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RESEARCH EVALUATION IN VIETNAM

**Fraunhofer Institute for
Production Systems and Design
Technology IPK**

Division Corporate Management

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Key Data

Period: 2003 - 2005, 2011 - 2013
Client: Vietnam Ministry of Science and
Technology (MOST), Vietnam Science and
Technology Evaluation Center (VISTEC)
Partner: Institute for Research Informati-
on and Quality Assurance (iFQ)

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Initial Situation

Since 2000 Vietnam takes active steps towards creating modern and effective national science and technology policies in order to catch up with its peer countries in South-East Asia. During a long term cooperation between the Vietnamese Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) and Fraunhofer IPK, two projects were developed and implemented successfully in Vietnam since 2004: »VISION – Vietnam's Evaluation of the Science and Technology Landscape« and the follow-up project »EvaCap – Capacity Building for Research Evaluation in Vietnam«. VISION analyzed the status quo of scientific research in Vietnam, identified strengths and weaknesses of the Science and Technology (S&T) system and proposed strategies for its future orientation and reorganization. One of the major issues identified was the urgent need for research evaluation and monitoring mechanisms. The challenge to develop an evaluation system for the vast landscape of research institutes in Vietnam was then taken during the EvaCap project.

Project Goal

Both projects aimed to provide a solid foundation for future Vietnamese restructuring programs in the S&T sector. VISION provided a thorough analysis of the capabilities of Vietnamese institutions for science, research and technology (SRT) and created regional maps of the country's industrial sectors, their productive capabilities and related innovation needs.

By the end of the project, design principles for innovation and research policies and suggestions for the reorganization and revitalization of the Vietnamese SRT landscape were outlined.

EvaCap focused on the support of the Vietnamese Science and Technology Evaluation Center (VISTEC) in Hanoi: the governmental agency is responsible for research evaluation in the whole country and CCIS was tasked to support the center in developing and implementing state-of-the-art evaluation approaches that are suited to Vietnam's local conditions.



Project Approach

The development of a modern and effective research evaluation system was the future perspective. To reach this, EvaCap involved the following three work streams:

- **Development of a solid foundation of the evaluation of Vietnam's research institutions:** This first module involved a large-scale analysis of Vietnam's institutional structures and identified current strengths and weaknesses. Subsequently an evaluation methodology for individual research institutions was proposed based on nine factors capturing innovation performance and research excellence.
- **Knowledge and capacity building:** The evaluation framework was tested in pilot projects, which were jointly implemented by German evaluation experts and VISTEC officials. Suggested evaluation methodologies were refined leading to a set of evaluation standards and procedures which were discussed in detail with relevant stakeholders from the field.
- **Deepening VISTEC's evaluation capacity:** The pilot tests ensured also the building of practical knowledge via on-the-job experiences for VISTEC employees in order to prepare them for their future job as Vietnam's official evaluation center.

Results and Benefits

The project team developed both an evaluation framework and related methodologies for VISTEC, which have been tailored to Vietnam's specific conditions in the SRT sector. The framework follows a scalable logic depending on the size, structure, research field and management sophistication of the applying research organization. It will allow even small institutions to implement the methodologies and improve their research and innovation performance in the long-run. Since CCIS uses practices like mixed-teaming or training-on-the-job, knowledge and experience has efficiently been transferred to VISTEC. Its staff has been empowered to be a competent partner and support for Vietnam's research institutions concerning all questions of research evaluation.

Via various stakeholder workshops and high-level expert meetings throughout the project, results have been discussed with relevant stakeholders regularly, positioning the urgency of the topic on Vietnam's political agenda and ensuring governmental commitment. This provided fruitful grounds for developing the country's SRT sector in the future by rolling out research evaluation across the country.



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