

PATH TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR TAY NINH

Ladies and gentlemen,

Distinguished guests,

My name is Sergio Silva, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Portugal Vietnam, Vice Chairman of the Green Growth Sector Committee of EuroCham, and also the Head of the Sustainable Cities & Buildings Working Group.

I'm honored to be here on behalf of the Green Growth Sector Committee, in which we focus on driving society and the economy to take full advantage of existing and nearly available tools and solutions to be more livable, diverse and sustainable. In a broader view, what we aim to pursue is to create a more livable present life while designing sustainable preparation for the future. We understand that sustainability is not the sole responsibility of any sector but a joint effort, thus we appreciate being at this event when we create a connect forum with our Agriculture and Transportations group of EuroCham to share our insights. Coming to this forum today, we at GGSC would like to share our perspective on a sustainable path for Tay Ninh as economic development cannot, and should not be at the expense of our environment.

Look at the current situation, with the low ground geography and the impact of climate change, Tay Ninh has been suffering drastic natural disasters, with statistics from Tay Ninh government showing that by 2020, the inundated area is around 37,73 km², accounting for about 0.93% of Tay Ninh province. The recent flood due to the early rainy season in April this year once again calls for urgent action to tackle the infrastructure gaps and low levels of resilience, raising the call for water stewardship and urban planning. On the other hand, though agriculture is Tay Ninh's provincial industry, agriculture sector may have adverse effects on water due to overexploitation of water resources or overuse of pesticides and fertilizers.

Look at the future, The Draft planning of Tay Ninh for the period 2021 – 2030 has set a for a sustainable path, aiming to be well-adapted to climate change and have an economy based on clean industry in 2050. This is in line with Vietnam's commitment in COP26 to achieve Net Zero in 2050, and with the recently approved Power Development Plan VIII, the urgency for energy transition in Vietnam is more real than ever. We appreciate Tay Ninh's orientation to aim for renewable energy with a priority for sources with huge resources and high economic potential, such as solar and biomass. With a total number of sunny hours of 2,600 hours/year, daily over 6 hours, Tay Ninh indeed has huge potential for developing solar power with 10 solar power plants in operation and still has room to be exploited. Following the spirit of the newly approved Power Development Plant VIII, we recommend Tay Ninh develop rooftop solar for self-consumption and Behind the Meter arrangements for company-to-company transfer of energy to reduce the cost, take advantage of the high heat radiation and not to be dependent on the transmissional grid. Biomass also should be given more focus to utilize the current prominent agriculture production in Tay Ninh. Compared to these two, hydroelectricity and wind power are not Tay Ninh's advantages as Sai Gon and Vam Co Dong rivers have low flow velocity and small water potential, while the geographical characteristics of Ba Den mountain and Dau Tieng lake could not meet requirements of large-scale electric energy production.

With that much potential, and with Vietnam as a whole is going through energy transition, we believe that Tay Ninh shall become an attractive destination for foreign investment. To achieve this, we recommend that Tay Ninh should soon position herself as a consumer, rather than a producer, of renewable energy and should implement early new energy efficiency measures.

Economic growth and sustainability are interdependent. We at the EuroCham Green Growth Sector Committee fully support Tay Ninh on the journey to become an investment destination in the region and a model in tackling climate change, and we hope that the forum today shall be the foundation for our continued cooperation in the future.

Thank you for listening.