

Ho Chi Minh City lists the Top 10 businessmen

THE ten most successful businessmen in Ho Chi Minh City last year according to the biweekly magazine Science-Technology and Economy were:

- Tang Minh Phung, of Minh Phung garment factory. Often hailed as the "Little Dragon" in Vietnam's economy over the last three years. Born in 1957, he led his production enterprise from a small unit with only eight workers in 1981 to a company employing over 5,000 fulltime workers in 18 workshops with a turnover of US\$40 million in 1992. Minh Phung is planning to get into other fields of production and to increase sales to US\$60 million, generated by 12,000 workers in 27 workshops. Tang Minh Phung is also known as a great contributor to charity projects.

- Vu Khai Thanh, general manager of Biti's. Now a well-known private company producing footwear and other consumer products, Biti's was first established as a small cooperative in 1982. It now has over 2000 workers and assets worth US\$6 million. Biti's shoes are exported to 20 countries, and it has also set up a joint venture with a Taiwanese company, in which Biti's stake is worth US\$3 million.

- Vo Quoc Thang, direc-

tor of the Dong Tam floor tile company. Dong Tam churned out four million tile-floors in 1992, double 1991's production, following the renovation of the production line. 10 per cent of the output is exported to Cambodia. Dong Tam's 17 shops are scattered all over the south of Vietnam. Vo Quoc Thang is only 28 years old.



Tang Minh Phung

- Le Van Kiem, general manager of Huy Hoang Garment for Export Company. Established 13 years ago, the company under Kiem saw growth in sales of US\$5 million to US\$37 million last year, and in employees from 250 to 3,000. Huy Hoang Company's turnover in 1993 is predicted to reach US\$50 million.

- Dinh Cong Hung, general manager of Thanh Cong Textile Company. After graduating in mechanical engineering in 1976 Hung first worked at the company as a technical

officer. In 1982 he became a director. Thanh Cong Company produced 26 million metres of material and six million pieces of garments in 1992.

- Nguyen Dang Quang, director of Lam Son Lacquerwares Company. In five years Lam Son has been transformed from a small district enterprise into a company renowned worldwide for its lacquerware products. 1992 turnover reached VND250 billion, nearly double 1991's performance. Lam Son Company is involved in many charity, sports sponsorship, and cultural events.

- Nguyen Bi, general manager of Vifon. Under his stewardship since 1985, Vifon now holds 65 per cent of the nation's instant noodle market. In 1992, Vifon churned out more than 240 million packs, earning VND150 billion. It predicts sales of VND280 billion in 1993.

- Nguyen Minh Luan, director of the Central Medicinal Products Enterprise Number 24. There since 1975, Luan's company's sales reached VND100 billion last year. Over 150 species of medicine are now produced under the Mekophar brand.

- Ho Chi Cong, director of Tico Detergent

Enterprise. In the last few years, Tico has become a household name. Tico Detergent Enterprise last year produced more than 10,000 tonnes of detergent as its assets increased from US\$400,000 in 1991 to



Lamson lacquerware a success story

US\$2 million.

- Duong Van Day, director of Saigon Tourist. The company's turnover in 1992 reached VND135.48 billion and US\$22.3 million. Out of 632,000 tourists assisted, more than 177,000 were foreigners. Saigon Tourist has many projects in cooperation with foreign investors.