoped that the community-driven development approach introduced by the
Project will serve as a pilot, from which Gia Lai Province as well as Ministry of
Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam can learn experiences and reflect into
rural development programs in the future.

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