The following conditions also exist for representative offices.

- Representative offices are allowed to rent office space, residences and facilities, necessary for working and living in Vietnam. They are also permitted to employ Vietnamese citizens.
- Bank accounts can be opened in foreign currencies and in freely convertible currencies at the Foreign Trade Bank of Vietnam or at a branch of a foreign bank established in Vietnam (see Chapter 7 for information on the banking industry). Any conversion of foreign currencies and any foreign exchange remittance abroad is subject to foreign exchange control regulations.
- Representative offices are permitted to import and re-export after the cessation of the office's activities any equipment and articles used for working and living.

Investment and Trade Opportunities

Vietnam's trading and investment opportunities will evolve as the country develops economically with a resultant increase in purchasing power. For the next decade, the government has selected 10 priority investment areas:

- Agriculture and food processing development.
- Farming, fishing, and seafood processing.
- Oil and gas production, including exploration and exploitation, and the processing of oil and gas products.
- Construction of infrastructure facilities (including the construction, enlargement and modernization of airports, seaports, bridges, road systems, information and telecommunication systems, electricity and water production facilities).
- Export-oriented production and import substitution.
- Consumer goods, textiles, electronics and household appliances.
- Exploitation and processing of mineral products and construction materials (iron, bauxite, coal, precious stones, silica, construction materials).
- Foreign currency earning services such as tourism, ship repair, airport services
- Hotel, office building and residential construction and development for foreign investors.
- Manufacturing and handcraft production.

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) assisted authorities from the State Planning Committee (SPC), the SCCI, the State Committee for Science and Technology, the Ministry of Finance, the State Bank and other ministries in preparing a list of 187 priority projects aimed at attracting foreign investment.

The trend towards utilizing low-cost manufacturing in Asia began 20 years ago with Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand, and currently in Indonesia. Vietnam will surely have its turn as the low-cost production base for a variety of industrial and consumer goods.