

## **Speech of Mr. Nguyen Duc Chinh – Standing Vice-chairman of Quang Tri PPC**

10th anniversary of Project RENEW & Opening ceremony of the Visitor Center

(Dong Ha, 5 Aug, 2011)

Distinguished guests! Ladies and gentlemen!

Today, I'm very pleased to be here, attending the 10th anniversary commemoration of Project RENEW and the opening ceremony of the Mine Action Visitor Center.

On behalf of the Quang Tri Provincial People's Committee, I would like to express my warmest congratulations to Project RENEW on this important event and wish RENEW's donors, partners, expatriates and their staff good health, cooperation and friendship.

10 years ago, in response to the demands of the local communities and local authorities, Project RENEW was established with a mission to return safety, release safe land for the peaceful life of people in Quang Tri province. In the past ten years, with continued assistance of donors; cooperation of international partners; supports from central ministries and local authorities and agencies; the endeavor of the international experts and local staff, Project RENEW has achieved important successes to meet up with the initially proposed goals. Having seen the ten-year-report and film, we can see that the Project has been deployed effectively and efficiently and moved forward in the right direction with many recognizable achievements: considerable CM/ERW contaminated area of land was cleared, the number of CM/ERW related accidents was significantly reduced while people's awareness on the risk of CM/ERW has been increased. The livelihood of many ERW survivors' and impoverished families have been improved as they reintegrated into communities, many more pupils have opportunities to attend proper schools, first aid capacity at grassroots levels was enhanced, proper CM/ERW database system was established. Especially, the foundation of the Mine Action visitor Center marks an important milestone of the 10 year development of the Project. In addition, through the project's operations and activities, the interests, understanding, sharing of the local international individuals, organisations have also played a role and joined hands in our efforts of dealing with ERW consequences. On behalf of the local government and people in the project areas, I am pleased to show compliments and congratulations to Project RENEW

On this occasion, Quang Tri Provincial Peoples Committee would like to thank the valuable support from the donors, the closed cooperation of the international partners, and would like thank central ministries and agencies for the favourable conditions given to the Project in the past years. Provincial Peoples Committees also have compliments Quang Tri Department of Foreign Affairs, relevant departments and districts for their active contribution, thank members of project steering committee, expatriate staff, project RENEW local staff for the successes in the past years.

Dealing consequences of the war is a long term plan, which requires considerable funding and efforts. Therefore, Quang Tri Provincial Peoples Committee would like to request Project RENEW to base on the achievements gained in the past 10 years, continue to inherit and

develop and expand the project, to contribute to the efforts of making Quang Tri a safe province – as per project’s mission.

Quang Tri Peoples Committee kindly requests the donors to continue their support to Project RENEW in particular and other Mine Action Projects in the province in general. PPC also request relevant departments, districts and agencies to create favourable conditions so that the project can be implemented effectively as per set goals. As for Provincial People Committee stress that we will continue to support, give directions in receiving, cooperating, deploying, managing and utilizing effectively the fund allocated to the project in the coming years.

Wish you all good health and successes.

Thank you very much