

SPEECH BY H.E NGUYEN HOANG LONG
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Nam Delegation to the ICN2
Rome, 21st November 2014

His Excellency Mr. Chairman,

(His Excellency José Graziano da Silva, Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization

Her Excellency Margaret Chan, Director General of the World Health Organization)

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to attend the Second International Conference on Nutrition. On behalf of the Vietnamese Delegation, I would like to express our sincere thanks to FAO and WHO for jointly organizing this important Conference.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government of Vietnam attaches great importance to the ensurance of nutrition and food security. Three years after the Declaration of ICN1, Vietnam developed a National Plan of Action on Nutrition for the period 1995-2000, and then adopted the National Nutrition Strategy (NNS) for 2001-2010, in 2001; the National Strategy on Food Security in 2009; and the Nutrition Strategy to 2020 and Vision to 2030 in 2012. Action plans for these two strategies have been developed.

The country has recorded important achievements: the hunger has been widely reduced. From a food deficient country, Viet Nam has become 2nd largest exporter of rice in the World. The poverty rate has been decreased remarkably from 58% in 80s to 11, 3% in 2011. The energy intake per capita per day in 2010 was 1,925.4 Kcal. The proportion of households with energy intake per capita per day of less than 1,800 kcal is 34.2% (2010).

Micronutrient deficiency has been improved also. In 1994 clinical manifestations of exophthalmia caused by vitamin A deficiency were basically eliminated nationwide as a result of distribution of vitamin A capsule with high dose for every 6 months. In Viet Nam, the “Day of Children” was named “Micronutrient-Day” and it is highly appreciated and widely participated by Vietnamese.

Despite those achievements, food insecurity is still a threat in the poor, disadvantaged and natural disaster - stricken areas. Environmental pollution and climate change have been recognized as other threats for food security in the country. Control of food hygiene and safety is still a big challenge.

In addition to undernourishment, overweight and obesity among certain proportions of population have been increased and become a public health problem in Viet Nam, doubling the burden of nutrition issue. The prevalence of overweight and obesity of children under 5 increase 9.2 times after 10 years and is 5.6% nationwide in 2013. In some big cities, the prevalence of overweight and obesity in children has been at an equal level to, or even higher than that of the underweight.

To overcome the remaining challenges, specific measures have been introduced as follows:

- Implementing specific programs on food and nutrition such as: the National Targeted Programme on Child Malnutrition Control, the National Immunization Program, the Food Hygiene and Safety Program, the Poverty Alleviation Program, the National Population Program ...

- Ensuring food security and food-based nutrition at household level. Introduction of community gardens, school gardens to provide micronutrients availability to people.

- Disseminating information on food labelling and food safety for consumers to make their own choice.

- Strengthening scientific researches on nutrition and food to promote the development and creation of new breeds of livestock, production and processing of nutritionally fortified foods and nutritionally specialised products.

- Reinforcement nutrition networks and mobilising financial resources include from state and local government budgets, international aid and other stakeholder and partners.

- Recently, the Government of Viet Nam has decided to participate in the International Initiative on Zero Hunger Challenge (ZHC). It is clear that not only Viet Nam responds well to the UN's call, but the Initiative itself responds to the needs of Viet Nam to accelerate the country poverty reduction, increase income and ensure food security and nutrition for poor farmers and ethnic minorities.

Excellences, ladies and gentlemen,

The Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action will be important guidance vision for the Government of Viet Nam in the years to come to address the issues of sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition.

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Vietnamese Government, to thank the FAO, and WHO for the leading roles in the work of ensure ring food security and nutrition. Our sincere thanks also go to other international organizations and the donor community who have supported and extended precious assistance to ensure food security and nutrition in Viet Nam.

Thank you very much for your attention. /.