



## JOINT PRESS RELEASE

### Permanent Court of Arbitration to open office in Viet Nam

1. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam and the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) announced their agreement today that the PCA will set up a staffed office in Ha Noi to administer PCA hearings and meetings. The Ha Noi office will be the PCA's fourth office outside its Hague headquarters.
2. The PCA and the Viet Nam Ministry of Foreign Affairs celebrated this new development at a ceremony conducted by video-conference today, with the delegation in Hanoi being led by H.E. Mr. PHAM Quang Hieu, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam, and the delegation in The Hague being led by H.E. Hugo H. Siblesz, the Secretary-General of the Permanent Court of Arbitration.
3. At today's meeting, both Parties expressed their mutual appreciation for the cooperation between Viet Nam and the PCA over the past decade. This cooperation has included Viet Nam's appointment of PCA Members of the Court, the appointment of Ambassadors of Viet Nam to the Netherlands accredited to represent Viet Nam at the PCA Administrative Council, and the PCA's role in training Viet Nam's experts in various legal professions. The Parties believe that the establishment of a PCA representative office will demonstrate Viet Nam's strong commitment to the peaceful settlement of international disputes and assist in making the PCA's services more accessible in Viet Nam and the region.
4. The establishment of a PCA office in Hanoi represents a step of further cooperation in implementation of the goals set forth in the Host Country Agreement signed by the PCA and Viet Nam in 2014. The new office will allow the PCA and Viet Nam to serve the evolving dispute resolution needs of States and other entities as demand for access to PCA services grows in coming years. The PCA Ha Noi office will be set up within the coming months.

### Background

5. The PCA is an intergovernmental organisation which provides dispute resolution services for disputes involving states, state entities, international organisations, and private parties. It administers arbitration, mediation, conciliation and fact-finding commissions of inquiry. There are presently 122 Contracting Parties.
6. Viet Nam became a Contracting Party to the 1907 Convention for the Pacific Settlement of International disputes on 27 February 2012. As a Contracting Party to this founding Convention of the PCA, Viet Nam is represented on the PCA's panel of independent

arbitrators known as Members of the Court. These Members may be called upon to serve as arbitrators in PCA-administered disputes. Viet Nam's current Members of the Court are Mr. Nguyen Khanh Ngoc, Dr. Nguyen Dang Thang, Dr. Nguyen Thi Hoang Anh, and Dr. Dang Xuan Hop.

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