

Electricity centre building begins

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SOC TRANG — Viet Nam Oil and Gas Group (PetroVietnam) and southern Soc Trang Province yesterday began construction work on the Long Phu Electricity Centre.

Speaking at the launch ceremony held in Soc Trang Province, Vice Chairman of the National Assembly Uong Chu Luu said the centre would be the biggest of its kind in the Cuu Long (Mekong) Delta. It will be among **74 planned power plants and centres** that will be built in the country between now and 2025.

The power centre, with an estimated total cost of US\$5 billion, has a designed combined capacity of 4,400MW, doubling that of the Hoa Binh Hydro-electric Plant in the north. It will include three thermo-power plants.

The projected would create jobs, promote production and raise the province's budget, Luu said. The 400ha centre is being built on the right bank of the Hau River in Long Phu District. The Long Phu 1 Thermo Power Plant is expected to be operational by 2013-14, the Long Phu 2 Plant should be operational by 2015 and the Long Phu 3 Plant by 2016-17. — VNS

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