

- Rare earths to purify steel and glutamate, a food additive.
- Lead and zinc mining.
- Chromium for the manufacturing of stainless steel.
- Nickel, copper, and bauxite.

## **Construction**

The Ministry of Construction (MOC) is responsible for policy development and standards in the construction industry which can be divided into three main sectors: civil and industrial construction, industry of building materials, and urban development and management. The construction industry encompasses all levels of Vietnam's industry; therefore, the Ministry is the largest and one of the most important in Vietnam.

The civil and industrial construction sector includes the development of thermal and hydropower stations, metallurgical and cement projects, chemical projects, foodstuff production, light industry, civil housing, and public works such as water supply, sanitation, hotels, hospitals, universities, and government offices. The industry of building materials is concerned with cement production, building materials, roofing, and sanitary equipment. Urban development and management focuses on water supply treatment, drainage, and sewage. The MOC is also responsible for the regulations for tendering on construction projects.

Priority development areas include:

- Development of the building materials industry.
- Cement production.
- Glass production.
- Sanitary ware products (washing basins, toilets).
- Joint ventures to export raw materials.
- Urban infrastructure development (housing, sanitation, water).

The construction industry must improve its standards in terms of upgrading operations, improving city codes on buildings, land use, city management, and housing. It also requires human resource development in the management of a multi-sector economy in areas such as marketing, management of infrastructure services, land use, and taxation.

## **Environment**

Vietnam's environmental policy is being driven by its National Plan for Environmental and Sustainable Development (NPESD) which originated from Vietnam's National Conservation Strategy. The Plan outlines Vietnam's environmental strategy for the next 10 years. It provides the gradual development of a comprehensive framework for national and sub-national environmental planning and management; and it will identify actions that are required in the short-term to address the immediate priority problems.

The framework will include the development of organizational structures, integrated environmental policies at the sectoral level, legislation, priority projects and programs, management, environmental impact assessment procedures, and monitoring systems.

Vietnam is a developing country with limited resources available to address environmental matters; therefore, it will be important for resources to be allocated to priority projects.