



**MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND TRADE**  
**THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM**

Hanoi, 05 December, 2008

**To: Ambassador Susan C. Schwab**  
**The United States Trade Representative**

Dear Madam,

First, I would like to share with you the cooperations that USTR and the Ministry of Industry and Trade have been undertaking to accommodate the economic and trade relations between our two countries with favorable achievements.

As we have learned, during the process of considering to grant Vietnam GSP status, relevant US agencies still concern about the steps Vietnam has been taking to ensure the enforcement of international recognized labor rights, particularly the right of association and the right of collective bargaining.

We would like to affirm that important amendments to labor and trade union laws of Vietnam would be considered by the National Assembly in 2011. Thus, the Government of Vietnam would submit to the National Assembly amendments to Labor Code and Law on Trade Unions in conformity with the Constitution of Vietnam(\*) and international practices.

We hope that the above-mentioned information would be helpful to clear away the US concern, and express strong desire that the designation of Vietnam as a beneficiary developing country under GSP program would be approved in time, pursuant to the Joint Statement between Vietnam and the United States declared during the last June visit of Vietnamese Prime Minister. That the US Government grants the GSP to Vietnam would not only be of economic and trade interests, but also demonstrate the mutual understandings together with a strong goodwill to close the past and to accelerate the comprehensive cooperation relations between our two countries in time to come.

**Regards,**

**Vu Huy Hoang**  
**Minister of Industry and Trade**  
**The Socialist Republic of Vietnam**

(\*) Vietnam 1992 Constitution, Article 69 provides: "Citizens are entitled to freedom of speech and freedom of the press; entitled to assembly, association and demonstration in accordance with the law."