

# VUFO-NGO Resource Centre Update INGO Forum, 22 May 2009



# VUFO-NGO Resource Centre Update

## CORE SERVICES

- Restored e-newsletter (after a 2-month break);
- Continued management of 26 mailing lists;
- Continued weekly Newsbrief service;
- Distribution of INGO Directory (in English);
- Major upgrade of the website (still ongoing);
- Election of the RC Steering Committee member;
- Election / re-election of the CG representatives;

# VUFO-NGO Resource Centre Update

## CORE SERVICES (continued)

- Continued facilitation of Working Groups (WG), including 30 meetings since November 2008. The following WGs remained active to various degrees:
  - Administrators WG;
  - Agent Orange WG;
  - Child Rights WG;
  - Disability WG;
  - Ethnic Minorities;
  - Eye Care WG;
  - HIV/AIDS Technical;
  - HCMC INGO Discussion;
  - Disaster Management;
  - ICT for Development;
  - Landmines WG;
  - Microfinance WG;
  - NGO Climate Change;
  - Water Supply & Sanitation.

# VUFO-NGO Resource Centre Update

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

- INGO Statement submitted at the Consultative Group year-end meeting in December 2008;
- Report on the study “Forms of Engagement Between State Agencies and Civil Society” was printed in English and widely distributed;
- Informal network “People’s Participation WG” remained active during the reporting period;
- NGO RC submitted a letter to the Ministry of Finance regarding PIT exemption for INGOs.

# VUFO-NGO Resource Centre Update

## ACTIVITIES IN PROGRESS

- Printing of the INGO Directory in Vietnamese;
- Consolidation of the NGO Centre's Library;
- Re-activation of four idle Working Groups:  
Community-based Tourism WG, Development Information WG, Small & Medium Enterprise Forum WG, Sustainable Agriculture & Natural Resources Management WG;
- Convention on Rights of the Child Report;
- Salary Survey (postponed for May-Sep 2009);
- Contribution for Social Watch Report (delayed);

# VUFO-NGO Resource Centre Update

## ACTIVITIES IN PROGRESS (continued)

- Vietnamese version of the report on the study “Forms of Engagement Between State Agencies and Civil Society” has not been published yet;
- Stakeholders Workshop for developing policy recommendations after the CSO study on hold;
- Revision of a new draft Decree on the Registration and Operation of Foreign NGOs in Vietnam;
- Soliciting input from INGOs for an informal mid-year Consultative Group meeting (today)
- VUFO-NGO RC Budget and Work Plan for 2009.

# VUFO-NGO Resource Centre Update

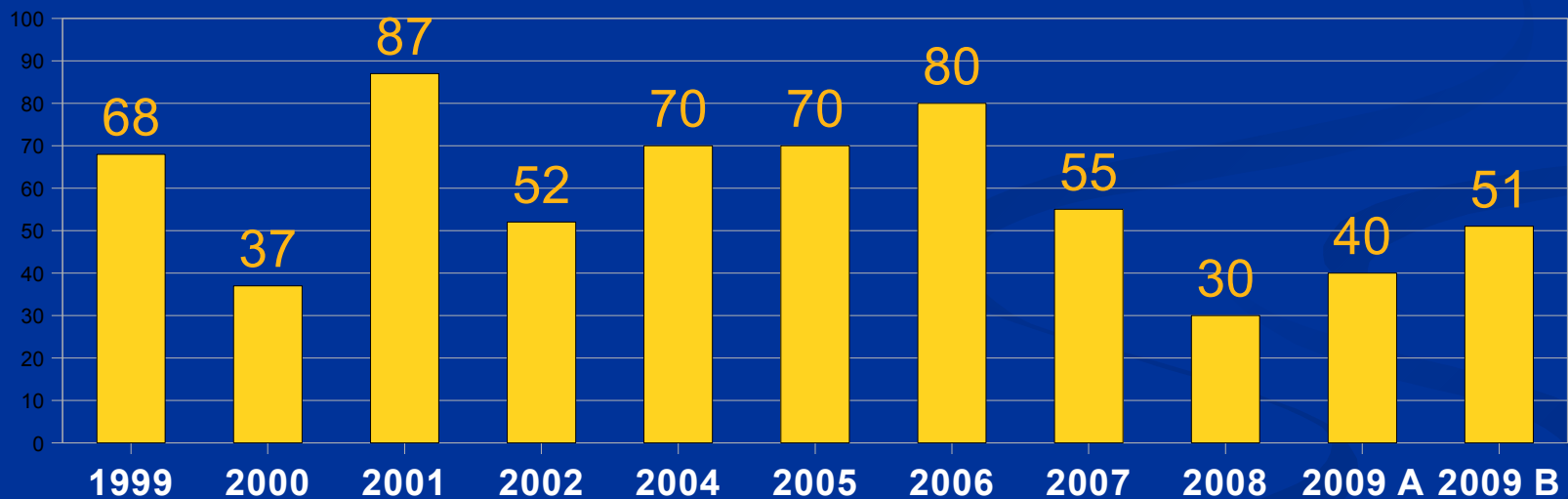
## CURRENT ISSUES

- The main role of the Resource Centre - “Core” functions versus advocacy & policy dialogue;
- Available resources and HR management:
  - Permanent staff versus volunteers;
  - Local staff versus international staff;
  - Inadequate salary scale;
  - Long-term planning & capacity building;
  - Inadequate or non-existent basic equipment: server, computers, printer, bandwidth, software.

# VUFO-NGO Resource Centre Update

## CURRENT ISSUES (continued)

- Unsustainable funding (membership, other sources)
- Percentage of funds from membership fees within the overall annual budgets from 1999 to 2008



2009 A = no increase  
2009 B = 30% increase



# VUFO-NGO Resource Centre Update

## SUGGESTED IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

- Strengthen the “core” functions of the Resource Centre to provide quick and professional services: accurate and up-to-date information; easy online access to relevant documents; regular updates (minutes, reports); encourage exchange of information between partners; focus on facilitation of Working Groups and promote collaboration;
- Redefine Activity Plan for the current year and secure adequate funding for 2009 in close consultations with the Steering Committee (identify sustainable funding sources and increase membership fee).

# VUFO-NGO Resource Centre Update

## SUGGESTED LONG-TERM ACTIONS

- Secure adequate working environment; build the capacity of local staff; work on sustainability plan;
- Redefine the role of the Resource Centre in close consultations with partners and Steering Committee;
- Explore new areas for work in terms of advocacy, policy dialogue and collaboration with other relevant partners in Vietnam;
- Identify potential new INGO members in close consultation with PACCOM and work on public image of the Resource Centre.