



Vietnam innovations in water management, contributing to regional learning and collaboration

Do Hoai Nam

Vietnam Academy for Water Resources

Nov-2025

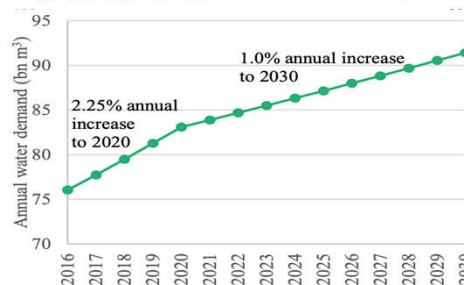
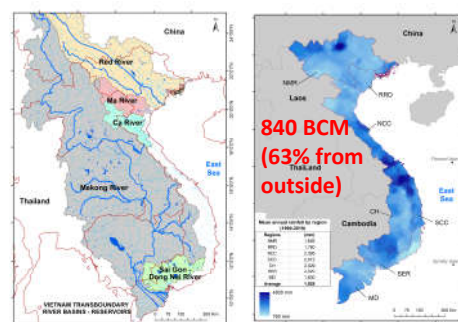
Outline

- 1 Country context
- 2 Emerging challenges on water security
- 3 Administration reform
- 4 Remarks



Country context

- Viet Nam is endowed with abundant annual rainfall (1920mm on average).
- However, the country faces water security challenges:
 - A high **reliance on transboundary flows**.
 - An **uneven distribution** of water resources across the country.
 - **Agriculture uses over 80%** of all available surface water, but with low productivity.
 - **High economic growth** rate and **expanding populations** cause additional demands for water.
 - **Water pollution** is a major problem in many river systems.
 - Most at risk from **water related disasters** including floods, droughts, typhoons and saline intrusion. Climate change will impact all of these.
- **Water security** has become a focal point of attention for the Government of Viet Nam.



(Source: WB 2017)



Emerging challenges on water security

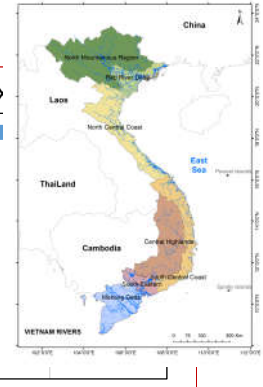
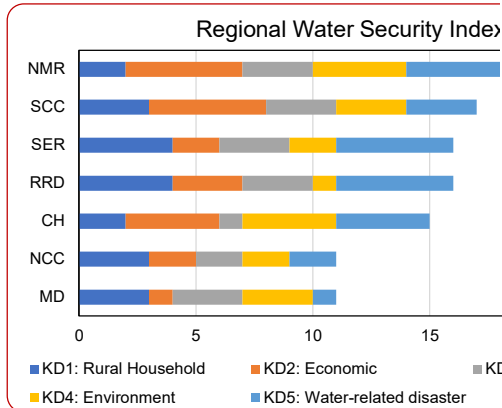
- ❑ High reliance on **transboundary flows**
- ❑ **Agriculture** uses over 80% of all available surface water
- ❑ Groundwater over abstraction
- ❑ **Water pollution**
- ❑ High risk of **floods**, droughts, typhoons, high **vulnerability to CC**
- ❑ **Governance of water is fragmented** with responsibilities divided amongst several different ministries, and then delegated to the regions and districts through their local agencies. **A lack of coordination** at the higher levels and lack of financial resources and technical management at lower levels has led to under-performance in water resource management and lack of clarity regarding the responsibilities of the various agencies.



Emerging challenges on water security



Framework for Measuring Water Security (ADB 2020)

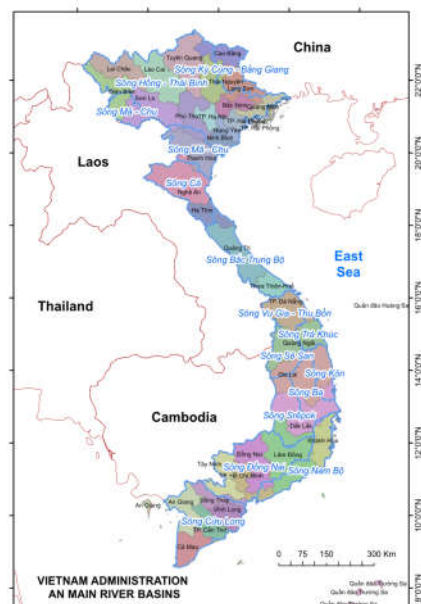


(Source: ADB 2021)

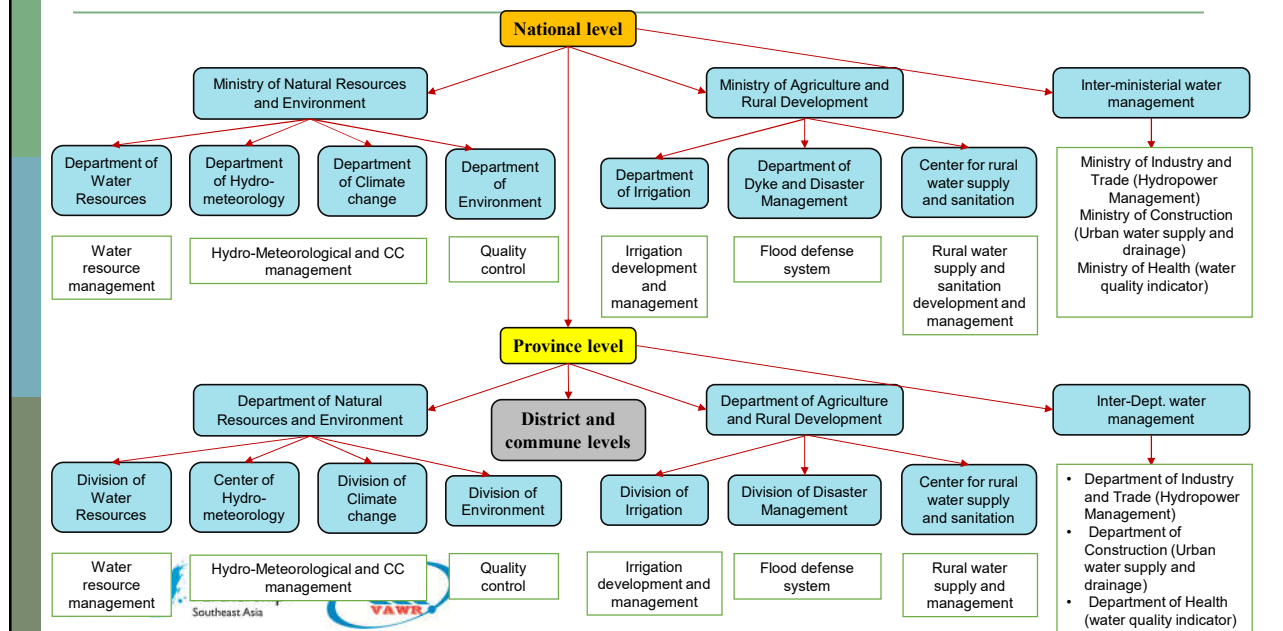


Administration reform (since 1st July 2025)

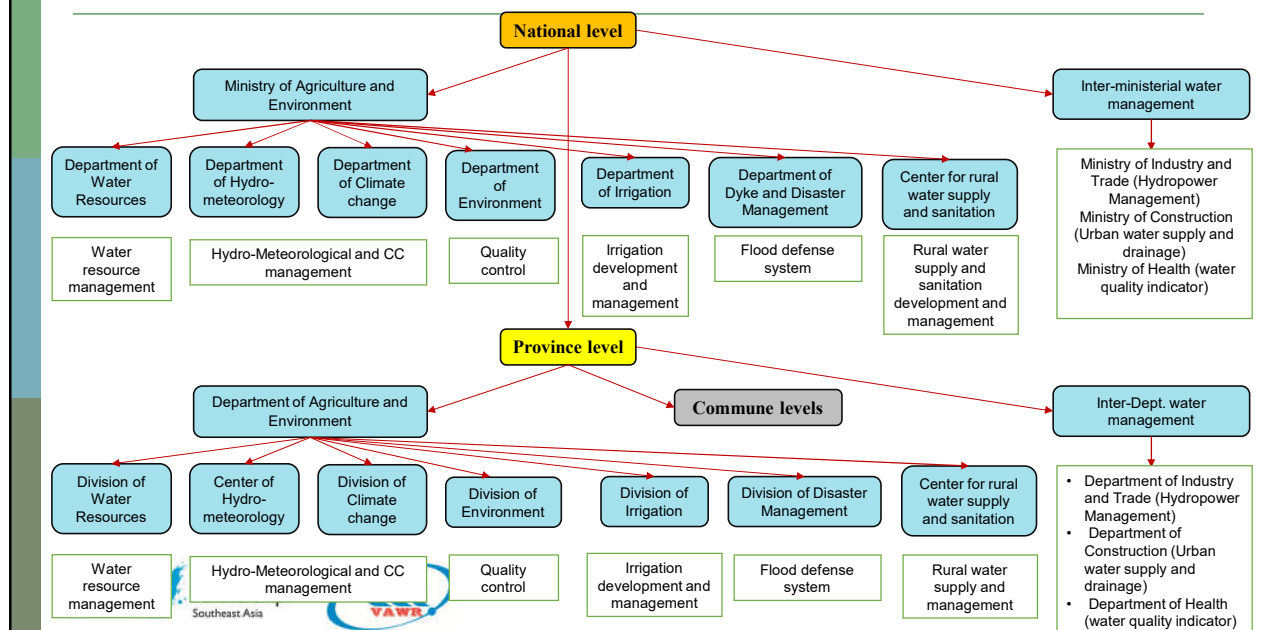
1	Tuyên Quang (Hà Giang + Tuyên Quang)	North mountainous region
2	Cao Bằng	
3	Lai Châu	
4	Lào Cai (Đào Cai + Yên Bái); Red River	
5	Thái Nguyên (Bắc Kạn + Thái Nguyên)	Red river delta
6	Điện Biên	
7	Lạng Sơn	
8	Sơn La	
9	Phủ Thọ (Hòa Bình + Vĩnh Phúc + Phú Thọ)	North central coast
10	Bắc Ninh (Bắc Giang + Bắc Ninh)	
11	Quảng Ninh	
12	TP. Hà Nội	
13	TP. Hải Phòng (Hải Dương + TP. Hải Phòng)	South central coast and Central highland
14	Hưng Yên (Thái Bình + Hưng Yên)	
15	Ninh Bình (Hà Nam + Ninh Bình + Nam Định)	
16	Thanh Hóa	
17	Nghệ An	Southeast region
18	Hà Tĩnh	
19	Quảng Trị (Quảng Bình + Quảng Trị)	
20	TP. Huế	
21	TP. Đà Nẵng (Quảng Nam + TP. Đà Nẵng)	Mekong delta
22	Quảng Ngãi (Quảng Ngãi + Kon Tum)	
23	Gia Lai (Gia Lai + Bình Định); Kon-Hà Thanh River	
24	Đắk Lắk (Phước Yên + Đắk Lắk)	
25	Khánh Hòa (Khánh Hòa + Ninh Thuận)	
26	Lâm Đồng (Đắk Nông + Lâm Đồng + Bình Thuận)	
27	Đồng Nai (Bình Phước + Đồng Nai)	
28	Tây Ninh (Long An + Tây Ninh)	
29	TP. Hồ Chí Minh (Bình Dương + TPHCM + Bà Rịa - Vũng Tàu)	
30	Đồng Tháp (Tiền Giang + Đồng Tháp)	
31	An Giang (Kiên Giang + An Giang)	
32	Vĩnh Long (Bến Tre + Vĩnh Long + Trà Vinh)	
33	TP. Cần Thơ (Sóc Trăng + Hậu Giang + TP. Cần Thơ)	
34	Cà Mau (Bạc Liêu + Cà Mau)	



Institutional arrangement (before 1st Mar-2025)



Institutional arrangement (after 1st Mar-2025)



Remarks

- ☐ Reduced the number of ministries from 18 to 14, especially **the merger of MONRE and MARD**
- ☐ Reduced the number of province/city from 63 to 34, especially **the merger of provinces that share the same river basin.**
- ☐ Eliminated district level and merged communes that have similarity in natural, socio-economic and cultural conditions
- ☐ **Promoted digital transformation,** big-data and AI technologies



Thank you for your attention

