The importance of information technology in Vietnam

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Through many losses in the war, Vietnam is a developing country whose economy is being restored. Standing before the threshold of the integration into the regional and international economy, the Government of Vietnam has implemented the renovation and open policies, especially the application of the advanced technologies in the world in which the (IT) Information Technology has the first priority in the socio-economic development, ensuring the country's National defence security.

In order to accelerate the economy's development, and to shorten the distance between Vietnam and other countries, it is necessary to set great store by Information Technology, which is key economic sector, having highest speed and quality, compared with other sectors and the high rate of contribution to the GDP.

In the recent last years, the Information Technology has been largely applied in the field of the social life. The Information Technology has been involved in almost of the socio-economic activities even in the State sector, private and administrative sectors, public services and even in the socio-political organizations. The Government has raised the mechanisms, policies which aim at encouraging, promoting the Information Technology's application in all any fields, the great investment in infrastructure, technology, changing the awareness of the people on the role and the application of Information Technology in the society, attaching special importance to the encouragement of investment, and developing the technology of software-an industry suitable to the level, capacity and the manpower source of Vietnam.

At present, 2500 enterprises have business licences on the software with 8000 employees in Vietnam. For the hardware, there are 20 enterprises assembling computers and trade marks. About the manpower source training: are existing 200 establishments training Information Technology to manpower from middle technical cadres up; the training capacity is about 20,000 experts of IT/ per annum.

About telecommunication, the entire country has 65 million subscribers, while the rural telecommunication networks have been developed strongly with 93% 8150 communes having telephones.

About internet: there are 1,5 million subscribers with the low freight price or equivalent to the one of the countries in the region. Many services have appeared such as: Internet telephone, watching examination marks on Internet, Coffee Internet... Especially, Internet has become a working environment of the system of the governmental agencies; a number of policies have been made known to everyone and carried out through internet. It is also the transition period in order to deploy the E-Government in Vietnam.

The above mentioned date has proved a small part on the endeavors of the Government of Vietnam in the process of accelerating the Information Technology application in the development of the country's economy. However, in order to catch up with the speed of the Information Technology development in the world, in my opinion, it is necessary to Vietnam to:

- Reserve priority to develop the Internet network, concretely, to concentrate to make known the ADSL to everyone with high speed and low expenditure,
- To build the wireless Internet infrastructure. to enlarge the linking internet with Schools, research Institute, the State organs and enterprises.

- To accelerate the man - power training of Information Technology ensuring international standard, in which attaching special importance to the Information Technology training in the countries having advanced level of IT such as: The United State of America, Japan, Singapore, India...

- To speed up the development of the software technology:

- To carry out concentration in developing the home market, satisfying the requirements, developing the processing software and manpower for export, planning concretely the software industrial zones.

- To accelerate the administrative reform of the Government, considering the Information Technology development as motive force in order to speed up the administrative reform in the agencies of the State.

I strongly believe that, in the near future, Vietnam will have a long progress to become a nation having its title on the international "Map of Information Technology"