

# **MINERAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN VIETNAM**

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Geological investigations show that in Vietnam the mineral resources are diverse and abundant composing of various groups such as energy, metallic and non metallic minerals and groundwater.

Based on the results of geological investigations, mining operations have been carried out in many kinds of minerals such as petroleum, coal, iron ores, manganese, copper, lead and zinc, chromite, ilmenite, apatite, pyrite, industrial minerals construction materials and groundwater.

The mining industry occupies an important position in the economy of Vietnam but it also affects the physical chemical, biological and socio - economic components of the environment. Therefore the unification of mining development and environmental protection becomes an urgent problem.

In Vietnam several laws concerning environmental protection have been enacted. Among them the Environmental Protection Law and the Mineral Law directly provide concrete guidance in mining.

Following the enactment of these laws, the Government has promulgated several decrees to facilitate their implementation.

Vietnam has made efforts to develop the economy while at the same time conserving resources and protecting the environment.