LOCAL INSIGHTS MEET INTERNATIONAL EXPERTISE

2021 | Investment & Opportunities In Vietnam



Vietnam Renewable Energy PRACTICAL ISSUES & BIDDING MECHANISM Tuan A. PHUNG Esq. Managing Partner | VCI Legal



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HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

Recognised Firm

VCI LEGAL INTRODUCTION



- Business Law Firm providing "In-house Counsel Service", specialized legal services for business and some Key Practice Areas
 - Petroleum, Mining & Energy
 - Corporations, M&A & Securities
 - Investment and restructuring
 - Banking, Finance & Capital Markets
 - Insurance
 - Real Estate & Construction
 - Infrastructure, Transport & Logistics
 - Trade Policy & Competition
 - Tax & Transfer Pricing
 - Labor, HR Management & Compliance
 - Alternative Dispute Resolution: Mediation, Arbitration

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- A full service law firm with a seasoned team of multi-disciplinary professionals
- In-depth understanding of the legal system, business environment, and cultural background in Vietnam.
- Offices: Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City
- Professional staff: 25
- Languages: Vietnamese, English, Japanese, French, Chinese, Korean



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INTERNATIONAL AWARDS

- Legal500, Chambers & Partners, IFLR 1000, Asialaw Profiles and Legalese's Tax Director Handbook (global legal directories & ranking agencies) and international professional magazines list VCI Legal among the top law firms in Vietnam for: M&A, competition law, banking and corporate, insurance, taxation, intellectual property, investment
- **Acquisition International Magazine:**
 - Vietnam Corporate Law Firm of the Year 2012-2014
 - M&A Vietnam Law Firm of the Year 2013
 - Real Estate Law Firm of the year 2012-2013
- ACQ Global Magazine:
 - Vietnam Banking & Finance Law Firm of the Year 2012-2013
 - Vietnam Capital Markets Law Firm of the Year 2012-2013
 - Vietnam Corporate Law Firm of the Year 2012-2013
 - Vietnam M&A Law Firm of the Year 2012-2013
- **Finance Monthly –** *Law Firm of the Year 2011-2013*
- **Corporate LiveWire –** *M*&A Vietnam Law Firm of the Year 2012-2013
- **Asialaw** Highly Recommended Firm for the Year 2014



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LEADING FIRM

ASIA

2014



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SERVICES OVERVIEW -1

- Full-service business law firm with specialized business-oriented service packages:
 - Finance, Legal & Stock Market Engineering Service[™]
 - Investment Structuring & Placement[®]
 - Legal, Compliance & Risk Management Service[®]
 - Intellectual Properties Strategic Management Service[®]
 - IP Enforcement Service®

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SERVICES OVERVIEW - 2



- Corporate, Finance, Tax and Litigation on the "In-house Counsel Services"[®] platform
 - Legal and Financial Advisory Services
 - Project and Contract Negotiation
 - Drafting & Translation
 - Due Diligence
 - Registration procedures
 - State & Local Government Relations
 - Regulatory Compliance
 - In-house training & workshops
 - Project Planning and Management
 - Daily Operations



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WHAT SET VCI LEGAL APART?

- LEGAL Local Insights Meet International Expertise ©
- A "Can Do" Attitude combined with a "Know How" Capacity
- True sense of "Lawyer for business" independent legal professionals who were trained & practiced in international environment
- Most key personnel are lawyers with in-house counsel experience and deep "local" business insights
- Not only legal practitioners but also business managers who are willing to bring "some skin in the game"
- Strong professional & cultural background
- Committed to provide not only the best legal services but also the most effective & practical business solutions
- Team player and partnering with clients in resolving business issues

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- 4. Our Team of Experts
- 5. Our Clients

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Overview of VIETNAM RENEWABLE ENERGY



Vietnam – leading the curve of solar and wind in ASEAN





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Source: International Renewable Energy Agency (2021).



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LEGAL



RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Capacity of renewable energy in total national electricity capacity



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RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Capacity of renewable energy in total national electricity capacity

Master Plan VIII	 2020: 13% 2030: 30% 2045: 44% 		
Commitment of the Prime Minister of Vietnam at the COP26	 Vietnam's co emissions by 	ommitment to ne y 2050	t-zero

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MASTER PLAN VIII – WHAT IT MEANS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

- Mar 2021, MOIT issued the first draft of the National Power Development Plan for the period 2021-2030 toward 2045 ("Draft Master Plan VIII") –
- collected comments & submitted 2nd time in Oct 2021
- 5th November, the Government request for 3rd revision of Master Plan VIII before final version can be submitted & passed within 2021

Portion of energy	Draft Master Plan VIII in November	Compare to the Draft Master Plan VIII in March
Coal	25,49 %	↓ 1.21 %
Gas	9,49 %	↓ 0.51 %
Wind power (onshore and nearshore)	11,13 %	个 0.60 %
Offshore wind power	2,57%	个 0.57 %

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OFFSHORE WIND OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES



Thang Long Wind - With a capacity of 3,400 MW, spread over an area of 2,000 km2, with a total investment of nearly 12 billion USD, it is the largest offshore wind power project in Vietnam

Beijing Shanghai Singapore Doha Dubai New Delhi Zurich Paris Los Angeles Washington D.C.



Opportunities I in the world

Practical basis



First wind turbines installed off shore US - August 2016

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Annual growth rate of ~ 30% Counting to 2020: 150 projects in **19** countries Countries with large-scale projects include: the United States, Australia, Taiwan, India, Japan, Korea,..

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Opportunities In Vietnam

Legal basis:

FIT PRICE Decision No. 39/2018/QĐ-TTg **expired: 01/11/2021**

TARIFF INCENTIVES

- Law on Enterprise
- Law on Investment
- Law on Enterprise Income Tax
- Decree No. 218/2013/NĐ-CP
- Official Letter No. 1543/BTC-CST.

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Opportunities In Vietnam -5

Practical basis

- According to the Commitment at COP26, The government shows the intention to support the big shift from fossil fuel to green & renewable ones;
- Renewable energy shall have more government support from the shift from fossil fuel to renewable energy
- Opportunities to approach funding sources
- The sea bed along the coastline of the southern central provinces are shallow, good for offshore platform

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Opportunities In Vietnam | 4

Practical basis

- > 3,200 km of coastline, with shallow sea along the Southern Central provinces, good for fixed-based offshore platform
- Total marine area: about 1 million km²
- Average annual wind speed at 100m: up to 9-10m/s in many southern areas of Vietnam
- According to World Bank, the technical potential of Vietnam's fixed-base offshore wind is estimated to be up to 261GW and the floating-base one is up to 214GW.

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Challenges for Offshore Wind



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General Obstacles for renewable energies

- Grid overload & congestion: had been dealt with private & public investment (10% production cut vs 34% last year) but still exist: Ninh Thuan, Binh Thuan, Chau Doc etc
- Land & Licensing: planning, clearance and resettlement, project implementation time is long and expensive → risks for investors
- 3. Legal frameworks for renewable energy is rather sketchy \rightarrow investors & lender concerns
- 4. **Standard PPA**: doesn't change much from Decision 11 and Circular 16
- 5. Direct PPA: still doesn't apply
- 6. FIT regime: fixed rate for all technologies doesn't incentivize innovation.
- 7. Offshore Wind development: 2 challenges
 - Marine Spatial Planning not yet developed
 - Offshore transmitting grid & storage system





new industry with teething problems

not much experience

- Lack of practical experience
- Lack of access to technological and technical grounds

price & competitiveness

- High cost of instruction
- Long timeline of construction before officially operation

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LEGAL BARRIERS

- Inadequate legal definitions: unable to distinguish between nearshore and offshore wind power projects.
- land investment procedures to be applied for a sea area (survey, bidding, construction...)
- No legal frameworks dedicated for off-shore wind power Development & Investment

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legal barriers: delay in site delivery

Example of Duyen Hai- Tra Vinh Project:

- Start project in early 2019
- important milestones completed: agreements on connection, line routing, basic design result appraisal by the MOIT.
 Until July 2021, Duyen Hai Wind Power Company
 Limited has not yet received the sea area for construction

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Transport

- Offshore wind projects require mostly super-long and superheavy equipment (*propellers, pylon, generator* etc..) importation can only be done through seaports
- Many onshore project located in highland & mountainous far from these seaports (Quang Tri, Quang Binh, Dalak etc..),
- In-land Vietnam's infrastructure conditions not fit for transporting big equipments (tricky passes, mountains, steep slopes and narrow roads)
- there have been accidents with land transportation

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28 October 2021 a vehicle carrying wind-power propellers of super-heavy cargo overturned on An Khe pass (national highway 19).

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Market opening & privatization

- Vietnam has not yet allowed investors to directly sell electricity for consumers – no DPPA regulation in place
- Many industry associations suggested that there should be policies to expand the possibility of private participation in power projects, such as the DPPA - direct power purchase agreement.

DEC 2093/QÐ-BCT MODEL OF THE ELECTRICITY COMPETITIVE RETAIL MARKET

- 2021: preparation period
- 2022-2024: customers buying electricity on spot electricity market
- After 2024: Customers to buy electricity from electricity

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FIT no more, new bidding mechanism no where to be seen yet

 Under Dec 39, FIT price for offshore wind is 9.8 cents per kWh (equivalent to 2,223 VND) and onshore/near shore is 8.5 cents per kWh (about 1,927 VND) applied to COD before Nov 1, 2021 for 20 years

From Nov 1, 2021:

- Projects under construction but not yet ready COD before Nov 1: the MOIT shall report to the PM considering the project progress.
- Projects after Nov 1,2021: MOIT is responsible for researching & proposing bidding mechanisms and determine the tariff → yet nothing is available

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Regular bidding mechanism

Current regulations relating to bidding mechanism:

- Law on Investment 2020
- Law on Bidding 2013
- Law on Public Private Partnership investment
 2020
- Decree No. 11/2021/NĐ-CP on assignment of certain sea areas to organizations and individuals for exploitation & use marine resources

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Current Bidding Regulations



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Major hurdle with the first draft MOIT circular on PPA & private sector recommendations



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FUNDING CHALLENGES

- Government reached debt limit & unlikely provide guarantee on debt finance
- Local banks unfamiliar with renewable power sector & long term fund is limited
- Climate bond is unknown & untested with domestic capital market
- Domestic interest rate is high 8-10%



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OBSTACLES FROM POLICY - PPA & Fit

- Unbankable PPA top concerns:
 - legal risks: local disputes settlement mechanism with MOIT DoERE: No clear reference to international arbitration;
 - Lack of PPA key terms "take or pay" while 50%-90% capacity of projects subject to be cut due to overload.
 - EVN can almost avoid the obligation to buy electricity at will with only low penalty
 - Private investors are subject to interest rate risk if the project is delayed
 - → Potential violation of investment protection treaties & Trade Agreement Vietnam participated



Dispute Settlement v Investment Protection



- DOERE General Directorate to settle disputes in Electricity
- Disputes settlement between PPA parties:
 - the PPA parties: must notify the other in writing
 - parties will negotiate dispute resolution in 60 days
 - payment disputes will be settled within 15 days from notice
- DOERE Dispute settlement: when it is impossible to reach agreement the PPA parties may request DoERE to settle the dispute.



DoERE dispute settlement procedures



- Within 5 working days after valid dossier submitted, DoERE shall send notice of the dispute;
- Within **20** working days after receiving DoERE notice, the requested party shall submit written explanation;
- The time limit for holding a dispute settlement meeting is 30 days after the DoERE completing its study and verification.
- Within **30 days** DoERE shall hold the dispute settlement meeting with involved parties
- Within 5 working days after a dispute settlement meeting, the director of the DoEERE shall issue a dispute settlement decision





DoERE dispute settlement procedures






Craddle to the grave SERVICES FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY INVESTMENT

Beijing Shanghai Singapore Doha Dubai New Delhi Zurich Paris Los Angeles Washington D.C.



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Consulting service:

- Preliminary advice on Vietnam's legal framework on renewable energy;
- Consultancy on licensing & approval process
- Due dilligence of targeted Projects
- Client representatives in working with potential project owners, partners, third parties, and local authorities if required;
 M&A potentiation & documentation
- M&A negotiation & documentation



OUR TEAM OF EXPERTS



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MANAGEMENT TEAM





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MORE QUESTIONS?



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