

**AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA**

**AND**

**THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM**

**FOR**

**THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION**

**AND**

**THE PREVENTION OF TAX EVASION**

**WITH RESPECT TO TAXES ON INCOME**

**The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam,**

Desiring to conclude an Agreement for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of tax evasion with respect to taxes on income,

Have agreed as follows:

**ARTICLE 1**

**PERSONS COVERED**

This Agreement shall apply to persons who are residents of one or both of the Contracting States.

**ARTICLE 2**

**TAXES COVERED**

1. This Agreement shall apply to taxes on income imposed on behalf of a Contracting State or of its local authorities, irrespective of the manner in which they are levied.
2. There shall be regarded as taxes on income all taxes imposed on total income, or on elements of income, including taxes on gains from the alienation of movable or immovable property, taxes on the total amounts of wages or salaries paid by enterprises, as well as taxes on capital appreciation.
3. The existing taxes to which the Agreement shall apply are in particular:
  - (a) in the case of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:
    - (i) the Zakat;
    - (ii) the income tax including the natural gas investment tax;(hereinafter referred to as the “Saudi Tax”); and

- (b) in the case of Vietnam:
  - (i) the personal income tax;
  - (ii) the business income tax;(hereinafter referred to as the “Vietnamese tax”).
  
- 4. The Agreement shall also apply to any identical or substantially similar taxes that are imposed after the date of signature of this Agreement in addition to, or in place of, the existing taxes. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall notify each other of significant changes which have been made in their respective taxation laws.

### **ARTICLE 3**

#### **GENERAL DEFINITIONS**

- 1. For the purposes of this Agreement, unless the context otherwise requires:
  - (a) the term “Kingdom of Saudi Arabia” means the territory of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which also includes the area outside the territorial waters, where the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia exercises its sovereign and jurisdictional rights in their waters, sea bed, sub-soil and natural resources by virtue of its law and international law;
  - (b) the term “Vietnam” means the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; when used in a geographical sense, it means its land territory, islands, internal waters, territorial sea and airspace above them, the maritime areas beyond territorial sea including seabed and subsoil thereof over which the Socialist Republic of Vietnam exercises sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction in accordance with national legislation and international law;
  - (c) the terms “a Contracting State” and “the other Contracting State” mean the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia or Vietnam, as the context requires;
  - (d) the term “person” includes an individual, a company and any other body of persons, including the State or its local authorities;
  - (e) the term “company” means any body corporate or any entity that is treated as a body corporate for tax purposes;

- (f) the terms “enterprise of a Contracting State” and “enterprise of the other Contracting State” mean respectively an enterprise carried on by a resident of a Contracting State and an enterprise carried on by a resident of the other Contracting State;
  - (g) the term “international traffic” means any transport by a ship or aircraft operated by an enterprise, that has its place of effective management in a Contracting State, except when the ship or aircraft is operated solely between places in the other Contracting State;
  - (h) the term “national” means:
    - (i) any individual possessing the nationality of a Contracting State;
    - (ii) any legal person, partnership and association deriving its status as such from the laws in force in a Contracting State;
  - (i) the term “competent authority” means:
    - (i) in the case of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Ministry of Finance represented by the Minister of Finance or his authorized representative;
    - (ii) in the case of Vietnam, the Minister of Finance or his authorized representative.
2. As regards the application of the Agreement at any time by a Contracting State, any term not defined therein shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the meaning that it has at that time under the laws of that State for the purposes of the taxes to which the Agreement applies, any meaning under the applicable tax laws of that State prevailing over a meaning given to the term under other laws of that State.

## **ARTICLE 4**

### **Resident**

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term “resident of a Contracting State” means any person who, under the laws of that State, is liable to tax therein by reason of his domicile, residence, place of registration, place of management, or any other criterion of a similar nature. The term “resident of a Contracting

State” also includes that State or its local authorities or a legal person organized under the laws of a Contracting State and that is generally exempt from tax in that State.

This term, however, does not include any person who is liable to tax in that State in respect only of income from sources in that State.

2. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article, an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then his status shall be determined as follows:
  - (a) he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Contracting State in which he has a permanent home available to him; if he has a permanent home available to him in both Contracting States, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Contracting State with which his personal and economic relations are closer (centre of vital interests);
  - (b) if the Contracting State in which he has his centre of vital interests cannot be determined, or if he does not have a permanent home available to him in either Contracting State, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Contracting State in which he has an habitual abode;
  - (c) if he has an habitual abode in both Contracting States or in neither of them, he shall be deemed to be a resident only of the Contracting State of which he is a national;
  - (d) if he is a national of both Contracting States or of neither of them, the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall settle the question by mutual agreement.
3. Where by reason of the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article, a person other than an individual is a resident of both Contracting States, then it shall be deemed to be a resident only of the State in which its place of effective management is situated.

## **ARTICLE 5**

### **Permanent Establishment**

1. For the purposes of this Agreement, the term “permanent establishment” means a fixed place of business through which the business of an enterprise is wholly or partly carried on.
2. The term “permanent establishment” includes especially:
  - (a) a place of management;
  - (b) a branch;
  - (c) an office;
  - (d) a factory;
  - (e) a workshop;
  - (f) a warehouse; and
  - (g) any place of exploration for or extraction of natural resources.
3. The term “permanent establishment” also encompasses:
  - (a) a building site, a construction, assembly or installation project or supervisory activities in connection therewith, but only if such site, project or activities last more than six months; and
  - (b) the furnishing of services, including consultancy services, by an enterprise through employees or other personnel engaged by the enterprise for such purpose, but only if activities of that nature continue (for the same or a connected project) within a Contracting State for a period or periods aggregating more than six months within any twelve-month period.
4. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, the term “permanent establishment” shall be deemed not to include:
  - (a) the use of facilities solely for the purpose of storage or display of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise;

- (b) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of storage or display;
  - (c) the maintenance of a stock of goods or merchandise belonging to the enterprise solely for the purpose of processing by another enterprise;
  - (d) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of purchasing goods or merchandise or of collecting information for the enterprise; and
  - (e) the maintenance of a fixed place of business solely for the purpose of carrying on, for the enterprise, any other activity of a preparatory or auxiliary character.
5. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, where a person - other than an agent of an independent status to whom paragraph 6 applies - is acting in a Contracting State on behalf of an enterprise of the other Contracting State, that enterprise shall be deemed to have a permanent establishment in the first-mentioned Contracting State in respect of any activities which that person undertakes for the enterprise, if such a person:
- (a) has and habitually exercises in that State an authority to conclude contracts in the name of the enterprise, unless the activities of such person are limited to those mentioned in paragraph 4 which, if exercised through a fixed place of business, would not make this fixed place of business a permanent establishment under the provisions of that paragraph; or
  - (b) has no such authority, but habitually maintains in the first-mentioned State a stock of goods or merchandise from which he regularly delivers goods or merchandise on behalf of the enterprise.
6. An enterprise of a Contracting State shall not be deemed to have a permanent establishment in the other Contracting State merely because it carries on business in that other Contracting State through a broker, general commission agent or any other agent of an independent status, provided that such persons are acting in the ordinary course of their business. However, when the activities of such an agent are devoted wholly or almost wholly on behalf of that enterprise, and conditions are made or imposed between that enterprise and the agent in their commercial and financial relations which differ from those which would have been made between independent enterprises, he will

not be considered an agent of an independent status within the meaning of this paragraph.

7. The fact that a company which is a resident of a Contracting State controls or is controlled by a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State, or which carries on business in that other Contracting State (whether through a permanent establishment or otherwise), shall not of itself constitute either company a permanent establishment of the other.

## **ARTICLE 6**

### **Income from Immovable Property**

1. Income derived by a resident of a Contracting State from immovable property (including income from agriculture or forestry) situated in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.
2. The term “immovable property” shall have the meaning which it has under the law of the Contracting State in which the property in question is situated. The term shall in any case include property accessory to immovable property, livestock and equipment used in agriculture and forestry, rights to which the provisions of general law respecting landed property apply, usufruct of immovable property and rights to variable or fixed payments as consideration for the working of, or the right to work, mineral deposits, sources and other natural resources; ships and aircraft shall not be regarded as immovable property.
3. The provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article shall apply to income derived from the direct use, letting, or use in any other form of immovable property.
4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 3 of this Article shall also apply to the income from immovable property of an enterprise and to income from immovable property used for the performance of independent personal services.



## **ARTICLE 7**

### **Business Profits**

1. The profits of an enterprise of a Contracting State shall be taxable only in that State unless the enterprise carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein. If the enterprise carries on business as aforesaid, the profits of the enterprise may be taxed in the other Contracting State but only so much of them as is attributable to: (a) that permanent establishment; (b) sales in that other Contracting State of goods or merchandise of the same or similar kind as those sold through that permanent establishment; or (c) other business activities carried on in that other Contracting State of the same or similar kind as those effected through that permanent establishment.
2. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 3 of this Article, where an enterprise of a Contracting State carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein, there shall in each Contracting State be attributed to that permanent establishment the profits which it might be expected to make if it were a distinct and separate enterprise engaged in the same or similar activities under the same or similar conditions and dealing wholly independently with the enterprise of which it is a permanent establishment.
3. In the determination the profits of a permanent establishment, there shall be allowed as deductions expenses which are incurred for the purposes of the business of the permanent establishment, including executive and general administrative expenses so incurred, whether in the State in which the permanent establishment is situated or elsewhere. However, no such deduction shall be allowed in respect of amounts, if any, paid (otherwise than towards reimbursement of actual expenses) by the permanent establishment to the head office of the enterprise or any of its other offices, by way of royalties, fees or other similar payments in return for the use of patents or other rights, or by way of commission, for specific services performed or for management, or, except in the case of a banking enterprise, by way of income from debt-claim with regard to moneys lent to the permanent establishment. Likewise, no account shall be taken, in the determination of the profits of a permanent establishment, for amounts charged (otherwise than towards reimbursement of actual expenses), by the permanent establishment to the

head office of the enterprise or any of its other offices, by way of royalties, fees or other similar payments in return for the use of patents or other rights, or by way of commission for specific services performed or for management, or, except in the case of banking enterprise by way of income from debt-claim with regard to moneys lent to the head office of the enterprise or any of its other offices.

4. Notwithstanding other provisions, the business profits derived by an enterprise of a Contracting State from the exportation of merchandise to the other Contracting State shall not be taxed in that other Contracting State. Where export contracts include other activities carried on in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment, profits derived from such activities may be taxed in the other Contracting State.
5. The term “business profits” includes, but is not limited to, income derived from manufacturing, mercantile, banking, insurance and the furnishing of services. However, income derived from independent personal services will be dealt with according to the provisions of Article 14.
6. Insofar as it has been customary in a Contracting State to determine the profits to be attributed to a permanent establishment on the basis of an apportionment of the total profits of the enterprise to its various parts, nothing in paragraph 2 shall preclude such Contracting State from determining the profits to be taxed by such an apportionment as may be customary; the method of apportionment adopted shall, however, be such that the result shall be in accordance with the principles contained in this Article.
7. For the purposes of the preceding paragraphs, the profits to be attributed to the permanent establishment shall be determined by the same method year by year unless there is good and sufficient reason to the contrary.
8. Nothing in this Article shall affect the operation of any law of a Contracting State relating to tax imposed on income derived by non-residents from insurance activities provided that if the relevant law in force in either Contracting State at the date of signature of this Agreement is varied (otherwise than in minor respects so as not to affect its general character) the Contracting States shall consult with each other with a view to agreeing to any amendment of this paragraph as may be appropriate.

9. Where profits include items of income which are dealt with separately in other Articles of this Agreement, then the provisions of those Articles shall not be affected by the provisions of this Article.

## **ARTICLE 8**

### **Shipping and Air Transport**

1. Profits from the operation of ships or aircraft in international traffic shall be taxable only in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.
2. The provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article shall also apply to profits from the participation in a pool, a joint business or an international operating agency.

## **ARTICLE 9**

### **Associated Enterprises**

1. Where
  - (a) an enterprise of a Contracting State participates directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of the other Contracting State; or
  - (b) the same persons participate directly or indirectly in the management, control or capital of an enterprise of a Contracting State and an enterprise of the other Contracting State,and in either case conditions are made or imposed between the two enterprises in their commercial or financial relations which differ from those which would be made between independent enterprises, then any profits which would, but for those conditions, have accrued to one of the enterprises, but, by the reason of those conditions, have not so accrued, may be included in the profits of that enterprise and taxed accordingly.
2. Where a Contracting State includes in the profits of an enterprise of that State - and taxes accordingly - profits on which an enterprise of the other

Contracting State has been charged to tax in that other State and the profits so included are profits which would have accrued to the enterprise of the first-mentioned State if the conditions made between the two enterprises had been those which would have been made between independent enterprises, then that other State shall make an appropriate adjustment to the amount of the tax charged therein on those profits. In determining such adjustment, due regard shall be had to the other provisions of this Agreement and the competent authorities of the Contracting States shall if necessary consult each other.

## **ARTICLE 10**

### **Dividends**

1. Dividends paid by a company which is a resident of a Contracting State to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.
2. However such dividends may also be taxed in the Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident and according to the laws of that State, but if the beneficial owner of the dividends is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed:
  - (a) 5 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends if the beneficial owner is a company (other than a partnership) which holds directly at least 50 per cent of the capital of the company paying the dividends, or has invested 20 million US dollars or more, or any equivalent currency, in the capital of the company paying the dividends;
  - (b) 12.5 per cent of the gross amount of the dividends in all other cases.

This paragraph shall not affect the taxation of the company in respect of the profits out of which the dividends are paid.

3. The term “dividends” as used in this Article means income from shares, “jouissance” shares or “jouissance” rights, mining shares, founders' shares or other rights, not being debt-claims, participating in profits, as well as income from other corporate rights which is subjected to the same taxation treatment

as income from shares by the laws of the State of which the company making the distribution is a resident.

4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the dividends, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State of which the company paying the dividends is a resident through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other Contracting State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.
5. Where a company which is a resident of a Contracting State derives profits or income from the other Contracting State, that other Contracting State may not impose any tax on the dividends paid by the company, except insofar as such dividends are paid to a resident of that other Contracting State or insofar as the holding in respect of which the dividends are paid is effectively connected with a permanent establishment or a fixed base situated in that other Contracting State, nor subject the company's undistributed profits to a tax on the company's undistributed profits, even if the dividends paid or the undistributed profits consist wholly or partly of profits or income arising in such other Contracting State.

## **ARTICLE 11**

### **Income from Debt-Claims**

1. Income from debt-claims arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.
2. However, such income from debt-claims may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which it arises and according to the laws of that Contracting State, but if the beneficial owner of the income from debt-claims is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed 10 per cent of the gross amount of the income from debt-claims.
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 2, income from debt-claims arising in a Contracting State and derived by the Government of the other

Contracting State, a local authority and the Central Bank thereof, any financial institution or any pension fund wholly owned by the Government of that other State, shall be exempt from tax in the first-mentioned Contracting State.

4. The term “Income from debt-claims” as used in this Article means income from debt-claims of every kind, whether or not secured by mortgage and whether or not carrying a right to participate in the debtor’s profits, and in particular, income from government securities and income from bonds or debentures, including premiums and prizes attaching to such securities, bonds or debentures. Penalty charges for late payment shall not be regarded as income from debt-claims for the purpose of this Article.
5. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the income from debt-claims, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the income from debt-claims arises, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the debt-claim in respect of which such income is paid is effectively connected with (a) such permanent establishment or fixed base, or with (b) business activities referred to in subparagraph (c) of paragraph 1 of Article 7. In such case, the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14 of this Agreement, as the case may be, shall apply.
6. Income from debt-claims shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is a resident of that State. Where, however, the person paying such income, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment or a fixed base in connection with which the indebtedness on which such income is paid was incurred, and such income is borne by such permanent establishment or fixed base, then such income shall be deemed to arise in the State in which the permanent establishment or fixed base is situated.
7. Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the

amount of the income from debt-claims, having regard to the debt-claim for which it is paid, exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Agreement.

## **ARTICLE 12**

### **Royalties**

1. Royalties arising in a Contracting State and paid to a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.
2. However, such royalties may also be taxed in the Contracting State in which they arise and according to the laws of that State, but if the beneficial owner of the royalties is a resident of the other Contracting State, the tax so charged shall not exceed:
  - (a) 7.5 per cent of the gross amount of such royalties which are paid for rendering of any services or assistance of a technical or managerial nature;
  - (b) 10 per cent of the gross amount of such royalties in all other cases.
3. The term “royalties” as used in this Article means payments of any kind received as a consideration for the use of, or the right to use, any copyright of literary, artistic or scientific work including cinematograph films, and films or tapes used for radio or television broadcasting, any patent, trade mark, design or model, plan, secret formula or process, or for the use of, or the right to use, industrial, commercial or scientific equipment, or for information concerning industrial, commercial or scientific experience or the rendering of any services or assistance of a technical or managerial nature.
4. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article shall not apply if the beneficial owner of the royalties, being a resident of a Contracting State,

carries on business in the other Contracting State in which the royalties arise, through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other Contracting State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the right or property in respect of which the royalties are paid is effectively connected with (a) such permanent establishment or fixed base, or with (b) business activities referred to in subparagraph (c) of paragraph 1 of Article 7. In such case, the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14, as the case may be, shall apply.

5. Royalties shall be deemed to arise in a Contracting State when the payer is a resident of that State. Where, however, the person paying royalties, whether he is a resident of a Contracting State or not, has in a Contracting State a permanent establishment or fixed base in connection with which the liability to pay the royalties was incurred, and such royalties are borne by such permanent establishment or fixed base, then such royalties shall be deemed to arise in the State in which the permanent establishment or fixed base is situated.
6. Where, by reason of a special relationship between the payer and the beneficial owner or between both of them and some other person, the amount of the royalties, having regard to the use, right or information for which they are paid, exceeds the amount which would have been agreed upon by the payer and the beneficial owner in the absence of such relationship, the provisions of this Article shall apply only to the last-mentioned amount. In such case, the excess part of the payments shall remain taxable according to the laws of each Contracting State, due regard being had to the other provisions of this Agreement.

## **ARTICLE 13**

### **Capital Gains**

1. Gains derived by a resident of a Contracting State from the alienation of immovable property referred to in Article 6 and situated in the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other State.
2. Gains from the alienation of movable property forming part of the business property of a permanent establishment which an enterprise of a Contracting



State has in the other Contracting State or of movable property pertaining to a fixed base available to a resident of a Contracting State in the other Contracting State for the purpose of performing independent personal services, including such gains from the alienation of such a permanent establishment (alone or with the whole enterprise) or of such fixed base, may be taxed in that other State.

3. Gains from the alienation of ships or aircraft operated in international traffic, or movable property pertaining to the operation of such ships or aircraft, shall be taxable only in the Contracting State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.
4. Gains from the alienation of shares or any rights that constitute a share in a company which is a resident of a Contracting State may be taxed in that State.
5. Gains from the alienation of any property other than that referred to in paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 shall be taxable only in the Contracting State of which the alienator is a resident.

## **ARTICLE 14**

### **Independent Personal Services**

1. Income derived by an individual who is a resident of a Contracting State in respect of professional services or other activities of an independent character shall be taxable only in that State except in the following circumstances, when such income may also be taxed in the other Contracting State:
  - (a) If he has a fixed base regularly available to him in the other Contracting State for the purpose of performing his activities; in that case, only so much of the income as is attributable to that fixed base may be taxed in that other Contracting State; or
  - (b) If his stay in the other Contracting State is for a period or periods amounting to or exceeding in the aggregate 183 days within any twelve-month period commencing or ending in the fiscal year concerned; in that case, only so much of the income as is derived from his activities

performed in that other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

2. The term “professional services” includes especially independent scientific, literary, artistic, educational or teaching activities as well as the independent activities of physicians, lawyers, engineers, architects, dentists and accountants.

## **ARTICLE 15**

### **Dependent Personal Services**

1. Subject to the provisions of Articles 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21 of this Agreement, salaries, wages and other similar remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment shall be taxable only in that State unless the employment is exercised in the other Contracting State. If the employment is so exercised, such remuneration as is derived therefrom may be taxed in that other Contracting State.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article, remuneration derived by a resident of a Contracting State in respect of an employment exercised in the other Contracting State shall be taxable only in the first-mentioned State if:
  - (a) the recipient is present in the other Contracting State for a period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate 183 days in any twelve-month period commencing or ending in the fiscal year concerned, and
  - (b) the remuneration is paid by, or on behalf of, an employer who is not a resident of the other State, and
  - (c) the remuneration is not borne by a permanent establishment or a fixed base which the employer has in the other State.
3. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this Article, remuneration derived in respect of an employment exercised aboard a ship or aircraft operated in international traffic shall be taxable only in a State in which the place of effective management of the enterprise is situated.

## **ARTICLE 16**

### **Directors' Fees**

Directors' fees and other similar payments derived by a resident of a Contracting State in his capacity as a member of the Board of Directors of a company which is a resident of the other Contracting State may be taxed in that other Contracting State.

## **ARTICLE 17**

### **Artistes and Sportspersons**

1. Notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 14 and 15 of this Agreement, income derived by a resident of a Contracting State as an entertainer, such as a theatre, motion picture, radio or television artiste, or a musician, or as a sportsman, from his personal activities as such exercised in the other Contracting State, may be taxed in that other State.
2. Where income in respect of personal activities exercised by an entertainer or a sportsman in his capacity as such accrues not to the entertainer or sportsman himself but to another person, that income may, notwithstanding the provisions of Articles 7, 14 and 15 of this Agreement, be taxed in the Contracting State in which the activities of the entertainer or sportsman are exercised.
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, income derived by entertainers or sportsmen who are residents of a Contracting State from activities in the other Contracting State under an agreement, an arrangement or a plan of cultural exchange between the Governments of both Contracting States shall be exempt from tax in that other Contracting State.

## **ARTICLE 18**

### **Pensions**

1. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 19 of this Agreement, pensions and other similar remuneration paid to a resident of a Contracting State in consideration of past employment shall be taxable only in that State.
2. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article, pensions paid and other payments made under a public scheme which is part of the social security system of a Contracting State or a local authority thereof shall be taxable only in that State.

## **ARTICLE 19**

### **Government Service**

1. (a) Salaries, wages and other similar remunerations, other than a pension, paid by a Contracting State or a local authority thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that State or subdivision or authority shall be taxable only in that State.  
  
(b) However, such salaries, wages and other similar remunerations shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the services are rendered in that Contracting State and the individual is a resident of that Contracting State who:
  - (i) is a national of that Contracting State; or
  - (ii) did not become a resident of that Contracting State solely for the purpose of rendering the services.
2. (a) Any pension paid by, or out of funds created by, a Contracting State or a local authority thereof to an individual in respect of services rendered to that State or subdivision or authority shall be taxable only in that State.  
  
(b) However, such pension shall be taxable only in the other Contracting State if the individual is a resident of, and a national of, that other Contracting State.

3. The provisions of Articles 15, 16, 17 and 18 of this Agreement shall apply to salaries, wages and other similar remuneration and pensions in respect of services rendered in connection with a business carried on by a Contracting State or a political subdivision or a local authority thereof.

## **ARTICLE 20**

### **Students**

Payments which a student or business apprentice or trainee who is or was immediately before visiting a Contracting State a resident of the other Contracting State and who is present in the first-mentioned State solely for the purpose of his education or training receives for the purpose of his maintenance, education or training shall not be taxed in that State, provided that such payments arise from sources outside that State.

## **ARTICLE 21**

### **Teachers and Researchers**

1. An individual who is or was immediately before visiting a Contracting State a resident of the other Contracting State and who, at the invitation of the Government of the first-mentioned Contracting State or of a university, college, school or educational institution or scientific research institution recognized by the Government of the first-mentioned Contracting State shall be exempt from tax in the first-mentioned Contracting State, for a period of two years from the date of his first arrival in the first-mentioned Contracting State, in respect of remuneration for such teaching, lectures or research.
2. This Article shall only apply to income from research if such research is undertaken by an individual for the public interest and not primarily for the benefit of some other private person or persons.

## **ARTICLE 22**

### **Other Income**

1. Items of income of a resident of a Contracting State, wherever arising, not dealt with in the foregoing Articles of this Agreement shall be taxable only in that State.
2. The provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article shall not apply to the income, other than income from immovable property as defined in paragraph 2 of Article 6 of this Agreement, if the recipient of such income, being a resident of a Contracting State, carries on business in the other Contracting State through a permanent establishment situated therein, or performs in that other State independent personal services from a fixed base situated therein, and the right or property in respect of which the income is paid is effectively connected with such permanent establishment or fixed base. In such case the provisions of Article 7 or Article 14 of this Agreement, as the case may be, shall apply.
3. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article, items of income of a resident of a Contracting State not dealt with in the foregoing Articles of this Agreement and arising in the other Contracting State may also be taxed in that other Contracting State.

## **ARTICLE 23**

### **Methods for Elimination of Double Taxation**

1. Where a resident of a Contracting State derives income which, in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, may be taxed in the other Contracting State, the first-mentioned State shall allow as a deduction from the tax on the income of that resident, an amount equal to the income tax paid in that other State.  
Such deduction shall not, however, exceed that part of the income tax, as computed before the deduction is given, which is attributable to the income which may be taxed in that other State.
2. Where in accordance with any provision of the Agreement income derived by a resident of a Contracting State is exempt from tax in that State, such

State may nevertheless, in calculating the amount of tax on the remaining income of such resident, take into account the exempted income.

3. For the purposes of the provisions in paragraph 1 of this Article, where tax on business profits arising in a Contracting State is exempted or reduced in accordance with the laws and regulations of that State to promote foreign investments for economic development purposes, such tax which has been exempted or reduced shall be deemed to have been paid.
4. In the case of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the methods for elimination of double taxation will not prejudice to the provisions of the Zakat collection regime as regards Saudi nationals.

## **ARTICLE 24**

### **Mutual Agreement Procedure**

1. Where a person who is a resident of a Contracting State considers that the actions of the competent authority of one or both of the Contracting States result or will result for him in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement, he may, irrespective of the remedies provided by the domestic law of those States, present his case to the competent authority of the Contracting State of which that person is a resident. The case must be presented within three years from the first notification of the action resulting in taxation not in accordance with the provisions of the Agreement.
2. The competent authority shall endeavour, if the objection appears to it to be justified and if it is not itself able to arrive at a satisfactory solution, to resolve the case by mutual agreement with the competent authority of the other Contracting State, with a view to the avoidance of taxation which is not in accordance with this Agreement. Any agreement reached shall be implemented notwithstanding any time limits in the domestic law of the Contracting States.
3. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall endeavor to resolve by mutual agreement any difficulties or doubts arising as to the interpretation or application of the Agreement. They may also consult together for the elimination of double taxation in cases not provided for in the Agreement.

4. The competent authorities of the Contracting States may communicate with each other for the purpose of reaching an agreement in the sense of the preceding paragraphs.

## **ARTICLE 25**

### **Exchange of Information**

1. The competent authorities of the Contracting States shall exchange such information as is necessary for carrying out the provisions of this Agreement or of the domestic laws of the Contracting States concerning taxes covered by this Agreement insofar as the taxation thereunder is not contrary to this Agreement. The exchange of information is not restricted by Article 1 of this Agreement. Any information received by a Contracting State shall be treated as secret in the same manner as information obtained under the domestic laws of that State and shall be disclosed only to persons or authorities (including courts and administrative bodies) concerned with the assessment or collection of, the enforcement or prosecution in respect of, or the determination of appeals in relation to, the taxes covered by this Agreement. Such persons or authorities shall use the information only for such purposes. They may disclose the information in public court proceedings or in judicial decisions.
2. In no case shall the provisions of paragraph 1 and paragraph 2 be construed so as to impose on a Contracting State the obligation:
  - (a) to carry out administrative measures at variance with the laws and administrative practice of that or of the other Contracting State;
  - (b) to supply information which is not obtainable under the laws or in the normal course of the administration of that or of the other Contracting State;
  - (c) to supply information which would disclose any trade, business, industrial, commercial or professional secret or trade process, or information, the disclosure of which would be contrary to public policy.
3. If information is requested by a Contracting State in accordance with this Article, the other Contracting State shall use its information gathering



measures to obtain the requested information, even though that other State may not need such information for its own tax purposes. The obligation contained in the preceding sentence is subject to the limitation of paragraph 2 of this Article but in no case shall such limitations be construed to permit a Contracting State to decline to supply information solely because it has no domestic interest in such information.

4. In no case shall the provisions of paragraph 2 of this Article be construed to permit a Contracting State to decline to supply information solely because the information is held by a bank, other financial institution, nominee or person acting in an agency or a fiduciary capacity or because it relates to ownership interests in a person. However such information should be used only for tax matters covered by this Agreement.

## **ARTICLE 26**

### **Members of Diplomatic Missions and Consular Posts**

Nothing in this Agreement shall affect the fiscal privileges of members of diplomatic missions or consular posts under the general rules of international law or under the provisions of special agreements.

## **ARTICLE 27**

### **Miscellaneous Provisions**

Nothing in this Agreement shall affect the application of the domestic provisions to prevent tax evasion and tax avoidance.

## **ARTICLE 28**

### **Entry into Force**

1. Each of the Contracting State shall notify to the other in writing through the diplomatic channels the completion of the procedures required by its legislation for the entry into force of this Agreement. This Agreement shall

enter into force on the first day of the second month following the month in which the latter of these notifications was received.

2. The provisions of this Agreement shall have effect:
  - (a) in the case of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:
    - (i) with regard to taxes withheld at source, in respect of amounts paid on or after the first day of January next following the date upon which the Agreement enters into force; and
    - (ii) with regard to other taxes, in respect of taxable years beginning on or after the first day of January next following the date upon which the Agreement enters into force; and
  - (b) in the case of Vietnam:
    - (i) in respect of taxes withheld at source, in relation to taxable amounts as derived on or after the first day of January following the calendar year in which the Agreement enters into force, and in subsequent calendar years; and
    - (ii) in respect of other Vietnamese taxes, in relation to income, profits gains or capital arising on or after the first day of January following the calendar year in which the Agreement enters into force, and in subsequent calendar years.

## **ARTICLE 29**

### **Termination**

1. This Agreement shall remain in force indefinitely but either of the Contracting States may terminate the Agreement through the diplomatic channel, by giving to the other Contracting State written notice of termination not later than 30 June of any calendar year starting five years after the year in which the Agreement entered into force.
2. In such event the Agreement shall cease to have effect:
  - (a) in the case of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:

- (i) with regard to taxes withheld at source, in respect of amounts paid after the end of the calendar year in which such notice is given; and
  - (ii) with regard to other taxes, in respect of taxable years beginning after the end of the calendar year in which such notice is given; and
- (b) in the case of Vietnam:
- (i) in respect of taxes withheld at source, in relation to taxable amounts as derived on or after the first day of January following the calendar year in which the notice of termination has been received, and in any subsequent calendar years; and
  - (ii) in respect of other Vietnamese taxes, in relation to income, profits, gains or capital arising on or after the first day of January following the calendar year in which the notice of termination has been received, and in subsequent calendar years.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

**DONE** in duplicate at Riyadh this 10<sup>th</sup> day of April of the year two thousand and ten Corresponding to 25<sup>th</sup> of Rabi' II 1431, in the Arabic, Vietnamese and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of divergence of interpretation, the English text shall prevail.

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE KINGDOM OF  
SAUDI ARABIA**

**FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF  
VIETNAM**

**IBRAHIM A. AL-ASSAF  
MINISTER OF FINANCE**

**PHAM SY DANH  
VICE MINISTER, MINISTRY OF FINANCE**