The Song Chung Hydropower project harnesses the flowing energy of the Con River to generate over 60,000 MWh of clean, renewable hydroelectricity each year, helping to bridge the supply-demand gap in Vietnam’s north and boost the country’s growing renewables sector.
The Context
Electricity in Vietnam is mainly generated by firing coal, oil or gas – an emissions-heavy process. In recent years, northern Vietnam particularly has suffered critical electricity shortages consequent of rapidly rising demand and insufficient supply. This adversely impacts economic growth, while communities experience energy poverty.

The Project
Located in Quang Binh District in Ha Giang – a poor, mountainous province on Vietnam’s northern border with China – the Song Chung Hydropower project comprises a dam, canal intakes, penstocks, a powerhouse with three units, and discharge channels. The hydropower station converts the energy of the Con River’s flowing water into clean electricity, which is supplied to the national grid along an 18 km, 110 kV transmission line. Metering systems are installed at the substation between the powerplant and the grid.

The Benefits
This project displaces fossil fuel fired power with renewable hydroelectricity, reducing emissions and balancing Vietnam’s energy supply-demand gap. It also reduces the country’s reliance on imported and exhaustible, polluting fossil fuels and accelerates the deployment of renewable energy technologies. This especially fosters low-carbon industrialisation and economic growth in Ha Giang province, with the project paying annual taxes of VND 7.18 billion. The local minority ethnicity communes of Yen Binh, Tien Nguyen and Tan Nam also benefit from potential employment opportunities and improved infrastructure – including upgraded roads and communication systems, electricity supply, and clean water.

For more information on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, please visit: http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/

Official name: Song Chung Hydropower Project  |  Registry link: https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects/details/514 |  Registry ID: GS 3014

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