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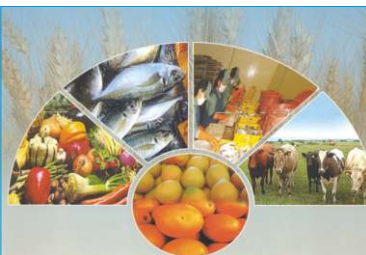
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**Tel:**+ 84 - 4 - 3.9923476 / 3.8544728, **Fax:** +84-4 - 35542845  
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Vietnam is one of the most beautiful countries in South East Asia, with stunning landscapes, lush paddy fields, ethnic cultures, idyllic beaches & chaotic yet dynamic & charming cities.

With Vietnam's long history, there is a mixture of Eastern & Western influences whether it be in the guise of Chinese or French food or architecture, yet Vietnam is still very much Vietnam in its own right. The delicious food also signifies Vietnam's personality; aromatic, gentile, strong & spicy!


The spirit of the old & modern co exists in a country that is fast moving & developing in tourism. There are a lot of beautifully preserved old colonial buildings, temples & Pagodas intermingled with modern ones.

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## Pak- Vietnam Relations:

### Tapping into hidden Trade potentials

Vietnam, a beautiful Southeast Asian country with 90.7 million people, has maintained modest economic ties with Pakistan ever since the decade of 1970s. During early years of the bilateral trade, Pakistan only imported Vietnamese cement while the exported items included fertilizers, jute bags and the Sind cow breed. However, with the initiatives of Trade offices from both sides, bilateral trade turnover between Vietnam and Pakistan has considerably increased in the recent years.

Now, the most popular Vietnamese export goods to Pakistan are tea, pepper, fabrics, rubber, cashew nuts, ceramics, steel, etc. On the other hand, our country is exporting garment and textile materials, fabrics, medicines, wheat flour, cattle foodstuff, cotton, etc. However, there are still great potentials for both the countries to further enhance their bilateral cooperation in different areas of economy



including, but not limited to, trade and investment, fishery, IT and software industry, agriculture, culture and education.



Vietnam, with its population figure and an annual growth rate of 5-8%, presents a huge market for Pakistani products as it is the most emerging economy in the region. Also, being an active member of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Vietnam can act as a bridge for Pakistan to develop close relations with ASEAN countries. Pakistan can get easy access to the markets of ASEAN region by promoting better relations with Vietnam. Similarly Pakistan is the second largest economy of South Asia with a population of 191.7 million people and it can help Vietnam in promoting its relations with South Asian countries.

Now, it is high time that the authorities from both sides should launch promotional campaign to share mutual interests. In this regard, the relevant steps need to be taken to enhance trade in the specified sectors. Such steps can include exchange of delegations, participation in fairs/exhibitions, sharing of information on quality standards and trade procedures between the two countries. Trade Promotion Agencies of both countries must collaborate and sign mutual agreements for promotion of trade and economic relations as both countries have great potential in various sectors of their economies.

# Global Food





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Mian Fazal Elahi

## Editorial

The relations between Pakistan and Vietnam are exemplary in many fields. Pakistan and Vietnam relationship are largely based on mutual trade and international political cooperation opportunities between the two countries. Pakistan maintains an embassy in Hanoi, and Vietnam has an embassy in Islamabad.

Vietnam has always supported Pakistan during hard time e.g. during the 2010 Pakistan floods Vietnam provided aid worth US\$50,000 to the government of Pakistan.

Vietnam has also great role in the international politics and that is considered very positive internationally.

Trade between the two countries increased from US\$10 million in 1999 to US\$150 million in 2008. Pakistan is Vietnam largest tea importer. Pakistan exports to Vietnam consist of cotton, leather and pharmaceutical product, and include potential for export of motorcycles, plastic products and surgical instruments and investment in coal mining and aquaculture. Meanwhile Vietnam has potential to export rubber, rubber products and machinery to Pakistan.

Political cooperation and relations are also very good between the two. Pakistan considers Vietnam an important diplomatic partner, because of Vietnam full membership of ASEAN, and Vietnam support of Pakistan's bid to be a full dialogue partner of ASEAN. Therefore under the Pakistan "East Asia Vision Strategy" foreign policy, Vietnam has potential to promote Pakistan mutual interest in ASEAN, whereas Pakistan supports Vietnam bid for non-permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council. Vietnam support for Pakistan in 2011 for EU duty waiver for its textile products has also been seen as very significant by Pakistani diplomats. Both the countries have immense potentials for mutual trade and ties in various fields, so cry of the day is to explore and utilize them.

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Muhammad Hassan Zafar  
Rana Bilal Ahmed  
RN Scanner Islamabad

Circulation Manager:  
Scan & Processing:

Legal Advisor:

M. Hussain Shahbaz Advocate High Court  
Mobile: +92-315-9994107  
Bureau Chief  
Schengen States, Germany  
+49-3044040724, +49-17662875192

Mian Mobeen Akhtar

Country Director  
Copenhagen Denmark

Fazal Hussain 004540521485  
Email: [fazal1955@hotmail.com](mailto:fazal1955@hotmail.com)

Editor in Chief  
UK/EU Edition:  
Mian Asadullah  
Javed Iqbal Butt  
M. Zahoor

4 Ipswich Road SW 179 RH, London,  
+44-7943236809, 2087694850

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Resident Editors

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1st Floor Office No 50 Gulf Plaza Madina  
Street P.O Box 65454 Jeddah 21556  
Cell: +966-506389895

Bureau Office

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Shahid Akbar Toor  
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Blue Area Islamabad.

Publisher

Mian Fazal Elahi, House No 167, Street 58, Sector F-11/4 Islamabad.  
Tel: +92-51-2101410, 2101411, News Room: +92-51-2101412  
Fax: +92-51-2101410-2101413  
Mobile: +92-345-5565552, +92-322-5565552  
Email: [ceo@diplomaticfocus.org](mailto:ceo@diplomaticfocus.org), [info@diplomaticfocus.org](mailto:info@diplomaticfocus.org)  
[mianfazalelahi@gmail.com](mailto:mianfazalelahi@gmail.com), [diplomaticfocus.isb.pk@gmail.com](mailto:diplomaticfocus.isb.pk@gmail.com)

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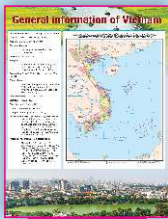
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Mian Fazal Elahi**



**On Special Supplement on  
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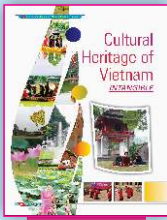
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# General information of Vietnam

**Official Name:** The Socialist Republic of Vietnam

**Capital:** Hanoi (7.1 million, 2013 est.)

**National Day:** 2 September 1945

**National Anthem:**

The Song of the Marching Troops,  
lyrics/music: Van CAO

**Languages:** Vietnamese

**Religions:**

Buddhist 9.3%, Catholic 6.7%, Hoa Hao 1.5%, Cao Dai 1.1%, Protestant 0.5%, Muslim 0.1%, none 80.8%

**Population:** 93,421,835 (2014 est.) urban: 33% (2014)

**Major cities:**

Ho Chi Minh City 7.1 million; Can Tho 1.108 million; Haiphong 1.041 million; Da Nang 926,000; Bien Hoa 807,000 (2014)

**Life expectancy:** 72.91 years

**Literacy:** 94.5% (2013)

**Monetary unit:** Dong (VND)

**Growth rate:** 6.03% (2014 est.)

**GDP per capital:** \$2,328 (2015 est.)

**Location and Area:** Southeast Asia, bordered on the north by China, on the east by the Gulf of Tonkin, on the Southeast by the Bien Dong, on the southwest by the Gulf of Thailand, and on the west by Cambodia and Laos, with a total land boundary of 4,639 km and a coastline of 3,444 km.

**International organization participation:**

ADB, APEC, ARF, ASEAN, CICA, CP, EAS, FAO, G-77, IAEA, IBRD, ICAO, ICC (NGOs), ICRM, IDA, IFAD, IFC, IFRCs, ILO, IMF, IMO, IMSO, Interpol, IOC, IOM, IPU, ISO, ITSO, ITU, MIGA, NAM, OIF, OPCW, PCA, UN, UNCTAD, UNESCO, UNIDO, UNWTO, UPU, WCO, WFTU (NGOs), WHO, WIPO, WMO, WTO

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# President Ho Chi Minh (1890-1969): Founder of Vietnam



**P**resident Ho Chi Minh was born on 19 May 1890 in Kim Lien Village, Nam Dan District, Nghe An Province. On 3 June 1911, Ho Chi Minh left the country. In 1920, he took part in establishing the French Communist Party in the Tour Congress. He founded the Union of French Colonial Nations; published the newspaper *Le Paria* in France (1922). In 1924, he attended the Fifth Congress of Communist International and was appointed a standing member of the Oriental Department. He participated in establishing the Union of Asian Oppressed Nations, and published the two famous books, *The Indictment of French Colonialism* (1925) and *The Revolutionary Path* (1927).

In 1925, he founded the Vietnamese Revolutionary Youth Association in Guangzhou (China), training communist cadres to lead the association and popularize Marxism-Leninism in Vietnam. On 3 February 1930, he presided the Party Founding Conference of the Communist Party of Vietnam (later renamed the Indochina Communist Party, the Vietnam Workers' Party and nowadays the Communist Party of Vietnam). From 1930 to 1940, Ho Chi Minh engaged in activities to liberate the Vietnamese nation and other oppressed peoples under difficult conditions and hardships. In 1941, he returned Vietnam, deciding the way for national salvation, establishing the Vietnamese Independent Alliance Association (Viet Minh), building armed forces and revolutionary bases, leading the people to launch the uprisings and prepare

the general insurrection to seize power throughout the country.

After the August 1945 Revolution, on 2 September 1945, Ho Chi Minh read the Declaration of Independence to establish the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. On 13 December 1946, he gave the appeal to raise the anti-French resistance war for the sake of national independence and freedom. Under the leadership of the Central Party Committee, headed by President Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam resistance war won a resounding victory at Dien Bien Phu (1954).

After the Northern part of Vietnam was liberated (1955), President Ho Chi Minh put forward the two strategic tasks for the Vietnamese revolution: carrying out the

socialist revolution and building socialism in the North; and struggling to liberate the South and reunify the country. With the Party Central Committee, President Ho Chi Minh guided the great resistance war of the Vietnamese people to fight against the American aggressors as well as led the cause of socialist renewal and construction in North Vietnam.

President Ho Chi Minh was the beloved leader of the entire nation, a brilliant activist of the international communist and national liberation movements. President Ho Chi Minh has contributed significantly to creating modern Vietnamese culture. He promoted new concepts in culture, art, literature or any other fields, by setting himself a bright example.





Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong hold talk with US President Barack Obama at White House

## Open dialogue can resolve differences: Party leader Nguyen Phu Trong

**P**arty General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong paid a historic visit to United States from 6-10 July 2015. This is the first ever visit to the US by a General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam at the invitation of the President Barack Obama as the two sides are celebrating the 20th anniversary of diplomatic relations.

At the talks with Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong, US President Barack Obama emphasized that the US official visit by Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong is a historic visit in the two nations' relations.

The two leaders exchanged opinions and agreed on major directions to foster bilateral ties, deepen and diversify the comprehensive partnership in the coming time. They put emphasis on increasing high-level exchanges and contacts, expanding consultation mechanisms between the two countries on mutually concerned issues, promoting economic-trade-investment cooperation as a cornerstone and driving force for bilateral

relations, continuing to bolster scientific, educational, medical and environmental collaboration, reinforcing partnership in defence and security, including the effective implementation of the Joint Vision Statement on Defence Relations, enhancing people-to-people exchange and cooperation in humanitarian activities and settling consequences left from war, while continuing to cooperate in an extensive and result-oriented manner at multilateral mechanisms and forums so as to actively contribute to global peace, security, stability and sustainable development, including cooperation on anti-terrorism, cyber security, and coping with epidemics and climate change; underlined the importance of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement to regional development along with its major contributions to global growth and stability. The two leaders also had candid and open discussions on human rights issues.

President Obama agreed that the maintenance of peace, stability, security, safety and freedom of navigation and

aviation in the East Sea is the common interest and responsibility of the regional and international community; expressed support of the principle of resolving disputes via peaceful means on the basis of respect for international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, implementing strictly and fully the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the East Sea (DOC), and working towards the early conclusion of a Code of Conduct on the East Sea (COC), without using or threatening to use force and making acts to further complicate the situation in the East Sea.

### Agreements and Arrangements Reached

The following agreements and arrangements foster development of United States – Vietnam bilateral relations and form the firm foundation upon which both countries' future cooperation will continue to build, such as:

The Agreement between the Government of Vietnam and the government of the U.S. for the avoidance of double taxation and





Vice President Joe Biden, right, toasts with General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Nguyen Phu Trong, during a luncheon gathering in honor of Nguyen Phu Trong, at the Department of State in Washington, Tuesday, July 7, 2015. (AP Photo/Manuel)

the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income (DTA) and the Protocol to the DTA;

- The Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of National Defence of Vietnam and the Department of Defense of the United States on United Nations peacekeeping cooperation;
- The Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam and the United States Agency for International Development regarding the Emerging Pandemic Threats Program and the Global Health Security Agenda;
- The Grant Agreement between the United States Trade and Development Agency and the Civil Aviation Authority of Vietnam; and
- Vietnam's granting of the license for the new Fulbright University Vietnam."

#### **Joint Declaration on Vision of the Vietnam-US relationship. (Quoted)**

*Vision for United States – Vietnam Relations: Deepening a Long-Term Partnership*

Looking toward the future of bilateral relations and building on the Comprehensive Partnership, both countries affirm their continued pursuit of a deepened, sustained, and substantive relationship on the basis of respect for the United Nations Charter, international law, and each other's political systems, independence, sovereignty and territorial

integrity. The two sides are committed to maximizing shared interests and cooperation at both bilateral and multilateral levels, for the benefit of both peoples, contributing to peace, stability, cooperation and prosperity in the Asia – Pacific region and the world.

Strengthening political and diplomatic relations, increasing exchanges at high levels, and expanding bilateral consultations to continue to build trust and improve cooperation remain priorities for both the United States and Vietnam, as are enhancing economic, trade, and investment cooperation and deepening cooperation in science and technology, education, training, health, environment, and law enforcement (...)

The United States and Vietnam reaffirm continued bilateral cooperation in defense and security, as outlined in the United States – Vietnam Joint Vision Statement on Defense Relations. Both countries underscore their commitment to collaborating on, among other issues, addressing non-traditional security threats, cooperation in maritime security, maritime domain awareness, defense trade and information sharing, search and rescue, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and defense technology exchange".

#### **Increasing Cooperation on Global and Regional Issues**

The United States and Vietnam are

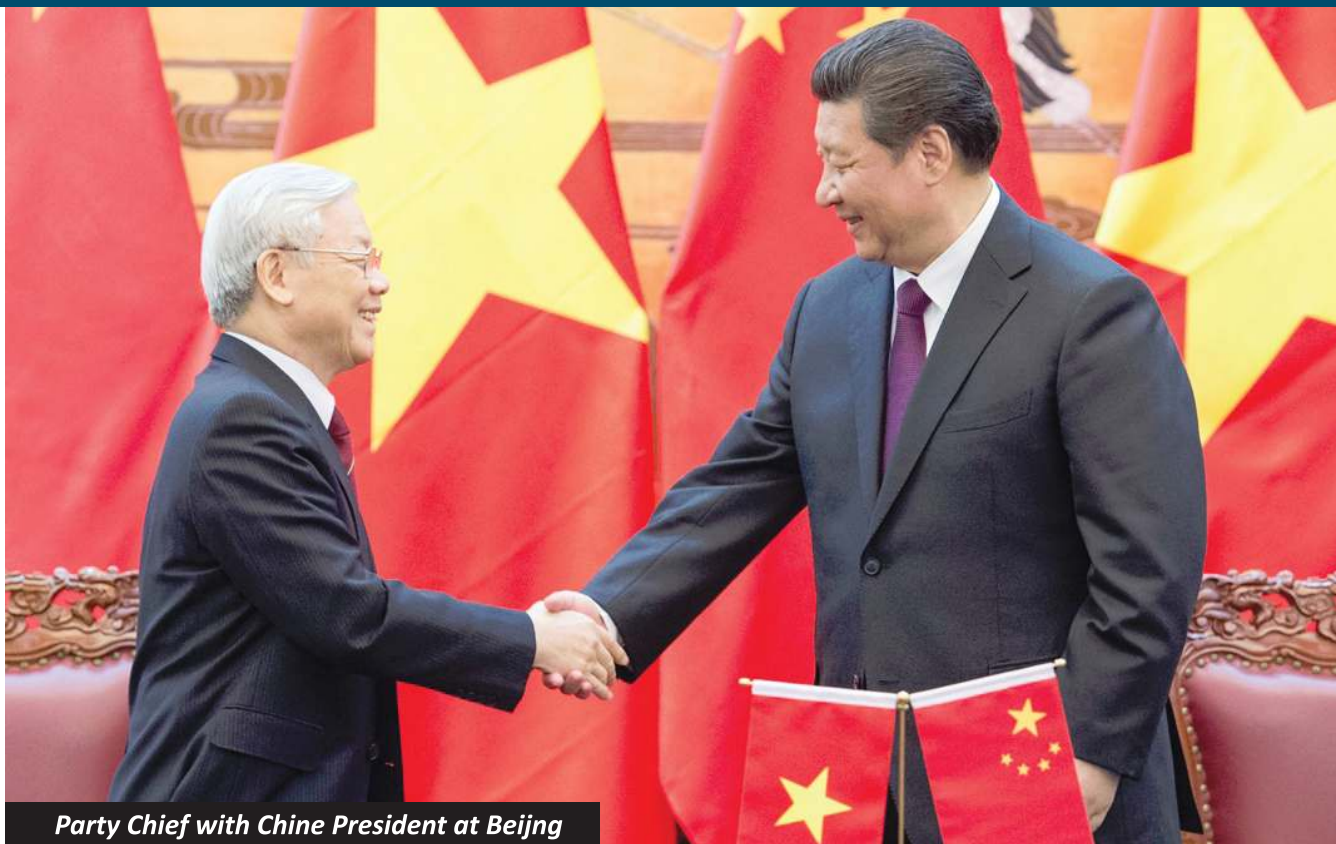
committed to enhancing cooperation in regional fora, such as the Asia – Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Forum, Lower Mekong Initiative, and the East Asia Summit, and recognize the importance of a united and strong ASEAN, ASEAN's central role in the regional political and security architecture, and the United States – ASEAN Strategic Partnership.

Both countries are concerned about recent developments in the South China Sea that have increased tensions, eroded trust, and threatened to undermine peace, security, and stability. They recognize the imperative of upholding the internationally-recognized freedoms of navigation and over flight; unimpeded lawful commerce, maritime security and safety; refraining from actions that raise tensions; ensuring that all actions and activities taken comply with international law; and rejecting coercion, intimidation, and the use or threat of force. Both countries support the peaceful resolution of disputes in conformity with international law, including as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (UNCLOS), and recognize the importance of fully implementing the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea in its entirety, as well as efforts to conclude the Code of Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea".



# Vietnam-China

## Consolidate Trust & Promote Cooperation for Mutual Benefits



*Party Chief with Chine President at Beijing*

**The official visit to China from 7-10 April 2015 by Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong at the invitation of Chinese Party General Secretary and State President Xi Jinping attracted special attention from both countries and the world.**

China is a neighbor and has a long-standing traditional friendship with Vietnam. It is now the largest partner of Vietnam. The two countries have similar political regimes and development paths and have established their comprehensive strategic cooperation partnership. However, their ties experienced obstacles over a period of time, triggered by differences dealing with the East Sea issue, negatively affecting sentiments of their officials, Party members and society. Therefore, the visit aimed at sincerely and frankly exchanging opinions with Chinese leaders on measures to fully restore and promote cooperation

of mutual benefits in all fields, consolidate trust, strengthen the friendship, exchange orientations to control the situation, maintain peace and stability in the East Sea, for the benefits of people in the two countries, the region and the world. During the visit, Vietnam and China issued the Vietnam-China joint communiqué of nine points affirming the outcomes of the visit and key perceptions reached between Party and State leaders about the 65-year history of bilateral diplomatic ties, strengthening political trust, promoting full and practical cooperation, maintaining peace and stability in the East Sea and developing the bilateral relationship in a

healthy, stable and sustainable fashion for the sake of the two countries' people as well as the regional and international communities.

In the spirit of openness and sincerity, the two sides proposed several important orientations to strengthen the bilateral comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership as follows:

First of all, the two sides reached a consensus on restoring fully and boosting cooperation of mutual benefits in many fields, including the good implementation of the "Master Plan on Vietnam – China Economic and Trade Cooperation for the

2012-2016 period” and the portfolio of key cooperative projects and signed economic and trade agreements.

China agreed to remove its recent warning that Chinese citizens avoid travelling to Vietnam and the two sides officially declared the establishment of working groups on currency and infrastructure cooperation and signed seven cooperative documents in some aspects.

Secondly, the two sides reached consensus on measures to reinforce trust, strengthen the friendship and maintain stability and the healthy development of the two countries' relations through the facilitation of high-ranking visits. The Party General Secretary invited the General Secretary and President Xi Jinping to pay an official visit to Vietnam soon and he accepted the invitation with pleasure.

Thirdly, the two sides exchanged opinions on sea-related issues in a sincere and straightforward manner, stressing the compliance with important common perceptions reached between senior leaders of the two Parties and States, and the serious implementation of the “Agreement on Basic Principles Guiding the Settlement of Vietnam-China Sea-related Issues”; effectively utilising the Government-level negotiation mechanism on Vietnam-China boundaries and territorial issues, persistently using friendly negotiations to seek basic and long-term solutions acceptable to both sides, actively studying transitional solutions that do not affect the stances and policies of each side, including actively studying and discussing cooperation for common development. Working together to manage disputes at sea, fully and effectively implementing the “Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the East Sea” (DOC), they will soon create a “Code of Conduct of Parties in the East Sea” (COC) on the basis of consultation and consensus, not taking actions that can further complicate and expand disputes; timely and satisfactorily settling arising problems, maintaining the overall situation



**Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong and Chinese Party General Secretary and State President Xi Jinping.**

of the Vietnamese-Chinese relations and peace and stability in the East Sea. The two sides agreed to promote activities of the Working Group in cooperation for common development at sea, increase cooperation in less sensitive areas, firmly pushing negotiations on demarcation of

the waters off the mouth of the Tonkin Gulf, actively boost cooperation for common development in these waters, and start joint surveys of the waters off the mouth of the Tonkin Gulf within this year.



**Chinese Party General Secretary and State President Xi Jinping and Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong review the honour guard**



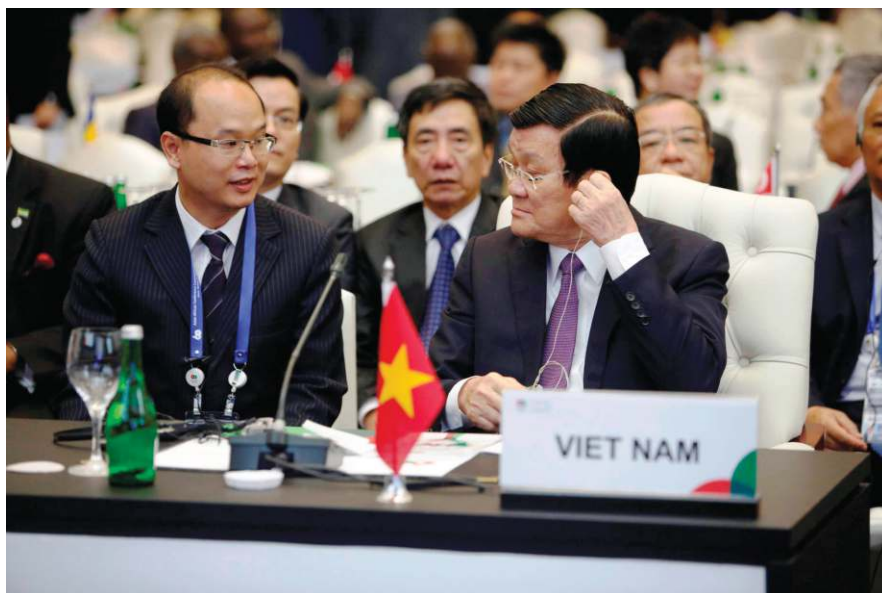


## President **Truong Tan Sang** calls for strong ties between Asia & Africa

"Asia and Africa have the responsibility of working together to tackle several major challenges facing the world", President Truong Tan Sang said in his remarks given at the Asian-African Conference in Jakarta and attending the 60th anniversary of the Bandung conference, the 10th anniversary of the New Strategic Asian - African Partnership in Bandung, Indonesia, from 22-24 April 2015.

At the opening ceremony of the Asian-African Conference on April 22, 2015 in Jakarta, President Truong Tan Sang delivered a speech underlining the need to protect the Bandung principles and step up stronger cooperation for regional and global peace and prosperity.

In his speech at the first plenary session following the opening ceremony, President Sang highlighted the 1995 Bandung Conference as a great source of inspiration





for Asian and African people to stand firm to win national independence and develop their nations in all aspects, thus raising the international position and role of the two continents- Asia and Africa.

President Sang also shared difficulties and challenges many Asian-African countries are facing, especially terrorism, armed conflicts, instability, territorial disputes, threats to use force, poverty, diseases, climate change, energy and food security, water management and the inequality of the economic and finance system and global trade.

"As one of the 29 participating countries at the Bandung Conference in 1955, Viet Nam strongly supports the conference's theme "Strengthening South-South Cooperation to Promote World Peace and Prosperity", and calls on the two continents to bolster cooperation to ensure peace and security - a prerequisite for sustainable development." Sang said.

He stressed the necessity to comply with the Ten Principles of Bandung, respect sovereignty and territorial integrity without aggression and threats to invade and use force and settle disputes by peaceful means in accordance with the United Nations Charter. In that spirit, President Sang highlighted Viet Nam's message "Strengthening the Asian-African connectivity for global peace and prosperity in accordance with international law."

Viet Nam will prioritize forging sustainable Asia-Africa connectivity based on common rules and standards, particularly economic links through the South-South cooperation initiatives on trade, investment, agriculture, telecommunications,

labourhealth, education at the regional, sub-regional and bilateral cooperation levels.

The two continents also need to push up maritime and aviation connectivity to guarantee a security and safe environment for the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean. The Vietnamese leader also urged the two continents to reinforce solidarity and



coordination at international forums to promote the interests of developing countries in the process of reforming political economic and financial institutions to deal with global issues, work out the post-2015 development agenda and measures for adaption to climate change under the framework of the WTO negotiations.

President Sang reiterated that the Bandung principles are in line with Viet

Nam's foreign policy for peace, cooperation and development in which the nation always gives high priority to boosting the traditional friendship, solidarity and cooperation with Asian-African countries.

He gave thanks to friendly countries, Asian and African nations for their valuable material and spiritual support for Vietnam in the past struggles for national independence and the current nation-building process.

Viet Nam consistently pursues peaceful settlement of disputes with respect to international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), properly and fully complies with the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the East Sea (DOC), and accelerate the finalization of a Code of Conduct in the East Sea (COC), the President said.

The country has been participating in global policy making mechanisms in a proactive and responsible manner, Sang said, noting that it is engaging in UN peacekeeping activities in South Sudan and the Central African Republic.

Viet Nam is joining hands with ASEAN countries to finalize the building of an ASEAN Community by the end of this year with the three major pillars- politics-security, economics and culture-society towards developing Southeast Asia into the area of peace, stability, cooperation and prosperity thus opening up opportunities for cooperation between the two regions as well as in the world, Sang said.







Prime Minister  
**Nguyen Tan Dung:**

# Vietnam

an attractive destination for foreign investors

**W**riting on the blog of the World Economic Forum on May 23, 2014 Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung stressed the role of foreign direct

investment in Vietnam's economy, reaffirming that FDI enterprises' success is taken as Vietnam's own.

Attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) has always been a key part of Vietnam's external economic affairs. Vietnam already has many comparative advantages and a

strong investment climate, but we are working hard to become even more appealing to foreign investors. We are doing so by vigorously renovating the business and investment climate, and by recognizing that the FDI sector is an integral part of the economy – essential to restructuring the economy and raising national competitiveness.

As of last month, there were more than 16,300 active FDI projects in Vietnam that have collectively pulled in a total of US\$238 billion. These investors came from 100 countries and territories, and many of them are some of the world's leading multinational corporations. In 2013, FDI inflow exceeded US\$22 billion, an increase of more than 35% from 2012. The figures indicate that Vietnam has become a destination of choice for foreign investors.

So what explains this Vietnamese success story?

First, Vietnam has been securing socio-political stability, and is known to be one of the most dynamic economies. Economic



# 26<sup>th</sup> ASEAN SUMMIT OPENING CEREMONY

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 27 April 2015





growth between 1991 and 2010 averaged 7.5% each year and, despite the many difficulties the country faced between 2011 and 2013, GDP growth still rose by 5.6%. Several international forecasts suggest that this trend will continue in 2014-2015 and beyond.

Second, Vietnam is now in a period of golden population structure 60% of its population are working age. It also has a favorable geographical location right at the heart of East Asia – home to a number of large and vibrant economies. Furthermore, the country is a market economy, a member of the WTO, and a party to multiple frameworks for international economic integration, including free trade agreements with partners both within and outside the region. In particular, the country is part of the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations. These factors all go some way to explaining why so many choose to invest in Vietnam – and should draw in more foreign investors.

Third, the Vietnamese government is committed to creating a fair and attractive business environment for foreign investors, and constantly improving its legal framework and institutions related to business and investment. The government has been working hard on restructuring the economy and its model for growth, as well as enhancing national competitiveness.

To add new chapters to this success story, the Vietnamese government is continuing to revitalise its business and investment climate. One way it is doing this is its work

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corporations.**

on three “strategic breakthroughs”: putting in place market economy institutions and a legal framework; building an advanced and integrated infrastructure, particularly transport; and developing a quality workforce. These should all be completed by 2020.

The government remains determined to fulfill its treaty obligations and promote the negotiation and conclusion of a new generation of free trade agreements. Vietnam views the success of FDI enterprises as its own success. As such, the government is committed to ensuring a stable socio-political environment, protecting the legitimate rights and interests of investors, and creating an enabling environment for FDI enterprises in the country.

In the medium and long term, Vietnam will continue in its efforts to attract and efficiently use FDI inflows to advance socio-economic development. The country will target “high quality” FDI inflows, focusing on FDI projects that use advanced and environmentally friendly technologies, and use natural resources in a sustainable way. It will also target projects with competitive products that could be part of the global production network and value chain.

International forecasts suggest that as the world economy recovers, FDI flows are returning to dynamic economies. Given the positive prospects for both global and regional economies, we are confident Vietnam will continue to find success in this area.”



Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung and the Prime Ministers of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Armenia have signed a free trade agreement (FTA) between Vietnam and the Eurasian Economic Community in Kazakhstan, 5/2015



## REMARKS BY CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF VIETNAM **H.E. NGUYEN SINH HUNG** AT THE IPU 132

*Chairman of the National Assembly of Vietnam  
and IPU-132 President Nguyen Sinh Hung*

The National Assembly of Viet Nam is honored to host the 132nd IPU Assembly and related meetings. This is an important milestone in the history of Viet Nam's diplomacy since Viet Nam became an official member of the IPU more than 35 years ago. It is a political event of great historical and diplomatic significance, demonstrating enormous efforts of the National Assembly of Viet Nam in international integration, and being a responsible member of the international community. The hosting of IPU-132 Assembly meetings also is an opportunity for the people and the National Assembly of Viet Nam to express our friendship, solidarity and cooperation with parliamentarians and people from all continents of the world. Currently, Viet Nam has received the confirmation of participation of more than 160 delegations from the member parliaments, associate members, observers and international guests.

The IPU-132 theme "Sustainable Development Goals: Turning words into action" reflect a very important topic for IPU and people around the world. This is a chance for us to assess the outcomes of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and to propose the Sustainable Development Goals for the post-2015 period. It is equally important for IPU to discuss the issues of the role of Parliaments in the fields of cyber security, water management, international laws, national sovereignty, human rights, gender

equality, other problems of the United Nations, human rights of MPs; health care of mothers and children, HIV/AIDS etc.

As a member of IPU, the National Assembly of Viet Nam has actively participated in and contributed to this Forum. It is a great honor for the National Assembly and the people of Viet Nam to host the IPU-132. The National Assembly of Viet Nam has made thorough preparations in terms of the substances,

information dissemination, reception, logistics, security and medical care for the IPU -132. Viet Nam is ready for IPU-132 and we are committed to exhausting all efforts to ensure the success of this important event.

I wish the 132nd Assembly of the IPU in Hanoi, Viet Nam a great success and I hope that you will leave with fond memories about our country and people./.



*Chairman of the National Assembly of Vietnam and IPU-132 President Nguyen Sinh Hung received Deputy Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan Murtaza Javed Abbasi, April 2015 in Hanoi.*





# Continue moving forward with intensive international integration

Deputy Prime Minister-Foreign Minister

**Pham Binh Minh**

**D**eputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Pham Binh Minh said in an interview with media “A profound imprint of Vietnam’s diplomacy in 2014 was the robust development of international integration and multilateral diplomacy across all sectors, along with the transformation of multilateral diplomacy from “active participation” to “proactive contribution to shaping the rules of the game”. (Quoted)

A highlight of Vietnam’s diplomacy in 2014 was that the diplomatic service continued to implement effectively its central task of serving national development; assisting Ministries, central agencies and local authorities and businesses to seek new opportunities, new markets and attract foreign investment. Based on the achievement of 2013 which was the completion of the frameworks for partnership with many important partners, in 2014 we actively specified and realized the elements of those partnerships to make them more profound with concrete deliverables, including, among others, the EU’s commitment to increase ODA for Viet Nam to US\$ 400 million for the 2014-2020 period, the conclusion of a US\$12 billion-

worth Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the ROK on infrastructure development, the upgrading of relations with Japan to Extensive Strategic Partnership, the ratification of the Civil

Nuclear Cooperation Agreement (123 Agreement) by the US, the development of economic – investment cooperation with potential partners in the Middle-East including United Arab Emirates and Qatar,



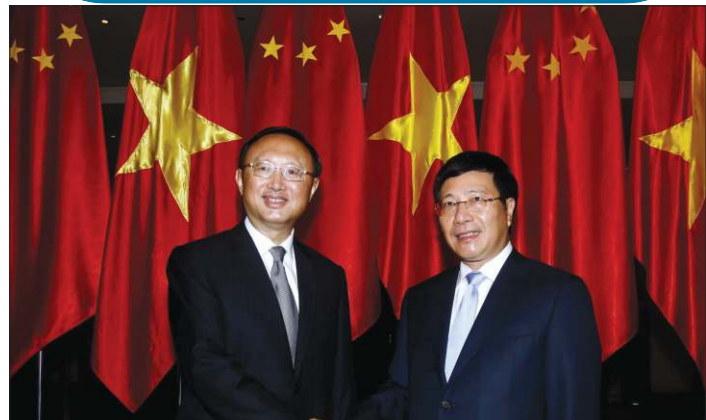
*Deputy Prime Minister Pham Binh Minh with US State Secretary John Kerry*

and the recognition of Viet Nam's market economy status by 12 more countries, thus increasing the number of countries already recognizing Viet Nam as a market economy country to 56. Such outcomes have significantly contributed to sustaining economic growth and promoting economic restructuring in our country.

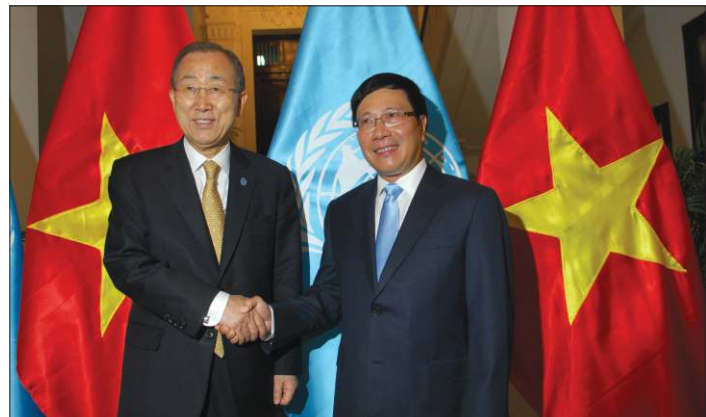
The priorities for Vietnam's diplomacy in 2015 is momentous as it is the final year to accomplish the tasks put forward by the 11th Party Congress and to prepare for the 12th Party Congress. It is also a year of major national celebrations such as the 85th anniversary of the Communist Party of Viet Nam, the 70th anniversary of the Independence Day, and the 40th anniversary of liberation of the South Vietnam and national reunification.

In the mean time, the world and our region are expected to witness continued complex developments. Risks and uncertainties see no sign of reduction and are even more unpredictable. Non-traditional security challenges have increasingly become global, requiring the international community to increase concerted efforts to respond. Forecasts about the world economic outlook in 2015 seem to be more optimistic; however, steady recovery is nowhere in sight given the difficulties facing major economies. The war on oil prices, protectionism, trade discrimination and disputes remains fierce.

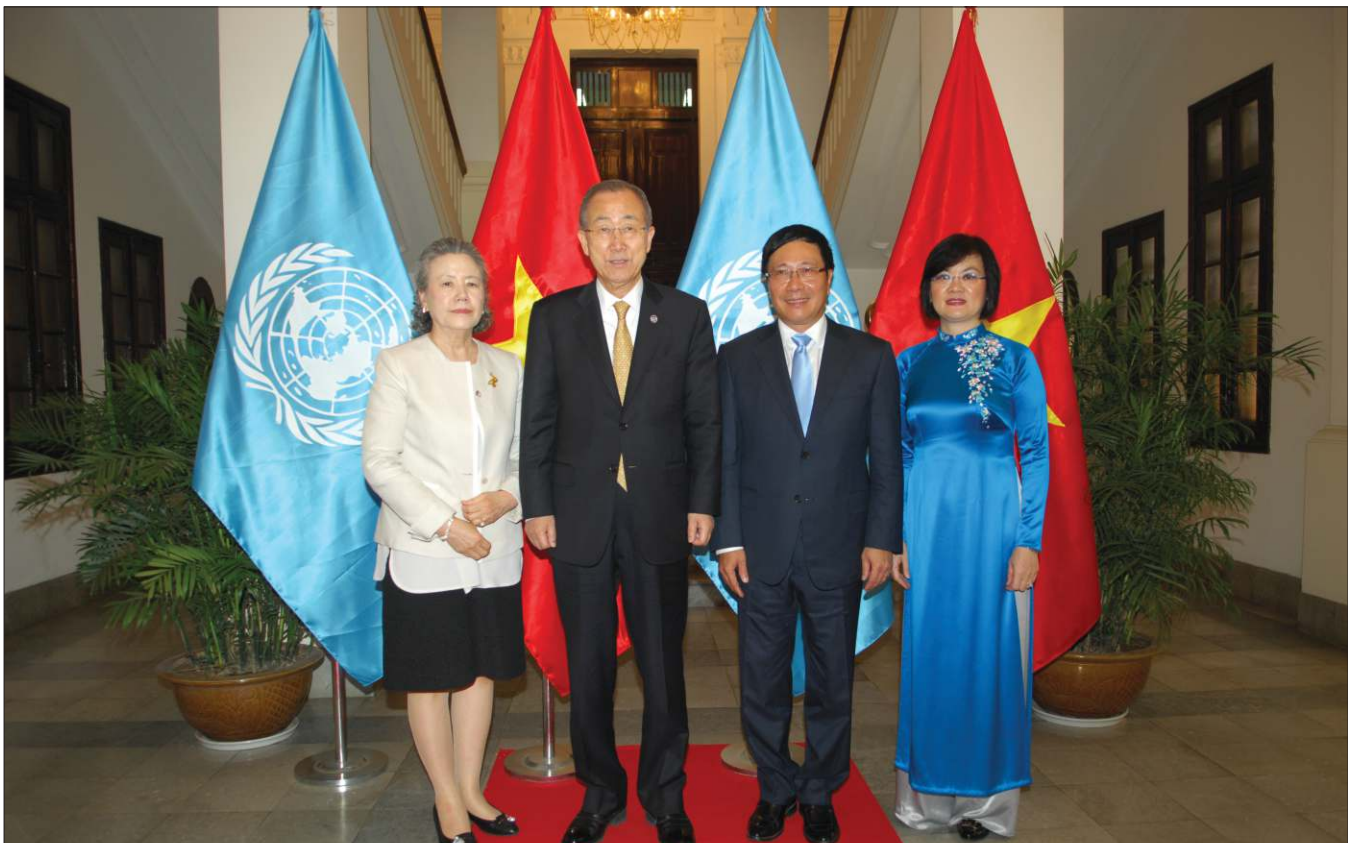
Opportunities are lying ahead but so are challenges. They are intertwined amid the re-arrangements in the global and regional landscape. It is essential that we are able to position our country in the evolving political, security and economic architecture of the region. We must be conscious to clearly identify opportunities and challenges, seek solutions to translate opportunities into reality, minimize and neutralize the challenges.



*Deputy PM and FM Pham Binh Minh (R) and Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi*



*H.E. Pham Binh Minh and UN Secretary General Ban Ki moon*



*Deputy PM Pham Binh Minh and UN Secretary General*





H.E Nguyen Xuan Luu

## 70th founding anniversary of the Socialist Republic of **Viet Nam**

### VIETNAM ON THE WAY OF RENOVATION AND INTERNATIONAL INTEGRATION

**O**n September 2nd 1945, President Ho Chi Minh - the beloved leader of the Vietnamese people - proclaimed the Declaration of Independence, giving birth to the independent Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, now the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

Over the past 70 years, the Vietnam people have gone through two fierce wars against colonial and imperialist aggression for liberty, independence and unification. However, after reunification in 1975, Vietnam continues facing to many difficulties. We have to overcome consequences of wars, breaking out embargo for economic development, integration and protect territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country.

After 30 years of economic reform (Doi Moi/Renovation) from 1986, Vietnam has recorded great achievements. From an underdeveloped nation, we have become a middle income developing country with annual average growth of 7%. The economic structure has seen positive transformation. Industries and services have accounted for 83% of the total GDP. The economy kept growing; GDP and export expanded by 7 folds and 200 folds respectively. GDP per capita in 2015 amounts to 2,200 USD dollars. Economic and



*President Mamnoon Hussain received Ambassador Nguyen Xuan Luu*

social infrastructure has strongly developed thus creating a new image for the country. Social progress, justice, social welfare and people's life was greatly improved. Poverty rate fell sharply to less than 6%. More than 98% of households have used electricity from the national grid. Life expectancy increased from 64 in 1986 to 73.5 in 2015. Viet Nam has fulfilled ahead of schedule most of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

Implementing the foreign policy of "be friend and reliable partner" with all countries, Vietnam has been proactively and positively taking part in regional and international integration. To date, Vietnam has established diplomatic relations with more than 180 countries, trade relation with over 230 markets and signed nearly 90 bilateral trade agreements, more than 60 investment protection agreements and 50 agreements on avoidance of double taxation. Vietnam also signed 10 Free Trade Agreements (FTA) and going to completes 5 more other bilateral and multilateral FTA. Besides, Vietnam's economy is also one open economy in Southeast Asia, with the share of exports accounted for over 150% of the GDP. Currently, Vietnam has attracted more than 18,000 FDI projects from over 100 countries with total registered capital of nearly 300 billion USD and tens of billions of ODA. Vietnam is a leading country to complete roadmap for the ASEAN Community in 2015 - a dynamic economy

with over 600 million people and a GDP of more than 2,400 billion USD.

Vietnam is striving for an objective of increase 2.2 times of GDP by 2020 with an average of 6.5 - 7%/year and per capital income of more than 3,000 USD. The national economy structure continues improved with industrial production and services take accounts for over 85% of GDP. Social progress, justice, social welfare and people's life was continue improved to meet with President Ho Chi Minh's desire to build a "strong country, wealthy people, just and civilized society".

Vietnam and Pakistan share a common in the history of the struggle for independence from colonial since the conclusion of World War 2 and consistently striving for sovereignty to the country's development. The two countries established diplomatic relations event on 8 November 1972, in the context of the war on Vietnam. Over past 40 years, our friendly and cooperative relations are continuously developed. Leaders of the two countries have frequently exchange visit and meet in international fora. The two countries have signed many treaties, agreements in many aspects to facilitate and promote development of the relations between the two countries. In 2014, the two ways trade turnover reached \$ 420 million, of which, Vietnam exported to Pakistan more than \$ 250 million and imported about 150 million USD. Pakistan has 7 investment projects in Vietnam with

total capital of more than 1.5 million USD. The two countries have established Joint Economic Committee and Sub Committee for Trade mechanisms and granted exemption visa for diplomatic and official passports holders.

Both Vietnam and Pakistan have a geostrategic position in Southeast Asia and South Asia and located in a dynamically developing region of the world. With nearly 200 million people in Pakistan and 100 million people in Vietnam, our two countries have great potential to further develop the friendly relations and multifaceted cooperation between the two peoples. Vietnam is willing to act as a bridge for Pakistani goods, services and businesses to penetrate ASEAN markets and wishing Pakistan will be a bridge for Vietnam to foster its relations with SAARC countries and South Asia. The two countries should actively exchange high-level visits, signing more agreements to motivate political-economic and legal framework to further promote relations between the two countries, in the field of economic, education and training, culture, science and technology.

The Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan will do its best to complete the task, in order to further develop the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries, for the benefit the two peoples.





# Vietnam – Pakistan Relations

Vietnam and Pakistan officially established diplomatic relations on 8 November 1972. Pakistan opened its Embassy in Hanoi in 1973. However, due to economic reasons, Pakistan closed the embassy in 1980. Vietnam also opened her embassy in Islamabad in 1978 and had to close it down in 1984 due to her own economic difficulty.

The bilateral relations between Vietnam and Pakistan in recent years have been considerably improved. Both countries' leaders expressed their willingness to strengthen the existing relations, not only in the political sphere but also in other areas such as trade and economics, and exchange more visits from one to another's country, including both high-ranking and working visits. Pakistan reopened her embassy in Hanoi in October 2000. Vietnam also reopened her embassy in Islamabad in December 2005 and trade office in Karachi in November 2005.

In March 2004, President Tran Duc Luong visited Pakistan. Foreign Minister Nguyen Dy Nien visited Pakistan in April 2005 to attend the Asian Cooperation Dialogue meeting held in Islamabad...General Pervez Musharraf visited Vietnam in May 2001. Deputy Trade Minister Waqar Masood Khan in July 2003 visited Vietnam. Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung and

Prime Minister of Pakistan has bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit in Korea (3/2012) and in the Netherlands (3/2014). H.E. Mr. Murtaza Javed Abbasi, Deputy Speaker National Assembly headed a Pakistan National Assembly visited Viet Nam and attended IPU 123 from 25 March to 2 April 2015.

The two countries have also coordinated well in international fora. Vietnam supported Pakistan's candidacy for the UNSC non-permanent seat in the term 2002-2003 and Pakistan's participation in the ARF in July 2004. Pakistan supported Vietnam's accession to WTO and later her candidacy for the UNSC non-permanent seat in the term 2008-2009. Two countries also recognized each other for full market economy status.

The two countries had modest economic ties since the 1970s. The bilateral trade turnover between Vietnam and Pakistan considerably increased in the recent years. From the total amount of US\$ 10 million in 1999, the trade turnover increased to more than US\$ 420 million in 2014. There are still great potentials for Vietnam and Pakistan to further enhance the multifaceted cooperation, such as in the areas of trade and investment, IT and software industry, agriculture, culture and education.

#### Agreements between Vietnam and Pakistan:

- Trade Agreement (May 2001);
- MOU on the Establishment of the Joint Commission between Vietnam and Pakistan (April 2002);
- Joint Declaration between the governments of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (March 2004);
- Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation (March 2004);
- Framework Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (March 2004);
- MOU on Consultation between the two Ministries of Foreign Affairs (March 2004);
- MOU between the State Bank of Vietnam and the State Bank of Pakistan (March 2004). Agreement on Fisheries and Aquaculture Cooperation (June 2006); and
- Agreement on Visa Exemption for Holders of Diplomat and Official Passport (January 2007).
- MOU on cooperation for trade promotion between the Vietnam Trade Promotion Agency (VIETRADE) and Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), 4/2015.



# Vietnam President meets Pakistani National Assembly Deputy Speaker



*Deputy Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan Murtaza Javed Abbasi called on President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Truong Tan Sang on the sidelines of 132nd Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly in Hanoi*

Deputy Speaker National Assembly of Pakistan Murtaza Javed Abbasi called on President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Truong Tan Sang on the sidelines of 132nd Inter Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly in Hanoi

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He said that the destinies of the two countries are entwined and both have to work together for mutual progress and prosperity of their people. Dwelling upon the need for economic cooperation, Deputy Speaker mentioned the economic progress in Pakistan during the recent years and invited the business community of Vietnam to invest in Pakistan. He called for a greater coordination of policies and efforts among the two countries. The Deputy Speaker also underscored the need to enhance the bilateral trade through the upcoming meetings of Joint Trade Commission and Joint Ministerial Commission scheduled in 2015. He also conveyed the greetings of the Pakistani leadership to the leadership and the people of Vietnam. While welcoming the Pakistani delegation, President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Truong Tan Sang said that their presence will surely have a positive impact on the assembly.

He said that both countries share traditional friendship with a time tested bond. He further said that the desire for cooperation in economic and trade is in line with his aspirations. The president urged that he is looking forward for cooperation between legislators of two countries for stronger ties. He also invited Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif for an official visit to Vietnam in the second half of 2015.

Later on the deputy speaker also called on Nguyen Sinh Hung, Chairman of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. He said that Parliamentary Diplomacy has to play a crucial role for enhancement of bilateral relations. He also

conveyed the best wishes on behalf of people, parliament and government of Pakistan to the people and leadership of Vietnam. He invited the Chairman to visit Pakistan along with parliamentary delegation.

National Assembly Chairman Hung said that this visit is a step in continuation of traditional cooperation between Pakistan and Vietnam. He appreciated the solidarity and friendship between the people and wished them a fruitful time in Hanoi. While thanking the Deputy Speaker, Hung, accepted the invitation to visit Pakistan and expressed the hope that such interaction would continue in future.





# Ties with Vietnam: National Assembly Speaker woos investors



Ambassador of Vietnam Nguyen Xuan Luu called on National Assembly Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq at the Parliament House, on 9 February 2015. During the discussion, issues of mutual interest and ways and means of enhancing parliamentary and bilateral relations between the two countries were explored.

Vietnam Ambassador said Vietnam attaches importance the friendly and cooperative relations with Pakistan and wanted to further diversify them through enhancing economic and parliamentary contacts. H.E Nguyen Xua Luu also stressed for enhancing trade between two countries to exploit the potential of the two markets.

The National Assembly Speaker, H.E Sardar Ayaz Sadiq also addressed that Pakistan attaches importance to its relations with Vietnam and the two countries should further and diversify the relation through enhancing economic and parliamentary contacts. He also stressed the need for enhancing trade, cultural, especially people to people between the two countries. He asked the ambassador to ask Vietnamese investors to take advantage of the pro-investment climate in Pakistan. The ambassador assured the speaker that his country also attaches importance to Pakistan and wants to strengthen linkages.

## Vietnam Ambassador meet with Federal Minister for Power & Water to discuss cooperation

On 3 April 2015, Vietnam Ambassador to Pakistan H.E Mr. Nguyen Xuan Luu called on Federal Minister for Power & Water and Defense H.E.Mr. Khawaja Muhammad Asif, at the Ministry. Ambassador Nguyen Xuan Luu was accompanied by a Delegation of Song Da Corporation – an eminent corps specialized in hydropower of Vietnam – who visiting Pakistan to seek cooperation opportunity and field trip to DASU Hydropower Project.

During the meeting, Ambassador Nguyen Xuan Luu has informed the Federal Minister, H.E Mr. Khawaja M. Asif some key features of the relations of friendship and cooperation in various fields between Vietnam and Pakistan. At the same time, Ambassador Nguyen Xuan Luu also introduced with H.E Mr.Khawaja M. Asif of Song Da Corporation - a stated owner corps with much experience in developing power projects, especially in the dam construction of hydropower of Vietnam. The Ambassador said, Vietnam enterprises in general, especially the Song Da Corporation in particularly are very interested in doing business in Pakistan and wish to be involved in DASU Projects. Ambassador Luu confirmed, if Song Da have chance for participation in the project, with its technological experience and financial capacity, Song Da Corps can fully meet the technical requirements of

the Project as well as Pakistan's Government and investors.

Federal Minister Khawaja M. Asif said, the Government of Pakistan will create favorable conditions for foreign investors and all partners doing bussines in Pakistan. Mr. Khawaja M. Asif also highly appreciated Vietnamese business, who paid much interest in hydropower projects in Pakistan, particular in DASU as well as

other energy projects of Pakistan. Especially, H.E. Mr. Minister highly valued the Song Da Corporation has sent a delegation to Pakistan to explore opportunities for collaboration and visited DASU fieldwork, showing real concern and efforts of Song Da Corps to promote cooperation in the field of energy between the two sides.



## Private sector can help boost Pak-Vietnam trade

"Interaction between private sectors of Vietnam and Pakistan would help exploit real potential between the two countries", Ambassador of Vietnam Nguyen Xuan Luu said in a meeting with leaders of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LCCI) on April 22, 2015. The Vietnamese Ambassador addressed that a little volume of bilateral trade did not truly reflect the good diplomatic and trade relations between the two countries and hope that Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry would play its due role in giving boost to the Pak-Vietnam trade. H.E Nguyen Xuan Luu also said that the policy of openness and industrialization has opened up new opportunities for Vietnam to make full use of its inherent comparative advantages, i.e. vast natural resources and abundant and low-cost workforce.

Speaking on the occasion, the LCCI President Ijaz A. Mumtaz said that there is a need to make sector specific efforts as

the trade between Pakistan and Vietnam is dormant for quite a long time. He said that Vietnam's market offers a huge potential for Pakistan's cotton, mineral fuels, oils, distillation products, pharmaceutical products, man-made filaments, knit fabrics, plastics & plastic products, fish, dairy products, surgical instruments, sports goods, carpets, rugs and handicrafts. Mr. Ijaz A. Mumtaz said that Pakistan and Vietnam both being agricultural economies can collaborate in agricultural implements and machinery sectors and can share their agricultural experience. Likewise Vietnam has a great potential to export rubber & rubber products, particularly tyres & tubes, machinery, electric & electronic equipment and cinnamon. H.E Nguyen Xuan Luu and LCCI President both called for a regular liaison for up-to-date information exchange between the two countries like market intelligence reports, trade inquiries, identification of



H.E. Nguyen Xuan Luu Ambassador of Vietnam receiving an award from the Federal Minister Mr. Riaz Pirzada as best Diplomat of 2015 along with Mian Fazal Elahi Editor of Diplomatic Focus.

projects and sectors where joint ventures can prove mutually beneficial between the two countries. He said that both the countries should hold fairs & exhibitions of their products in

each other's country. He said that a Free Trade Agreement with Vietnam can also be signed that would give a notable boost to the trade between the two countries.

## Vietnam Ambassador meet with WAPDA to discuss cooperation

On 21 April, Vietnamese Ambassador H.E. Nguyen Xuan Luu has visited The Pakistan Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) and meet with Vice President Mr. Shoaib Iqbal, Vice president Mr. Anwar ul Haq and Vice president Mr. Badr Munir ul Murtiza.

Ambassador Nguyen Xuan Luu brief to the leaders of WAPDA on economic cooperation between the two countries recently, emphasizes the huge potential of cooperation in the energy sector between the two sides. Ambassador also introduced to the host about Song Da Corporation - a stated owner corps with larger experience in developing power projects, especially in hydropower and dam construction.

The Ambassador said, Vietnam enterprises, who specialized in power sector in general, especially the Song Da Corporation in particularly are very interested in energy sector of Pakistan, including hydropower, thermal and power transmission projects. Ambassador Luu

also request WAPDA closed cooperation with Vietnam bussiness community, providing information of power projects

and facilitating them to seeking bussiness in energy sector of Pakistan.







*Ambassador Tariq Hyder (right) with Ambassador Nguyen Xuan Luu and Pakistan Former Ambassador to Vietnam Shahid Kiani*

# Mission to Hanoi

by Ambassador Tariq Osman Hyder

1974-1976

In 1973 during the intense Vietnam War, Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto decided to open an Embassy in Hanoi to show solidarity with the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. One of his key Ministers, Hafizuddin Pirzada was sent to Hanoi and when an American bombing raid took place during that visit, he was asked to move to an underground shelter in the courtyard of the State Guest House.

By the time the new Pakistani Embassy was being set up, the US Congress had voted in place a bombing and combat halt by denying funds to the US Administration. Still our officers hesitated from going there. The first officer posted there to establish the Embassy soon left as his wife was unwell. His replacement who was in Canada declined. I was then posted in Washington DC after a first posting in Geneva and an in between stint in New York with our delegation to the Security Council during the 1971 War with India.

With the two posting abroad then rotation to headquarters practice, I could have

refused the assignment but that never occurred to me and I felt that it was not only my duty but it would be professionally challenging, exotic and worthwhile. Certainly going from the "bombers" to the much "bombed" would be a unique experience.

Nothing in my two years in Hanoi from 1974 to 1976 changed my opinion. Hanoi was so much difference from any other ordinary diplomatic posting. To begin with I wondered how to get there from America but the efficient travel agents flew me to Karachi then on a slow Russian passenger cum cargo plane coming from Moscow and going on from Karachi to Rangoon then Vientiane before flying over the hump to Hanoi.

During the three hours re-fueling halt in Rangoon the Control Tower connected me on the phone, and I paid my respects to Daw Khin Kyi the respected widow of Burma's first President, Aung San who had been tragically assassinated, and mother of Aung San Suu Kyi a fellow student at

Oxford.

On arrival at Hanoi, during the drive from the airport I was struck first by the lush tropical foliage and then by the yellow coloured buildings with green tile roofs displaying their French colonial heritage. Life for diplomats was spartan but nothing compared to the conditions of Vietnamese people who displayed a can do spirit to make the best of what was available coupled with an indomitable will to unify their country in what already been a very long struggle.

I will just sketch some vignettes of diplomatic life in Hanoi. There were only 26 Embassies, few of them Western, but there was a Lawrence Durrell type esprit de corps that drew them all together. A few Embassies had their own buildings but many diplomats worked and lived, as I did, in the Thong Nhat Hotel. Our Embassy had two rooms and across the hall was my bedroom. Part of the French Embassy Residence had been destroyed in an American bombing raid which also

reportedly killed the Ambassador's Egyptian lady friend. With Gallic aplomb a tennis court was built on that site.

The first phrase I learned was, "what a pretty baby" and given the love of children by the Vietnamese, that opened up all doors in Hanoi as I walked around the city. I felt my Vietnamese was passable when I went shopping for a wok with a handle and the shopkeeper in trying to size one for me, asked, "how big is your restaurant?" The other time was a peasant from the country leaving the railway station asked me for directions, considering me a local, and followed the direction I indicated.

For the Vietnamese bicycles were the main means of urban transport and reflecting their value each had a license plate. Most Embassies usually had only one car, hence all diplomats had their own bicycles each logically with a diplomatic license plate, however incongruous this may now sound. In the evenings young diplomats would set off in groups by bicycle to a soup kitchen or to a speciality restaurant serving eel soup or often in my case, Cha Ca which served grilled catfish refried with herbs by the guests at their table. Those with the taste and a heavy purse could add a drop from an upended rare beetle whose secretion was worth its weight in silver. To end the evening at a café serving strong Vietnamese coffee with condensed milk.

On state occasions we were sometimes

addressed by the already legendary General Vo Nguyen Giap whose victory at Dien Bien Phu in 1954 has spelt the end of French influence. Some months after Saigon had fallen and the country reunified I was at the airport when General Giap flew in from Saigon, now Ho Chi Minh city. He was met by his frail wife and one young staff officer and they drove back to town in a jeep. That exemplified for me the simplicity and austerity of the Vietnamese leaders who otherwise would not have been able to ask their people to make so many sacrifices for so many decades since 1941.

One winter I went to the summer hill resort of Tam Dao, as the only visitor. The local policeman, a former soldier offered to take me tiger hunting at night along the slippery foot trails below the summit. He had a miners lamp and shotgun with brass shells and I a torch and we spent half the night searching for an elusive tiger whose raspy roar we occasionally heard. From time to time my guide would leave the trail to plunge silently into the forest while I had difficulty keeping my footing on the track, peeling off the leeches that soon invested one's hands and clothing.

I realized then at firsthand how very difficult it was for any foreign troops to fight against the Vietnamese on their home ground.

On the diplomatic side I negotiated the

first bilateral trade deal, the import of \$ 1.5 cotton yarn from Pakistan's private sector. Unfortunately it did not go through due to unnecessary caution at an American embargo that only targeted state to state trade. I had more success in persuading the Foreign Office to reopen the only Mosque in town which had been turned into a spaghetti factory and the small diplomatic Muslim community had after many years a place to go to for Friday and Eid prayers.

In my spare time I put together a crew of translators which under my directions compiled a list of Vietnamese law documents from the time they were written in Nom Chinese characters to the modern period. Another project was a compilation of the books written by the communist party politicians, available in the National Library. The third was to translate a book on the history of Hanoi and another on a History of the Streets of Hanoi. A fifth, reflecting my military strategy studies at Oxford was to translate General Van Tien Dung's extended essay and almost a small book, "Our Great Spring Offensive" on his campaign that overran the South of the country.

It was a historic time to be in Vietnam and in that diplomatic frontier, professional, cultural and academic opportunities abounded for those with initiative.



*Ambassador Hyder with H.E Nguyen Xuan Luu and his spouse Tran Thi Hanh (left).*



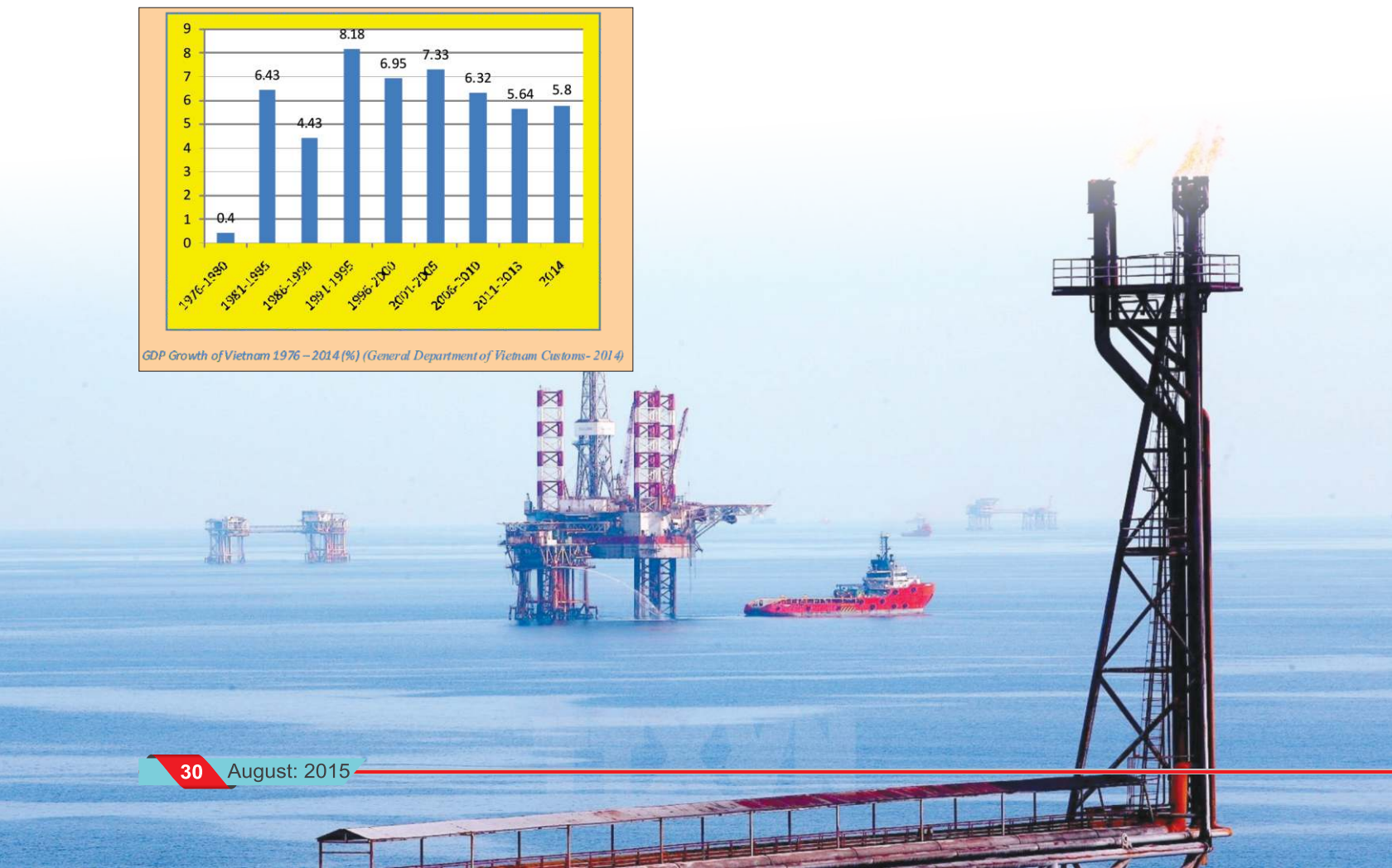
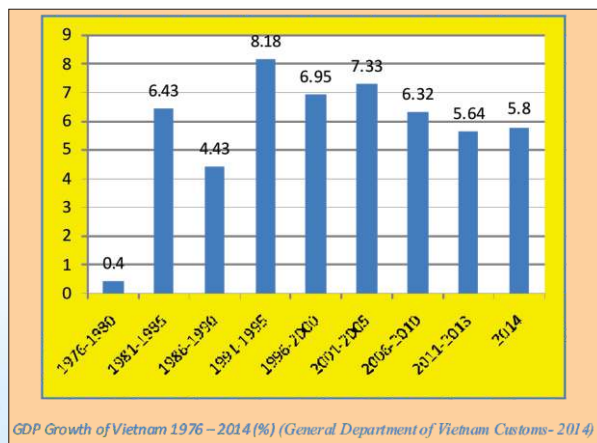


# Vietnam Economy Overview

Vietnam economy has been consistently growing during last 3 decades. Coming out of the war in 1975, Vietnam was among the poorest countries in the world. Nowadays, Vietnam

is widely known as one of the most promising countries. In 2014, GDP of Vietnam is 800% as big as compared to 1976; out of which agriculture increases 600%; industry is 3400%; export increases

by 600 times; import increases by 130 times. On average, GDP has expanded at growth rate of 5,8% for the past 39 years. During 1991-2005, GDP increased at relatively high rate of 7,17% annually.







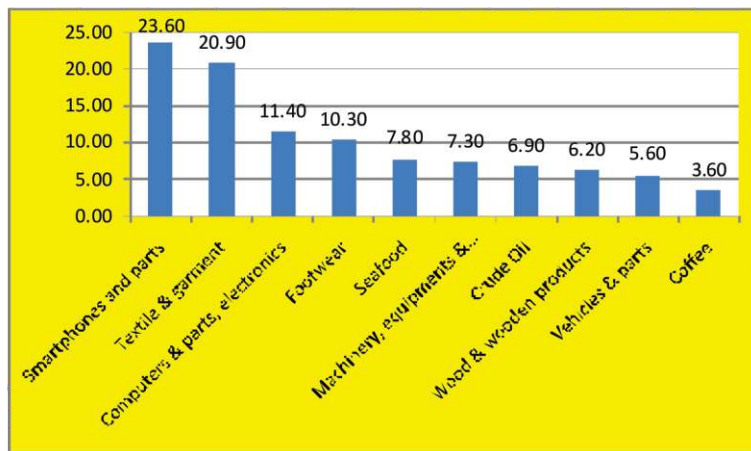
Since 1981 till now, Vietnam economy has constantly grown for 33 years in a row, a success only China with 36 years of consistent growth can surpass. The GDP per capita in 1980s was 86 USD, among the lowest in the world. In 2014, it has reached more than 2,000 USD per capita. The present economy structure of Vietnam is widely approved as a full market economy with vigorous participation of private sector in all field of business.

Vietnam is currently rated among the top most attractive destinations for FDI inflow, with a total registered capital about 300 billion USD from over 100 countries. In 2014, Vietnam attracted total FDI of almost 20 billion USD.

#### Vietnam Foreign Trade

Vietnam economy is quite open, with trade exchanges with over 200 countries and territories. Total export value of Vietnam

to the world market reach 150 billion USD in 2014, which is a huge boost compared to just 26,5 billion USD in 2004. The export items from Vietnam are diversified from highly sophisticated products like smartphones, computer parts to basic commodities like rice and coffee. Nowadays, Vietnam is one of the leading agriculture producers and exporters, ranking 1st in black pepper, 2nd in coffee, 3rd in rice, 3rd in rubber.



Top Export Items from Vietnam (billion USD) General Department of Vietnam Customs- 2014



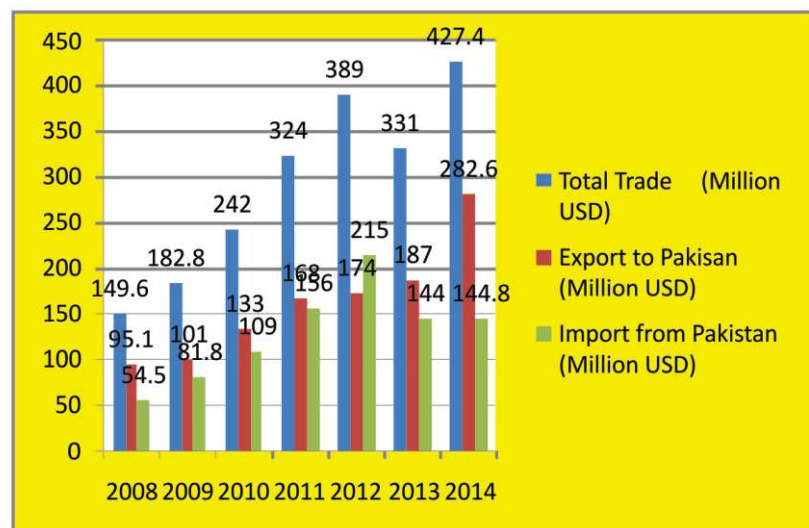




## Vietnam-Pakistan Trade Exchange:

Bilateral trade between Vietnam and Pakistan has been growing at a rapid pace over the years. Since the reopening of the Embassy of the S.R. of Vietnam in Pakistan in 2005, the two-way trade turnover has increased almost ten times, from 45 Million USD up to 430 Million USD in 2014 (source: General Department of Vietnam Customs).

The top export items from Vietnam to Pakistan include: tea, black pepper, cashew nuts, natural rubber, pengasius fish and garment, textile products. The top Pakistan products exported to Vietnam include: cotton, fabric, pharmaceutical products, leather materials and footwear.



Pakistan – Vietnam Bilateral Trade Turnover (Unit: Million USD)





### Pakistan's top export items to Vietnam

Product	Quantity (MT)	Unit: million USD	
		Export value (Jan - Dec 2013)	Export value (Jan-Dec 2014)
Cotton		35.8	27.0
Fabric		32.3	31.8
Pharmaceutical products		19.8	23.2
Yarn		16	10.5
Leather/ footwear materials		19.6	26.6

### Pakistan's top import items from Vietnam

				Unit: million USD	
SN	Product	Quantity (MT)	Import value		
			(Jan - Dec 2013)	(Jan-Dec 2014)	
1	Tea	24.045	45.3	81.0	
2	Yarn	9.316	25.4	24.4	
3	Black Pepper	2.976	18.9	34.1	
4	Seafood/ fisherv products		13.5	19.9	
5	Rubber		10.2	12.6	
6	Cashew nuts		4.0	3.9	







During first 6 months of 2015, the bilateral trade between Vietnam and Pakistan continued its high growing trend and reached the 6-month record milestone of 275 million USD (Source: Vietnam Customs 2015). The export value of Pakistan to Vietnam is 75 Million USD whilst import value of Vietnam products into Pakistan market reaches 199 Million USD. It is estimated that the total trade turnover between Pakistan and Vietnam will cross the 500 Million USD value by end of this year 2015.

Furthermore, Vietnam and Pakistan have a lot more to share with each other. Vietnam, as the top producer and exporter of several agricultural products like rice, black pepper, coffee, cashew nuts, has a lot to offer to the Pakistani market. Both countries have strong textile industries and trade of raw material as well as finished products in this industry is vigorous. Export







of raw cotton from Pakistan, which reached a record volume of 104 million USD in 2012, is largely used in Vietnam textile industry.

Vietnam is actively joining world trade forum with membership in WTO, ASEAN, APEC and ASEM. We are party to ASEAN Free Trade Area with China, South Korean, Australia-New Zealand, Japan and India. In the near future, a TPP agreement might be signed, forming a trade pack grouping 12 Asia-Pacific countries - one of largest trade areas with a combined population of 792 million people which contributes 40 percent of world GDP and a third of global trade.

In summary, all is set to offer Pakistan a greater chance to develop business with Vietnam, especially in sectors of food processing, fishery, textile materials, leather and footwear. For Pakistani products, Vietnam with a total population of nearly 90 million is a potential market. The Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam as well as its Karachi-based Trade Office highly welcome and will give utmost support to all parties interested in any kind of business with Vietnam.

### Pakistan and Vietnam signs MOU for trade promotion

The Third Meeting of Joint Trade Commission between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam was held in Hanoi at the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Vietnam on 22nd April 2015. The Pakistan side was led by Mr. Muhammad Shahzad Arbab, Secretary Commerce. The Vietnam delegation was headed by Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade, Mr. Do Thang Hai. The two sides reviewed the entire gamut of economic relations, identified obstacles and impediments to trade and set forth lines of actions to further develop and promote trade relations between the two countries.







A Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation for trade promotion between the Vietnam Trade Promotion Agency (Vietrade) and Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) was signed on this occasion. The signing took place at the Ministry of Industry and Trade in Hanoi. Ms. Rabiya Javeri Agha, Secretary TDAP and Mr. Bui Huy Son, Director General Vietrade signed the MoU. It was agreed that the next Round of Joint Trade Commission would be held in Islamabad on mutually convenient dates in 2016.

#### **TDAP facilitates trade and coordination with Vietnam**

The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) has established a Vietnam desk in Karachi to facilitate trade and coordination between the two countries. Focal officers for the Vietnam desk are TDAP Assistant Manager Faisal Rasheed Awan, Head of Vietnam Trade Mission, Mr. Vu Viet Dzong and Pakistan Embassy's Trade Officer Vu Minh Phuong. Recently, a memorandum of understanding for cooperation on trade promotion between the Vietnam Trade Promotion Agency and TDAP was signed and both sides had agreed to exchange delegations at various levels and participate in trade fairs in each other countries. The two organisations will formulate trade promotional programmes and carry out joint research with the aim of identifying the potential sectors. The TDAP is also participating in the 10th Vietnam international exhibition on products, equipment and supplies for medical and pharmaceutical industries in September this year at Ho Chi Minh City.







# Vietnamese Entrepreneurs Exploits Pakistan Market



To boost investment and trade with Pakistan in the coming years, the Embassy Vietnam in collaboration with Trade Development Authority of Pakistan will hold a business seminar “Doing Business with Vietnam” in Karachi on 11th August 2015.

The event is highlighted with participation of a high-powered business delegation led by Ministry of Industry and Trade of Vietnam. The Vietnam delegation consists of 20 leading enterprises in various business fields including textile and garment, leather and footwear, seafood processing, agriculture, steel manufacturing, packaging, electronics and home appliances. More than 80 leading businesspeople in Karachi and Islamabad are invited to participate in the seminar.

At the seminar hosted by H.E. Mr. Nguyen Xuan Luu, Ambassador of Vietnam, Mr. Hoang Duc Nhuan, Ministry of Industry and Trade of Vietnam, Mr. Mina Adrees, President of FPCCI and Ms. Rabiya Javeri Agha, Secretary TDAP participants will learn about Vietnam business environment,

current trading with other countries, most up-to-date trading trend with Pakistan as well as the potential business sectors to be developed between two countries. Participants will also discuss practical ways to promote the investment and trade ties between Vietnam and Pakistan. At the seminar, there will be a B2B meeting session where businesspeople from Pakistan can discuss business face to face with the counterparts coming from Vietnam. After the seminar in Karachi, the Vietnam Delegation will head to Islamabad and have meetings with Ministry of Commerce, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry as well as leading local businesspeople to explore potential business opportunities.

In the recent years, the two countries high ranking delegations have had more regular meetings and discussions in order to boost bilateral trade exchange, which will create a favourable environment to increase investment and export-import activities between the two countries.

## Vietnamese Company Participate “Doing Business with Vietnam” Seminar

1. Song H& Gia Lai International Ltd Co.,
2. Can Tho Techno - Agricultural Supplying Joint Stock Company (TSC)
3. VINATOKEN TECHNOLOGY AND TRADING Co., Ltd
4. Tia Sang Battery Company
5. Vietnam National Textile and Garment Group (VINATEX)
6. 368 Electrical Equipment JSC
7. Caribbean Electrical Appliances
8. F.C General Import, Export & Trading Co., Ltd
9. Hai An Seagift Limited Company
10. Sao Khue Import, Export & Trading Co., Ltd
11. TânQuang Minh Manufacture and Trading Co., Ltd
12. Asia Tea Co., Ltd
13. Le Tonkin Import & Export JSC
14. Thai Nguyen Import & Export JSC (Batimex)
15. HiepThanh Co., Ltd
16. Vietnam Agrotech Co., Ltd





# Cultural Heritage of Vietnam

INTANGIBLE





## 1. NHA NHAC, VIETNAMESE COURT MUSIC

Court Music is understood as music genres, including music for dance and opera, used in worshipping ceremonies, national court – organized festivities, and



Hue Court Music

occasions of entertainment for Kings and Royal families. The initial foundation of Nha Nhac – the Vietnamese Court Music began conceiving since the 13th century but it only reached the peak at the Hue Court under the Nguyen Dynasty (1802-1945).

Hue Court Music is the last vestige of Vietnamese Court Music. It contains all quintessence of Vietnamese Court Music trend that has been established and developed over 1,000 years, therefore Hue Court Music is identical with Vietnamese Court Music. At the official meeting of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) in Paris, Nha nhac, Vietnamese Court Music, that Hue has preserved so long, was officially listed by UNESCO among masterpieces of the Oral and intangible heritage of humanity on 7th November 2003.

## 2. THE SPACE OF GONG CULTURE IN CENTRAL HIGHLANDS



The space of gong culture in Central Highlands of Viet Nam. The gong performances are always closely tied to community cultural rituals and ceremonies of the ethnic groups in Central Highlands. Many researchers have classified gongs as ceremonial musical instrument and the

gong sounds as a means to communicate with deities and gods. The gongs are made of brass alloy or a mixture of brass and gold, silver, bronze. Gongs are associated to all rites in one's life, such as the inauguration of new houses, funerals, buffalo sacrifice, crop praying rite, new harvest, ceremony to pray for people's and cattle's health, ceremony to see-off soldiers to the front, and the victory celebration. With its diversity and originality, it's possible to confirm that gongs hold a special status in Viet Nam's traditional music.

On November 25, 2005 in Paris, France, the space of gong culture in Central Highlands was recognized by UNESCO as an oral-transmitted masterpiece and intangible cultural heritage of the humanity.

## 3. CA TRU SINGING

Ca Tru is a



long-standing and unique form of art which has special meaning in the musical treasures of Viet Nam, associated with the traditional festivals, customs, religions, literature, music, thoughts and philosophy of the Vietnamese. Ca Tru, which dates back to the 15th century, was performed attach in a cultural diversity space during different historical periods. Although undergone many social and historical changes, Ca Tru has still kept distinct vitality due to its art value in the Vietnamese culture.

Ca Tru singing has been inscribed on the list of Intangible Cultural Heritage in need of Urgent Safeguarding on October 1, 2009 in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

## 4. QUAN HO BAC NINH FOLK SONGS

Quan ho Bac Ninh is folk songs of the Red River Delta. This is a kind of art composed



by the elements of music, lyric, costume, festival... Quan ho Bac Ninh folk songs show close-knit relation between male singers and female singers and are typical culture of Kinh Bac region's people.

Quan ho folk songs are always performed voluntarily in groups of male or female. Each group usually has four to six people, alternating response songs between the groups of male and female. A group of female from one village sings with a group of male from another village with similar melodies, but different lyrics, and always with alternating tunes.

On September 30, 2009 in Abu Dhabi (UAE), UNESCO recognized Quan ho Bac Ninh folk songs as intangible cultural heritage of humanity for its cultural value, social custom preservation, performing arts, style of contact, lyric and costume.





## 5. GIONG FESTIVAL

The Giong Festival is a traditional festival in commemoration and praise of the mythical hero Saint Giong, one of four immortals of Vietnamese folk beliefs.

The festival vividly imitates the evolution of fights of Saint Giong and Van Lang people under the 6th King Hung reign in combating against the foreign enemies, thereby raising the public awareness about the forms of ancient tribe war and



educating the patriotism, martial art traditions, indomitable will, and independence and freedom desire of the nation. The Giong Festival is held in many locations throughout the northern part of Viet Nam, however the most typical ones are the Giong Festival at Phu Dong and Soc temples (Ha Noi).

The Giong Festival of Phu Dong and Soc temples recognized as an intangible cultural heritage of humanity by the UNESCO since November 2010. UNESCO has shortly and fully recorded of the Giong Festival as "a Viet Nam culture museum that keeps many alluvial layers of culture and beliefs."

## 6. XOAN SINGING

Xoan singing is a kind of performing art



relating to worshipping gods. In the past, Van Lang people held Xoan singing

performance in the spring to welcome the new year. There are three forms of Xoan singing as the worship singing to commemorate Hung Kings and village guardian gods; the ritual singing to pray for good crops, good health; and the festive singing – a form of love duet. Xoan singing has existed for more than 2,000 years since Hung Kings dynasty. On November 24th 2011, at the 6th meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Conservation of Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO held in Bali, Indonesia, Xoan singing was recognized by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage in need of urgent safeguarding. It meets necessary requirements as unique lyrics, melodies and tunes; combining elements of culture, history and art; containing many cultural values; and having been preserved through many centuries.

## 7. WORSHIP OF HUNG KINGS

The worship of Hung Kings originates from Hung Kings dynasty (4000 years ago) in the belief that all Vietnamese people have the



same origin "Dragon's children and Fairy's grand-children"; and also expresses Vietnamese philosophy "When drinking water, remember the source" and the spirit of great national unity.

Every year, on the 10th day of the third lunar month, Ancestral Anniversary day is held at Hung Kings temples nationwide, of which biggest one takes place in Hung Kings Temple Relic Site in Phu Tho Province.

With unique and distinct values, on 6 December 2012, in Paris (France), UNESCO officially recognized the worship of Hung Kings in Phu Tho Province as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. This is the first belief in Viet Nam recognized as world heritage.

## 8. ART OF DON CA TAI TU MUSIC AND SONG IN THE SOUTH OF VIET NAM

A musical art that has both scholarly and folk roots. It developed in the South of Viet



Nam in the late nineteenth century. Don ca tai tu resonates with the lifestyle of the Southern people who work on the land and rivers of the delta region. It reflects their inner feelings and emotions, industriousness, generosity and courage.

On 5 December 2013, at the 8th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage held in Baku City (Azerbaijan), UNESCO recognized officially Don ca tai tu as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

## 9. VI AND GIAM FOLK SONGS

Vi and Giam folk songs occupy an important position in the cultural and spiritual life of people of Nghe An and Ha Tinh provinces. This is a type of art that has long lasting life, imbued character and manner of Nghe Tinh people and is the precious heritage in Vietnamese cultural treasure.

With unique and outstanding values, on 27 November 2014, in the 9th session of Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of UNESCO in Paris (France), Vi and Giam folk songs of Nghe Tinh was officially recognized as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

## WORLD DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE

### 1. BUDDHIST SUTRA WOODBLOCKS OF TRUC LAM ZEN





Since founding Truc Lam Zen Buddhism (the late 13th century), King Tran Nhan Tong (1258-1308) had some important texts, sutras edited, engraved, and published to popular ideology of Buddhism in general and master monks of Truc Lam Zen Buddhism in particular. However, most of the woodblocks were destroyed or lost due to war and weather.

The woodblocks at Vinh Nghiem Pagoda show the formation, development and ideology of Truc Lam Zen Buddhism, at the same time also mark the development of Nom writing system through the periods. This is also an excellent work of art with unique, original and irreplaceable features. Through this collection of woodblocks, readers can exploit plentiful information about many fields as religion, language, literature, medicine, art...

On 16th May 2012, at the meeting of Asia Pacific Regional Committee of UNESCO held in Bangkok (Thailand), Buddhist Sutra Woodblocks of Truc Lam Zen at Vinh Nghiem Pagoda was recognized as World Documentary Heritage in Memory of the World Programme.

## 2. WOODBLOCKS OF NGUYEN DYNASTY

Under the Nguyen Dynasty, due to the need to popularize social standards, compulsory articles of law, Kings' and Lords' life and career and historical events... the Imperial Court allowed to carve many sets of history books and literature work for delivering. During the past activities, it helped to form a special type of record, which are the woodblocks. These are the unique original records.

These records formed during the past activities of the Emperor and bodies under the feudal machinery of administration in Nguyen Dynasty. Woodblocks are sources of reliable history to help to study, compare, review relevant history materials to serve better for researching in the fields of Vietnamese history.

On 30th July 2009, the woodblocks of the Nguyen Dynasty have been recognized as a World Documentary Heritage at the meeting of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) of the UNESCO in Bridgetown (Barbados). They became the first entry of Viet

Nam in the list of UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme.

## STONE STELE RECORDS OF ROYAL EXAMINATIONS

Stone steles in Van Mieu – Quoc Tu Giam include 82 steles which record the royal examinations of Le and Mac dynasties (1442-1779). All steles are put on stone tortoises' back to represent everlasting national quintessence and reflect historical and cultural values of Viet Nam through 300 years.

At present, the 82 steles in Van Mieu – Quoc Tu Giam are still unique ones preserved constantly on the spot since they were erected. The inscriptions on all the steles are, in general, readable. The irreplaceability and rarity lie in the content of the steles, the mode and condition of their establishment, their historical and artistic value, and their social impact. They are lively evidence of the intellect, aptitude and dexterity of the Vietnamese people.

On March 9, 2010 in Macau, China, the Asia-Pacific Regional Committee of Memory of the World recognized 82 steles which record the royal examinations of Le and Mac dynasties in Van Mieu – Quoc Tu Giam as world documentary heritage in the Memory of the World Program of UNESCO.

## IMPERIAL RECORDS OF NGUYEN DYNASTY

Imperial records are documents approved in red ink by kings. Nguyen Dynasty's Imperial records are administrative records created during the transaction of state management activities of Nguyen Dynasty (1802 – 1945), the last feudal dynasty in Viet Nam, including records of grass-root and central administrative organizations submitted to the kings for approval, records created by the kings, diplomatic notes and literature works composed by royal family. With unique and outstanding values, on 14 May 2014, in the 2nd session of the 6th general meeting of Committee for Asia/Pacific (MOWCAP) at Guangzhou (China), Imperial records of Nguyen Dynasty were recognized as documentary heritage in the Memory of the World Programme in the Asia/Pacific region.







# Muslim in Vietnam

Islam in Vietnam is primarily the religion of the Cham people, a minority ethnic group related to Malays; however, roughly one-third of the Muslims in Vietnam are of other ethnic groups. There is also a community describing themselves of mixed ethnic origins, who practice Islam and are also known as Cham, or Cham Muslims, around the region of Chau Doc in the Southwest.

Uthman ibn Affan, the third Caliph of Islam, the legends have it, sent the first official Muslim envoy to Vietnam and Tang Dynasty China in 650. The number of followers began to increase as contacts with Sultanate of Malacca broadened in the wake of the 1471 collapse of the Champa Kingdom, but Islam would not become widespread among the Cham until the mid-17th century. In the mid-19th century, many Muslim Chams emigrated from Cambodia and settled in the Mekong River Delta region, further bolstering the presence of Islam in Vietnam. Malayan Islam began to have an increasing influence on the Chams in the early 20th century; religious publications were imported from Malaya, Malay clerics gave khutba (sermons) in mosques in the Malay language, and some Cham people went to Malayan madrasah to further their studies of Islam.

Today, Muslim Community in Vietnam estimated about 100,000 followers. Over 77% lived in the Southeast Region, with 34% in Ninh Thuan Province, 24% in Binh Thuan Province, and 9% in Ho Chi Minh City; another 22% lived in the Mekong River Delta region, primarily in An Giang Province.







# Culture & must see destination of Vietnam





## Sapa:

Sa Pa is a mountainous district of Lao Cai Province. At the height of 1,600m above sea level, the average temperature of the area is 15-18oC. It is cool in summer and cold in winter. The best time to witness the scenic beauty of Sa Pa is in April and May. Sa Pa is home to various families of flowers of captivating colours, which can be found nowhere else in the country. Sa Pa is most beautiful in spring. Apricot, plum and cherry flowers are splendidly beautiful. Markets are crowded and merry, and are especially attractive to visitors. Visitors to Sa Pa will have opportunities to discover the unique customs of the local residents.

## Ha Noi

Capital of Vietnam. Throughout the thousand years of its eventful history, marked by destruction, wars and natural calamities, Ha Noi still preserves many ancient architectural works including the Old Quarter and over 600 pagodas and temples. Famous sites include the One Pillar Pagoda (built in 1049), the Temple of Literature (built in 1070), Ha Noi Citadel, Ha Noi Opera House, President Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum... Ha Noi also

characteristically contains 18 beautiful lakes such as Hoan Kiem Lake, West Lake, and Truc Bach Lake... Many traditional handicrafts are also practiced in Ha Noi including bronze molding, silver carving, lacquer, and embroidery. In Center of Hanoi, A CENTRAL SECTOR OF THE IMPERIAL CITADEL OF THANG LONG, BUILT IN 1009 WAS RECOGNISED AS A WORLD CULTURAL HERITAGE BY UNESCO.

## HA LONG BAY (WORLD NATURAL HERITAGE)

Situated in the north-east region of Viet Nam. The most remarkable geological events of Ha Long Bay's history in the last 1,000 years include the advance of the sea, the raising of the bay area and the strong erosion that has formed coral and pure blue and heavily-salted water. On December 17, 1994, Ha Long Bay was recognised as world natural heritage for its natural beauty at the 18th meeting of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO in Thailand. On December 12, 2000, Ha Long Bay was recognised as world natural heritage for the second time based on its geological value at the 24th meeting of the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO in

Cairns, Australia.

## CITADEL OF THE HO DYNASTY (WORLD CULTURAL HERITAGE)

Located in Thanh Hoa Province in centre part of Vietnam. It was the capital of Viet Nam from 1398 to 1407. The citadel of the Ho Dynasty is considered as the only stone citadel remaining in Southeast Asia and is one of the few remains in the world. The citadel has recognized as a World Cultural Heritage by the UNESCO at the 35th session of the World Heritage Committee on June 27th 2011 in Paris (France).

## TRANG AN LANDSCAPE COMPLEX (MIXED HERITAGE SITE)

Trang An Landscape Complex located in Ninh Binh City, about 90km to the southeast of Ha Noi. As a mixed cultural and natural property, Trang An Landscape Complex contains three protected areas, including Hoa Lu Ancient Citadel Cultural – Historical Area; Trang An – Tam Coc – Bich Dong Scenic Area and Hoa Lu Special-Use





Primary Forest. On 23 June 2014, in Doha (Qatar), UNESCO recognized officially Trang An Landscape Complex as World Cultural and Natural Heritage Site based on three

criteria: culture, aestheticism and geology – geomorphology.

## COMPLEX OF HUE



## MONUMENTS (WORLD CULTURAL HERITAGE)

Hue City is one of places which have many cultural heritage. Up to now, there is no place like Hue remaining a lot of originally historical vestiges as in this ancient Capital City. At the meeting of the 17th session of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) in Columbia, December 1993, UNESCO has recognised the architectural ensemble of Hue as a world cultural heritage. In the closing report of the above-mentioned meeting, the WHC has briefly assessed the value of Hue as follows: "The architecture of Hue, which has been the Capital of a unified Viet Nam, built at about the beginning of the 19th century, combines the oriental philosophy with the traditions of Vietnam. Intimately mingled with the natural environment, the beauty and special richness of the architecture and



decorative art of the building are an original image of the Vietnamese monarchy at its most prosperous period".

## PHONG NHA - KE BANG NATIONAL PARK (WORLD NATURAL HERITAGE)

Phong Nha – Ke Bang National Park lies in





Quang Binh Province - the central Viet Nam, its can be compared to a huge geological museum thanks to its complicated geological structure with different categories of stone. Phong Nha-Ke Bang is the oldest and largest tropical karst formed 400 million years during the main geological periods of the Earth. Experiencing major tectonic phases, high mountain ranges and the depressed sedimentary basins were formed. These fluctuations have also contributed to the diversity of geology, topography, geomorphology.

Phong Nha – Ke Bang has been declared a world natural heritage by UNESCO twice in July 2003 in the 27th meeting in Paris (France) and July 2015 in the 39th meeting in Bonn (Federal Republic of Germany).

### **HOI AN AN ANCIENT TOWN (WORLD CULTURAL HERITAGE)**

Hoi An is an old town of Quang Nam Province, about 30 km south of Da Nang City. Hoi An used to be known on the international market with many different names such as Lam Ap, Faifo, Hoai Pho and Hoi An. The architectural significance of Hoi An has been recognized by UNESCO, during the 23rd Congress which took place in Marrakech (Morocco) from the 29th of November to the 4th of December 1999, since the town was officially listed as a World Cultural Heritage Site.

### **MY SON SANCTUARY (WORLD CULTURAL HERITAGE)**

My Son Sanctuary is set in a small valley in Quang Nam Province, about 70km southwest of Danang City and 40km from Hoi An City. My Son possesses 71 monuments and 32 epitaphs, the content of which is still being studied.

In December, 1999, at the 23th meeting of World Heritage Committee of UNESCO in Morocco, My Son was recognised as world cultural heritage based on two prominent criteria: criterion (ii) an exceptional example of cultural interchange, with an indigenous society adapting to external cultural influences, notably the Hindu art and architecture of the Indian sub-continent and criterion (iii) the Champa Kingdom was an important phenomenon in the political and cultural history of South – East Asia, vividly illustrated by the ruins of My Son.

### **Nha Trang Beaches**

The coastal city of Nha Trang in Khanh Hoa province, Central Viet Nam, lies on the trans-Vietnam highway, 1,278km from Ha







Noi, and 448km from Ho Chi Minh City. Nha Trang is endowed by nature with deep, quiet and warm waters all the year round, surrounded by archipelagoes, islands, mountains and white sand



Vietnam's long stretching coast line. Nha Trang is sunny all year round, with an average temperature of 23°C due to northern winds. Nha Trang Bay is recognised as one of 29 most beautiful bays in the world.

Doctor Alexandre Yersin recommended that the area be developed as a resort town. Nowadays, tourists not only limit themselves to Da Lat; they also visit the area of Langbian Highland and the ethnic minorities. Langbian Mountain's highest peak at 2,165m is very tempting for climbers. From Lom Bieng Klo peak, one can see endless green mountains reflecting the silver rays of the sun. Many tours are organized in the area, including parachuting and climbing.



beaches - a wonderful and attractive tourist resort.

The 7km white sand beach of Nha Trang is often called Vietnam's Mediterranean Area, considered one of the jewel along

## Da Lat

is located approximately 308km northeast of Ho Chi Minh City. At an elevation of 1,500m, Da Lat bears the look of an Old French city. It was founded in 1897 when

## Mui Ne

located in Binh Thuan Province, about 220km from Ho Chi Minh City centre. Mui Ne has long been considered the "Hawaii" of Vietnam. Its features are immense sand dunes meandering through kilometers of red, yellow and white, shady roads under coconut trees, beautiful rows of palm trees and cliffs battered by the waves of the sea. The beach is shallow and sloped, the water is clean and blue and the sun rarely hides behind clouds. Mui Ne has known as "resort capital" of Vietnam with many







resorts along the seacoast. Tourists can swim in the blue water of the sea, slip on the sand dunes, relax in swimming pool of resorts or kiteboard and windsurf.

### **Phu Quoc Island**

Phu Quoc Island is the largest island district in Viet Nam includes 36 islands of different sizes, of which Phu Quoc Island is the largest one.

Phu Quoc is also called "emerald island" due to its natural treasures and tourism potentials. The island is well known for its high-quality fish sauce. Besides, Phu Quoc sea also has many precious types of seafood as prawns, mackerels, pomfrets,

blue fishes...The transport routes between mainland and the island by air and sea are very convenient for tourists. Especially, Phu Quoc International Airport has put into operation since 2 December 2012 to facilitate the arrival of international tourists attracted by the island's beauty.

### **DONG VAN KARST PLATEAU (GLOBAL GEOLOGICAL PARK)**

Located on an altitude of 1,000m-1,600m, belonging to 4 districts of Quan Ba, Yen Minh, Meo Vac, Dong Van (Ha Giang Province), the 2,356km<sup>2</sup> - Dong Van Karst

Plateau is one of Viet Nam's special limestone areas, housing prominent imprints that depict the development of the earth's crust. Up to 80% of the karst formations of Dong Van Plateau are limestone formed by environment conditions and different development stages of nature. On October 3, 2010, in Lesvos (Greece), Dong Van Karst Plateau was recognized as official member of Global Geo-parks Network (GGN) for its prominent values on landscape, palaeobiology, geology, geomorphology and local culture. Dong Van Karst Plateau has become the first geo-park of Viet Nam and the second one in Southeast Asia (after Langkawi Geo-park in Malaysia).

