



The event “The Corporate Secretary’s Roles in Shaping the Future’s Success” is jointly organized by VIOD, HNX, HOSE and IFC

Hanoi, Vietnam, March 29, 2019 — this is the first GAP event organized by the Vietnam Institute of Directors (VIOD), with support from Hanoi Stock Exchange (HNX) and Ho Chi Minh Stock Exchange (HOSE) and International Finance Corporation (IFC) to better understand the Corporate Secretary’s Roles in the context of global integration, shaping the future’s success for Vietnamese companies.

According to international trends, the Corporate Secretary plays an essential role in corporate governance and administrative management of the company. With the role of supporting the Board and the Chairman to fulfill their obligations with compliance of the legal regulations, the corporate secretary may give advice to apply high standards of corporate governance.

In Vietnam, the concept of Corporate Secretary is known from the guidelines and regulations on corporate governance for publicly listed companies and from a clause of the amended Law of Enterprise in 2014. In the market, there are quite a number of companies holding the position of Secretary of the Board or Chief of the Board Office, but most of these titles have not met the requirements of international standards and practices as well as those in ASEAN.

"It is generally agreed the world over that companies, whether public listed or private, should appoint corporate secretaries. They play an important role in companies congratulating to effective corporate governance. From the earliest days in the development of companies, one can find the company secretary listed in Fitzpatrick’s 1902 manual as one of the principal officers of the company next to the director." *shared Dr. Tan Wee Liang, Chairman of ASEAN Corporate Secretaries Network (ACSN).* "In Singapore, the Companies Act stipulates that every company must appoint a company secretary within six months of its incorporation. The company secretary will be the primary officer in charge of numerous administrative and reporting responsibilities a company is required to adhere to by law. In addition, Company secretary must ensure a high degree of professional competences, poses a lot of experience and be professionally qualified"

At the event, an IFC expert shares about: **“The Corporate Secretary: The Governance Professional”** - a toolkit produced by the IFC Corporate Governance Department in order to provide guidance to help companies around the world enhance awareness and practice effectively on this topic.

“The key of Board Effectiveness mainly go with the role and effort of the Corporate Secretary” said Mr. Nguyen Anh Phong, deputy director of Hanoi Stock Exchange. “In order to strengthen the governance quality to keep up with the practices of ASEAN countries, I believe that this position needs to be emphasized and promoted further by companies. Besides, State regulators will accompany business enterprises in training and raising awareness as well as guiding on how to employ and improve the performance of Corporate Secretary in the future.”

The event will be attended by more than 120 guests, including who are in charge of corporate governance, directors, chief of the Board office or secretary of the Board, CEOs and senior executives from listed public companies on the HNX and HOSE, VIOD network’s members, regulators and media.

About VIOD

The Vietnam Institute of Directors (VIOD) is an independent organization, which promotes corporate governance standards and best practices in the Vietnamese corporate sector. As a social enterprise, VIOD aims to advance board professionalism, promote business ethics and transparency, create a pool for independent directors, build a network to connect corporate leaders and stakeholders, and help companies inspire investor confidence.

VIOD is governed by a Board of Directors comprising of various private sector representatives — in close collaboration with and supported by the SSC, HOSE and HNX under the Vietnam Corporate Governance Initiative (VCGI). Our board members encompass a diverse group of business leaders and advocates of good corporate governance in Vietnam. They include senior dignitaries from investment funds, well-known international legal and accounting firms, and independent board members of prominent companies in the market.

In March 2018, VIOD was legally formed with technical support from the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a sister organization of the World Bank and a member of the World Bank Group and the Switzerland's State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO.

For more information, visit www.viod.vn

About the Hanoi Stock Exchange

Hanoi Stock Exchange, (formerly known as Hanoi Securities Trading Center) was officially launched in 2005 and transformed into the Exchange, the state owned limited liabilities company model under the management of the Ministry of Finance, in 2009.

As an organizer and regulator of the Vietnam securities market, Hanoi Stock Exchange (HNX) is operating the market in a transparent, equitable and efficient manner. In the primary market, HNX organizes share auctions and Government bond auctions. In the secondary market, HNX operates trading markets including Government bond market, listed stock market, UPCoM (Unlisted Public Company Market) and Derivatives market. As of December 31, 2018, HNX had 376 listed companies, 804 businesses registered to trade on UPCoM, 525 Government bond codes with a total market capitalization of VND 2.17 quadrillion and the average trading value per day via HNX was about VND 9,868 billion/ session. On the derivatives market, the HNX30 stock-index futures had a total trading volume of 2018 reaching nearly 19.7 million contracts and the total value according to the nominal contract volume reached more than 1.858 trillion dong.

HNX is one of the pioneers in improving the quality of corporate governance, towards a transparent and sustainable stock market.

For more information, visit www.hnx.vn

About the Hochiminh Stock Exchange

Hochiminh Stock Exchange (HOSE) is one of the Vietnamese stock market operators.

As of December 31, 2018, on HOSE, there were 373 stocks, 48 corporate and local government bonds, 2 closed-end fund certificates, 1 real estate investment trust (REIT) certificate and 2 ETF certificates. The stock market capitalization reached VND 2.87 quadrillion, accounting for more than 90% of the capitalization value in Vietnamese stock market.

HOSE always accompanies market members, listed companies to develop a transparent and sustainable stock market, aiming at good practices in the world.

For more information, visit www.hsx.vn

About IFC

IFC—a sister organization of the World Bank and member of the World Bank Group—is the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in emerging markets. We work with more than 2,000 businesses worldwide, using our capital, expertise, and influence to create markets and opportunities in the toughest areas of the world. In fiscal year 2018, we delivered more than \$23 billion in long-term financing for developing countries, leveraging the power of the private sector to end extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity.

For more information, visit www.ifc.org

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