JOINT PRESS RELEASE

Permanent Court of Arbitration formally opens office in Viet Nam

1. On 24 November 2022, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam H.E. Mr. BÙI Thanh Son and H.E. Mr. Marcin Czepelak, Secretary-General of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), formally opened the Ha Noi Office of the PCA at the House of Peace located at 48A Tran Phu Street, Ba Dinh District. The Ha Noi Office is the PCA’s second office in Asia and the fifth outside of its headquarters in The Hague, the Netherlands.

2. At the inaugural ceremony, H.E. Mr. Czepelak noted, “in just over ten years since its accession to the PCA, Viet Nam has already established itself as a strong pillar and ally for the PCA and its activities”. In 2014, Viet Nam signed a Host Country Agreement, followed by the conclusion of a Protocol in 2021 concerning the establishment of the PCA’s representative office in Ha Noi.

3. In reply, H.E. Mr. Bùi remarked, “The establishment of the PCA Representative Office in Viet Nam [...] is a step forward by the PCA to promoting its services in different regions of the world. It is also a concrete demonstration of Viet Nam’s strong commitment to upholding multilateralism and international law.”

4. The Parties envisage the Ha Noi Office as another venue for PCA hearings and meetings as the PCA’s caseload involving Asian entities continues to grow. The Parties also look forward to further capacity-building and training opportunities in international law for Viet Nam and the region through the Ha Noi Office.

Background

5. The PCA is an intergovernmental organization which provides dispute resolution services for disputes involving states, state entities, international organizations, 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 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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