

# Investment data network for provinces

The country's first data network exchange for promoting information technology, investment, commerce and management experiences is set to be established between the eight northern key economic cities and provinces of Bac Ninh, Hanoi, Haiphong, Hai Duong, Ha Tay, Hung Yen, Quang Ninh and Vinh Phuc.

A memorandum of co-operation on the project was signed at the third national conference on information technology held in Haiphong city between September 9-10.

Accordingly, the eight provinces will set up a data network linking the eight economic centres together by sharing information and experiences in human resource development, state and project management, investment attraction, and compiling and executing legal documents concerning post, telecommunications, information technology (IT), the internet, and the electronics industry.

It is planned that the economic centres will build an exchange e-portal to share information with

Hanoi creating the initial infrastructure or core technology for the linking process.

Each city and province will compile detailed plans before conducting meetings to discuss the implementation process later this year, as well as taking action to set up the data network from the beginning of next year along with conducting an annual trade fair on electronics and IT.

Bui Thanh Tung, deputy director of Haiphong Science and Technology Department, said Haiphong authorities will boost and share its advantage of e-customs network building, sea port management, IT education and training, and data bases for urban management with other cities and provinces.

"Hanoi and Haiphong authorities are discussing the building of a general scheme for an e-portal for the whole region including the core portal of Hanoi and links with other portals of cities and provinces including some specific portals on investment information, industrial parks, sea ports and tourism," said Tung.



Photo: Duc Thanh

**The network will help promote development in key northern regions**

Tung added that among those areas involved, only Bac Ninh, Hanoi, Haiphong and Vinh Phuc are good at IT development, which will allow them to share their IT management and development experiences with other cities and provinces. Haiphong will also receive technology transfer from Hanoi to build a portal in education and training high-quality human resources.

One of the biggest challenges to the cooperation process is administrative procedures, and awareness of municipal and provincial authorities but Tung was confident that

those challenges could be overcome.

The initiative to build a portal for the Mekong Delta region in cooperation with Ho Chi Minh City authorities was raised by Kien Giang provincial authorities during the second national conference on IT last year in Kien Giang province. However, there has been little work done towards the project.

"This cooperation among northern cities and provinces is more extensive than Kien Giang's initiative and local northern authorities are determined to build the network," said Tung.

## Vishipel gets okay to offer VSAT service

The government agreed to allow Vietnam Shipping Telecom (Vishipel) to offer VSAT (very small aperture terminal) services and lease channels through its earth satellite stations following a seven month waiting period.

The Haiphong-based operator expected to offer the service later this year and to become the third operator providing VSAT services along with VNPT and Viettel.

The service will aim to cover remote areas including islands and mountainous areas nationwide. The operator can offer bandwidth services and expect to diversify its services to other telecom services.

Nguyen Anh Tuan, head of the Technical Science and Investment Division under Vishipel said that while the company is waiting to finish administration procedures following the governmental green light, it is preparing the network for launching the services later this year. "Along with other operators, the service will cover corners that internet access has not yet reached," said Tuan.

Vishipel is providing VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) in eight provinces and cities and telecom services catering for the maritime industry. Last year, the operator earned VND90.2 billion (\$5.7 million) of revenue.