

= 10th National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam =

The 10th National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam (Vietnamese : ??i h?i ??i bi?u toàn qu?c l?n th? X) was held in Ba ?ình Hall , Hanoi from 18 to 25 April 2006 . The congress occurs every five years . 1 @,@ 176 delegates represented the party 's 3 million members . At the 13th plenum of the Central Committee , held before the congress , it was decided that eight members of the Communist Party 's 9th Politburo had to retire . While certain segments within and outside the Politburo were skeptical , the decision was implemented . Because of party rules , the congress was not empowered to elect the general secretary , and it held a survey on whom the delegates wanted to be appointed General Secretary . The first plenum of the Central Committee , held in the immediate aftermath of the congress , re @-@ elected Nông ??c M?nh as general secretary .

The congress is noteworthy because of the extent of democratization which took place within the party . The role of the Central Committee in decision @-@ making was strengthened , and the role of the Politburo as a supreme organ was weakened . Inner @-@ party accountability was strengthened . The Eighth Five @-@ Year Plan of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam was approved at the congress , renewed its Marxist ? Leninist credentials and emphasized the need to continue to improve the socialist @-@ oriented market economy .

= = Preparations = =

Preparations for the 10th Congress were led by the Personnel Appointments subcommittee of the 9th Central Committee , probably chaired by General Secretary Nông ??c M?nh . M?nh worked closely with the Head of the Commission for Organization and Personnel to prepare a list of nominees for the election of the Central Committee at the upcoming congress . The 12th plenum of the 9th Central Committee , held in July 2005 , laid down the principles for the Personnel Appointments subcommittee to work within :

- (i) quality of candidates in terms of qualifications and a " clean " CV
- (ii) reasonable distribution of candidates among different sectors and representations from among the population to ensure total Party leadership in all areas .

After the 12th plenum , the Personnel Appointments subcommittee began discussions with important organizations and individuals within the Party , most notably with the Central Commission for Inspection (which investigates complaints against Party members) , party elders ?? M??i , Lê ??c Anh , Võ V?n Ki?t , Võ Nguyên Giáp and Nguy?n ??c Tâm , and with the 9th Politburo . The nomination list created in these discussions had to be voted on by the 9th Central Committee . At its 13th plenum , the 9th Central Committee , several changes to the nomination list recommended by Personnel Appointments subcommittee were made ; the Central Committee decided to retire 8 out of 14 Politburo members , the largest number of en masse retirements in the history of the Politburo . However , in official pronouncements , this decision was referred to as a " survey " , and not an election . Even so , the majority believed the eight people mentioned would retire rather than stay for another term . The retirements of Chairman of the National Assembly Nguy?n V?n An , who was considered a strong contender for the general secretaryship at the 11th Congress , and two leading proteges of M?nh ; the unofficial deputy general secretary Phan Di?n , and the Head of the Commission for Organization and Personnel Tr?n ?ình Hoan , were unexpected .

Some party elders were seeking the removal of M?nh as general secretary . While ?? M??i and Lê ??c Anh supported M?nh 's re @-@ election , Võ V?n Ki?t and Võ Nguyên Giáp opposed him . However , all four of them agreed on retaining Nguy?n V?n An in the 10th Politburo . One point in M?nh 's favour was his lack of grave mistakes during his first tenure , and the lack of a credible opponent . Võ V?n Ki?t supported Nguy?n Minh Tri?t 's candidacy for the general secretaryship , while the retiring prime minister Phan V?n Kh?i supported a possible candidacy by Nguy?n V?n An , even if the Central Committee had voted for his Politburo retirement in the " survey " . Those who supported M?nh 's removal based their campaign on the fact that his son @-@ in @-@ law had worked at PMU 18 Department of the Ministry of Transport during the PMU 18 scandal . A more

damaging rumour was that M?nh had included Nguy?n Vi?t Ti?n , the Deputy Minister of Transport who was implicated in the scandal , on the Central Committee nominee list. Also , Dao ?ào ?ình Bình , the Minister of Transport , was a close associate of M?nh . M?nh was accused of nepotism and of establishing a patronage system for himself within the party and state ; his son Nông Qu?c Tu?n was elected as Head of Youth Organizations in March 2005 , and was thus entitled to attend the 10th Congress . At a meeting with some veteran politicians , M?nh was asked by Lê Kh? Phiêu and Võ Nguyên Giáp to resign from his post and not to run for a seat in the 10th Central Committee ? M?nh , however , refused to resign .

In a proposal to the 11th plenum of the 9th Central Committee , Võ V?n Ki?t suggested democratizing the political system by giving the delegates to a party congress the power to elect the general secretary , the Central Committee and the Central Commission for Inspection , and giving congress delegates ultimate power on all matters put before them at the congress . He called for the reduction of the Central Committee from one @-@ fourth to one @-@ third , holding the elections of state leaders at the National Assembly in the immediate aftermath of a congress (and not a year later) , secret ballots for elections , empowering delegates to self @-@ nominate to the Central Committee and merging the offices of President and General Secretary into one . These suggestions , with the exception of holding the National Assembly elections earlier , were rejected at the 11th plenum of the 9th Central Committee in January 2005 .

At the 14th plenum of the 9th Central Committee , the Politburo proposed that M?nh would be appointed president and resign from his post as general secretary to be succeeded by Nguy?n V?n An , while Phan Di?n would be retained for the sake of stability . The proposal was rejected in a formal vote by the 9th plenum , and the Central Committee upheld the results of the " survey " . At the unplanned 15th plenum held 14 ? 16 April , which was held due to pressure by Nguy?n Minh Tri?t , Nguy?n V?n An and Phan V?n Kh?i , it was decided that delegates at the upcoming congress had the right of self @-@ nomination and that there would be competing elections for the posts of general secretary , prime minister and chairman of the National Assembly . The loser of the contest for general secretary would be appointed president . M?nh and Nguy?n Minh Tri?t were candidates for the general secretaryship , Nguy?n T?n D?ng and Nguy?n Sinh Hùng for the prime ministership and Nguy?n Phú Tr?ng and Tr??ng T?n Sang for the National Assembly chairmanship . For the first time in the party 's history , competing elections were held for offices of power .

= = Delegates = =

1 @, @ 176 delegates participated at the 10th Congress . These candidates were accepted on the basis of the Working Regulations of the party . 146 (12 @. @ 37 percent) of the delegates were members of the 9th Central Committee . 1 @, @ 025 (86 @. @ 87 percent) of the delegates were elected by provincial and local subunits of the party . 9 (0 @. @ 76 percent) of the delegates represented the party 's overseas branches . 136 (11 @. @ 56 percent) delegates were women , and 154 (13 @. @ 10 percent) came from ethnic minorities . There were 18 (1 @. @ 53 percent) delegates who had been awarded the Hero of the People 's Armed Forces , 7 (0 @. @ 60 percent) who had been awarded Hero of Labor , 4 (0 @. @ 34 percent) who had been awarded the title People 's Teacher , 13 (1 @. @ 11 percent) who had been given the title Meritorious Teacher , 4 (0 @. @ 34 percent) with the title of Meritorious Doctor , 27 (2 @. @ 30 percent) with the honorary title 40 years of Party membership , 2 (0 @. @ 17 percent) with the honorary title of 50 years of Party membership . 81 @. @ 29 percent of the delegates had graduated from either college or university , and 16 @. @ 59 percent of these had received PhD or had worked as professors or assistant professors . 96 @. @ 52 percent of the delegates had received a bachelor 's degree in political training courses . The average age of the delegates was 52 @. @ 92 years ? Dinh Huy (30 years of age) was the youngest delegate , and Do Quang Hung (77 years of age) was the oldest delegate .

= = The Congress and the 1st plenum = =

The elected 10th Central Committee comprised 81 (52 @. @ 5 percent) members from the 9th Central Committee , and 79 (47 @. @ 5 percent) new members were elected . The candidate with the highest vote received 97 @. @ 88 percent , while the candidate with the lowest vote received 63 @. @ 41 percent . All the provinces , with the exception of ??k Nông Province , elected officials to the 10th Central Committee . A number of surprises occurred during the election process ; six ministers were not re @-@ elected . Another surprise was that no officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs were elected as full members . However , Ph?m Bình Minh , the Director of the International Organizations Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs , was elected as an alternate member . None of the 34 self @-@ nominated candidates at the congress were elected to the 10th Central Committee . It is unknown whether any of the self @-@ nominees for alternate membership in the 10th Central Committee were elected . There was an increase in Central Committee officials working in the central government , the provinces , military and defence officials , public security officials and officials from mass organizations , but there was a decrease in officials from the sectors of information , social and cultural affairs , economics , business and financial affairs , and others .

As the meeting progressed , some delegates publicly demanded that the congress should be given the authority to elect the general secretary and the head of the Central Commission for Inspection . This was approved and a survey form which listed four possible candidates ; M?nh , Nguy?n Minh Tri?t , Nguy?n V?n An and Nguy?n Phú Tr?ng was created . Nguy?n V?n An withdrew his candidacy , knowing he would not be elected to the 10th Politburo because he was not elected to the 10th Central Committee . However , because of party rules which stated that the Central Committee after the congress elected the general secretary , the vote at the congress was considered a survey . Another version of the proceedings , that given by M?nh at the press conference after the congress , was that the 1 @, @ 176 congress delegates were given a list of the elected members of the 10th Central Committee , and were given a free choice of electing any of them to the general secretaryship . After the congress , on 25 April , the 1st plenum of the Central Committee convened to elect the general secretary . The two leading candidates at the congress survey , M?nh and Nguy?n Minh Tri?t , stood for election at the plenum . M?nh was elected and Nguy?n Minh Tri?t was appointed state president . However , rumours that M?nh won narrowly over his rival , and that Nguy?n Minh Tri?t withdrew his candidature following the party tradition of appointing the general secretary , circulated after the congress .

The 10th Politburo comprised 14 members . As was decided at the first plenum , the ranking given to Politburo members was to be decided by the number of approval votes the official earned during the election . Lê H?ng Anh , the Minister of Public Security , was ranked second in the Politburo because he received the second @-@ most approval votes for his candidacy . Of the 14 members of the Politburo , five were concurrently members of the 10th Secretariat . The Secretariat comprised eight members , amongst whom the highest rank was general secretary .

= = Policy enactments = =

The official Congress communique set 2020 as a date on which Vietnam would reach the status of a modern , industrial society . To reach this goal , the targeted growth for gross domestic product (GDP) was set at 7 @. @ 5 ? 8 percent for 2006 ? 2011 . The congress promised to renew the socialist @-@ oriented market economy , and step up its fight against political corruption . The communique emphasized the party 's goal of a future society without exploitation , based on the ideology of Marxism ? Leninism . The Political Report , the Eighth Five @-@ Year Plan (2006 ? 2010) ? officially titled the Five Year Socio @-@ economic Development Plan , the report on Party building and the amendment and revision to the Party 's charter , were approved . M?nh said that the approval of these documents were " the results of the intellect and the will of our entire Party and people , the in @-@ depth practical and theoretical summation of 20 years of Renovation [??i M?i] and the improvement and development of the policy and philosophy of renovations in the current period of our country 's revolution . "

The Eighth Five @-@ Year Plan is subordinate to the Ten Year Socio @-@ economic

Development Strategy (2001 ? 2010) which aims to continue comprehensive reform and achieve fast , sustainable growth rates . The main goal of the Ten Year Plan is to lift Vietnam out of the category of underdeveloped countries and to reach the status of a modern @-@ industrial nation by 2012 . The Eighth Five @-@ Year Plan , while approved by the Congress , had to earn the approval of the National Assembly before being implemented .

The delegates approved the general secretary 's Political Report , Report on Orientations and Tasks for Socio @-@ Economic Development for the 2006 ? 10 Period , and the Report on Party building and amendments made to the party statute . These reports ' main objectives were to accelerate the reform process and strengthen the socialist @-@ oriented market economy . The congress allowed existing party members to engage in private ownership . This was a controversial amendment and was a break with the theory of exploitation of man by man . While the amendment was approved , the third plenum of the 10th Central Committee restricted the change to party members who had worked in state @-@ owned enterprises which have been privatized .

= = Democratization = =

An important characteristic of the 10th Congress was the internal democratization of the party leadership , most notably seen in the Politburo 's willingness to follow the " survey " voted by the 13th plenum of the Central Committee . The top five members of the " survey " were rewarded with the five highest government positions in Vietnam . While the leadership selection process was not dramatically altered , the Central Committee as a collective unit was strengthened , and the Central Committee acquired control over personnel appointments and policy @-@ making . In effect , these changes have reduced the roles of powerful individuals , who may be seen as taking too much control .

= = Acknowledgement = =

35 foreign parties congratulated the CPV on holding its 10th Congress . Among these were ruling parties of the remaining socialist states , the Communist Party of Cuba , the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the Lao People 's Revolutionary Party . Hu Jintao , the former CPC General Secretary of the Central Committee , personally congratulated Nguyen Van Son , the Chairman of the CPV Commission for External Relations , on the CPV 's holding of the 10th National Congress . Not all the parties which congratulated the CPV were communists , for example the Cambodian People 's Party , the Workers ' Party of Korea , the Social Democratic Party of Germany , the Uri Party and the Bulgarian Socialist Party .

The French Communist Party congratulated the CPV on holding its 10th National Congress , and stated that it " was a milestone and an occasion for the Party to reiterate its orientations and its determination to implement objectives as well as open new visions for the 21st century . " In an official communique from the Central Committee of the Japanese Communist Party (JCP) to the CPV 10th Central Committee , the JPC Central Committee stated " The Communist Party of Viet Nam is advancing on the chosen path of building socialism through the market economy . This is a new discovery in the history of mankind . " The Communist Party of India sent its " warmest fraternal greetings to the leadership and delegates to the 10th Congress of the Communist Party of Viet Nam . " The Communist Party USA sent a " warm revolutionary greetings to the delegates and members of the Communist Party of Viet Nam on the occasion of your 10th National Party Congress . We wish you much success in your deliberations at this important event . " The Communist Party of the Russian Federation stated , " Under the leadership of the Communist Party of Viet Nam , the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam has successfully carried out adopted policies . The industrious Vietnamese people have created favourable conditions for progress . The CPV has displayed a creative and principled approach to solving important and sophisticated problems , while remaining persistent in its socialist ideology . "

The Portuguese Communist Party said , " The Tenth Party Congress and the objectives your congress was striving towards , given the present international situation , constitute something

significant . " The Communist Party of Brazil said , " We are very impressed by the efforts exerted by the Vietnamese people and Communists in building socialism in line with national development . The renewal process in Viet Nam has helped the country attain great achievements in modernization , industrialization and international integration . " Mahmoud Abbas , Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization extended his greetings , and said " We are proud of our friendship and relationship , and once again reaffirm our determination to strengthen ties and solidarity for the mutual benefit of both our nations " .