

Vietnam

Website: www.ven.vn

ECONOMIC NEWS

No.18, Vol 11, Tuesday, May 3, 2011

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE

WTO

Membership Triggers Changing Retail Market

P.8

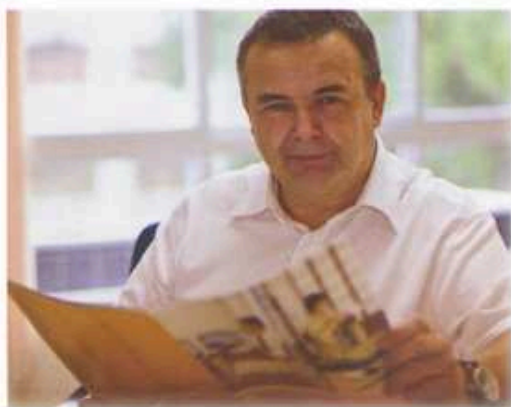


Development of the Industry and Trade Sector

P.3

VIETNAM: VND 20,000
AUSTRALIA & ASIA: US\$4.50
AMERICA & AFRICA: US\$5.00





As one of the four major economic zones of the whole country, the Cuu Long (Mekong) Delta Major Economic Zone has great potential for economic development in general and information technology (IT) development in particular. Though the quality of broadband Internet as well as the use of Internet services remains limited, especially in rural areas, many companies share the opinion that the Cuu Long (Mekong) Delta, with abundant human resources and attractive investment preferences, has great potential for IT development. Vietnam Economic News' Hong Anh and My Phung spoke with Frank Schellenberg, the director of GHP Far East.

Mekong Delta Prompts IT Development

◆ *What do you think of the Cuu Long (Mekong) Delta's potential for IT development?*

The Cuu Long (Mekong) Delta has a large population and offers many opportunities for IT as well as BPO (Business Process Outsourcing) development. Today, local people have a larger choice when looking for a job (previously, they earned their living mostly through agriculture or craft production). If the IT industry develops well in the delta, IT workers can find a job at home and will not have to go to big cities. The development of the IT industry depends on the quality of Internet transmission lines and the power supply. Regarding human resources, we found no big difference between workers in Ho Chi Minh City and those in the city of Can Tho, in terms of quality.

◆ *What can the delta benefit from promoting IT development and application, in your opinion?*

The Cuu Long (Mekong) Delta has abundant human resources. IT development will create opportunities for local workers to find a job in a new field. The governments of delta localities want to attract investment in new fields to create more employment opportunities for local people. If the demand of investors meets the wish of local governments, it will benefit local people. Improvements of the information and communication infrastructure will make the Cuu Long (Mekong) Delta Major Economic Zone dynamic and modern in terms of economic structure so that it can contribute more to the Vietnamese economy and serve as a driving force for the entire

delta region to develop.

◆ *What do you think delta localities must do to develop IT and telecommunications?*

Basically, the infrastructure in the delta is in a good condition. However, to develop the information and telecommunication industry, it is necessary to further improve the quality of the infrastructure system. As I told you, the development of the IT industry depends on the quality of Internet transmission lines and power supply systems.

◆ *GHP Far East has expanded its operations into the Cuu Long (Mekong) Delta, in the city of Can Tho. Will it open more representative offices in other delta localities?*

For the past seven years operating in Vietnam, GHP Far East has expanded its customer network into almost every country in Europe, Russia, Japan and Vietnam. Along with its rapid growth in terms of quality and the number of projects as well as strict requirements for risk management, GHP Far East had considered the opening of a new branch. Many choices were considered and finally, the board of directors chose the city of Can Tho to be a strategic location of GHP Far East for the next five years. In late March 2011, the Can Tho Branch of GHP Far East was inaugurated. With about 300 employees, the branch will provide high quality services. Currently, GHP Far East concentrates only on its Can Tho Branch, but we will consider Ben Tre or Ca Mau in the future. ■