AGREEMENT
ON
LEGAL AND JUDICIAL COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF
THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND

The Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand (hereinafter referred to as "the Contracting Parties");

Desiring to strengthen the friendly relations between the two countries;

Wishing to develop and increase cooperation in legal and judicial field between the two countries on the basis of mutual benefit, respect and understanding;

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1

The Contracting Parties undertake to encourage and promote cooperation in legal and judicial field.

ARTICLE 2

The cooperation in legal and judicial field may be realized in the following manners:

1. Exchange of lawyers with a view to exchanging experiences;
2. Exchange of codes, laws, ordinances, decrees, rules and regulations promulgated in each other's country, publications in the English language of each other's legal or judicial institutions as well as reports on activities of legal and judicial forums in the region and in the world;
3. Any other joint activities as may be agreed upon by the Contracting Parties.

ARTICLE 3

The Thai side shall endeavour to render all assistance possible to promote the legal education and improve the knowledge and expertise of Vietnamese lawyers, barristers and especially judges. In this regards, the Thai side shall provide training courses for members of the Institute for Judicial Titles Training under the Ministry of Justice of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam through its Judicial Training Institute under the Ministry of Justice of the Kingdom of Thailand with the view of increasing their experiences and expertise in preparing curricula, methodology and contents of judge training courses, as well as giving materials and technical support to the Institute for Judicial Titles Training under the Ministry of Justice of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

ARTICLE 4

The Contracting Parties agree to establish a Joint Working Group comprising governmental and non-governmental agencies concerned of the Contracting Parties to coordinate and cooperate in the implementation of this Agreement. The Joint Working Group shall meet once a year alternately in each other's country to discuss and agree on the annual cooperation plans and programmes.

For this purpose, the Vietnamese side shall authorize the Ministry of Justice of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Thai side shall authorize the Ministry of Justice of the Kingdom of Thailand as their respective coordinating agencies for the implementation of this Agreement.

ARTICLE 5

Concerning the expenses of the activities under this Agreement, the visiting party shall be responsible for the expenses of transportation, meals and accommodations while the hosting party shall be responsible for any other expenses arisen in the implementation of such activities in the hosting country.

ARTICLE 6

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of signature and shall remain in force for a period of two years. Thereafter, it shall be automatically extended for consecutive periods of one year each until terminated by either Contracting Party by giving a written notice to the other Contracting Party at least six months prior to termination.

This Agreement may be supplemented or amended through the exchange of diplomatic notes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned being duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed the present Agreement.

DONE at Bangkok on 7 October 1998, in duplicate in the English language.

For the Government of
the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

(Ha Hung Cuong)
Deputy Minister of Justice

For the Government of
the Kingdom of Thailand

(Sutasn Ngenmune)
Minister of Justice