

flooding, officials warn.

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INSIGHT

Slave labour

Despite international efforts to stamp out human trafficking, millions of people are still being forced into slave labour.

P13

BUSINESS

Business booming

Foreign direct investment in the northern province of Hà Tây has already exceeded its yearly target of over US\$1 billion.

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LIFE & STYLE



Rural idyll

Tourists are flocking to Bờ Hồ, in the central province of Quảng Nam, to sample the historical village's rustic delights.

P24

VN-Index	HASTC-Index
390.08	111.65
-1.41%	-1.72%

Market moves

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Global women's summit attracts 900 to Việt Nam

Global Summit of Women 2008

HỘI NGHỊ THƯỢNG ĐÌNH PHỤ NỮ TOÀN CẦU



Prime Minister Nguyễn Tấn Dũng addresses the 18th Global Summit of Women, which began in Hà Nội yesterday. It is the first time Việt Nam has hosted the international conference. — VNA/VNS Photo Hoài Nam

HÀ NỘI — The 18th Global Summit of Women was launched in Hà Nội yesterday, calling on working women to share solutions for challenges they were facing in this modern age.

This year's summit, under the theme "Women and Asia: Driving the Global Economy" celebrated

women's leadership world-wide by bringing together over 900 businesswomen, scientists and government leaders from 72 countries.

Việt Nam is hosting the event for the first time as the summit sees its biggest delegation yet with 350 participants.

During the three-day summit, dis-

cussion will focus on exploring two major forces that will impact the 21st Century global marketplace: women and the Asia-Pacific economies.

The summit will explore opportunities and challenges in the Asia-Pacific region, discuss women that are driving business growth in...

CONTINUED PAGE 2

Africa heads upbeat on economy

CAPE TOWN — African leaders revelled in their continent's economic growth at the World Economic Forum on Africa on Wednesday, while warning that poverty and instability still posed threats to development.

Five presidents from across the continent were upbeat as they addressed the opening of the conference, attended by over 800 business and political leaders from across Africa, on how to make the best of economic opportunities.

South African President Thabo Mbeki brushed off questions about his concerns for the continent, saying he would rather be positive, while his counterparts from Burundi, Malawi, Ghana and Kenya did the same.

"My view is that the African continent is evolving very well in the correct direction," said Mbeki.

Positive growth has been recorded in 45 of 48 African countries, with an average of around 6 per cent growth on the continent.

Mbeki said countries such as Burundi and Kenya, which had both been wracked by violence resolved through peace negotiations, sent a positive message about Africa's capacity to confront its problems.

"Generally there is progress towards addressing this issue of peace..."

CONTINUED PAGE 12

construction minister Nguyễn Văn Liên told the seminar. "Some of these procedures are regulated by the

month his documents were finally processed. A new order of procedures has been drafted by the

President Triết begins...

FROM PAGE 1

...train personnel, enhance the legislation and supervision capacity of National Assembly bodies, and support Viet Nam in the areas the two sides had defined in the 2008-2010 Development Co-operation Strategy, including gender equality, environment, oil and gas, and fishery.

The Vietnamese President affirmed that Viet Nam always attaches importance to developing relations with Norway. He thanked Norway for its assistance to Viet Nam, especially in international integration.

President Triết praised the effectiveness of Norwegian development cooperation projects, saying that they contribute to poverty reduction and improving the Vietnamese people's living conditions.

President Triết praised Jagland's contributions to promoting the two countries' relations and expressed his hope that the Norwegian leader would continue to help enhance Norway-Viet Nam ties.

Jagland congratulated Viet Nam's achievements in the renewal process and expressed his belief that President Triết's visit would create a driving force to lift Norway-Viet Nam relations to a new height, commensurate to both sides' potential and desires.

In the afternoon, President Triết and his wife laid a wreath at the National Monument in Oslo.

Later the same day, President Triết met with leaders of a number of Norwegian economic groups. In the evening, the King and Queen of Norway hosted a state banquet to welcome President Triết and his wife. — VNS

structure projects.

The new model consists of eight key procedures, setting a specific completion

Other required procedures include project examination and approval and land clear-

waiting period. Instead of taking from three to five years, it should now take

be sent to the Government for approval. — VNS

Global women's summit attracts...

FROM PAGE 1

...this region as consumers and business leaders, and look at partnerships between entrepreneurs and governments that advance the status of women and promote 'green initiatives'.

Summit president Irene Natividad said women had come a long way in just three decades to become an integral part of their country's economic growth, but they had yet to reach a level playing field that allowed them to become full leaders in every arena of life.

"The Global Summit of Women is a forum for us — 21st century women — to share our experiences, our strategies and solutions, with the common goal of accelerating women's economic progress globally," she said.

Earlier, a pre-summit ministerial roundtable was held with the theme Public-Private Sector Partnerships:

Advancing Women's Economic Opportunities.

Addressing the conference, Prime Minister Nguyễn Tấn Dũng said women these days played an important role in every field of society in Viet Nam. Women kept many high profile positions in the State, at both ministerial and local levels. Female senators accounted for 26 per cent of current National Assembly members.

In the business sector, more than 1 million women were managing about 25 per cent of the total number of big and medium-sized enterprises, including leading ones in Viet Nam, and more than 30 per cent of small-sized companies, according to Dũng.

"It is estimated that every businesswoman creates four jobs. Enterprises managed by women are usually run effectively, strictly following the laws and supporting charity activities, which has significantly contrib-

half of the labour force in the world, but they are put at the greatest disadvantage, are disproportionately victims of poverty and are unable to access loans," said Natividad.

Schatz added that cervical cancer was the most serious disease threatening women's health and diminishing their ability to work.

Prime Minister Dũng also noted that women in many places were still suffering from gender inequality and stereotypes. He said that women needed to continue gathering in different organisations and forums to boost solidarity and cooperation to deal with global issues. The PM said that the fight for women's rights was necessary and should have the support of all mankind.

Participants in the summit plan to announce a new partnership with the Global Consortium of Women to End Cervical Cancer, launched last year in Berlin. — VNS

uted to poverty reduction," said the Prime Minister.

Important achievements that Viet Nam had made in developing the country and promoting gender equality included the support and cooperation of international friends, including women's organisations, he said.

He believed that the roundtable meeting would mark a new step forward for the Global Summit of Women.

Participants in the roundtable included Natividad, former vice president of Viet Nam Trường Mỹ Hoa, vice president of the Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry and chairwoman of the summit's organisation board Trần Thị Thủy, First Lady of Burkina Faso Chantal Compaore, and the CEO and chairman of Qiagen's Executive Committee in Germany Peer Schatz. Twenty-eight ministers and eight special guests also attended. "Women account for over

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