



ROYAL NORWEGIAN EMBASSY

CONGRATULATIONS TO PROJECT RENEW ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY, 5 August 2011

Allow me to extend my warmest congratulations to Project RENEW on the occasion of its 10th anniversary. For a decade, the project has with strong commitment made efforts of removing explosive remnants of war (ERW) that still litter Vietnamese soil. Norway is proud of the partnership between the government of Quang Tri Province and our Norwegian organizations, who work together through Project RENEW, to end the deadly legacy these remnants of war still pose for local communities.

Ensuring that the Convention on Cluster Munitions is implemented is of high priority to the Government of Norway. The Convention became international humanitarian law when it entered into force on 1 August 2010. The Convention has become an important norm: it is a new benchmark for assessing how states conduct warfare. The use of cluster munitions now entails major political risk for all states, for the Convention has stigmatized the use of a type of weapon that has caused unacceptable humanitarian harm to civilians for decades. The Convention bans a weapon, but it is first and foremost about people. It is about preventing people becoming victims of cluster munitions. And it is about securing proper assistance to those who have already become victims of this indiscriminate weapon.

Both Norwegian People's Aid and Trauma Care Foundation (TCF) of Norway help together with Project RENEW to implement the meaning of the Convention on the ground in Vietnam. Norway strongly encourages Vietnam to ratify the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

I wish Project RENEW all the best with its commemoration of a decade of important work, and want to take this opportunity to reiterate Norway's strong commitment also in the future.

Ståle T. Risa
Ambassador