Project Summary

Project Background
The Multilateral Trade Assistance Project Vietnam II, MUTRAP II, is financed by the European Commission in partnership with the Ministry of Trade, MOT, which is also the executing agency. The total costs of the project were set at EUR 5,350,000 of which the EC contribution was EUR 5,100,000. The project purpose was to "strengthen the capacity of the government of Vietnam and Vietnamese stakeholders for managing WTO accession and meet their commitments and challenges from other international and regional trade related agreements." MUTRAP II intends to focus on "post WTO accession" and WTO implementation issues. Its Overall Work Plan was built around 23 activities in the areas of agriculture, services, SPS/TBT and horizontal issues.

Project Objectives
The objectives of the evaluation were to review project progress, to check results against targets; to provide a clear and concise opinion as to how the project has progressed and to make recommendations regarding the course of actions to be taken until the end of implementation of MUTRAP II (6/2008), as well as to assess and propose trade-related assistance (TRA) programme/projects for EC consideration as part of the NIP 2007-2010.

Project Activities
- To assess the progress made towards the achievement of the project objectives as laid out in the financing agreement;
- To identify specific constraints affecting the efficiency of the implementation and the effectiveness of the project (project design, institutional framework, organisational relationships, placement and performance of the consultants and the Project Task Force, as well as performance of other participants involved);
- To draw conclusions on the relevance of the project;
- To make recommendations and guidance for the best implementation during the remaining period with a view to ensure maximum levels of efficiency and effectiveness;
- To assess the need for assistance and propose potential programme/project(s) from the EC in the area of TRA based on the Trade Needs Assessment 2005 and on discussions with stakeholders and representatives of the European Commission;
- To assist the Delegation in drafting an Identification Fiche for EC trade-related technical assistance programme/projects in Vietnam in the period 2007-2010.

Implementation Features
- Evaluation methodology according to EC guidelines, adapted to the special project situation;
- Close consultation with the Ministry of Trade (MOT), the European Commission, the Project Task Force (PTF) and the end beneficiaries of the project, including staff of the Government of Vietnam and in particular the Ministries involved in the accession process and implementation of WTO rules.

Services Provided
- Desk research
- Field visits
- Extensive survey with beneficiaries
- Workshops
- Report and recommendations