“The greenhouse gases and aerosol data collected at the Pha Din station will effectively contribute to the research and response activities to climate change at regional as well as global scales.”

– Tran Hong Thai, Deputy Director General NHMS
The Pha Din station is located in a hilly and forested environment in the Dien Bien Province in North-Western Vietnam. Thanks to the low human activity in the vicinity the site provides ideal conditions for establishing aerosol and greenhouse gas measurements representative for a larger region. At the same location basic meteorological measurements already exist since 2012. In July 2014, Pha Din was acknowledged as a Global Atmosphere Watch Regional Station.

Within the CATCOS Project, the National Hydrometeorological Service of Vietnam (NHMS) together with the Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI) and the Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology (Empa) establish aerosol and greenhouse gas observations at Pha Din station. Subsequent to the successful implementation of the new measuring equipment, joint efforts concentrate on standard data processing methods. This guarantees the submission of high-quality data to the respective International Data Centers for aerosols and greenhouse gases.

On-site trainings as well as twinning activities between the Vietnamese and Swiss partners aim towards the sustainable continuation of the observations. Once the station operators are familiar with standard operating and detailed maintenance procedures, activities proceed to enhance the technical and scientific capacities. Working stays in Switzerland further develop the competences in data analysis and publication.