Vietnam's Competitiveness

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Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam December 1, 2008

This presentation draws on ideas from Professor Porter's books and articles, in particular, *Competitive Strategy* (The Free Press, 1980); *Competitive Advantage* (The Free Press, 1985); "What is Strategy?" (*Harvard Business Review*, Nov/Dec 1996); "Strategy and the Internet" (*Harvard Business Review*, March 2001); and a forthcoming book. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise—without the permission of Michael E. Porter. Additional information may be found at the website of the Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness, www.isc.hbs.edu. Version: November 18, 2008, 3pm

The Need For An Economic Strategy

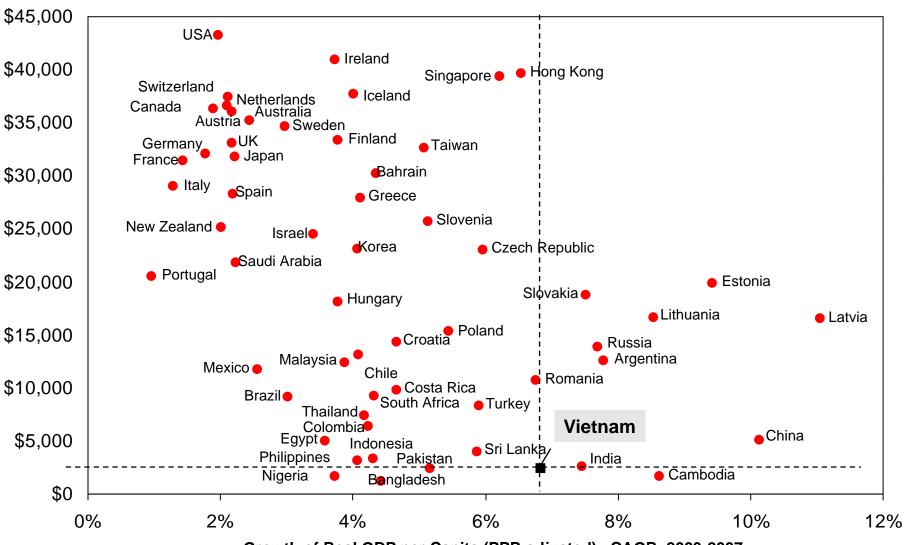
- Vietnam has experienced an impressive growth over the last two decades
- However, reforms so far are insufficient to move Vietnam to a middle income economy
- The next several years will determine whether Vietnam will follow the experience of Korea, or the Philippines
- Vietnam's reform have been piecemeal and reactive
- Improving Vietnam's standard of living will require a long term economic strategy
 - A set of interrelated policy changes, institutional structures, and rigorous implementation mechanisms

Agenda

- Understanding Vietnam's Economic Performance
- Assessing Vietnamese Competitiveness
- Identifying Action Priorities
- Organizing for Competitiveness
- Creating an Economic Strategy

Prosperity Performance Selected Countries

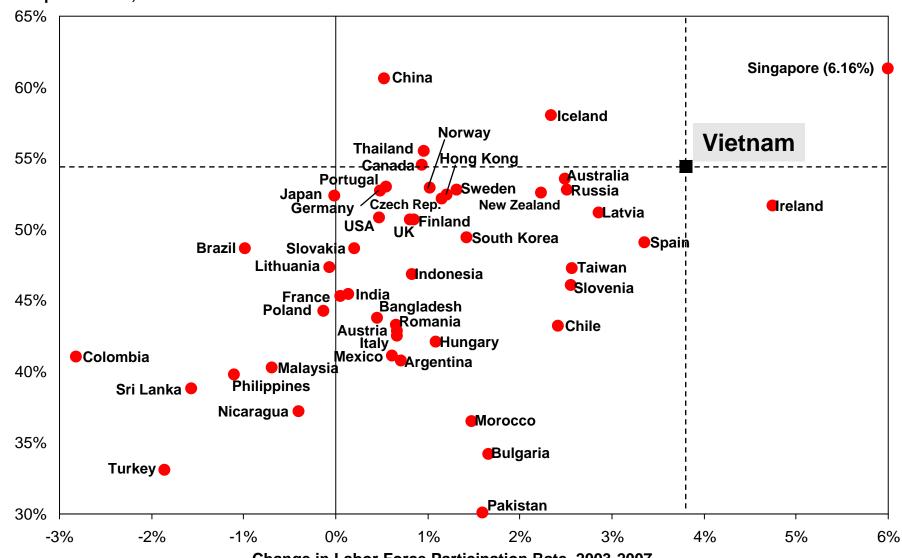
PPP-adjusted GDP per Capita, 2007



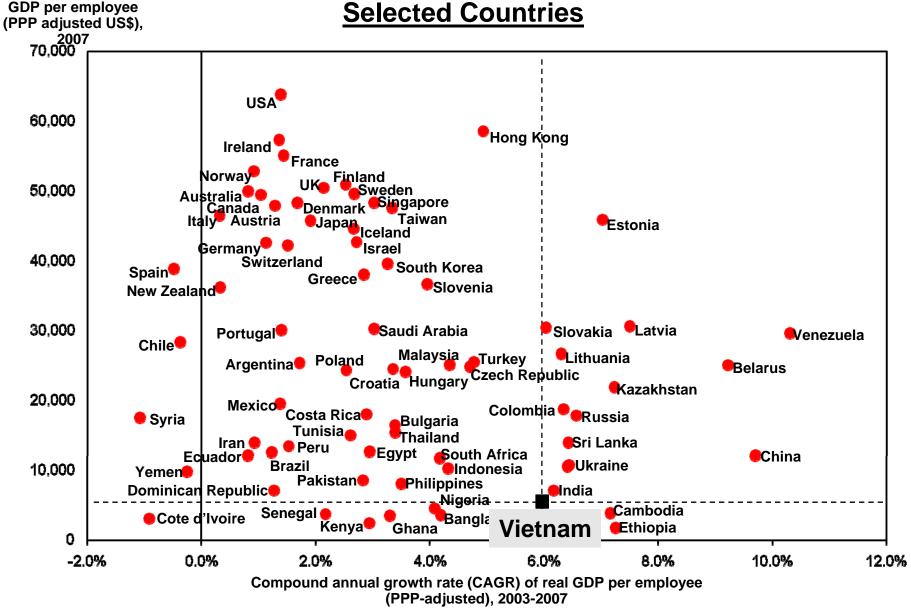
Growth of Real GDP per Capita (PPP-adjusted), CAGR, 2003-2007

Labor Force Utilization <u>Participation Rates, Selected Countries</u>

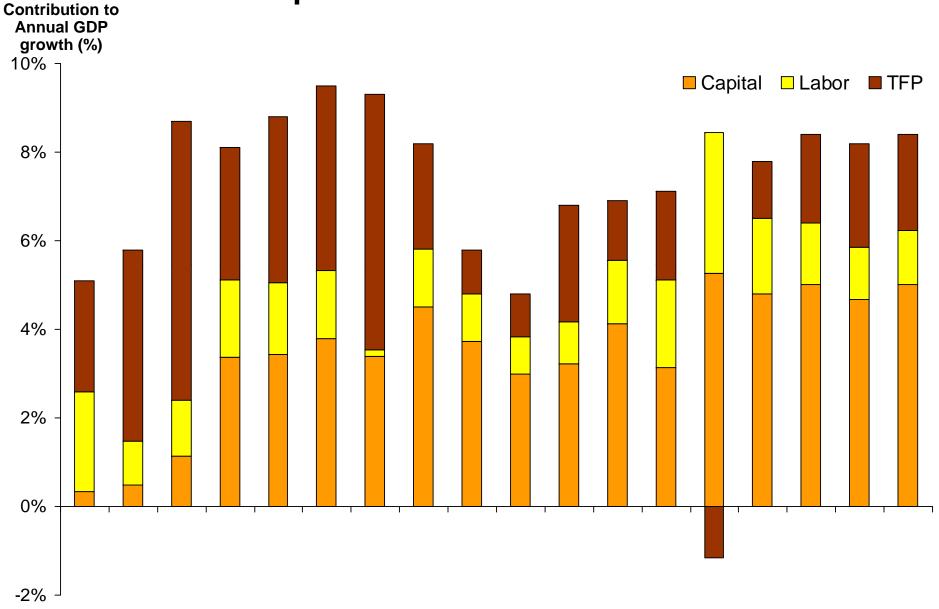
Labor Force Participation Rate, 2007



Comparative Labor Productivity <u>Selected Countries</u>



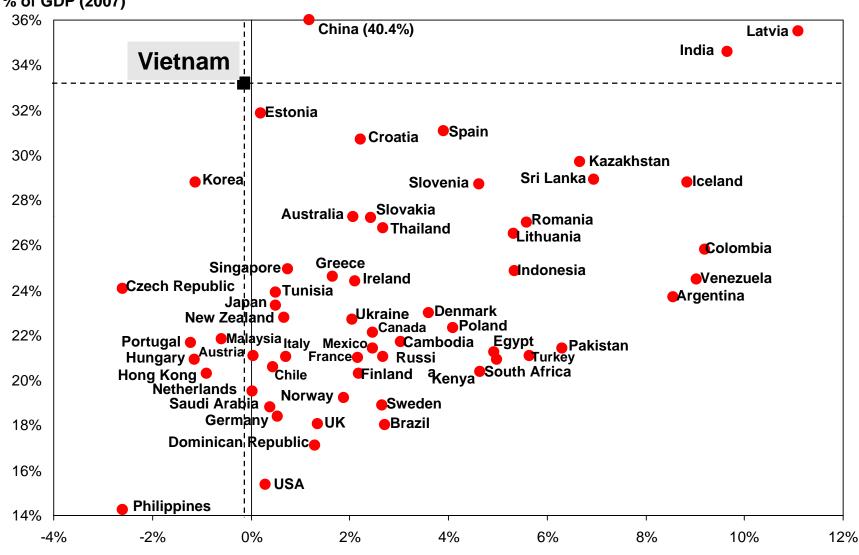
Decomposition of Vietnamese Growth



1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007

Domestic Fixed Investment Rates <u>Selected Countries</u>

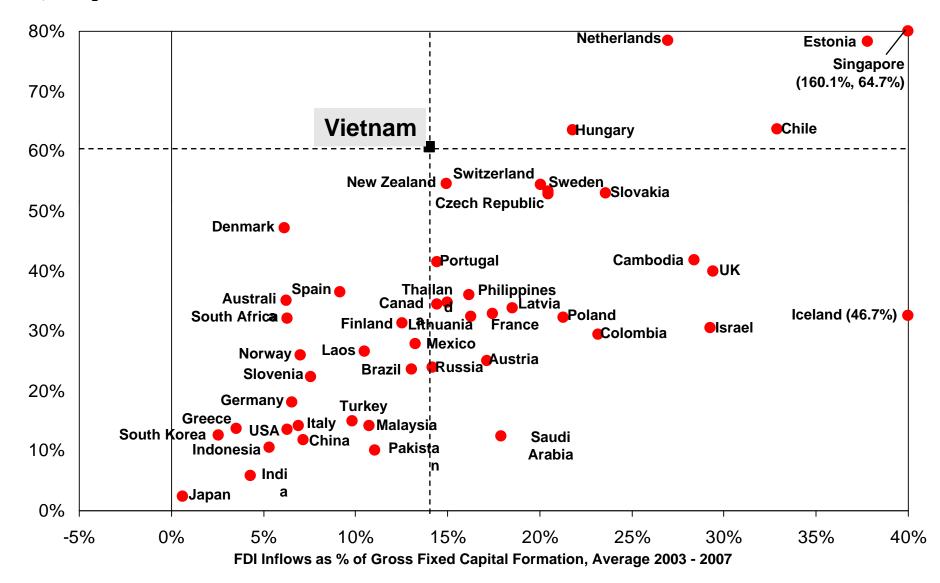




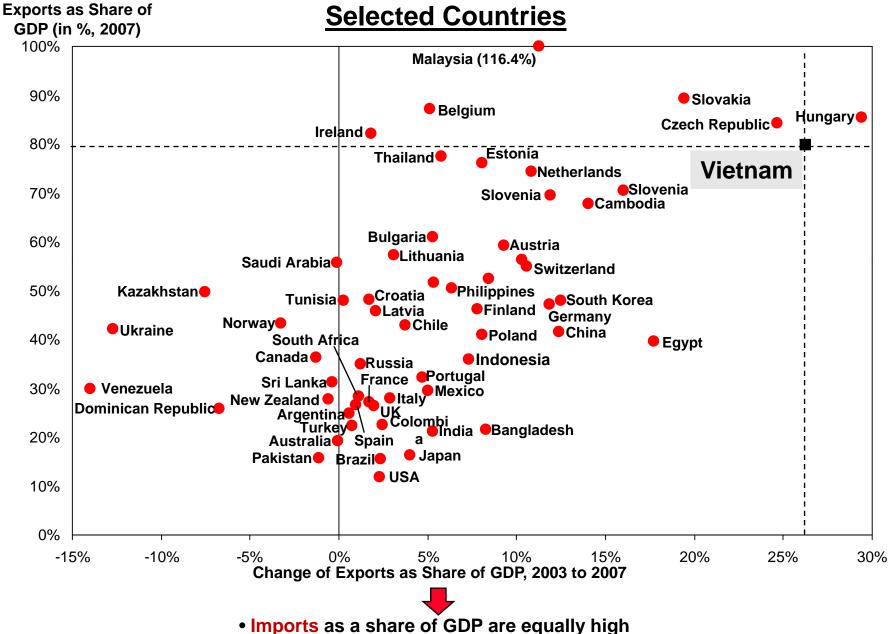
Change in Gross Fixed Investment (as % of GDP), 2003 - 2007

Inbound Foreign Investment Performance Stocks and Flows, Selected Countries

Inward FDI Stocks as % of GDP, Average 2003 - 2007

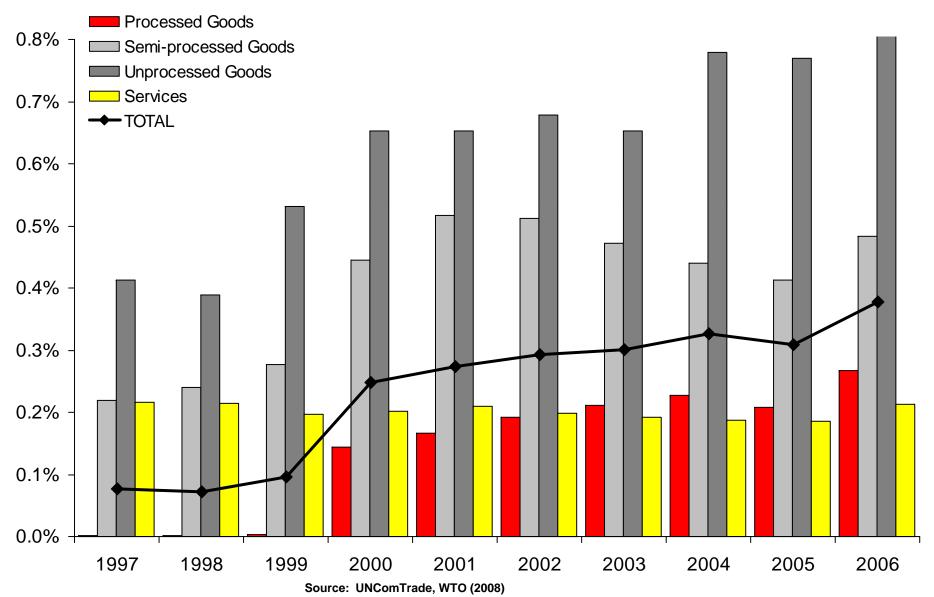


Export Performance Selected Countries

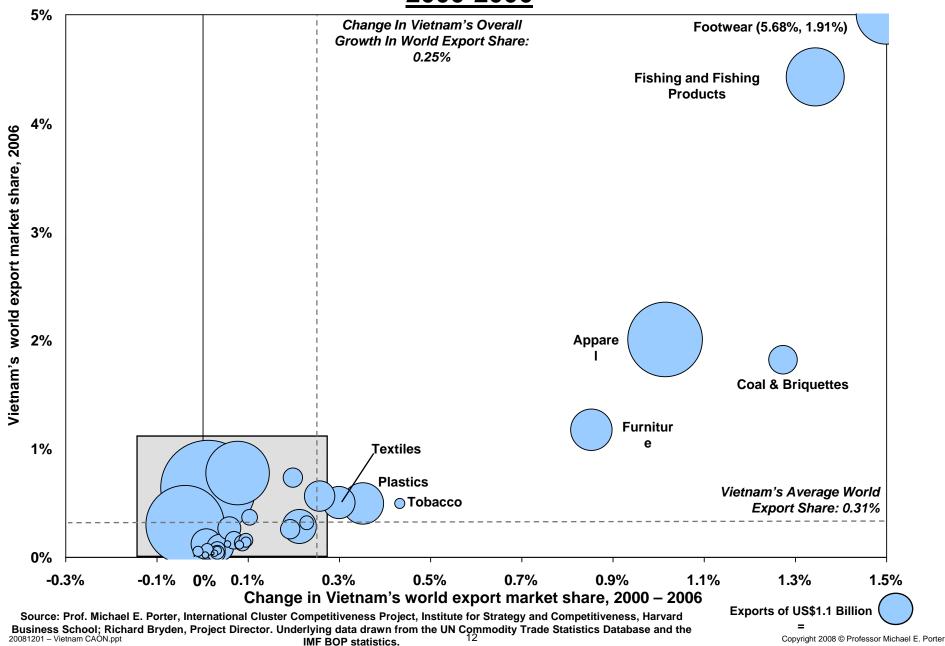


Vietnam's Exports By Type of Industry

World Export Market Share (current USD)



Vietnam's Cluster Export Portfolio 2000-2006



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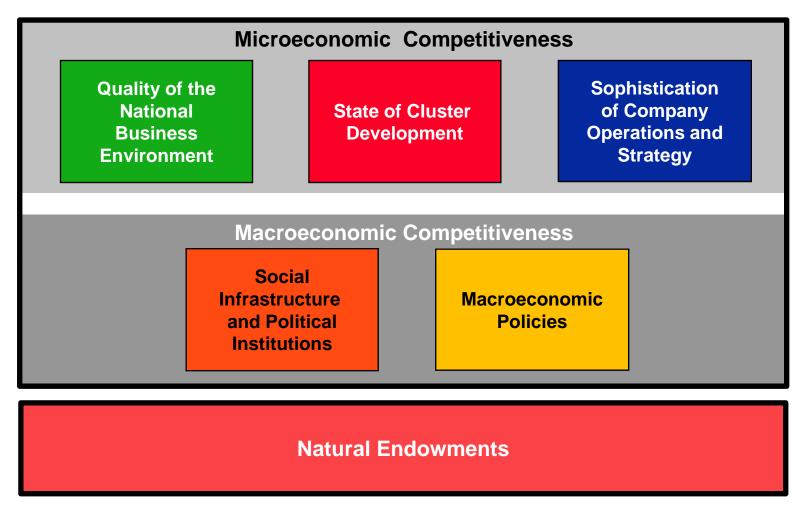
What is Competitiveness?

- Competitiveness depends on the productivity with which a nation uses its human, capital, and natural resources.
 - Productivity sets the sustainable standard of living (wages, returns on capital, returns on natural resources)
 - It is not what industries a nation competes in that matters for prosperity, but how productively it competes in those industries
 - Productivity in a national economy arises from a combination of domestic and foreign firms
 - The productivity of "local" or domestic industries is fundamental to competitiveness, not just that of export industries



- Nations compete to offer the most productive environment for business
- The public and private sectors play different but interrelated roles in creating a productive economy

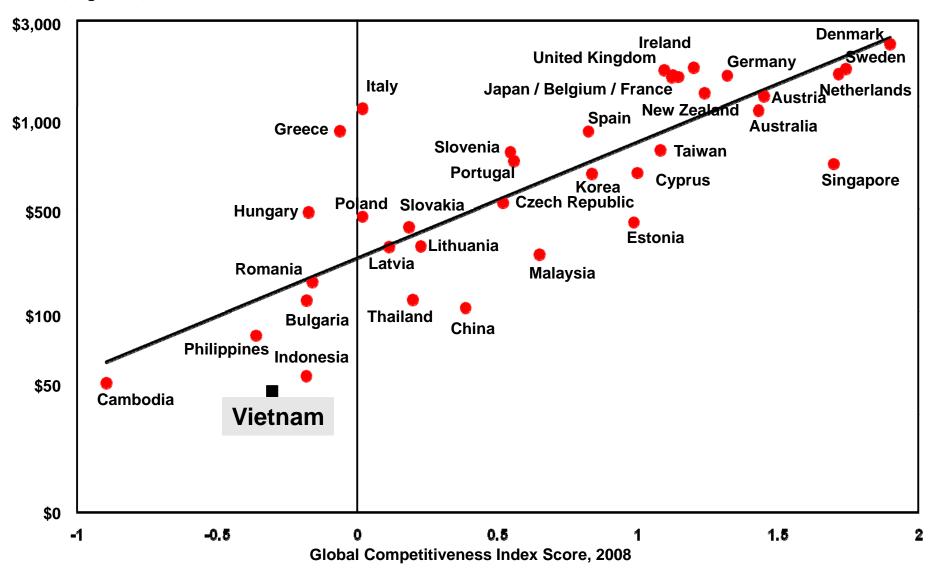
Determinants of Competitiveness



- Macroeconomic competitiveness creates the potential for high productivity, but is not sufficient
- Productivity ultimately depends on improving the microeconomic capability of the economy and the sophistication of local competition

Wage Level Comparison Selected Countries

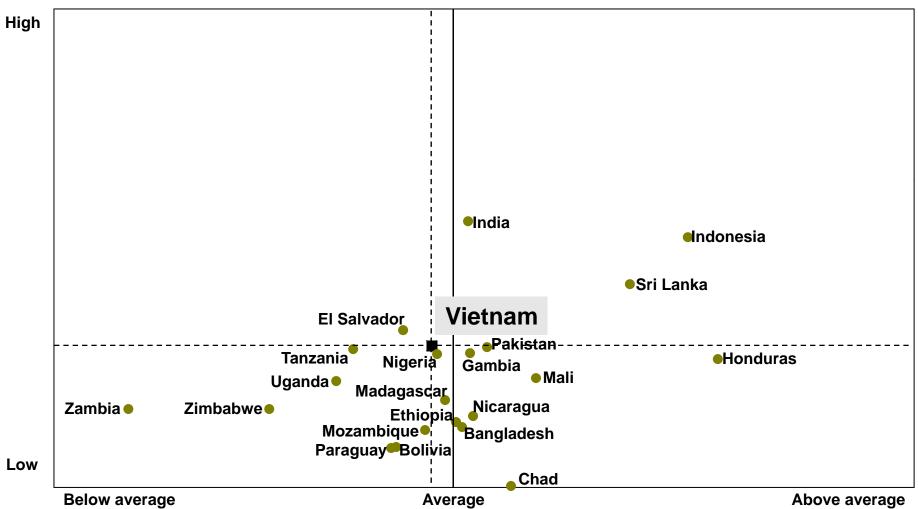
Monthly Minimum Wage USD, log scale, 2008



Source: Global Competitiveness Report, 2008; EuroStat, 2008; Philippines Department of Labor and Employment, 20081201 - Vietnam CAON.ppt 2008 16

Rate of Competitiveness Improvement Low Income Countries, 2002 - 2007

BCI Value, 2007



Dynamism Score, 2002 - 2007

Macroeconomic Competitiveness

Social Infrastructure and Political Institutions

Policies

Macroeconomic

Basic human capacity

- Basic education
- Health system

Political institutions

- Political freedom
- Voice and accountability
- Political stability
- Centralization of economic policymaking
- Government effectiveness

Rule of law

- Judicial independence
- Efficiency of legal framework
- Civil rights
- Business costs of corruption
- Reliability of police
- Prevalence and costs of crime

Fiscal policy

- Government surplus/deficit
- Government debt
- Savings / Investment rates

Monetary policy

- Inflation
- Interest rate spread

Macroeconomic Competitiveness <u>Vietnam's Position</u>

Social Infrastructure and Political Institutions

Macroeconomic Policies

Basic health and education

- + Solid provision of basic services
- Increasing concerns about the quality of these public services

Fiscal policy

- + Government **budget** and **debt** at acceptable levels
- Government budget still reliant on foreign aid

Political institutions

- + High levels of political stability
- + Increasing decentralization of economic policy responsibilities
- Little effective policy dialogue
- Corruption remains a significant challenge

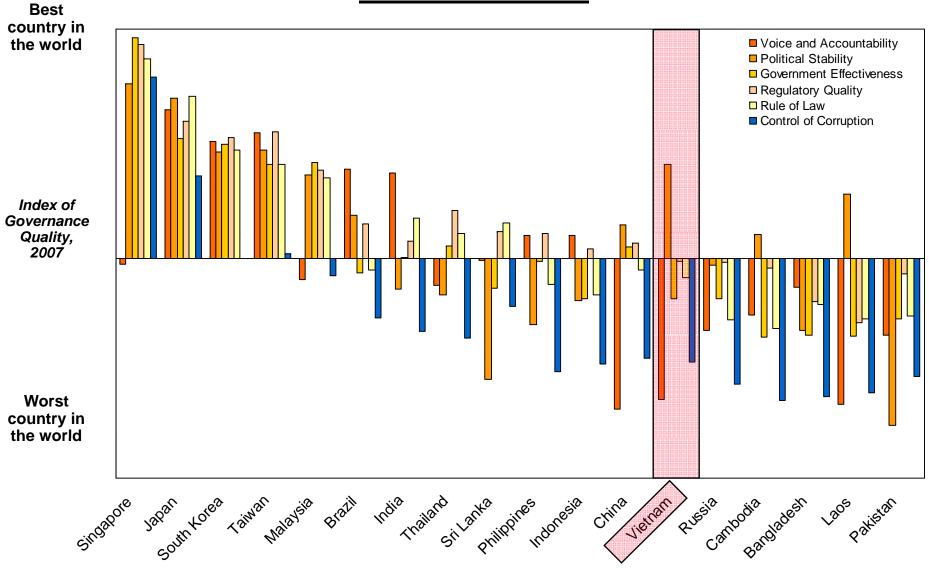
Rule of law

- + Quality of laws tends to be good
- Effectiveness of implementation remains weak

Monetary Policy

High levels of inflation

Governance Indicators<u>Selected Countries</u>



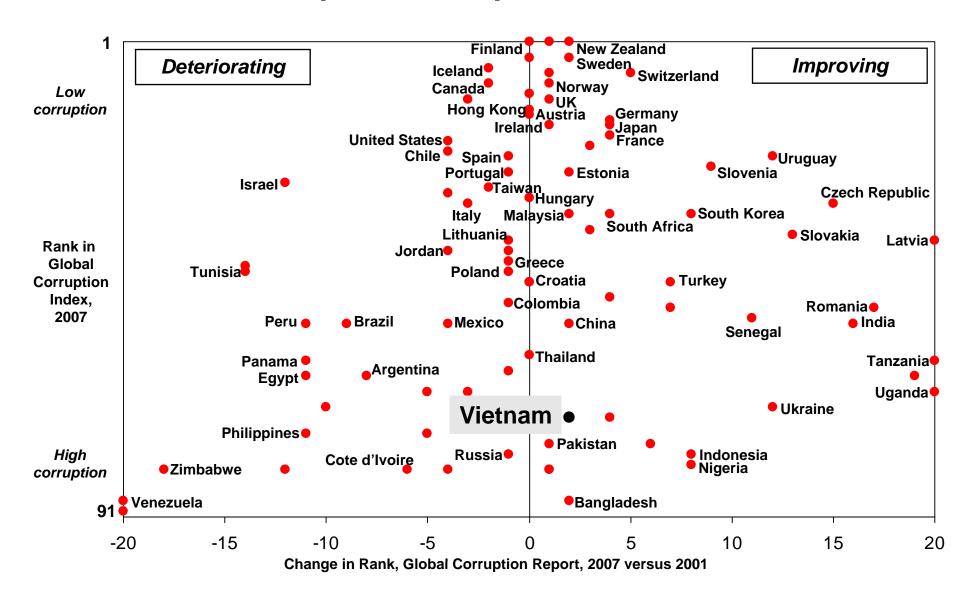
Note: Sorted left to right by decreasing average value across all indicators. The 'zero' horizontal line corresponds to the median country's average value across all indicators.

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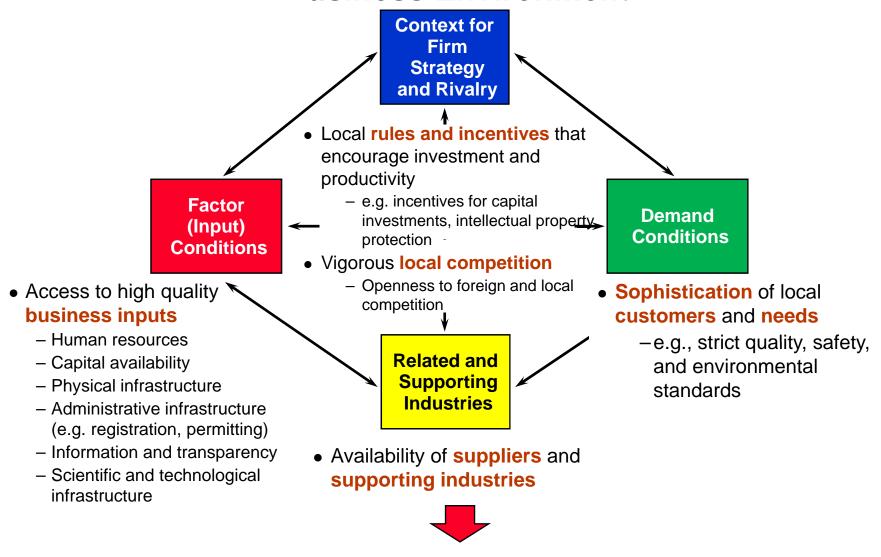
Source: World Bank (2008)

Corruption Perception Index, 2007



Note: Ranks only countries available in both years (91 countries total)
Source: Global Corruption Report, 2007

Microeconomic Competitiveness: Quality of the Business Environment



- Many things matter for competitiveness
- Successful economic development is a process of successive upgrading, in which the business environment improves to enable increasingly sophisticated ways of competing

Vietnamese Business Environment Vietnam's Relative Position 2008

Competitive Advantages

- Communications infrastructure (rank 72)
 - E.g., quality of the telephone infrastructure
- Local competition (rank 75)
 - E.g., intensity of local competition

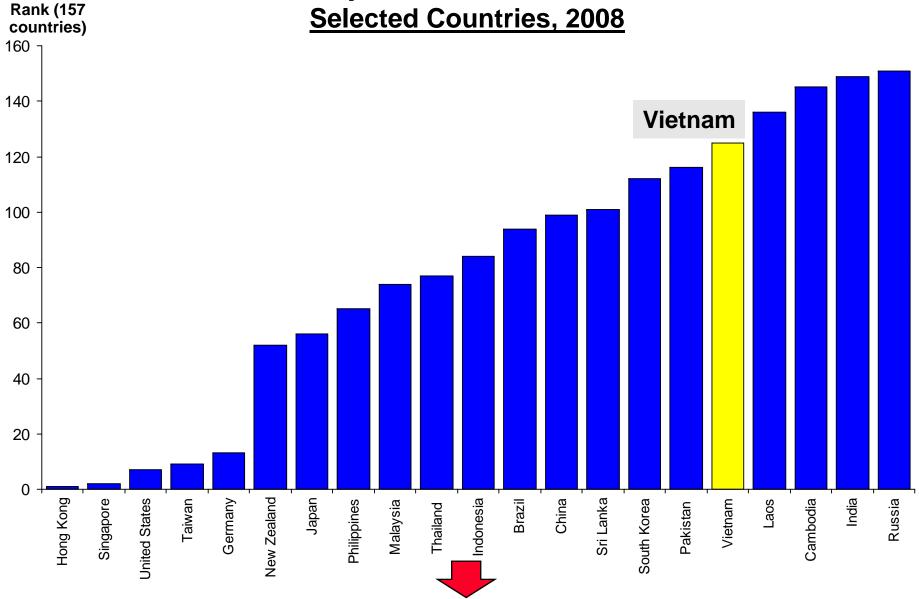
Competitive Disadvantages

- Government intervention (rank 119)
 - E.g., SOE market dominance
- Trade barriers (rank 113)
 - E.g., level of import tariffs

Note: Rank versus 130 countries; overall, Vietnam ranks 102nd in 2008 PPP adjusted GDP per capita and 76th in New Global Competitiveness

Source: Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness, Harvard University (2008)

Openness to Trade Selected Countries, 2008



Vietnam's lack of openness will retard further competitiveness upgrading

Vietnamese Business Environment Vietnam's Relative Position 2008

Competitive Advantages

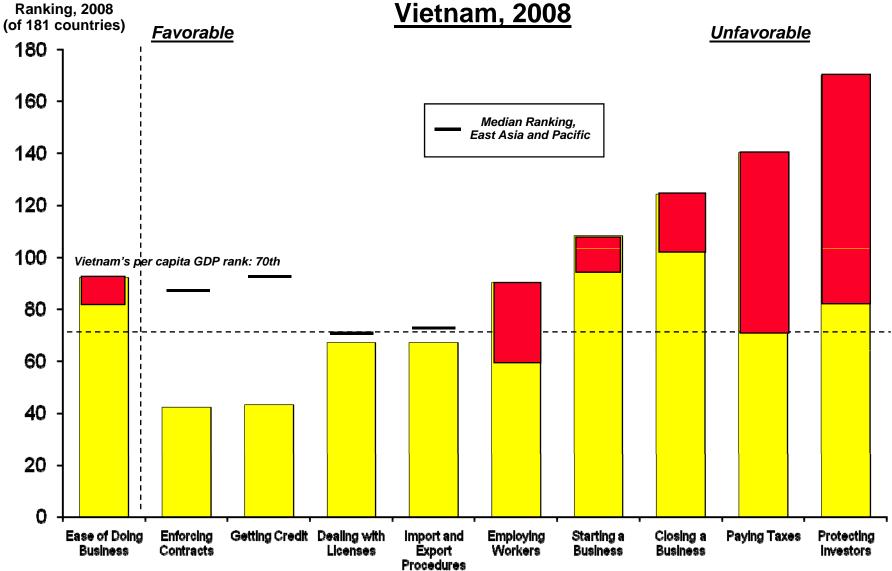
- Communications infrastructure (rank 72)
 - E.g., quality of the telephone infrastructure
- Local competition (rank 75)
 - E.g., intensity of local competition

Competitive Disadvantages

- Government intervention (rank 119)
 - E.g., SOE market dominance
- Trade barriers (rank 113)
 - E.g., level of import tariffs
- Energy infrastructure (rank 109)
 - E.g., quality of electricity supply
- Access to finance (rank 109)
 - E.g., financial market sophistication
- Innovation infrastructure (rank 99)
 - E.g., patents per capita
- Logistical infrastructure (rank 96)
 - E.g., quality of roads

Note: Rank versus 130 countries; overall, Vietnam ranks 102nd in 2008 PPP adjusted GDP per capita and 76th in New Global Competitiveness

Cost of Doing Business Vietnam, 2008

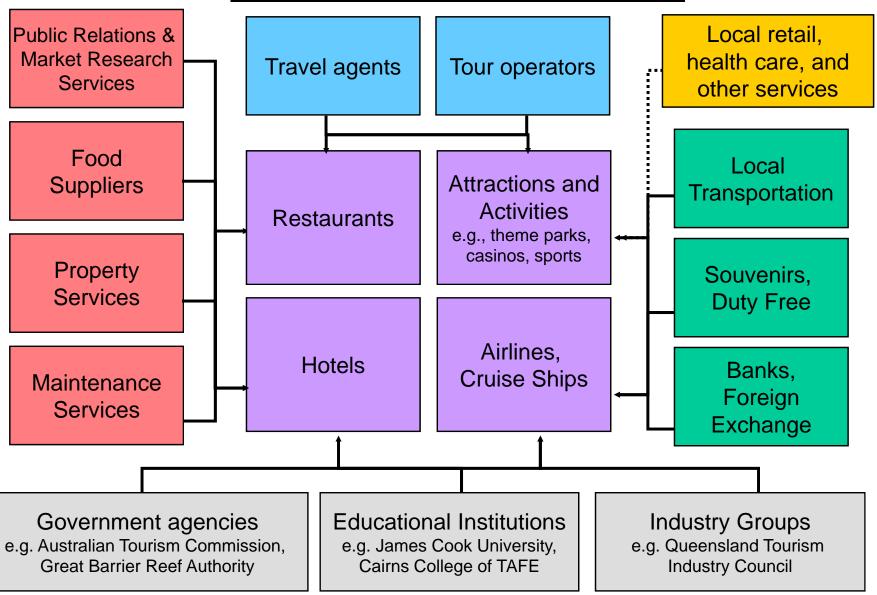


• Especially in land ownership in rural areas significant problems remain

State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs) in Vietnam

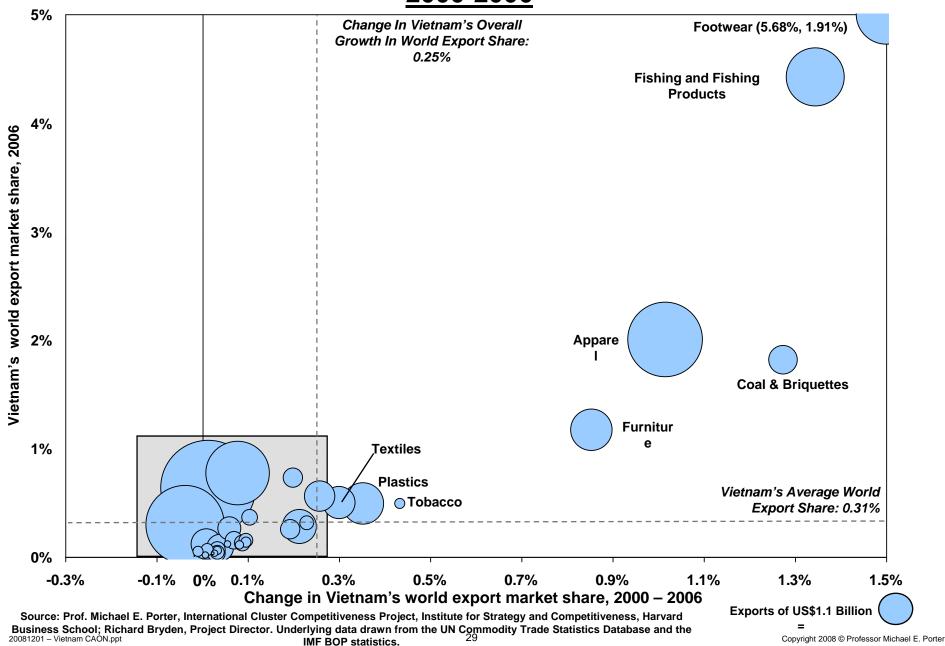
- SOEs continue to play a dominant role in the Vietnamese economy, despite the commitment to privatization
- Government oversight of these companies and their spending is limited and largely reactive
- The costs of slow progress on privatization are high for Vietnam's competitiveness
 - Retards entry of new private companies
 - Creates risks of corruption
 - Can exacerbate economic volatility through excessive investment financed through soft credit
- An effective privatization program strategy for Vietnam must shift economic structure, not just change ownership
 - Privatization must go hand-in-hand with market opening and policies to curtail anti-competitive practices
 - Owners are needed that contribute new capital and skills
 - Minority stakes can distribute ownership more widely

State of Cluster Development Tourism Cluster in Cairns, Australia

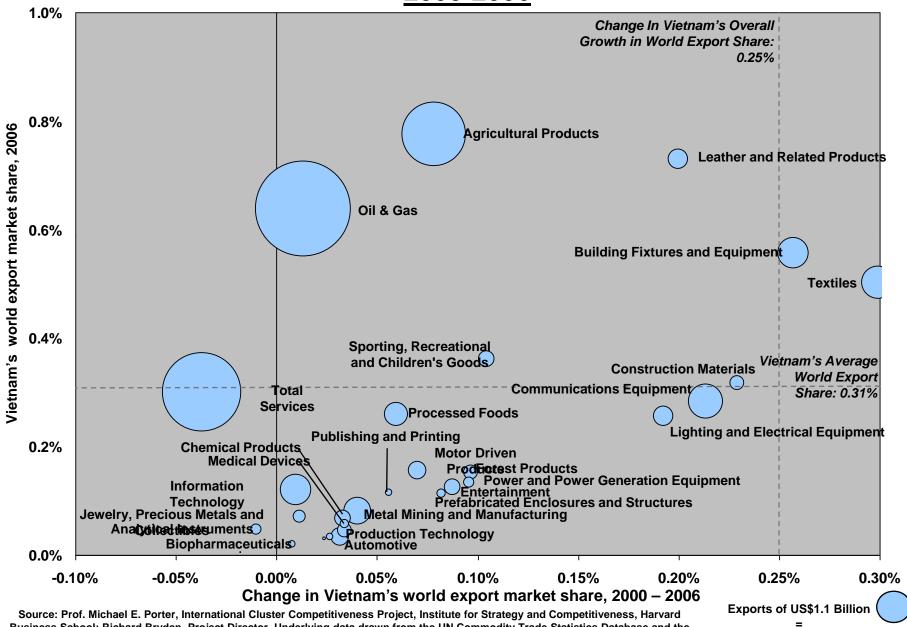


Sources: HBS student team research (2003) - Peter Tynan, Chai McConnell, Alexandra West, Jean Hayden

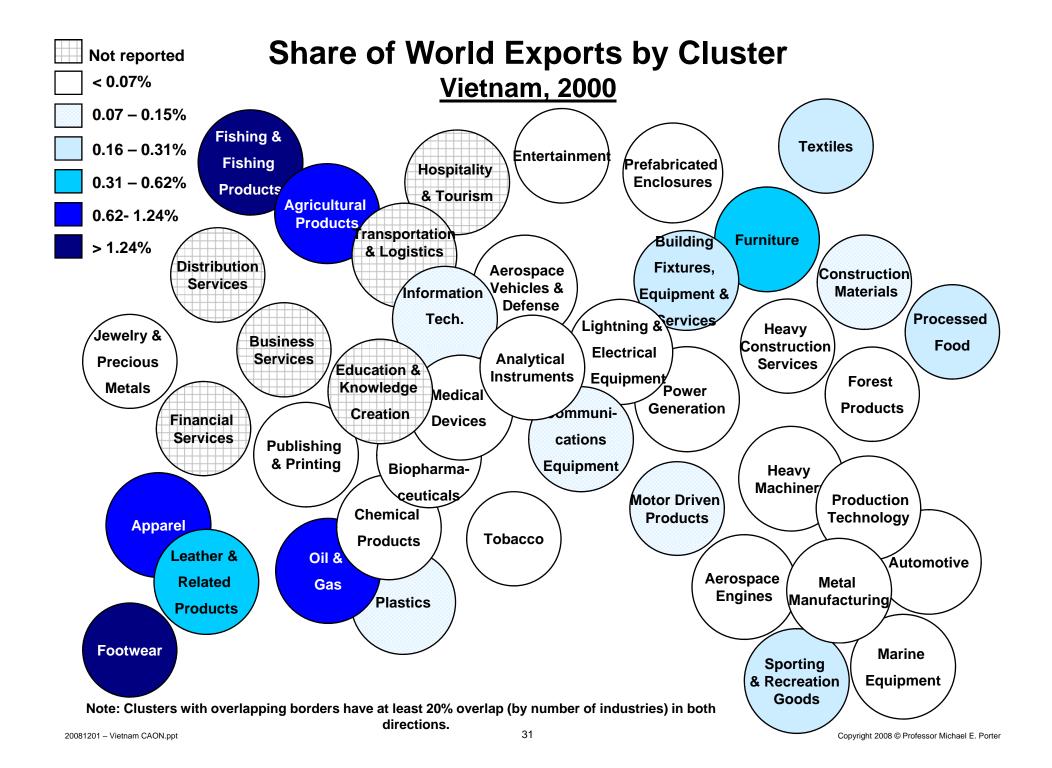
Vietnam's Cluster Export Portfolio 2000-2006

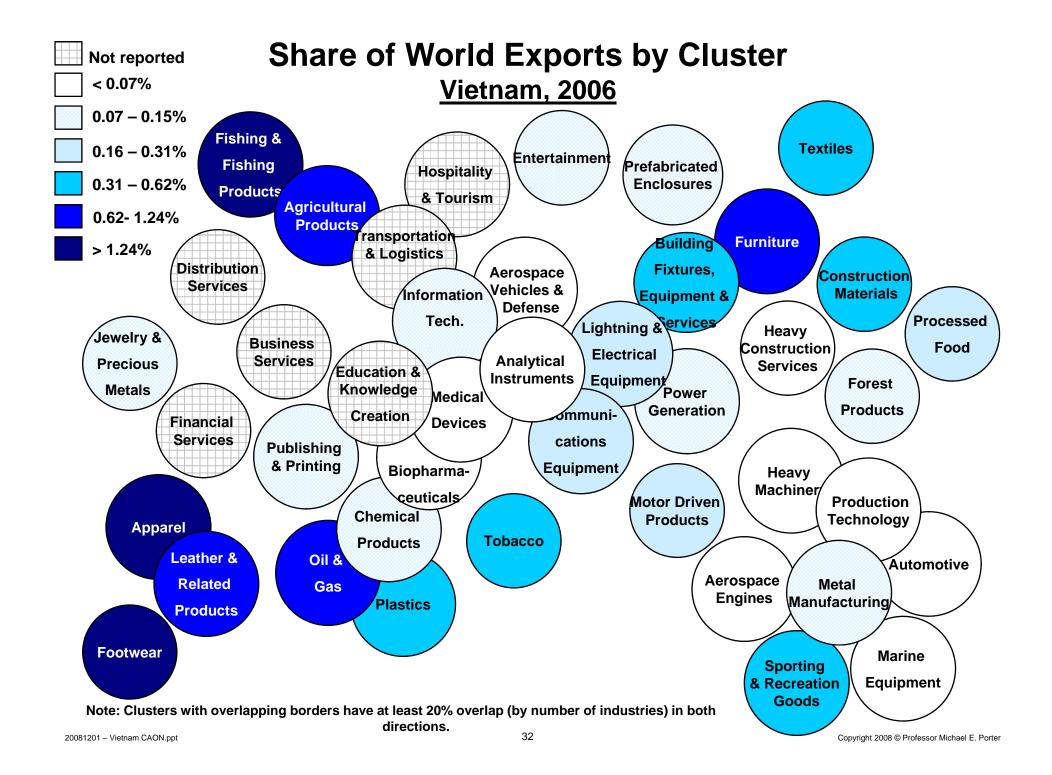


Vietnam's Cluster Export Portfolio cont'd 2000-2006

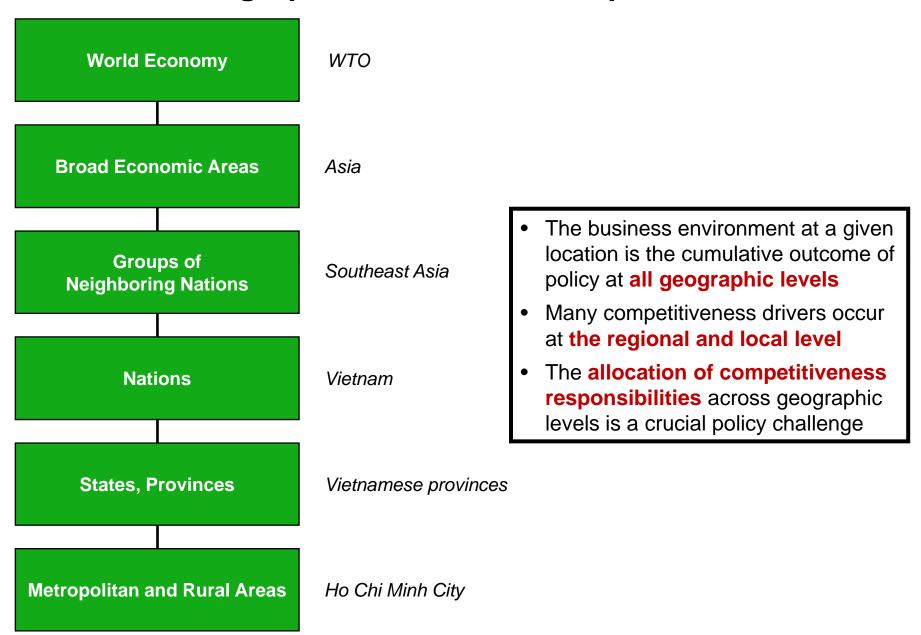


Business School; Richard Bryden, Project Director. Underlying data drawn from the UN Commodity Trade Statistics Database and the 20081201 - Vietnam CAÓN.ppt IMF BOP statistics.

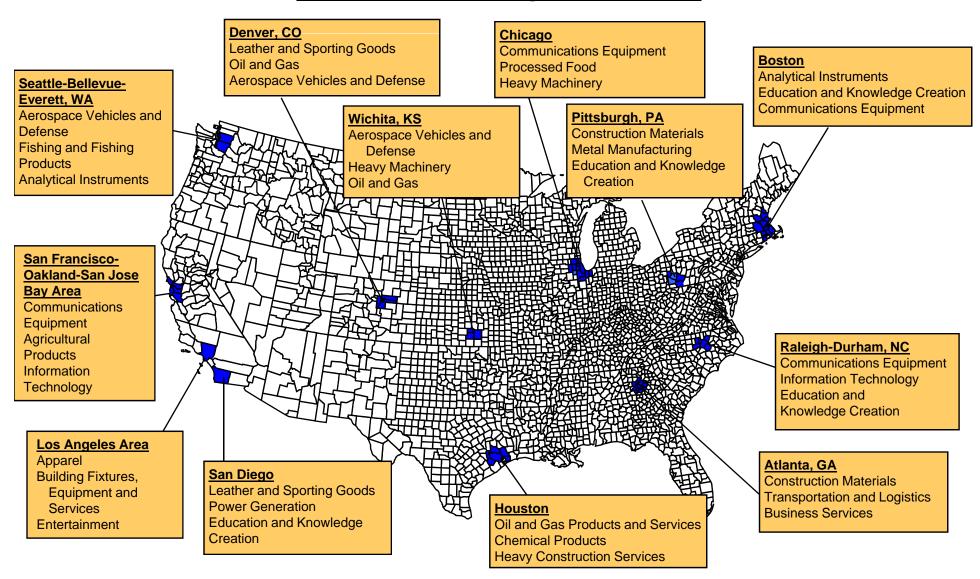




Geographic Levels and Competitiveness

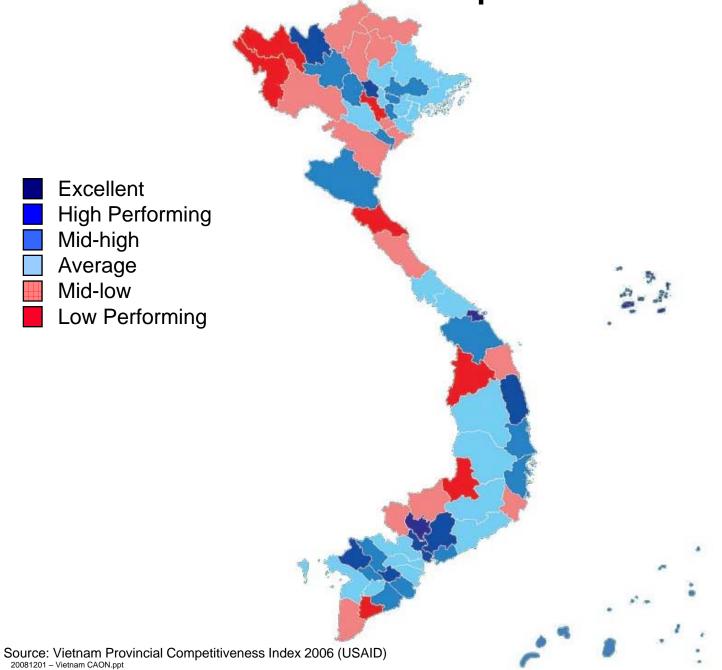


Specialization of Regional Economies <u>Selected U.S. Geographic Areas</u>



Note: Clusters listed are the three highest ranking clusters in terms of share of national employment. Source: Cluster Mapping Project, Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness, Harvard Business School, 11/2006.

Vietnam Provincial Competitiveness Index, 2006



The Neighborhood Southeast Asia



• Vietnam has a central position between ASEAN and China

Economic Coordination Among Neighbors Enhancing Productivity

Factor (Input) Conditions

- Improving regional transportation infrastructure
- Creating an efficient energy network
- Enhancing regional communications and connectivity
- Linking financial markets
- Opening the movement of students for higher education
- Harmonizing administrative requirements for businesses

Context for Strategy and Rivalry

- Eliminating trade and investment barriers within the region
- Simplifying and harmonizing cross-border regulations and paperwork
- Coordinating antimonopoly and fair competition policies

Demand Conditions

- Harmonizing environmental standards
- Harmonizing product safety standards
- Establishing reciprocal consumer protection laws
- Opening government procurement within the region

Related and Supporting Industries

- Facilitating crossborder cluster upgrading, e.g.
 - -Tourism
 - Agribusiness
 - Transport & Logistics
 - Business services

Macroeconomic Competitiveness

- Coordinating programs to improve public safety
- Coordinating macro-economic policies

Regional Strategy & Governance

- Creating a regional marketing program
- Sharing best practices in government operations
- Creating regional institutions
 - Dispute resolution mechanisms
 - Regional development bank
- Developing a regional negotiating position with international organizations

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Stages of National Competitive Development Shifting Policy Imperatives

Factor-Driven Economy

Investment-Driven Economy

Innovation-Driven Economy

Low Cost Inputs

- Macro, political, and legal stability
- Efficient basic infrastructure
- Lowering regulatory costs of doing business

Productivity

- Increasing local competition
- Market openness
- Advanced infrastructure
- Incentives and rules encouraging productivity
- Cluster formation and activation

Unique Value

- Advanced skills
- Scientific and technological institutions
- Incentives and rules encouraging innovation
- Cluster upgrading

Competitiveness Action Agenda: Key Priorities

Continue Existing Efforts

- Reduce corruption
- Improve infrastructure
- Deepen financial market reforms
- Impose regulatory attractiveness

Fundamental Reform

- Human resource development at all levels
- Reform of SOEs
- Cluster development

Reducing Corruption

- The government has repeatedly committed itself towards reducing corruption; and some action has been taken
- Evidence reveals little progress



 Vietnam needs to target corruption as a crucial barrier for growth and design an integrated strategy to tackle its occurrence

- Reduce the potential for corruption through simplified regulations, use of modern information technology, and improved SOE governance/ privatization
- Set clear guidelines and reporting requirements for management of SOEs
- Demonstrate a commitment for transparency, including support for a strong press

Improving Infrastructure

- Significant infrastructure investments have been made in recent years
- Evidence on their impact is mixed as best. There is significant duplication of efforts and companies complain about serious bottlenecks
- Vietnam needs to better target infrastructure investments to meet the needs of its growing economy

- Establish a **national fund** for key infrastructure projects to be implemented under the supervision of the Prime Minister's office
- Utilize matching funds incentives to improve effectiveness if investments by provincial governments
- Create a public-private council to advise on spending priorities

Deepening Financial Markets

- Vietnam has made **clear progress** on opening up financial markets, more recently also to foreign companies as part of the WTO agreement
- But the weakness of Vietnam's financial markets even before the global crisis, and the financing constraints faced by private companies, indicate that serious challenges remain



 Vietnam needs to develop a modern regulatory and institutional structure to enable an effective financial system

- Continue opening financial markets in line with WTO commitments
- Create an effective, independent financial regulator, using outside help as needed
- Establish a development bank to develop financing tools for private SMEs

Regulatory Reform

- Regulatory reform has been on the Vietnamese policy agenda for some time, especially over the last five years
- Despite some progress, the overall regulatory burden on businesses and citizens remains high with no clear societal benefits



 Vietnam needs a fundamentally new approach to regulatory reform and assessment of new regulations

- Aggressively pursue the work on regulatory reform initiated with foreign donors
- Improve institutional capacity to evaluate and administer regulations, not just the rules themselves
- Include an obligatory assessment of the administrative burden on business in the process of introducing new laws and regulations

Human Resource Development

Basic education

- Enrolment rates have increased significantly but quality is low and skills fail to meet company needs
- Vietnam needs to dramatically improve educational quality, through setting standards, improving curricula, and involving the private sector in governance

Vocational training

- Vietnam lacks a skills training system
- Companies have launched own training efforts to address skill bottlenecks
- Vietnam needs a clear program for cluster-based workforce development

Higher education

- The number of universities has increased but quality is low and skills do not match company needs
- Higher university education standards must be set and enforced, drawing on international experts
- Vietnam needs to develop a plan and enabling institutions for assimilation of global technology

Restructuring of State Owned Enterprises

- The government has an explicit policy to promote private enterprise but there is deep-seated ambivalence towards privatization
- Without a thorough reform of the SOE sector, there is little hope for Vietnam to reach the next level of economic development

SOE governance

- Create independent boards of directors
- Implement transparent financial reporting
- Define clear financial objectives
 - Set corporate charters

Competition in markets with SOEs

- Remove existing trade, investment, and artificial entry barriers protecting SOEs
- Establish strong, independent regulatory bodies
- Support start-ups and spin-offs from SOEs

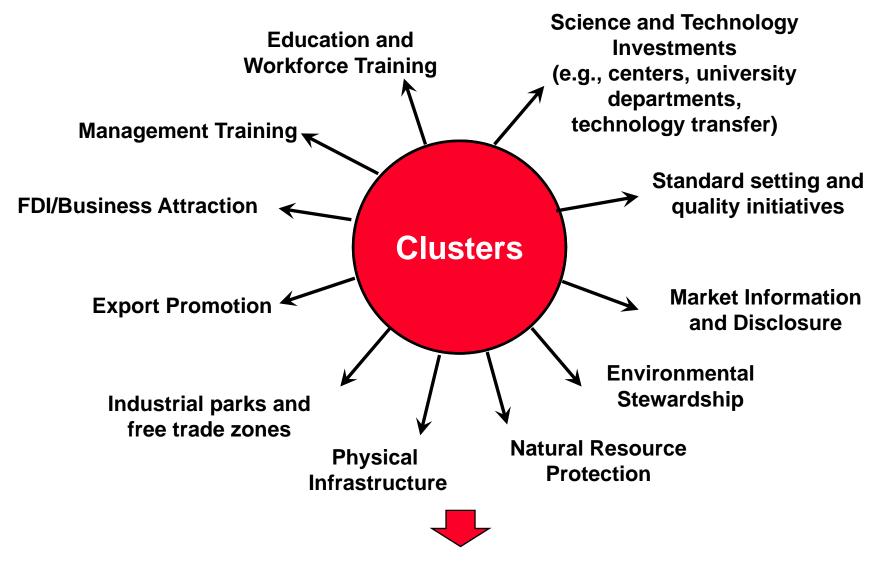
Privatization

- Create clear **legal conditions** for privatization
- Define **explicit objectives** for privatization process
- Create a **dedicated structure** for implementing privatization
- The creation of SOE groups is not a solution and can exacerbate problems if no other reforms are being implemented

Cluster Development in Vietnam

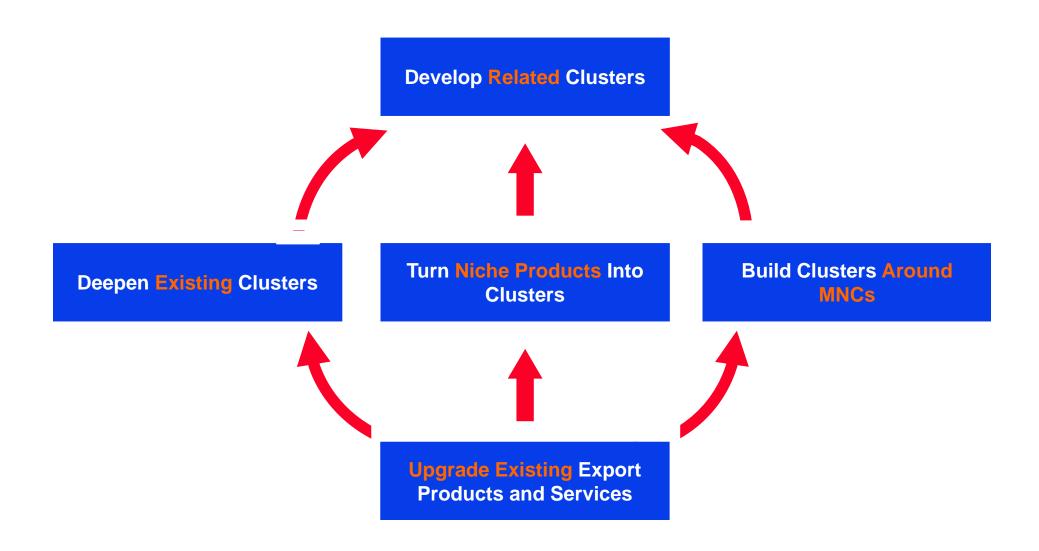
- Vietnam's clusters currently tend to be narrowly focused on individual products
- There is limited collaboration among companies, suppliers and other institutions
 - Some clusters, like coffee, have the potential to significantly increase their performance if they adopt a collaboration approach
- Cluster-based development thinking is crucial in improving the delivery of other economic policies
 - Workforce skill development around clusters
 - FDI attraction/industrial zones around clusters
 - Cluster-based regional development initiatives
 - Quality and technology transfer organization for each cluster
- Policy should upgrade all existing and emerging clusters, not choose among them

Clusters and Economic Policy



 Clusters provide a framework for implementing public policy and organizing public-private collaboration to enhance competitiveness

Clusters and Economic Diversification



Upgrading Vietnamese Niche Positions, 2006

Cluster	Cluster World Export Share	Subcluster	Industry	Industry Share of World Exports	Change in Share (1997- 2006)	Export Value (ir \$thousands)
Plastics	0.490%	Rubber	Natural rubber, balata and similar natural gums	7.82%	3.40%	\$ 1,137,205
		Plastic Waste	Reclaimed unhardened rubber; waste	1.88%	1.87%	\$ 6,084
		Plastic Products	Plastic sacks, bags	1.55%	0.65%	\$ 150,234
		Rubber	Synthetic rubber	1.13%	1.13%	\$ 143,316
Sporting, Recreational and	0.361%	Motorcycles and Bicycles	Parts of other motorcycles	1.42%	1.22%	\$ 60,962
Children's Goods		Motorcycles and Bicycles	Bicycles and other cycles, non-motorized	1.27%	-1.56%	\$ 49,628
Communications Equipment	0.284%	Specialty Office Machines	Parts for calculating, accounting machines	23.04%	23.04%	\$ 444,384
		Electrical and Electronic Components	Insulted wire, cable and conductors	1.07%	0.72%	\$ 705,725
Processed Food	0.260%	Specialty Foods and Ingredients	Starches, inulin and gluten	7.93%	6.23%	\$ 148,445
		Food Products Machinery	Distilling, rectifying plant	2.64%	2.64%	\$ 19,449
		Specialty Foods and Ingredients	Vegetable saps, extracts	0.90%	0.50%	\$ 9,193
		Dairy and Related Products	Milk, concentrated or sweetened	0.84%	-0.22%	\$ 89,315
		Specialty Foods and Ingredients	Yeasts	0.81%	0.27%	\$ 7,962
		Specialty Foods and Ingredients	Homogenized food preparations	0.76%	0.59%	\$ 4,888
Lighting and Electrical Equipment	0.256%	Glass	Drawn, float, cast glass, worked	6.39%	6.37%	\$ 78,185
		Electrical Parts	Other inductors	3.20%	2.86%	\$ 137,477
		Electrical Parts	Other electric transformers	1.17%	0.68%	\$ 63,386
Motor Driven Products	0.156%	Motors and Generators	Electric motors<=37.5w	1.88%	1.15%	\$ 150,425
		Appliances	Sewing machines and parts	1.21%	0.26%	\$ 45,749
Entertainment and Reproduction Equipment	0.125%	Audio Equipment	Loudspeakers, unmounted	1.41%	1.40%	\$ 39,964
		Audio Equipment	Electric sound amplifiers	1.07%	1.07%	\$ 8,745
Information Technology	0.121%	Peripherals	Input or output units	1.01%	1.01%	\$ 653,740
		Electronic Components and Assemblies	Printed circuits	0.36%	-0.43%	\$ 85,738
Analytical Instruments	0.047%	Electronic Components	TV picture tubes, CRTs	1.26%	1.23%	\$ 53,690
		Electronic Components	Other electronic valves, tubes	0.35%	-0.50%	\$ 12,186
		Process Instruments	Gas meters	0.34%	0.34%	\$ 1,415
Production Technology	0.046%	Fabricated Plate Work	Steam generating boilers, super-heated water boilers; a	1.35%	1.35%	\$ 53,010
		Process Equipment Components	Articulated link chain and parts	0.45%	0.31%	\$ 7,292
		Machine Tools and Accessories	Cutting blades for machines	0.42%	0.38%	\$ 7,501

Source: Prof. Michael E. Porter, International Cluster Competitiveness Project, Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness, Harvard Business School; Richard Bryden, Project Director. Underlying data drawn from the UN Commodity Trade Statistics Database.

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The Process of Economic Development Shifting Roles and Responsibilities

Old Model

 Government drives economic development through policy decisions and incentives



New Model

 Economic development is a collaborative process involving government at multiple levels, companies, teaching and research institutions, and institutions for collaboration

- Competitiveness must become a bottoms-up process in which many individuals, companies, and institutions take responsibility
- Every community and cluster can take steps to enhance competitiveness

Government and the Process of Economic Development

- Competitiveness is affected by a myriad of government entities
 - Multiple agencies and departments (e.g. finance, trade, education, science and technology, commerce, regional policy, energy, agriculture)
 - Multiple levels of government (nations, states, cities, etc.)
 - Intergovernmental relations with neighboring countries affect competitiveness
- Competitiveness is rarely the sole agenda of any government agency



- Coordinating structures are needed that brings together the ministries and departments necessary to formulate and implement an economic strategy
- Explicit mechanisms are needed to engage the private sector in dialog about policy priorities and implementation progress

Organizing for Competitiveness in Vietnam Recommendations

- Create effective, independent regulatory organizations
- Improve economic policy at the provincial level
- Improve mechanisms for public-private discussion and collaboration
- Enhance strategic planning and program management capacity in the central and provincial governments
- Develop a national economic strategy process to guide priorities in improving the business environment

Regional Development in Vietnam

- Vietnam's provinces are developing at different rates; prosperity levels between the richest and poorest regions differs greatly
- Political power and responsibility for economic development has been decentralized to the provinces, who apply to the national government for funds
- Provinces have adopted unfocused growth strategies with much duplication and little specialization across provinces
- Provinces have insufficient technical capacity for policy design and implementation



- Each province should be charged with developing an economic plan based on its unique strengths and potential
- Each province should be expected to publicly report on implementation

Competitiveness Institutions

- Economic strategy unit in the Prime Minister's office
 - Regularly updating on progress
 - Lead a formal planning and program management process involving all agencies
- Public-private competitiveness council
- Vietnam Competitiveness Institute
 - To conduct analyses, benchmark vs. other countries, and train government leaders
 - Joint national and provincial
- Enhanced role of business associations

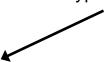
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- Creating an Economic Strategy
- Integrating Corporate Social Responsibility

Defining an Economic Strategy

National Value Proposition

- What is the unique competitive position of the nation or region given its location, legacy, and existing and potential strengths?
 - What roles with neighbors, the region, and the broader world?
 - What unique value as a business location?
 - For what types of activities and clusters?



Developing Unique Strengths

- What elements of context and the business environment are crucial priorities?
- What existing and emerging clusters should be developed first?



 What weaknesses must be addressed to achieve parity with peer countries?



Priorities and sequencing are a necessity in economic development

The Need for an Economic Strategy

- The Vietnamese government follows largely an evolutionary and reactive approach in response to crises and specific problems
- Foreign aid inflows are fragmented and driven by donor-priorities
- This approach has been successful in achieving success in factorbased economic development, but will be insufficient to move to a new stage



- Government needs leads in a broad-based discussion on a new economic strategy that sets priorities for improvements in the business environment and institutions
 - Internally, the government needs to increase its technical capacity to support such a strategic dialogue, for example through a strategy unit in the Prime Minister's office