

Welcome remarks
Ms. Le Thi Hoa, Legal expert of the Department of Criminal and Administrative
Laws, Ministry of Justice.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to the workshop. I hope that, you enjoy the weather and the sight of this beautiful town.

I would like to introduce those attending the workshop:

- Ms. Nguyen Thi Kim Thoa, Director of the Department of Criminal and Administrative Laws, Ministry of Justice, workshop's chair
- Ms. Margaret Akullo, Project Coordinator, UNODC representative, co-chair
- Ms. Annethe Ahlenius, INTERPOL representative
- Ms. Amber Parker, AusAID representative
- Representatives from governmental agencies such as the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Public Security, Viet Nam Women's Union, Viet Nam Youth Union, Supreme People's Procuracy, Supreme People's Court, Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affair, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Viet Nam, Border Army Command, Viet Nam Law Association, Hai Phong and Do Son local authorities.
- Representatives from UNODC, UNICEF, UNIAP, NGOs in Viet Nam
- Representatives from media such as Viet Nam News, Viet Nam Law Newspapers

Thank you for coming to the workshop.

As you can see in the concept note attached in the workshop information pack, the purpose of the workshop is:

- To inform key officials and policymakers of the Vietnamese Government of the new regional initiative, Project Childhood, and the project's relevance to the fight against child sex tourism, with a view to further collaboration.
- To present key findings of the legal analysis review undertaken by UNODC and solicit a view from participants on strengthening the criminal justice system in combatting child sex tourism.
- To invite participants to provide feedback on the implementation plan that is geared towards strengthening the legislative framework.
- To invite key officials and policymakers of the Ministry of Justice to collaborate with the implementing team of Project Childhood (Protection Pillar) after the project has been endorsed by the Vietnamese Government.
- To invite Ministry of Justice to nominate a legal focal point to review the legal framework analysis report with a view to taking forward the recommendations to strengthen the country's legislation in addressing child sex tourism.
- To network with law enforcement officials in Hai Phong, which is a potential location for Project Childhood activities

As you can see in the agenda of the workshop, the workshop will deliver 4 sections. The first will be Introduction to Project Childhood, the second will be “A legal framework for combating Child Sex Tourism”, the third will be “the Child Sex Tourism in Viet Nam” and the last will be “Way forward”.

Next, I would like to give the floor to Ms. Nguyen Thi Kim Thoa, Director of the Department of Criminal and Administrative Laws, Ministry of Justice to give her opening speech for the workshop.