

VIETNAM

Vietnam National Committee for International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

ASIAN NATURAL DISASTER REDUCTION CONFERENCE

(December 17 - 18, 1995 in Kobe, Japan)

Statement by Mr. NGUYEN CANH DINH

Minister,

***Chairman of Central Committee for Flood and Storm Control of Vietnam,
Chairman of Vietnam National Committee for International Decade for
Natural Disaster Reduction***

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am very glad to have chance to make a presentation on natural disasters and activities to mitigate damages caused by natural disasters in Vietnam at this very important Conference.

I. TYPES OF NATURAL DISASTERS IN VIETNAM

Vietnam situated in the tropical area with high humidity and monsoon, adjacent to the sea, between continent and ocean and on the two dynamic rings of Atlantic and Pacific. Therefore, various types of natural disasters occur every year in the country, especially typhoons and floods.

- *Typhoons* - Vietnam located in one of the five typhoon centers in the earth.
- *Floods* are considered as one of the most serious disaster. For the last 600 years, there have been 127 large floods occurring in Vietnam. Floods are divided into three types: river floods; floods from the sea; and flash floods in highly mountainous areas due to quick accumulation of flows in combination with heavy rains.
- *Cyclones*, sometimes, occur in Vietnam, destroying houses.
- *Land slide, erosion of river banks* occur annually.
- *Water logging and drought* are also very common types of disaster in Vietnam.

(See Attachment 1: types and severity of natural disasters in Vietnam).