

Kicking off the improvement project of navigational channel to the Bassac river.

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The improvement project of navigational channel to the Bassac river via Quan Chanh Bo channel has officially been kicked off on Dec 27th 2009 in Dan Thanh commune, Duyen Hai district, Tra Vinh province, with participation of Nguyen Tan Dung Prime Minister, representative of leaders of the Party and State, leaders of provinces in the Mekong Delta and local people.

The improvement project of navigational channel to the Bassac river owned by Vietnam Maritime Administration is commenced in Duyen Hai and Tra Cu districts, consisting of work items: one-way channel with a length of 40 km, turning basin, breakwater, bank protection dike, etc, of which the river channel is of 6 km long, Quan Chanh Bo channel section is of 19 km long, Bypass canal section is of 9 km long and the sea channel section is of 6 km long.

In order to ensure the stability during the operation, the bank protection dike of 36 km long is, upon the project, to be constructed at the estuary where two breakwaters with a total length of 5 km are located in Bypass canal. The total dredging volume for shaping a new channel and improving the existing channel sections (bottom level of -6.5) reaches about 28 million m³.



Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung launching the construction commencement

The channel is scheduled to come into operation by end 2011, ensuring 10.000 DWT – 20.000 DWT vessels (partial load) to navigate in the Bassac river and satisfying the throughput capacity of around 22 million tons/year for the Mekong Delta. The total investment capital wins over VND 5 trillion from the Government bond.

At the ground-breaking ceremony, Mr Vo Van Cam (Dan Thanh commune, Duyen Hai district) felt pleased with the satisfactory compensation from the land withdrawal. As said by Mr Cam, the project is kicked off in early progress and to be in service of the whole area though 5.000 m² of agricultural land has been withdrawn.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Prime Minister highlights the project plays an extremely role in "lighting up" vessels to ship import/export cargos of the whole Southwestern area.



Equipment and machines being prepared for the construction of navigational channel to the Bassac river

Also, the Prime Minister states that the development of this channel in particular and infrastructure network of the Mekong Delta in general is significantly meaningful in term of not only national economy and defense but also politics and society in improving local people's life quality in 13 provinces of the Mekong Delta.

The Prime Minister suggests the Ministry of Transport, Vietnam Maritime Administration and relevant Units to continue to muster labor resources, instructing contractors to implement the project in conformity with the progress, safety and effectiveness, satisfying environmental protection requirements and assuring the highest quality, safety and effectiveness as well as the project schedule during the construction.

Presently, the export/import cargo volume of Mekong Delta gains about 5 million tons/year, of which about 80% of cargo volume must be transited at the ports in Ho Chi Minh city, Dong Nai, Ba Ria – Vung Tau by road. This leads to the increase in cargo transportation and storage cost by 7-10 USD/ton. For the Mekong Delta, the project, after coming into operation, will reduce import/export cargo transportation time and price, increasing the competitive ability and the like for enterprises.

For Tra Vinh province, the project contributes surmounting the unfavorable geographical position for more investment development and creates favorable conditions to smoothly trade with regional countries and the world.

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(translated by Portcoast)