



Accelerating the Energy Transition with Social Enterprises:

An Engaged Economist's Perspective

From Nobel Laureate to Hanoi Think Tank

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## **Typical Social Entreprise** product



## **My Social Entreprise** product



The Vietnam Initiative for

Energy Transition (VET) is

a newly established

energy transition. R

assembles a team of

examine the factors

enabling a fast and

transition in Vietnam.

affordable energy

Vietnamese analysts to

independent think tank

with mission to accelerate

the sustainable and reliable

Seven insights for Vietnam's power sector energy transition

> The next Power Development Plan 8 is the Historical opportunity to chart the way sowards a low-carbon society.

proressing efficiency in energy supply and gemand benefits economic growth.

Solar and wind electricity generation costs are competitive with those of fossil fuels.

Serverable energy targets will be achieved, and can be increased with proper policies.

Solar and send electric system integration; now is the time to solve it with flexible generation and gemand managements.

power market reforms are necessary to attract investment in energy sources, and private capital prefers renewable energy sources.

Dower from gas is cleaner but does not resolve the energy security issue.

lical review of energy scenarios in Vietnam: Low-carbon options and

- Working paper - April 2019 .

"If Anh TRAN", House Anh NGUYEN TRONG and Mash HA, DUCING

only of Science and Technology of Hance (USTM), Vertican Academy of Science and 5 Victorie Instative for Energy Transmisse (VECT), Hunes, Victories sticul de Recherche sur l'Environment et le Developpement (CIRED), CNRS.

her is one of the most critical compensates of an infrastructure that affects the unity. Development and recommic grounds have been affecting the growing Home in Verticals. In the new fature, conventional energy will become new grand finding alternative as negl as sententials energy sources in the age faced by power sector in Victoria contently is the issue of to crecity the current energy scenarios in Vietnam and customer the using wind, becomes and mini-dysley energy to ensure reliability. try captly in this country. The study identified that despite the pogramme is climate change margacion policies, found fact based sof, except three scenarios basic by WWF, the internal energy v made in new thermal coul power plants in docades to come. In vision objectives of Variance at the COP 21 was be difficult to sty recreasing emissions in the future. The study suggests that on integrated energy scenarios for its most choices to deal

ing assaulability policy, review, formum



Selection Mink ins Owing and the triuming 2019, Seven Insights for Vertram's Power Sector Energy Transition", Denieds

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oracle boards section between a sixel state in contraduction to be mendermications and inclinationalization, in the 1980s. Plu Las plants had a lot of electricity, very cheap-If her even care about losses, therefore high loss good infratractures for the recovery during the I account growth of Variants in the 1986s.

mercular energy resources, electricity procession to increase rapidly. The share of power practical capacity to by the end of 2018. This share is expected to increasinty increase



# How I went to found the Vietnam Initiative for Energy Transition Social Entreprise?

- 1969: Born in France, with Vietnamese values
- 1998: PhD, Join CNRS
- 2007: IPCC Nobel Peace Prize
- 2013: Move to Vietnam
- 2018: Founded VIETSE think tank
- 2025: Social Business Creation workshop

## **Outline**

## Lessons from my most meaningful professional adventure

#### 1) Identify a Critical Gap

Find opportunities where sustainability needs aren't being met.

#### 2) Design a Purpose-Driven Organization

Align structure and culture with your mission.

#### 3) Cultivate Strategic Interdependence

Build relationships that create resilience and impact.

#### 4) Measure Impact, Not Profit

Develop KPIs to capture social transformation beyond financial metrics.

## 1. THE CRITICAL GAP

Energy transition expertise in in Vietnam

## Slide 1 from VIETSE's pitch deck: Context

## **Climate change**

Coal power plants: from 3 GW before 2010 to 30 GW by 2025...

**Environmental burden**: Vietnam faces increasing environmental pressure related to air quality, solid waste and water pollution...

#### **Energy security**:

Vietnam energy demand is forecast to double by 2035.

6Domestic coal and gas reserves are not enough.

## **Energy transition needs expertise**

- Germans paid electricity five times higher than VN
- Solar power curtailment rates in Xinjiang, China went from 39% to 10.6% in two years

# An independent think tank to provide

- 1. Research
- 2. Expertise
- 3. Consultancy
- 4. Training



#### Vietnam Initiative for Energy Transition

is an independent think tank, acting as a bridge between research and policy, with a mission to accelerate the transition of Vietnamese energy system in a sustainable and reliable manner.

> VIET's institutional independence is rooted in the individual independence of its scholars. As a **Social Enterprise**, any profit created from our activities will be used to reinvest in research & education.

1 Research

Our research topics cover national energy policy, climate protection, economics, development, and governance. **O** Consultancy

We provide consultancy, analysis and prediction related to energy and climate protection.

2 Expertise

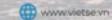
VIET brings together leading experts in government and academia who provide quality research, policy recommendations and analysis. Training

We receive interns and PhD students on energy and climate protection subjects.

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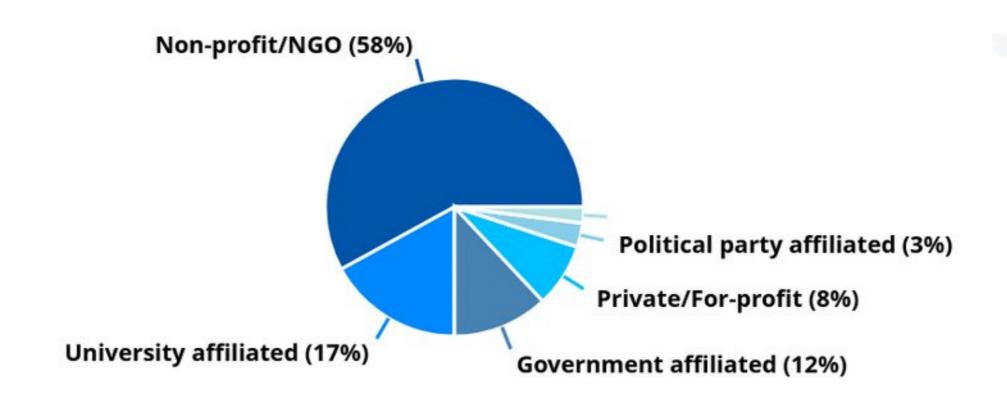
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## 2. DESIGNING A PURPOSE-DRIVEN ORGANISATION



## **Think Tank Types Globally**







## **VIETSE's Theory of change**

#### **Inputs**



#### **Activities**



#### **Outputs**



#### **Outcomes**

#### People

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#### Ressources

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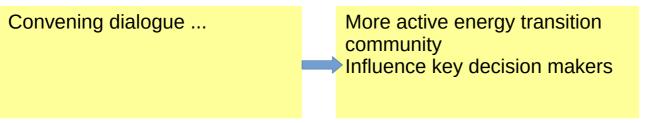
#### **Know-how**

• • •

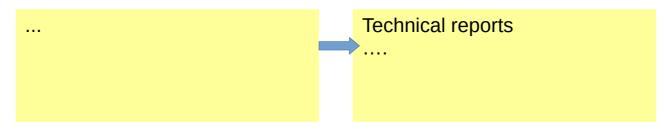
#### Influence

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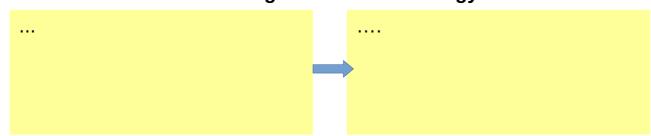
#### Policy dialogue strategy



#### Knowledge production strategy



#### **Knowledge translation strategy**



#### Positive external enablers assumptions

Success to attract co-funding
Can attract and retain high-level spokeperson and other staff

#### **External risks assumptions**

Government clamps foreign funding

External influence on research choices and diffusion of results Disclosure and diffusion of energy issues becomes sensitive

#### 2020 objectives

The think-tank is recognized as an important institution contributing to the energy transition in Vietnam.

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#### **2030** goals

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#### 2050 ultimate outcome

....

## Tools to create a self-managing culture

#### **Annual retreat**

Vision: Vietnam at the frontline to protect climate.

Mission: Accelerate the transition to a carbon neutral Vietnam.

#### The advice process

Before any decision, seek advice from 1) experts, and 2) those meaningfully affected

#### Accountability weekly meetings

Everybody shares 1/ what I have done, 2/ what I intend to do, 3/ where I need help.

## A Social Entreprise Values and Code of Conduct

#### Responsibility

Deliver on time what is expected.

Sign all our productions with our name.

Interdependence...

Credibility...

#### **Excellence**

Verify and peer review our ideas and publications.

Disclose in transparence in our methods, data, and sources.

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#### **Happiness**

Maintain a family friendly work culture.

Celebrate monthly – at least – team achievements.

Beautify our office, including flowers and art...



## Stakeholders ecosystem

#### **Energy policy decision-makers in Vietnam**

#### **International partners**

High level officials

in National Assembly / Party / Government commitees on energy / industry / economy

**Civil servants** 

in central or provincial ministries in charge of energy, green growth, finance

High level executives in energy using or producing companies

Private philanthropy

ENGOs (GreenID, WWF, Oxfam...)

Development agencies and climate diplomacy (Germany's GIZ, Danish's DEA...)

Multilateral organizations (UN, ADB, World Bank...)

Renewable energy multinationals

#### **Talented potential collaborators**

Students, academics, intellectuals in Vietnam and abroad, from all fields of expertise

## Peer organizations International Network of Energy Transition Think Tanks



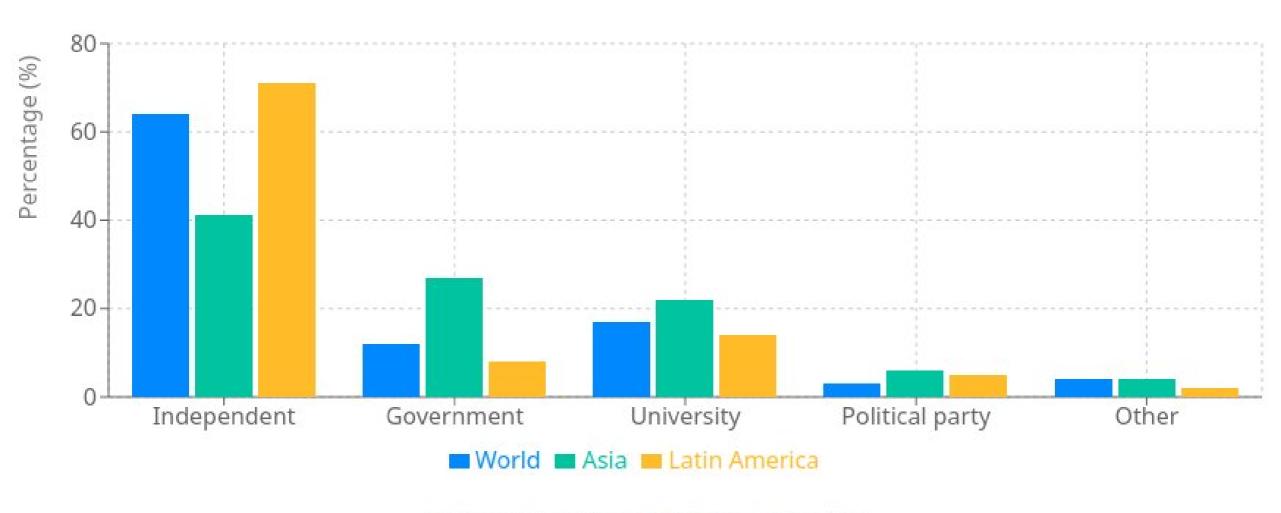
## The balance between connection and independance

- Close to but not part of the government
- Works with the industry but following a social and environmental mission
- Internationally funded but Vietnamese expertise



## Think Tank Affiliations by Region

Government affiliation is 3× higher in Asian think tanks



Data source: Open Think Tank Directory

## 4. MEASURING TRANSFORMATION, NOT PROFIT\$



## **VIETSE's Key Contributions (2018-2023)**

#### Research & Knowledge Creation

- Published 5 peer-reviewed international articles and 24 technical reports
- Pioneered studies on Vietnam's offshore wind, energy security, hydrogen strategy, electricity pricing reform...

#### Policy advice

- Helped shape Power Development Plan 8 with reduced coal dependency
- Contributed technical analysis for Vietnam's Just Energy Transition Partnership
- Advanced offshore wind energy development strategies

## Legacy: capacity building

VIET

- Organized 23 major events with over 1,000 participants
- Fostered dialog between government, development partners, industry, academia
- Nurtured returning post-docs, graduate and undergraduate students
- Demonstrated quasi-independent think tank in challenging policy environment



#### **Conclusion**

Founding a social entreprise is my most meaningful professional adventure, and now...

The world needs your expertise to bridge critical gaps.

What transition will you accelerate?

#### **Start today at this SBC conference:**

- 1. Identify your gap Where can you help with SDGs and beyond?
- 2. Design with purpose Join social business creation workshops
- 3. Cultivate strategic relationships Connect with potential partners in this room

#### Sources

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