

Definition

“Business Cooperation Contract” A Business Cooperation Contract is one of Foreign Investment Form in Vietnam, that is regulated by Investment Law in Vietnam and come into effect on 29 Nov. 2005

According to the Investment Law in Vietnam, “Business cooperation contract (hereinafter called BCC for short) means a form of investment signed between investors for business cooperation with profit-sharing or product-sharing, without creating a legal entity”.

Article 9 of Decree No. 1082006/ND-CP dated 22/9/2006 providing guidelines of a number articles of Law on Investment says that :

1. In the case of investment in the form of a business co-operation contract signed between one or more foreign investors with one or more domestic investors (hereinafter referred to as *the co-operating parties*), the business co-operation contract must stipulate the interests and responsibilities of, and the sharing of business results as between each investor.
2. A business co-operation contract in the sector of prospecting, exploration for and mining petroleum and a number of other natural resources in the form of a product sharing contract shall be performed in accordance with relevant laws and the *Law on Investment*.
3. A business co-operation contract signed between domestic investors to conduct investment and business shall be in accordance with the law on economic contracts and relevant laws.
4. During the process of business, the co-operating parties may agree to establish a coordination board to perform the business co-operation contract. The functions, duties and powers of the co-ordination board shall be as agreed by the co-operating parties. The coordination board shall not be the leadership body of the co-operating parties.
5. The foreign co-operating party shall be permitted to establish an operating office in Vietnam to act as its representative during the performance of the business co-operation contract. The operating office of a foreign co-operating party shall have a seal, may open bank accounts, recruit employees, sign contracts and conduct all business activities within the scope of the rights and obligations stipulated in the Investment Certificate and business co-operation contract.

"Ship Broking Services" is the work of a shipbroker who undertakes for remuneration to act, on the individual authority of his principal, as an intermediary in concluding contracts of carriage, of marine insurance, of charter, of sale and purchase of vessel, towage contracts, recruitment agreement and contracts of other activities pertaining to maritime shipping activities"

REFERENCE PAPER

Scope

The following are definitions and principles on the regulatory framework for the basic telecommunications services.

Definitions

Users mean service consumers and service suppliers.

Essential facilities mean facilities of a public telecommunications transport network or service that

- (a) are exclusively or predominantly provided by a single or limited number of suppliers; and
- (b) cannot feasibly be economically or technically substituted in order to provide a service. A major supplier is a supplier which has the ability to materially affect the terms of participation (having regard to price and supply) in the relevant market for basic telecommunications services as a result of:
 - (i) control over essential facilities; or
 - (ii) use of its position in the market.

1. Competitive safeguards

1.1 Prevention of anti-competitive practices in telecommunications

Appropriate measures shall be maintained for the purpose of preventing suppliers who, alone or together, are a major supplier from engaging in or continuing anti-competitive practices.

1.2 Safeguards

The anti-competitive practices referred to above shall include in particular:

- (a) engaging in anti-competitive cross-subsidisation;
- (b) using information obtained from competitors with anti-competitive results; and
- (c) not making available to other services suppliers on a timely basis technical information about essential facilities and commercially relevant information which are necessary for them to provide services.

2. Interconnection

2.1 This section applies to linking with suppliers providing public telecommunications transport networks or services in order to allow the users of one supplier to communicate with users of another supplier and to access services provided by another supplier, where specific commitments are undertaken.

2.2 Interconnection to be ensured

Interconnection with a major supplier will be ensured at any technically feasible point in the network. Such interconnection is provided.

- (a) under non-discriminatory terms, conditions (including technical standards and specifications) and rates and of a quality no less favourable than that provided for its own like services or for like services of non-affiliated service suppliers or for its subsidiaries or other affiliates;

- (b) in a timely fashion, on terms, conditions (including technical standards and specifications) and cost-oriented rates that are transparent, reasonable, having regard to economic feasibility, and sufficiently unbundled so that the supplier need not pay for network components or facilities that it does not require for the service to be provided; and
- (c) upon request, at points in addition to the network termination points offered to the majority of users, subject to charges that reflect the cost of construction of necessary additional facilities.

2.3 Public availability of the procedures for interconnection negotiations

The procedures applicable for interconnection to a major supplier will be made publicly available.

2.4 Transparency of interconnection arrangements

It is ensured that a major supplier will make publicly available either its interconnection agreements or a reference interconnection offer.

2.5 Interconnection: dispute settlement

A service supplier requesting interconnection with a major supplier will have recourse, either:

- (a) at any time; or
- (b) after a reasonable period of time which has been made publicly known to an independent domestic body, which may be a regulatory body as referred to in paragraph 5 below, to resolve disputes regarding appropriate terms, conditions and rates for interconnection within a reasonable period of time, to the extent that these have not been established previously.

3. Universal service

Any Member has the right to define the kind of universal service obligation it wishes to maintain. Such obligations will not be regarded as anti-competitive per se, provided they are administered in a transparent, non-discriminatory and competitively neutral manner and are not more burdensome than necessary for the kind of universal service defined by the Member.

4. Public availability of licensing criteria

Where a licence is required, the following will be made publicly available:

- (a) all the licensing criteria and the period of time normally required to reach a decision concerning an application for a licence; and
- (b) the terms and conditions of individual licenses.

The reasons for the denial of a licence will be made known to the applicant upon request.

5. Independent regulators

The regulatory body is separate from, and not accountable to, any supplier of basic telecommunications services. The decisions of and the procedures used by regulators shall be impartial with respect to all market participants.

6. Allocation and use of scarce resources

Any procedures for the allocation and use of scarce resources, including frequencies, numbers and rights of way, will be carried out in an objective, timely, transparent and non-discriminatory manner. The current state of allocated frequency bands will be made publicly available, but detailed identification of frequencies allocated for specific government uses is not required.