

# Vietnam Today

## What You Don't Know Will Surprise You



### GLOBAL BUSINESS CENTER

- WTO member since 2007
- Elected to United Nations Security Council in 2007
- Comprehensive commitment to intellectual property rights (IPR) protection, which includes belonging to the following international IPR organizations and agreements:
  - WTO/TRIPS (IPR in general) – since 2007
  - Berne Convention (copyright) – since 2004
  - Madrid Protocol (trademarks) – since 2006 (Madrid Agreement – since 1949)
  - Patent Cooperation Treaty (patents) – since 1993
  - Paris Convention (priority rights) – since 1949
  - Hague Agreement/Geneva Act (designs) – non-member

### THE ECONOMY

- Second fastest GDP growth in Southeast Asia (China is first in this category)
- One of the fastest growing economies in the world with an economic growth rate that has exceeded 8% GDP over the previous three years and is predicted to hit 7-7.5% in 2009
- Major foreign investors include HSBC, Prudential, Microsoft, Intel and IBM

### TALENT RESOURCES

- Over 90,000 IT graduates in Vietnam growing by approximately 9,000 each year
- Low turnover rates – averaging less than 10%
- A large segment of the population speaks both Vietnamese and English
- 13th most populous country in the world, expected to reach 90 million by 2010
- Unemployment: 5.1%
- Average age of 27 (compared to 37 in the U.S., 40 in the UK and 44 in Japan)
- 94% male and 87% female literacy rates (one of the highest in the world)

### INDUSTRY RECOGNITION

- Ranked #5 on PricewaterhouseCoopers 2007 and 2008 top 20 emerging markets list (EM20)
- Ho Chi Minh City ranked #4 in Business Week's "Top Emerging Outsourcing Cities"
- Ho Chi Minh City ranked #4 in the Global Services-Tholons Study of the world's "Top 50 Emerging Outsourcing Cities"
- Hanoi ranked #12 in the Global Services-Tholons Study of the world's "Top 50 Emerging Outsourcing Cities"
- World Bank recently described Vietnam as "one of the best performing developing economies in the world"

*"There is probably no other country in the world that has moved its development so far and so fast."*

– Klaus Rohland, former Country Director for Vietnam at the World Bank

### THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION

- Science-based subjects are the first choice for 83% of students at Vietnamese universities
- Vietnamese universities are producing technology graduates at a rate of 4:1 compared to most Western countries
- Vietnam currently has more than 250 public universities and that number is rapidly growing
- In the 2007 and 2008 ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest, Vietnamese universities finished ahead of schools like Harvard, Northwestern, Georgia Tech, Virginia Tech, and India Institute of Technology
- Since 2003, Vietnam has won 35 medals at the International Math Olympiad (13 Gold, 15 Silver and 7 Bronze)

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