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## VIET NAM - PAKISTAN

# 50 YEARS RELATIONS & THE WAY FORWARD



Mian Fazal Elahi

**T**he cordial ties between Pakistan and Viet Nam are mostly supported by their shared economic interests and participation in global politics. Pakistan is represented in Viet Nam by its embassy in Hanoi, and Viet Nam also maintains an embassy in Islamabad. Viet Nam and Islamabad established formal diplomatic ties in November 1972 and, since then, have worked jointly to put in place various modes and modalities for moving their bilateral ties forward. Ranging from diplomatic, socio-political, economic, and cultural issues, Pakistan and Viet Nam have various processes for bilateral consultations.

The heads of both nations have paid official visits to each other. Throughout the following decade, several visits were made by various Viet Nam and Pakistani ministries to each other. The most recent high-level interaction took place on the sidelines of 29 Asian countries between Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, and Viet Nam's Foreign Minister, Bui Thanh Son. Besides well-established diplomatic and economic ties, Islamabad and Hanoi also share a deep understanding of strategic issues and extend support to each other on many international forums.

Viet Nam and Pakistan also actively support each other in international forums and United Nations bodies such as the United Nations Security Council, the United Nations Human Rights Council, UNESCO, IPU, WTO, etc. Viet Nam-Pakistan trade volume has steadily increased, from US\$54 million in 2005 to \$700 million in 2017 and more than US\$794 million in 2021; Viet Nam's turnover in the first ten months of 2022 was \$675 billion, with imports of \$333 billion and exports of \$342 billion; thus, Pakistan has significant potential to increase its trade and exports with Viet Nam.

Pakistan has a talented workforce in the IT and software fields, and Viet Nam has a good demand for these professionals, so Pakistan can increase the export of its IT manpower to Viet Nam. In the fields of culture, eco-tourism, and the blue economy, both countries have enough to offer each other.

Under Pakistan's "Look East, East Asia" policy, many new things are happening, and, in due course of time, further improvement will be more visible in the upward trajectory of the bilateral relations. Currently, both countries have been organising a number of events to celebrate the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations, including the 3rd Bilateral Political Consultative (BPC) and Intergovernmental Committee (JEC) and the 5th Joint Trade Subcommittee (JTC) sessions. The relationship between the two countries has grown stronger over the last 50 years. However, there is still enormous potential for strengthening cultural exchanges and people-to-people exchanges, as well as increasing cooperation in other areas such as education, training, and culture-tourism.

Furthermore, the interaction between the business communities on both sides will set new heights in trade relations between the two countries. On behalf of the Diplomatic Focus team and the people of Pakistan, cordial congratulations on the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Pakistan and Viet Nam.

Long live Pakistan-Viet Nam friendship!

The articles, columns, Opinions are published in Magazine in good faith. However, the contents of these writings may not necessarily match the views of the Editor/Publisher/Organization.

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# Contents



**RBI Mediaminds**  
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- 02-03** Viet Nam: The Country at a Glance
- 04-05** A number of theoretical and practical issues on socialism and the path to socialism in Viet Nam - Professor. Dr. Nguyen Phu Trong, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Viet Nam
- 06-07** The importance of upholding solidarity, promoting strength of ASEAN- H.E. Pham Minh Chinh, Prime Minister of Viet Nam
- 08-09** Diplomatic sector serves as key and pioneer force of external affairs - H.E. Mr. Bui Thanh Son, Foreign Minister of Viet Nam
- 10** Pakistan – Viet Nam: Steady growth of mutually beneficial cooperation in various sectors
- 11** Vietnam's energy industry will continue to be transformed towards sustainability and efficiency - H.E. Mr. Nguyen Hong Dien, Minister of Industry & Trade of Viet Nam
- 12-13** Pakistan Overview
- 14-15** 50th Anniversary of Viet Nam – Pakistan Diplomatic Relations - H.E. Nguyen Tien Phong, Ambassador of Viet Nam to Pakistan
- 16-17** 50 years of Friendship, Amity, and Cooperation - H.E. Samina Mehtab, Ambassador of Pakistan to Viet Nam
- 18-19** Viet Nam – Pakistan Relations: Overview
- 20-21** Viet Nam: The integration journey continues
- 22-23** Viet Nam: Socio-Economic Development Orientations in the 2021-2030 Period, With Vision To 2045
- 24-25** Recent Socio-Economic Achievements of Viet Nam
- 26** Viet Nam's Socio-Economic Potential and Advantages
- 27** Viet Nam: A Destination for Investors
- 28** Pakistan has great scope to enhance trade and exports with Viet Nam- H.E. Nguyen Tien Phong, Ambassaador of Viet Nam to Pakistan
- 29** Viet Nam's economic miracle: insights for Pakistan - Dr. Muhammad Abdul Kamal, Assistant Professor at Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan, Pakistan
- 30-31** Viet Nam Tourism: Live Fully in Viet Nam!
- 32-33** Viet Nam Natural Wonders
- 34-35** Cultural Heritage
- 36-39** Intangibles Cultural Heritage of Viet Nam
- 40-45** Culture & must-see destination of Viet Nam
- 46-48** Viet Nam-Pakistan Relations Thru Lens

**Special Supplement on Viet Nam – Pakistan Relations: 50 Years and the Way forward**

**Viet Nam**

Special Feature Report by  
**Mian Fazal Elahi**  
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# VIET NAM: THE COUNTRY AT A GLANCE

## GEOGRAPHY

Viet Nam is located on the Indochinese peninsula in Southeast Asia, with a total land area of 331,223.1 sq km. It is bordered by China to the North, Laos and Cambodia to the West, and the East Sea to the East, and boasts 3,260 km of coastline and tens of thousands of islands, including the Hoang Sa (Paracel) and Truong Sa (Spratly) archipelagos.

The country consists of three main regions - the Northern, Central and Southern regions - with distinct linguistic typology and climate.

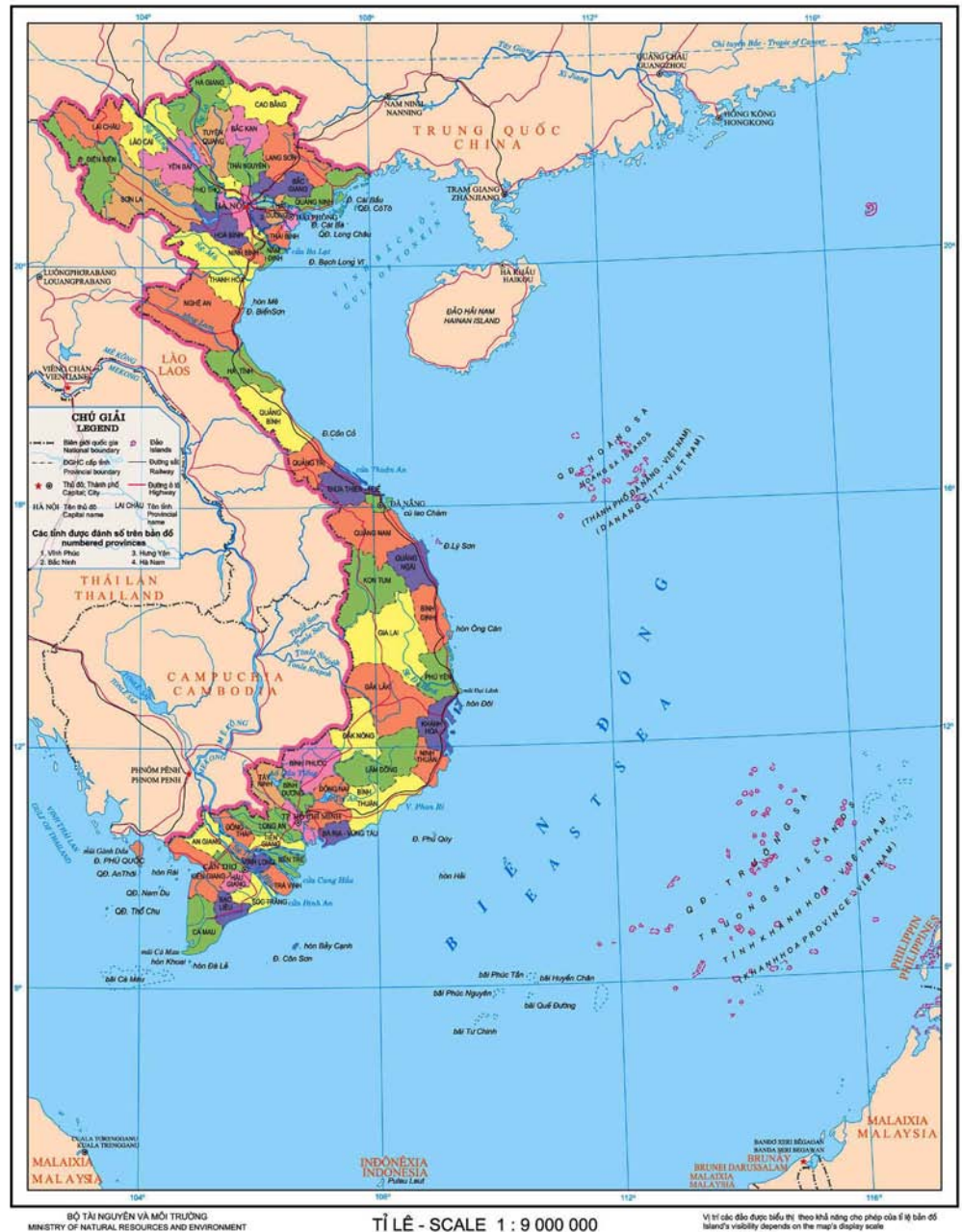
Viet Nam is a tropical and monsoonal country, with an average humidity of 84% throughout the year, annual rainfall from 1,200 to 3,000 mm, and annual temperatures between 50C and 370C. Due to the variety of topography - plains, lowlands, highlands, and mountains - the climate varies considerably. The North enjoys four distinctive seasons, while there are only two seasons - dry and wet - in the South.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

It is believed that the first human civilization in Viet Nam appeared in the Red River Delta about 35,000 years ago. Legend has it that the Vietnamese are descendants of Lac Long Quan and Au Co, also known as the “Dragon Lord of the Seas” and the “Fairy of the Mountains”. The eldest son among their 100 children, Hung Vuong, set up the very first dynasty, called Van Lang, which has been historically recognized

Due to the variety of topography - plains, lowlands, highlands, and mountains - the climate varies considerably. The North enjoys four distinctive seasons, while there are only two seasons - dry and wet - in the South.

BẢN ĐỒ HÀNH CHÍNH NƯỚC CỘNG HÒA XÃ HỘI CHỦ NGHĨA VIỆT NAM  
ADMINISTRATIVE MAP OF SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM



as the first Vietnamese state. Viet Nam went through several historical periods during its formation.

Major dynasties include the Dinh and Le (First Le), and the Ly, Tran, and Le (Second Le). The Nguyen (1802-1945) was the last feudal dynasty as a protectorate of France since its colonization in 1858, with Bao Dai being the last emperor.

Following victory in the August Revolution in 1945, President Ho Chi Minh read the Proclamation of Independence on September 2, 1945, giving birth to the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam.

The country then endured two lengthy wars

for national liberation from foreign occupation between 1946 and 1975, resulting in the famous victory at Dien Bien Phu in 1954, which subsequently ended French colonialism in Indochina, and the Great Spring Offensive in 1975, which reunified the country divided into two as part of the 1954 Geneva Accords.

During its first session on July 2, 1976, the first National Assembly of the reunified Viet Nam approved a resolution officially changing the name of Democratic Republic of Viet Nam to the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, which remains the official name of the country today.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

According to the 2019 census, Viet Nam's





## 50th Anniversary of Viet Nam – Pakistan Diplomatic Relations



population was 97.58 million, ranking it the 15th most-populous country in the world and the third most-populous in Southeast Asia. Average life expectancy in 2019 was 73.6 years of age.

Viet Nam has a total of 54 ethnic groups, with the Kinh (Viet) accounting for over 86% of the population. Together with the Kinh, the 53 other ethnic groups form the great family of Viet Nam. Major ethnic groups include Tay (1.9%), Thai (1.7%), Muong (1.5%), Khmer

***Viet Nam's literacy rate stands at more than 95% of those under the age of 25***

(1.4%), Chinese (1.1%), Nung (1.1%), and H'Mong (1%).

Viet Nam's literacy rate stands at more than 95% of those under the age of 25. The number of people who have graduated from high school or higher account for 39.1% of the workforce nationwide. Viet Nam's human development index (HDI) value for 2019 was 0.704, putting the country in the high human development category and positioning it at 117 out of 189 countries and territories. The spiritual and religious lives of most Vietnamese are influenced by a complex mixture of in-house philosophical teachings, and people are free to practice their religious beliefs.

### CITIES AND PROVINCES

Viet Nam has 63 centrally-governed cities and

provinces. Its major cities are Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City, Hai Phong, Da Nang and Can Tho. There are also many other cities that belong to provinces. Hanoi is the capital of the country and where the headquarters of most central agencies are located, while the most-populous city is Ho Chi Minh City, which is also the country's largest and busiest economic hub.

### POLITICAL SYSTEM

**The Communist Party of Viet Nam** was founded in 1930, and is the party in power in the country. All Party organizations perform their activities within the framework of the Constitution and laws. A National Party Congress is convened every five years to chart the political course and formalize strategies and policies for national development. The most recent 13th Congress was held between January 25 and February 1, 2021.

[More information can be found at: https://en.dangcongsan.vn](https://en.dangcongsan.vn)

**The National Assembly (NA)** is the country's legislative body and is elected every five years. It is the highest representative body of the people, endowed with the highest State power. It governs constitutional and legislative rights and determines fundamental domestic and foreign policies, socio-economic tasks, and national defense and security issues, among others. It also exercises the right to supreme supervision of all activities of the State. The latest 15th National Assembly was elected on May 23, 2021.

[More information can be found at: https://quochoi.vn](https://quochoi.vn)

**The State President** is the Head of State, elected by the National Assembly, and represents the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in domestic and

foreign affairs.

[More information can be found at: https://vpctn.gov.vn](https://vpctn.gov.vn)

**The Government** is the executive body, with the same term of office as the NA. It administers the implementation of State affairs in the fields of politics, economics, culture, society, national defense and security, and foreign relations. The government is headed by the Prime Minister and comprises Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers, and other government members.

[More information can be found at: http://chinhphu.vn/portal/page/portal/English](http://chinhphu.vn/portal/page/portal/English)

**The Supreme People's Court** is the highest judicial body of the country. It supervises and directs the judicial work of local People's Courts, Military Courts, Special Courts, and others, unless otherwise prescribed by the National Assembly at the establishment of such courts.

[More information can be found at: https://www.toaan.gov.vn/webcenter/portal/spc/home](https://www.toaan.gov.vn/webcenter/portal/spc/home)

**The Supreme People's Procuracy** is responsible for prosecutions and supervising judicial activities. It oversees the enforcement of the law and exercises the right to prosecution and ensures serious and uniform implementation of the law.

[More information can be found at: https://vksndtc.gov.vn/eng.html](https://vksndtc.gov.vn/eng.html)

**Political system at the local level** In each centrally-governed city or province and at the lower level or district level are the Party Committee, People's Council, People's Committee, People's Court, and People's Procuracy.





# A number of theoretical and practical issues on socialism and the path to socialism in Viet Nam

Professor. Dr. Nguyen Phu Trong General Secretary The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Viet Nam

**O**n the occasion of the 131st birthday of President Ho Chi Minh and the elections of deputies to the 15th National Assembly and all-level People's Councils 2021-2026, Professor, Dr Nguyen Phu Trong, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Viet Nam (CPV), has written an article titled "A number of theoretical and practical issues on socialism and the path towards socialism in Viet Nam." (Here are some excerpts of the article):

Socialism and the path to socialism in Viet Nam is a truly fundamental theoretical and practical topic of great importance. It covers a broad array of diverse and complex issues under various approaches, and requires both painstaking and serious investigation, and a deep and scientific stocktaking of practice (...).

As we all know, the Vietnamese people have undergone a long, arduous and sacrifice-filled revolutionary struggle against colonialist and imperialist domination and invasion in order to defend the sacred national independence and sovereignty and for the freedom and happiness of our people, in the spirit of "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom".

Since its inception and throughout its revolutionary struggle, the Communist Party of Viet Nam has always asserted that socialism is the goal and ideal of the Communist Party and people of Viet Nam, and that advancing towards socialism is an objective demand of and the inevitable course of Vietnamese revolution (...)

The socialist society that the Vietnamese people are making all efforts to build is a society where the people are well-off, the nation is strong and the people are owners, a society characterized by democracy, equality and civilization.

It possesses a highly developed economy on the basis of a modern productive force and suitable and progressive production relations. It enjoys an advanced culture imbued with national identity. Its people are entitled to wellbeing, freedom and happiness and are blessed with opportunities for comprehensive development.

Ethnic groups in the Vietnamese community are equal, united, respectful and supportive of each other to grow together. It has a rule-of-law socialist state of the people, by the people and for the people under the leadership of the Communist Party. And it maintains friendship and cooperation with all countries in the world.



To achieve this goal, we must step up industrialization and modernization in conjunction with the development of a knowledge-based economy. We must also develop a socialist-oriented market economy, build an advanced culture imbued with national identity, boost human resource development, improve the people's living standards, and exercise social progress and equality.

We must safeguard national defense and security, public order and security. We must implement the foreign policy of independence, self-reliance, multilateralization and diversification for peace, friendship, cooperation and development, and actively engage in international integration. We must build a socialist democracy, harness the will and power of all-nation unity in combination with the power of our time. We must build the socialist rule-of-law state of the people, by the people and for the people (...)

The 'Doi Moi', including the development of the socialist-oriented market economy, has truly brought about enormous and positive changes to our country over the past 35 years. Prior to the 'Doi Moi' (in 1986), Viet Nam used to be a poor and war-torn country, with devastated human lives, infrastructure, and environment (...) Thanks to the 'Doi Moi', our economy has begun to thrive, enjoying a relatively high growth rate over the course of 35 years at around 7% per year.

Our GDP is continually expanding, reaching \$342.7 billion in 2020 and becomes the 4th largest economy in ASEAN. Per-capita income has increased seventeen-fold to \$3,512. Viet Nam successfully graduated from low-income

status in 2008. From a country faced with constant food shortages, at present, Viet Nam not only is able to ensure food security, but also has become a leading exporter of rice and various other agricultural products in the world (...).

Thanks to economic progress, the cultural life has also been significantly enriched with a diverse and growing range of cultural activities, 70% of the population now have internet access and Viet Nam is among the world's fastest-developing IT countries.

The United Nations has recognized Viet Nam as one of the leading countries in reaching the Millennium Development Goals. In 2019, Viet Nam's Human Development Index (HDI) value reached 0.704, putting the country in the high human development category. This is a commendable achievement, especially compared to countries at a similar level of development.

Thus, we can say that the implementation of "Doi Moi" has delivered clear, profound and positive transformations in Viet Nam. The economy is booming and the productive force is strengthened, poverty is rapidly and constantly falling.

The people's living standard is improving and many social issues have been addressed. Political and social stability, defense, and security are well-safeguarded. We enjoy an increasingly broader foreign relations and more extensive international integration. Our national standing and power are growing and the people's trust in the Party's leadership is bolstered (...) With all due modesty, we can say





Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong (center) with delegates attending the National Foreign Relations Conference in Hanoi, on 14 December 2021.

that “Never has our country had such fortune, potential, international standing and prestige as it does today.” Such progress is the crystallization of the creativity of the entire Party, people and army, and the product of our enduring and constant endeavor over the many past terms of office. It is testimony to the correctness of our path to socialism. It proves that this process

**The socialist society that the Viet nameese people are making all efforts to build is a society where the people are well-off, the nation is strong and the people are owners, a society characterized by democracy, equality and civilization.**

is well in line with objective laws, the situation in Viet Nam, and the development trajectory of our times. It demonstrates that the Doi Moi guideline set by the Party is correct and innovative. It proves that the leadership of the Party is the foremost element that decides all victories of the revolution in Viet Nam.(...)

Apart from the dominant streak of achievements and positive aspects, there remain considerable drawbacks and limitations, in addition to emerging challenges that we must face in our national development. Economically, Viet Nam's growth quality and competitiveness remain low and not very sustainable. Infrastructure lacks coherence,

and the effectiveness and capability of many businesses, including state-owned enterprises, are limited. The environment in many areas suffers from pollution. The administration and regulation of the market still exhibit many shortcomings. Meanwhile, competition is growing increasingly fiercer against the backdrop of globalization and international integration.

Socially, the wealth gap is on the rise, while the quality of education, healthcare and other public services still leaves much to desire. Our culture and social morality shows signs of decline in certain aspects, and crime and social evils continue to see complex developments. Most alarmingly, corruption, extravagance, degradation in political thought, morality and lifestyle can be observed in a portion of cadres and Party members. At the same time, hostile forces are trying all means to intervene, subvert, cause instability and carry out “peaceful evolution” in order to undermine socialism in Viet Nam.

Presently, we are continuing to accelerate the transformation of our growth model and economic restructuring with greater focus on quality and sustainability. In this connection, we have identified the following breakthroughs: the synchronous improvement of development institutions, with priority given to the socialist-oriented market economy; the development of human resources, particularly highly-skilled workers; and the development of synchronized and modern infrastructure, economically and socially. With regards to social development, we continue to promote sustainable poverty reduction, improve the quality of healthcare, education and other public services, and further enhance people’s cultural life.

Both theory and praxis have shown that

building socialism means creating a qualitatively new type of society, which is by no means a simple or easy task.

This is a grand and innovative endeavor, full of challenges and adversities. It is a self-driven, continuous, long-term and goal-oriented cause that cannot be rushed. Therefore, in addition to charting the correct Party line and policy and ensuring its leadership role, we must actively harness people's creativity, support and active participation.

The people shall welcome, support and enthusiastically participate in the implementation of the Party lines since they see that such guidelines are in their interest and live up to their aspirations. The ultimate victory and development is deeply rooted in the strength of the Vietnamese people.

On the other hand, the Party’s leadership and stewardship, in shaping the political line and making decisions, should not refer only to the reality of its own country and nation. It must instead also study and learn from the experience of the world and that of the times.

In today's globalized world, the development of each nation-state cannot stand alone and separate from the impacts of the world and the times, and those of the context and the dynamics.

Therefore, we must actively engage in international integration, implement a foreign policy of independence, self-reliance, peace, cooperation and development, and multilateralization and diversification of international relations, on the basis of respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of each other, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit. (ND)





## The importance of upholding solidarity, promoting strength of ASEAN



H.E. Mr. Pham Minh Chinh,  
Prime Minister of Viet Nam

Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh reaffirmed the importance of maintaining solidarity and promoting internal strength of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) while addressing the 41st ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on November 11.

The 41st summit focused on the bloc's external relations, the regional architecture, and regional and international issues of common concern. In his remarks, PM Chinh underlined the uncertainty, instability, and unpredictability of the international and regional situation, with the emergence of traditional and non-traditional challenges, disrupted supply chains, inflation, energy and food security issues, complex developments of strategic competition among superpowers, as well as geopolitical changes.

He reaffirmed the importance of solidarity maintenance, internal strength promotion, a sense of responsibility, a balanced and objective approach, and persistence in the association's principles, which have constituted the attractiveness of ASEAN as seen in partners' willingness to enhance and upgrade cooperation with the bloc and in the partners' full presence at this time's summits.

To further augment the effectiveness of external relations, the PM called for increasing coordination with partners in common efforts to contribute to peace, security and development; consolidate the intra-bloc cohesion so that partners truly respect and support ASEAN's centrality, and commit to



Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh reaffirmed the importance of maintaining solidarity and promoting internal strength of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) while addressing the 41st ASEAN Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on November 11, 2022.

long-term cooperation with the bloc through ASEAN-led mechanisms.

As the coordinator of the ASEAN - Republic of Korea relations, Vietnam will join other countries to develop these ties in an increasingly substantive and effective manner, he went on.

Regarding international and regional issues, PM Chinh emphasized that ASEAN should adopt a steadfast, skillful, harmonious, and balanced approach to hot issues in the region.

He also shared the association's viewpoints on the East Sea, Myanmar, and Russia - Ukraine conflict issues.

Together with other ASEAN leaders, the Vietnamese leader stressed the need to solidify

ASEAN's principled stance on the East Sea issue and asked for stronger cooperation in marine environment conservation, humanitarian assistance for fishermen and seafarers, and response to illegal fishing.

In his speech, he also appealed for continued persistence in the implementation of the Five-Point Consensus to help Myanmar, a member of ASEAN, to seek feasible and durable solutions to overcome difficulties.

He voiced his support for adopting decisions about the Five-Point Consensus implementation to create an important basis for ASEAN to improve assistance for Myanmar.

The Government leader of Vietnam also underscored the need for proactive assistance, urging the parties concerned in Myanmar to



ASEAN leaders at the 41st ASEAN Summit (Retreat) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on November 11, 2022 (VNA)

show their sense of responsibility and goodwill cooperation to promote the effective and comprehensive implementation of the Five-Point Consensus for a future of stability and development in the country, the Myanmar

prerequisite for making international peace and security.

At the summit, ASEAN leaders shared the view on fast and unpredictable changes of the geopolitical environment, strategic friction among superpowers, growing tensions in many hotspots, and complex developments of non-traditional security issues like disease outbreaks, natural disasters, climate change, and energy and food security, which have substantially affected countries in the region and ASEAN.

They stressed that more than ever, ASEAN needs to strengthen solidarity and self-reliance, take an overarching approach and strategic vision, responsibly contribute to the settlement of emerging challenges, and promote sustainable recovery and inclusive growth for the sake of people's life and interest.

In terms of ASEAN's external relations, the leaders applauded the substantive strides in the bloc's cooperation with partners.

They also highly valued the practical cooperation programmes and projects with partners, which they said are important contributions to the ASEAN Community building and the formation of a favorable environment for peace, stability, and sustainable development.

Talking about such international and regional issues as the East Sea/South China Sea, Myanmar, the Korean Peninsula, and the Russia - Ukraine conflict, they affirmed countries' responsibility for maintaining peace, security, and stability in the East Sea while stressing the importance of full and effective implementation

of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the East Sea (DOC), and efforts to soon finalize an effective and substantive code of conduct (DOC) in the waters that matches international

**The 41st summit focused on the bloc's external relations, the regional architecture, and regional and international issues of common concern**

people's happiness and interests, as well as ASEAN's solidarity, image, and reputation.

Sharing the common concern about the Russia - Ukraine conflict, PM Chinh highlighted the significance and value of peace and affirmed that respecting independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity is a fundamental principle of international relations and also a

PM Chinh emphasized that ASEAN should adopt a steadfast, skillful, harmonious, and balanced approach to hot issues in the region

law, including the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

The leaders also voiced their concern about the Myanmar situation and that the Five-Point Consensus implementation has yet to make progress as expected.

They affirmed that Myanmar is an ASEAN member and agreed to continue helping the country overcome the current trying times, support efforts by the ASEAN Chair's Special Envoy on Myanmar, and approve the decisions about the Consensus implementation. VNA





Minister of Foreign Affairs Bui Thanh Son. VNA/VNS Photo

## Diplomatic sector serves as key and pioneer force of external affairs

**M**inister of Foreign Affairs Bui Thanh Son speaks to the media about the contributions of foreign affairs to Vietnam's achievements in external affairs and the cause of safeguarding and developing the country in the new era.

**Looking back at our country's revolutionary history, how has the foreign affairs sector contributed to the overall achievements of Vietnamese foreign policy, especially during the *đổi mới* (Renewal) period?**

The diplomatic sector has a very proud tradition and was directly trained by the Party and Uncle Ho from the early days of the revolutionary government. Diplomacy is a front-line force which takes advantage of the great and generous support of people around the world for the cause of national liberation, reunification, construction and defence.

During the *đổi mới* process, the diplomatic sector together with foreign-based agencies have gained important achievements and left various outstanding hallmarks, contributing to building the fortune, potential, position and international prestige that our country has never had before.

First and foremost, through consistent implementation of the foreign policy of independence, self-reliance, multilateralisation, diversification, proactive and active

international integration, for the sake of the nation, the diplomatic sector has expanded and deepened relationships with a lot of partners. From breaking the siege and embargo, we have created and consolidated an open and favourable external situation for the *đổi mới* process.

As of today, Vietnam has established diplomatic relations with 189 countries and connected with more than 230 countries and territories in terms of economic-trade relations. We have also developed strategic partnerships and comprehensive partnerships with 30 countries.

Secondly, Vietnam has taken advantage of the favourable international environment to mobilise external resources for socio-economic development. The foreign affairs sector has given advice to the Party and the State on the policies of participating in international economic linkages, closely coordinating with relevant ministries and sectors to promote negotiations. So far Vietnam has signed 15 Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), including new generation FTAs.

The foreign affairs sector has worked with relevant agencies to promote and improve the efficiency of external economy, especially expanding export markets, attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Official Development Assistance (ODA) and developing tourism.

Works concerning overseas Vietnamese have mobilised great resources of the Vietnamese community abroad for the country's construction and defence.

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, by promoting health diplomacy and vaccine diplomacy, the foreign affairs sector has taken advantage of timely international support in terms of vaccines, medical equipment and treatment drugs, making an important contribution to COVID-19 prevention, control and safe adaptation to the pandemic.

Thirdly, in peace time, diplomacy has taken a leading role in creating and consolidating a peaceful and stable environment, at the same time, working with national defence, security sectors and all-level sectors to firmly protect sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity.

The diplomatic sector has closely coordinated with relevant sectors and localities to make efforts to negotiate and build a border of peace, friendship and development with neighbouring countries, and firmly defend the country's sovereignty over seas and islands.

Fourth, the foreign affairs sector has proactively and actively promoted comprehensive and extensive international integration, thereby constantly improving our country's international position and prestige. We have successfully hosted numerous major





Minister of Foreign Affairs Bui Thanh Son attending the 55th ASEAN Foreign Minister in Cambodia, 3 August 2022.

international conferences and fulfilled various important international responsibilities such as being the non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, the rotating chair of ASEAN, the host of the ASEM Summit, APEC, the World Economic Forum on ASEAN, and the US-DPRK Summit.

Cultural diplomacy and external information have vigorously and successfully promoted the image of Vietnam which is rich in culture and innovation; mobilised UNESCO to recognise many Vietnamese heritages as world cultural heritages, contributing to preserving national cultural identity and promoting socio-economic development.

**The 13th National Party Congress set out the vision, goals and development direction of the country until the mid-21st century. What will the foreign affairs sector do to continue making important contributions to the cause of national development and defence in the new period?**

With the country's new position and power after nearly 35 years of *đổi mới*, our whole country is striving, with high will and determination, to realise the aspirations, vision and development goals set out in the 13th Party Congress. Together with the whole country to strive for the successful implementation of the 13th Party Resolution, as a key and pioneer force on the external affairs front, the foreign affairs sector will continue to make efforts to perform key tasks as follows.

First, the sector will disseminate the

implementation of the 13th Party Congress Resolution and the Party and the State's foreign policies and orientations. After the National External Affairs Conference on December 14, we will organise the 31st Diplomatic Conference and the 20th National Foreign Affairs Conference to thoroughly grasp the spirit and disseminate the content of the 13th Party Congress' Resolution and conclusions and directions of the Party and State leaders at the National External Affairs Conference to the entire sector as well as to local foreign affairs agencies.

On that basis, the diplomatic sector will set out specific and practical plans, programmes, tasks and measures on the implementation of foreign affairs policies in order to make important contributions to the successful implementation of the 13th Party Congress Resolution.

Second, the sector will synchronously and effectively deploy tasks to maintain a peaceful and stable environment along with resolutely defending sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, and mobilise external resources to meet the needs of socio-economic development and raise the country's position. We will continue to expand and deepen foreign relations with the focus on neighbouring countries, important partners and traditional friends, promoting Vietnam's role in important multilateral mechanisms such as ASEAN, UN, APEC, and Mekong sub-regional cooperation.

Third, the sector will combine political diplomacy, economic diplomacy, cultural

diplomacy, external information with overseas Vietnamese work and citizen protection; make full use of favourable international factors, international commitments and agreements, including signed FTAs in order to mobilise external resources, effectively combined with domestic resources to meet the rapid and sustainable development of the country.

In the near future, the foreign affairs sector, along with relevant sectors, will continue to foster cooperation and make use of international community support in pandemic prevention and control, promote recovery and socio-economic development.

Fourth, we will strengthen a close combination between political, economic and cultural diplomacy, and coordination between Party, people-to-people, defence-security, and socio-economic diplomacy in order to promote the synergy of the whole political system and the whole country in performing foreign affairs tasks.

Fifth, in order to successfully implement the foreign policy orientations and tasks assigned by the Party and the State in the future, it is necessary to build a comprehensive, modern and strong diplomatic sector.

The core is to develop a body of diplomatic staff equipped with strong political, moral, ideological mettle, who are highly talented, capable, professional and modern in style, who are innovative, sharp and proactive, in order to go beyond the scope of the nation and achieve regional- and world-class results (VNA).





## Pakistan – Viet Nam: Steady growth of mutually beneficial cooperation in various sectors



The two Foreign Ministers reviewed Pakistan-Vietnam bilateral relations and noted the tradition of cordiality and friendly ties between the two countries.

In the backdrop of the 50 year celebrations of bilateral relations, they expressed satisfaction at the steady growth of mutually beneficial cooperation in various sectors.

The Ministers expressed their determination to enhance collaboration in various sectors including trade and investment, tourism, education, public administration and promotion of people-to-people contacts.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari underscored that Pakistan valued its relations with Vietnam, which is an important partner in ASEAN Regional Forum.

He also briefed the Vietnamese Foreign Minister on Pakistan's continued commitment to ARF and its relations with ASEAN. The two Foreign Ministers agreed to enhance high-level exchanges and dialogue between the two countries. (Pakistan MOFA)



Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari met his Vietnamese counterpart, Mr. Bùi Thanh Sơn, on the sidelines of the 29th ASEAN Regional Forum Foreign Ministers Meeting in Phnom Penh (on 4 August 2022).



## Viet Nam's energy industry will continue to be transformed towards sustainability and efficiency

By H.E. Mr. Nguyen Hong Dien,  
Minister of Industry & Trade

Viet Nam is a country with fast economic growth in the ASEAN region, accompanied by rapid urbanization and industrialization and modernization. Facing the requirements of ensuring energy security and sustainable development, the energy industry faces many challenges such as sufficient, clean, quality and affordable electricity supply. This is the time for Vietnam to consider how to transform the energy source structure towards using more renewable energy sources along with economical and efficient use of energy.

At the United Nations Climate Change Summit in 2021 (COP26), Vietnam committed to a net zero emissions target by 2050. This strong statement clearly demonstrates its determination to achieve zero net emissions by 2050 focus of the Government of Vietnam in realizing the goals of shifting fossil fuel-based energy sources to green, clean energy sources, reducing greenhouse gas emissions... with its own resources, together with international community cooperation and support, both financially and technologically.

Over the past time, the Ministry of Industry and Trade has made efforts to review and complete the National Power Development Plan for the period of 2021-2030, with a vision to 2045 (Power Plan VIII) with specific priorities: Strongly develop renewable energy sources such as wind power, solar power, biomass, especially offshore wind power.

For coal power sources, they will gradually switch to using biomass or anomic fuel (gradually increasing the density of burning). After 2030, do not develop new coal power sources. For plants that have not reached the end of their economic life by 2050, accelerate the fuel conversion process so that they can switch to using completely clean fuel by 2050.

For power sources, LNG will gradually switch to using hydrogen fuel (gradually increasing



the proportion of combustion) and when the technology is ripe, switch to using hydrogen fuel after 20 years of operation, and at the same time can generate electricity. development of new generation power plants using completely hydrogen.

To achieve the above goal, the Ministry of Industry and Trade is studying and proposing to legalize the development of renewable energy, creating a favorable legal corridor to attract investors from the private sector in the economy and abroad to participate in investment and development of renewable energy. In addition, Vietnam is also promoting propaganda activities and implementing many solutions to raise awareness, responsibility and encourage improvement of behavior and habits of economical and efficient use of electricity/energy. The ratio of energy saving to total final energy consumption is about 7% in 2030 and 14% in 2045.

The above mentioned Power Development Program requires huge investment capital (about US\$13.6 billion/year in the period 2021-2030 and US\$16.1 billion/year in the period

2031- 2045). Therefore, in order to successfully implement this Power Development Program, besides its own efforts, Vietnam urgently needs the cooperation and support of international partners and donors in technology and engineering. techniques, experience and capital sources for investment incentives; especially support in opening up and attracting financial resources from the public – private sector to promote investment cooperation in the fields of electricity and gas infrastructure, renewable energy sources, transmission infrastructure, etc. electricity and technologies for economical and efficient use of energy.

We believe that: With the great efforts and determination of the Vietnamese Government, along with the active and effective cooperation and support of partners and international donors, Vietnam's energy industry will continue to be transformed and develop stronger towards sustainability and efficiency, fulfilling the national goals that we have committed to at COP26, actively contributing to the successful implementation of the goals on the energy transition of ASEAN and Asia (VNA).







## Pakistan overview

**T**he Islamic republic of Pakistan emerged as an independent sovereign state on 14th August 1947, as a result of the division of former British India. It lies between 23-35 to 37- 05 north latitude and 60-50 to 77- 50 east longitude touching the Hindukush Mountains in the north and extending from the Pamirs to the Arabian Sea.

Pakistan covers 796,095 sq.km with the population 207.68 million (According to the final results of Census-2017).

**Currency:** Rupee (PKR)

**Government:** Parliamentary Democracy

**Popular Games:** Cricket, Hockey, Football, Squash

**Languages:** Urdu (National) and other local languages: Pashto, Punjabi, Sindi, Balochi etc.

**Major Cities:** Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, Quetta, Rawalpindi, Hyderabad, Faisalabad, Multan, Sialkot

Historically, this is one of the most ancient lands known to man. Its cities flourished before Babylon was built; its people practiced the art of good living and citizenship before the celebrated ancient Greeks. The region traces its history back to at least 2,500 years before Christ, when a highly developed civilization flourished in the Indus Valley. Excavations at Harappa, Mohenjodaro and Kot Diji have brought to light evidence of an advanced civilization flourishing here even

in most ancient times. Around 1,500 B.C. the Aryans conquered this region and slowly pushed the Hindu inhabitants further east, towards the Ganges Valley. Later, the Persians occupied the northern regions in 5th century B.C. The Greeks came in 327 B.C., under Alexander of Macedonia, and ran through the region like a meteor. In 712 A.D. the Arabs, led by Mohammed Bin Qasim, landed somewhere near what is now Karachi, and ruled the lower half of Pakistan for two hundred years. Ancient sites excavated in Taxila, Harappa, and Moenjodaro speak volumes for Pakistan's rich cultural background dating back to 3,000 B.C.

Climatically, Pakistan enjoys a considerable measure of variety. North and north western high mountainous ranges are extremely cold in winter while the summer months of April to September are very pleasant. The country has an agricultural economy with a network of canals irrigating a major part of its cultivated land. Wheat, cotton, rice, millet and sugar cane are the major crops. Among fruits: mangos, oranges, bananas and apples are grown in abundance in different parts of the country. The main natural resources are natural gas, coal, salt and iron. The country has an expanding industry. Cotton, Textiles, sugar, cement, and chemicals play an important role in its economy.

### Major Vegetative Zone:

- Permanent snow fields & glaciers
- Dry alpine & cold desert zone







## 50th Anniversary of Viet Nam – Pakistan Diplomatic Relations



- Alpine scrub & moist alpine
- Himalayan dry coniferous with ilex oak
- Himalayan moist temperate forest
- Sub-tropical pine forest
- Sub-tropical dry mixed deciduous scrub forest
- Baluchistan Juniper & pistachio scrub forest
- Dry sub-tropical and temperate semi-evergreen scrub forest
- Tropical thorn forest & sand dune desert
- Mangrove and littoral
- Sand dune desert

### **Agro Ecological zones include:**

- Indus Delta
- Southern irrigated plain
- Sandy deserts
- Northern irrigated plains
- Rain-fed lands
- Wet mountains
- Northern dry mountains
- Western dry mountains
- Dry western plateau
- Sulaiman piedmont

### **Art & Culture**

Pakistan has every reason to be proud of the thousands of years old and rich tradition of its arts and crafts. In the post-independence period, the successive governments have been providing substantial state help and initiative for the uplift of arts and crafts in the country. A wider recognition of the accomplishments of crafts-people has been facilitated by the activities of the National Crafts Council and promotional plans of organizations such as the Export Promotion Bureau and Small Industries Corporations. Pakistani craftsmen are well reputed in producing quality products in clay, stone, fabrics, carpets, wood, metal, jewelry and leather.

### **Culture**

Pakistan has been the cradle of a civilization that dates back more than five millennium. Over the centuries, through successive waves of migrations from the north-west, as well as by internal migrations across the subcontinent, Aryans, Persians, Greeks, Arabs, and Mughals came and settled in this region. However, it was Islam and Islamic traditions that finally took roots and formed the mainspring of Pakistan's cultural heritage. Muslims from the earliest days, built cities, forts, palaces, mosques, madras's (religious schools), tombs and mausoleums

which are marked by simplicity and grandeur, with open spaces and abundance of light in accordance with the Islamic concept of man's direct and open relationship with the Creator. Pakistan inherits immense treasure of culture, and the government is trying its best to preserve and promote this cultural treasure. There are several government agencies such as Pakistan National Council of Arts, Lok Virsa (Folk Heritage), National Film Development Corporation, Authority for Preservation of Mohenjo-Daro and National Archives of Pakistan, each to perform a given set of functions in this area.

### **Government**

The Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan provides for a Federal Parliamentary System of government, with President as the Head of State and the popularly elected Prime Minister as Head of government. The Federal Legislature is a bicameral Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament), composed of the National Assembly and the Senate. The Constitution also provides for the President to address the two Houses assembled together at the commencement of the first session after General Elections:

- Federal Government
- Head of State
- Head of the government
- National Security Council
- National Assembly, Senate
- Federal Ministers
- Federal Government Ministries
- Federal Government Departments
- Attorney General
- Judiciary

### **Provincial Governments**

- Provincial Governors,
- Government of Punjab,
- Government of Sindh,
- Government of the North-West Frontier Province,
- Government of Balochistan

### **Investment**

In order to streamline and co-ordinate the process of investment and to create an investor friendly culture in the country, the government established the Board of Investment (BOI) as the central investment promotion and facilitation agency. The Board of Investment is chaired by the Head of the Government, and overseen by the Minister for Industries and Production. (By Diplomatic Focus)







# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Viet Nam - Pakistan Diplomatic Relations

***This year the two countries celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Diplomatic Relations, an important milestone in the relationship between the two countries  
(8/11/1972 – 8/11/2022)***



**H.E. Nguyen Tien Phong**  
Ambassador of Viet Nam to Pakistan

Viet Nam embarked on Doi Moi (Innovation) in 1986 with the goal of creating a socialist-oriented market economy, and so far has achieved remarkable results in its economic developments, social progress and international relations. With an average annual GDP growth of about 7% over the past 36 years, today, Viet Nam ranks among the Top 40 economies with the largest GDP in the world, and the Top 16 most successful emerging economies.

Viet Nam is a convergence of tens of thousands of investors from 140 countries and territories with a total FDI of nearly 430 billion USD. In 2021, the total trade turnover reached a record level, about 670 billion USD, an increase

of nearly 23%. Viet Nam has joined 15 FTAs, including new generation FTAs, such as CPTPP, EVFTA, RCEP, etc. with high standards and open market incentives, helping Viet Nam to easily access the markets of 60 countries and territories.

From the beginning of 2022 until now, Viet Nam has well controlled the epidemic, stabilized socio-political conditions, the economy is recovering quickly, GDP in the first 6 months of 2022 increased by 6.42%, inflation was controlled at around 2,8 % compared to the same period 2021, major balances in food and energy... People's living standards have been improved; social security has been actively implemented.

Viet Nam belongs to the group of countries with a high level of HDI on human development,

has completed ahead of time many of the MDG-2015 Millennium Development Goals and is making efforts to implement the United Nations SDG-2030 Sustainable Development Goals; implementing COP26 commitments on reducing emissions.

The Country has established diplomatic relations with 230 countries and territories, increasingly strengthened close relations with neighboring countries; established long-term stable relationships with 30 strategic and comprehensive partners. We have successfully completed the tasks of APEC Year 2017, North Korea-US Summit Host Country 2019, ASEAN Chair 2020, Non-Permanent Member, and United Nations Security Council 2020-2021, member of United Nations Human Rights Council 2023 -2025...



Ambassador - Designate Nguyen Tien Phong presented the Letter of Credentials from President H.E. Nguyen Xuan Phuc to Pakistan President Dr. Arif Alvi, on 7th June 2021

Regarding the traditional and friendly bilateral relations, during the last five decades Viet Nam and Pakistan have enjoyed excellent friendship and cooperation in many fields such as political, trade and investment ties, technology, culture, and people and people exchange.... Regarding political relations, the two countries exchanged many VVIP, high-level delegations, notably the fresh meeting between the Foreign Ministers of the two countries when attending the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Cambodia on the 4th of August, the meeting between Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif and Vice President H.E. Vo Thi Anh Xuan in Kazakhstan during the 6th CICA Summit 13th October 2022.... Viet Nam and Pakistan also actively support each other in international forums and United Nations bodies such as the United Nations Security Council, the United Nations Human Rights Council, UNESCO, IPU, WTO, etc.... The agreements and common perceptions between our senior leaders have created an important premise for the multifaceted cooperation between the two countries.

In terms of economics and trade, notably, the trade volume between Pakistan and Viet Nam has increased from 54 million USD in 2005 to more than 700 million USD in 2017 and reached more than US\$ 794 million in 2021, an increase of 54.41% compared to 2020. However, it is still very low as compared to the huge potentials of both sides with many other complementary advantages, such as agriculture products, pharmacy, manufacturing industries, garments and textiles, seafood, Halal foods... and many others.

Recently, Viet Nam's Embassy in Islamabad and Pakistan's Embassy in Ha Noi have organized a number of events to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Diplomatic Relations,

including 3rd Bilateral Political Consultative (BPC) and Intergovernmental Committee (JEC) and 5th Joint Trade Subcommittee (JTC) sessions.

Despite of remarkable achievements in all-area cooperation Viet Nam -Pakistan relations are much to be desired, still very moderate compared to its potential and strengths as well as the needs of both sides.

The total size of population of the two is approximately 330 million and this huge amount of consumers together with commonalities, complementary advantages of our economies, numerous potentials need to be tapped in to reach the optimized level in economic transactions and cooperation for the benefit of the Vietnamese and Pakistani citizens. It is very necessary also, and first of the first to some extent, to promote and strengthen cultural exchanges, people-to-people exchanges, boosting cooperation in other fields such as education and training, culture – tourism. Those sectors all together will raise the mutual awareness and understanding then in return push up the economic, trade, investment and political ties of our countries.

Viet Nam and Pakistan have signed a remarkable number of MoUs and Agreements in many fields and they are very significant foundations for further enhancement of the relationship. And, it is the time for us to implement, to bring into play and realize substantively all the huge potentials for the prosperity of our peoples and countries.

Viet Nam consistently implements the foreign policy of independence, self-reliance, peace, friendship, cooperation, and development; diversifies and multilateralism foreign relations; respects the basic principles of the United

Nations Charter and international law, equality, cooperation for mutual benefits; carries out the active comprehensive international integration with the platform of Viet Nam is a friend, a reliable partner and an active and responsible member of the international community.

On each pace of our journey, in obtaining important achievements, we always receive the support from international community and friends including Pakistan. Viet Nam will join hands with Pakistan for further mutual confidence, comprehensive cooperation, developments and prosperity of our peoples, and on the basic principles of the United Nations Charter and International Laws to contribute to the joined efforts of international community for peace, addressing traditional and non-traditional security challenges, fostering international integration and connectivity toward the global sustainable developments.

I always remind myself that I am here with the assignments from our Party, State Government, and Vietnamese people to boost up the relations comprehensively and in all fields with Pakistan. To those goals, we should spare no effort to elevate people to people contact, strengthen mutual understandings between our peoples; the cultural, educational, tourism, religious exchange and interactions also are the keys at the economic and political nexus and the development of comprehensive bilateral relations.

I look forward to closely working with all of Pakistani relevant authorities, people, business and all other circles for the bright future of Viet Nam – Pakistan ties. When we go together, we will go farer, further and reach faster, closer to the destination of prosperity, progress and development.





## 50 years of Friendship, Amity, and Cooperation

H.E. Samina Mehtab  
Ambassador of Pakistan to Viet Nam

Today, November 8, 2022 is a momentous occasion for Pakistan and Viet Nam as both countries mark completion of 50 years of diplomatic relations. During these 50 years, the relationship has evolved dynamically through a myriad of global and regional permutations. The relationship today is multi-faceted with political, economic, cultural, and multilateral dimensions. Both countries have always extended a hand of assistance in support towards each other in times of need. It would not be wrong to say that these 50 years have been a story of amity, cooperation, and friendship.

On this significant milestone, if we go down memory lane, we can recall some major highlights of the bilateral relationship. President Pervez Musharraf paid a visit to Vietnam in May 2001 on the invitation of Prime Minister Phan Văn Khải. President Musharraf had meetings with President Trần Đức Lương and Prime Minister Phan Văn Khải. During the talks, both agreed to set up institutional mechanisms for bilateral cooperation to further promote

collaboration between the two countries. Prime Minister Khải and President Musharraf also witnessed the signing ceremony of a bilateral trade agreement.

This visit was reciprocated by Vietnamese President Tran Duc Luong in March 2004 on the invitation of President Musharraf. During his three-day visit, President Tran Duc Luong had meetings with the President and Prime

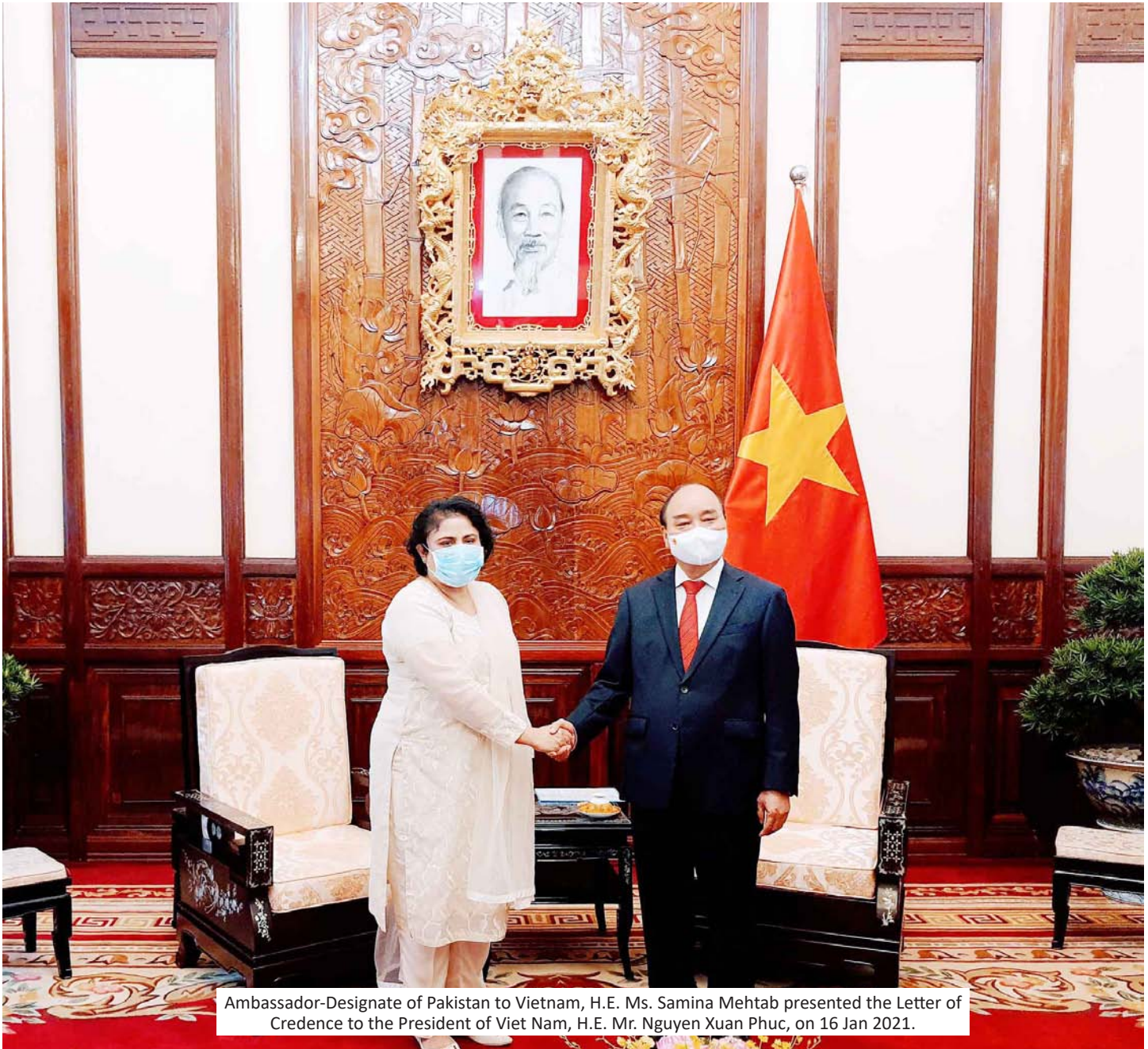
Minister of Pakistan. Four Memoranda of Understanding on Foreign Office Consultations, cooperation between the respective State Banks, cooperation between VCCI and FPCCI, cooperation in the field of science and technology, and avoidance of double taxation were also signed during the visit.

As a result of the momentum gained from these visits and in the bid to institutionalize the bilateral economic cooperation, the Bilateral Joint Ministerial Commission and Joint Trade Commission were established in April 2002. Pakistan's relations with Viet Nam were further consolidated in 2015 when three important meetings - the 3rd session of Joint Trade Commission (JTC), the Inaugural session of Bilateral Political Consultations (BPC) and the 3rd session of Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) - were held, symbolizing the desire of both countries to enhance relations in all spheres.

If we glance upon the volume of bilateral trade today, it has almost tripled from \$331 million in 2013-14 to \$907 million in 2021-22 and is expected to reach \$1 billion in the near future.

**During these 50 years, the relationship has evolved dynamically through a myriad of global and regional permutations.**





Ambassador-Designate of Pakistan to Vietnam, H.E. Ms. Samina Mehtab presented the Letter of Credence to the President of Viet Nam, H.E. Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, on 16 Jan 2021.

It is undoubtedly far below its potential and vigorous efforts to improve it are underway on both sides. In July this year, Pakistan was successfully registered as an exporting country of plant origin products to Viet Nam. It is a welcome move, and bilateral trade will take a significant boost after this. We are also working to register Pakistan as an exporting country of animal origin products and fish & fishery products to Viet Nam.

Pakistan and Viet Nam also enjoy a unique cultural bond due to the Buddhist heritage of Pakistan. Pakistan was indeed the seat of Buddhism evident by the spectacular remnants of the Gandhara civilization scattered all over the country.

Today, the Buddhist heritage sites in Taxila, Peshawar and Swat are a huge source of attraction for Vietnamese tourists. Besides

religious tourism, Pakistan is rapidly becoming a popular tourist destination for Vietnamese adventure tourists. The northern part of Pakistan, constituting the Himalayan, Karakoram, and Hindu Kush Mountain systems, presents some of the most enthralling and beautiful mountains in the world.

Pakistan has five peaks above 8,000 meters including K-2 (8,611m), the second highest peak in the world, Nanga Parbat known as Killer mountain (8,125m), Hidden Peak (8,068m), Broad Peak known locally as Falchen kang Ri (8,048m) and Gashabrum II (8,035m).

The country is rife with beautiful valleys and deserts along with several ancient civilisational sites. Pakistan hosts six UNESCO sites across the country, including the famous Lahore Fort.

Pakistan and Viet Nam have pro-actively

collaborated in multilateral fora and have supported each other's candidatures on United Nations and other international platforms. This support on international platforms is an indispensable element of the bilateral ties and plays a pivotal role in strengthening diplomatic ties between the two countries.

Initiatives to step up political, economic, and people-to-people contacts buttressed by goodwill activities like observance of the golden jubilee of the establishment of diplomatic relations will undoubtedly take the relationship to new heights.

Based on the results of the efforts so far, I can very confidently state that if the current bonhomie continues, the friendly relationship will soon morph into a strategic partnership. (VNS)





## Viet Nam – Pakistan Relations: Overview

Viet Nam 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.

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. 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, Investment and economics, education, tourism and technology and exchange more visits from one to another's country, including both high-ranking and working visits.

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.

Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung and Pakistani Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gillani met bilaterally on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit in Korea (March 2012) and with Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif in the Netherlands (March 2014), President Tran Dai Quang had bilateral meetings with Prime Minister Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif on the sidelines of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Summit in Beijing, May 2017, Vice President Vo Thi Anh Xuan interacts with Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on the sideline of







the 6th CICA Summit in Astana, Kazakhstan; Foreign Minister Bui Thanh Son meets with Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari on the sidelines of the 29th ASEAN Regional Forum Foreign Ministers in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 4th August...

President Pervez Musharraf visited Viet Nam on May 2001; Chairman of the Pakistan Joint Chiefs of Staff visited Vietnam in 2009; Foreign Minister Makhdoom Shah Mahmood Quereshi

possibly reaching the milestone of 1 billion USD in 2022. After the Covid-19 pandemic has been controlled, businesses community of the two countries are promoting their trade activities to expand each other's import and export products.

The two sides are looking for opportunities to expand into new areas of cooperation such as technology, education and training, digital transformation, investment...

The two countries also support each other in many important international fora such as the United Nations Security Council, the United Nations Human Rights Council, the World Trade Organization, etc.... Vietnam voted for Pakistan became the member of Non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the 2012-2013 and other important bodies of UN while Pakistan has supported Vietnam's candidacy for membership of the Human Rights Council for the term 2014-2016 and 2023-2025, the Socio-Economic Council (ECOSOC) for the term 2016-2018, United Nations Security Council for the term 2020-2021 and UNESCO Executive Council for the term 2015-2019 and 2021-2025...

Since 2002, the two countries have maintained the mechanism of the Vietnam-Pakistan Joint Trade Committee (JTC). The first JTC was held in Hanoi on July 8-9, 2003. The second took place in Islamabad from 3-6 June 2010. The 3rd JTC took place in Hanoi in 2015 and the 4th took place in Pakistan from October 3-5, 2017.

Currently, the two sides are coordinating to implement the 5th meeting. At this meeting, the two sides signed a Memorandum of

Understanding on Pakistan's recognition of Vietnam as a country with a full market economy and agreed to bring the two sides' trade turnover to \$1 billion in 2022.

From 2015, the two sides began to maintain the mechanism of the Vietnam - Pakistan Political Consultative Meeting at the level of Deputy Foreign Minister. The first meeting took place in Hanoi in 2015, the second meeting took place in Islamabad in 2018 and the third meeting scheduled to take place in Hanoi.

Agreements between Vietnam and Pakistan:

1. Trade Agreement (May 2001);
2. MOU on the Establishment of the Joint Commission between Vietnam and Pakistan (April 2002);
3. Joint Declaration between the governments of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (March 2004);
4. Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation (March 2004);
5. Framework Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (March 2004);
6. MOU on Consultation between the two Ministries of Foreign Affairs (March 2004);
7. MOU between the State Bank of Vietnam and the State Bank of Pakistan (March 2004).
8. Agreement on Fisheries and Aquaculture Cooperation (June 2006);
9. Agreement on Visa Exemption for Holders of Diplomat and Official Passport (January 2007).

**Turnover  
increasing from  
less than 10 million  
USD in 1999 to  
nearly 800 million  
in 2021 between  
two countries**

attended ARF 17 in Hanoi (2010), Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan Murtaza Javed Abbasi visited Viet Nam and attended IPU 123 from 25 March to 2 April 2015...

Vietnam-Pakistan relations in recent years have seen many positive changes, especially in the field of economy - trade, with bilateral turnover increasing from less than 10 million USD in 1999 to nearly 800 million in 2021 and





# Viet Nam: The integration journey continues

1986

## Doi Moi (Renovation)

More than 30 years ago, economic reforms collectively known as “Đổi mới” were initiated in Viet Nam with a goal of creating a “socialist-oriented market economy”. The country started to open up to foreign investment and trade.

## Partnership with World Bank, IMF...

Partnerships with the World Bank, IMF and other international organisations begun in 1993. These have made important contributions to Viet Nam’s remarkable socio-economic development over the past few decades.

1993

1995

## ASEAN membership & Normalisation of US - Viet Nam relations

Since becoming the 7th member of ASEAN in 1995, Viet Nam has forged new bilateral and multilateral relations within ASEAN, and actively engaged in the regional economy. In the same year, Viet Nam and the U.S. announced the formal normalisation of their diplomatic ties, followed by booming trade volumes between the two countries in the years that followed.

## APEC membership

About 20 years ago, in 1998, Viet Nam joined APEC, which was a big step forward in Viet Nam’s efforts in multilateralisation and international economic integration. Becoming an APEC member has had a positive impact on Viet Nam’s development and reforms.

1998

2007

## WTO accession

Another turning point was Viet Nam’s accession to the WTO in 2007. The accession to the WTO opened the door for the country to enter the global playground with bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements. Over the decade of joining WTO, the nation’s GDP has seen gradual increases of the contributions from industry and services while at the same time, the dominant share of agriculture has decreased.



2008

### Viet Nam-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (VJEPA)

The VJEPA, signed in 2008, was the very first bilateral FTA for Viet Nam after the country joined the WTO. VJEPA has had positive economic consequences for both Viet Nam and Japan.

### Participation in the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC)

The official establishment of the AEC has been a landmark for ASEAN in moving from a less developed area to a much more prosperous and dynamic region. Deeper integration into the AEC in the coming period is expected to bring new opportunities for Viet Nam.

2015

2018

### CPTPP signed

The Vietnamese National Assembly passed a resolution approving the CPTPP and related documents in 2018. The agreement will open up new opportunities for trade and create more motivation for Viet Nam to reform its economic institutions and business environment.

### EVFTA signed

The EVFTA and the EVIPA were signed in June 2019 in Hanoi. These agreements introduce a new era for both sides to further bilateral trade and investment cooperation. This agreement is expected to play a critical part in bringing new opportunities for market diversification and help Viet Nam to reduce its reliance on certain trade partners.

2019

2020

### RCEP & UKVFTA signed

On 15th November 2020, the RCEP was signed by 10 ASEAN member states and 5 additional members (Australia, China, Japan, Republic of Korea and New Zealand), making it the largest trade agreement in the world, covering a market of 2.2 billion people with a combined size of US\$26.2 trillion or 30% of the world's GDP. On 11th December, the UK-Viet Nam Free Trade Agreement was signed in order to ensure the trading benefits that were introduced in the EVFTA that was already in force.





## VIET NAM: SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORIENTATIONS IN THE 2021-2030 PERIOD, WITH VISION TO 2045

The 13th National Congress of the Communist Party of Viet Nam adopted the 10-year socio-economic development strategy (2021-2030) with a vision to 2045, in which Viet Nam set goals of becoming a developing and upper-middle income country with modern industry by 2030; accelerating industrialization and modernization, developing the economy rapidly and sustainably on the basis of science, technology, and innovation, enhancing comprehensive

and in-depth international integration; and raising aspirations for national development, promoting innovation and the strength of the whole nation, and building a prosperous, democratic, equitable, and civilized society to ensure a peaceful and happy life for the people. Viet Nam strives to become a developed and high-income country by 2045.

### KEY ECONOMIC TARGETS BY 2030

- Average GDP growth of 7% per year during

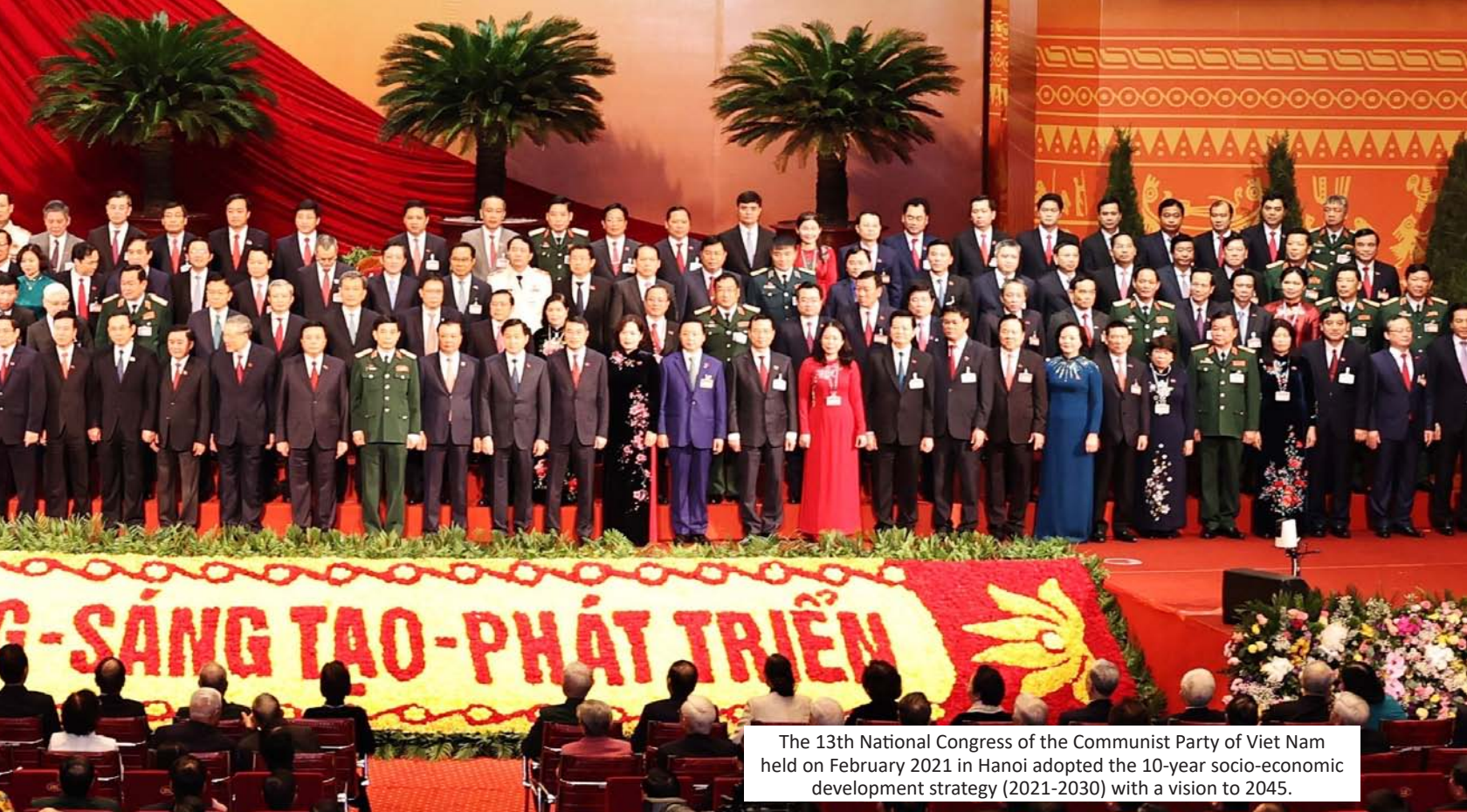
the 2021-2030 period and annual GDP per capita of \$7,500 by 2030;

- The manufacturing and processing industry and the digital economy to each account for 30% of GDP;
- The urbanization rate to reach over 50%;
- Total average development investment to account for 33-35% of GDP; public debt to not exceed 60% of GDP;





# ĐẢNG CỘNG SẢN VIỆT NAM ĐẠI HỘI XIII



The 13th National Congress of the Communist Party of Viet Nam held on February 2021 in Hanoi adopted the 10-year socio-economic development strategy (2021-2030) with a vision to 2045.

- Total factor productivity (TFP) to contribute 50% of growth;
- Annual workplace productivity to grow 6.5% per year during the period;
- Energy consumption, based on GDP, to fall 1-1.5% per year during the period.

#### **SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT TARGETS BY 2030**

- The Human Development Index (HDI) to remain over 0.7;

- Average life expectancy to reach 75 years with a minimum healthy life of 68 years;
- Rate of trained workers to reach 35-40%;
- Proportion of workers in agriculture to fall to under 20% of the total workforce.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL TARGETS BY 2030**

- Forest coverage to be stable, at 42%;
- Rate of treating and reusing wastewater discharged into rivers to reach over 70%;

- Greenhouse gas emissions to fall by 9%;
- 100% of production and business establishments to meet environmental protection standards;
- Marine and coastal conservation zones to increase to 3-5% of the natural area of the national sea area.





## RECENT SOCIO-ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS of VIET NAM

Under the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Viet Nam was one of only a few countries to post positive economic growth in 2020, of 2.91%. Growth was nonetheless down sharply compared to annual forecasts of 6.5-7% and was the lowest figure for three decades. Viet Nam, however, is still considered one of the most resilient economies in the region and the world, as it fulfilled the “dual goals” of promoting economic growth and containing the COVID-19 pandemic. Its GDP grew by 6.42% in the first half of 2022, much higher than the 5.64% recorded in the same period of 2021.

Reviewing socio-economic development from 2016-2021, the 13th National Congress of the Communist Party of Viet Nam stated that: “Viet Nam has gained significant and quite comprehensive achievements, creating many outstanding imprints, especially in the context of COVID-19, showing its determination to control the pandemic while maintaining socio-economic activities; the macro-economy remained stable and firm, inflation was controlled and maintained at a low level, creating an environment and driving force for socio-economic development; the balance of exports and imports shifted from deficit to surplus. Major balances of the economy were

basically ensured.”

### GDP GROWTH

COVID-19 disrupted the previous growth trend, when GDP growth had averaged 6.8% in the 2016-2019 period, but average growth in the 2016-2021 period was estimated at 5.9% and Viet Nam is still among countries in the region and the world recording the highest growth rate. GDP growth 2022 estimated at 6.9%, among the top of ASIA's Economies.

GDP continues to expand, standing at some \$343 billion in 2021, an increase of about 1.7-fold compared to 2015. According to the IMF, in October 2020, Viet Nam surpassed Singapore and Malaysia and became the fourth-largest economy in Southeast Asia, behind Indonesia, Thailand, and the Philippines.

### IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

Import-export value in 2021 stood at \$543.9 billion, an increase of nearly 1.7-fold compared







# SIGNING CEREMONY

## FREE TRADE AGREEMENT AND INVESTMENT PROTECTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

*Ha Noi, 30 June 2019*



On June 30, 2019, Viet Nam inked the Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA) and Investment Protection Agreement (EVIPA) with the European Union (EU)

to 2015 and 158% of GDP.

Total export and import turnover of goods in 10 months of 2022 reached 616.24 billion USD, up 14.1% over the same period last year, of which exports was USD 312.82 billion, increased by 15.9%; imports was USD 303.42 billion, increased by 12.2%. The trade balance of goods in 10 months of the 2022 was estimated to have a trade surplus of 9.4 billion USD. The balance of imports and exports shifted from deficit to surplus creating conditions for the balance of payments to be positive and contributing to stabilizing other macro-economic indicators.

### FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI)

Along with the open-door and integration policy, on December 29, 1987, the National Assembly passed the Law on Foreign Investment for the first time, marking a milestone in the attraction of foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows into Viet Nam.

Investment capital from the State budget in the ten months of 2022 was estimated at 67.1% of

the plan, up 20.1% over the same period last year. Implemented foreign direct investment capital in Vietnam in 10 months of 2022 was estimated at 17.45 billion USD, up 15.2% over the same period last year.

Viet Nam is one of the most attractive destinations in terms of FDI in ASEAN. As of September 2022, total newly-registered, adjusted, and paid-in capital for share purchases by foreign investors in Viet Nam reached \$22.15 billion, up 4.4% against the same period last year. In the first 9 months of 2022, the country registered 1,216 new FDI projects with capital of \$12.5 billion, while disbursed capital stood at \$13.28 billion.

### TOURISM

Viet Nam's tourism sector continued to grow, with the number of international visitors increasing from 18 million in 2019 to more than 20 million in 2020. As with other economies, this growth was disrupted by COVID-19. The number of foreign tourists visiting Viet Nam in 2020 reached only 3.8 million, a year-on-year

decline of 78.7%. The number of domestic tourists also fell dramatically, reaching only 56 million for the year. The tourism sector faced unprecedented difficulties.

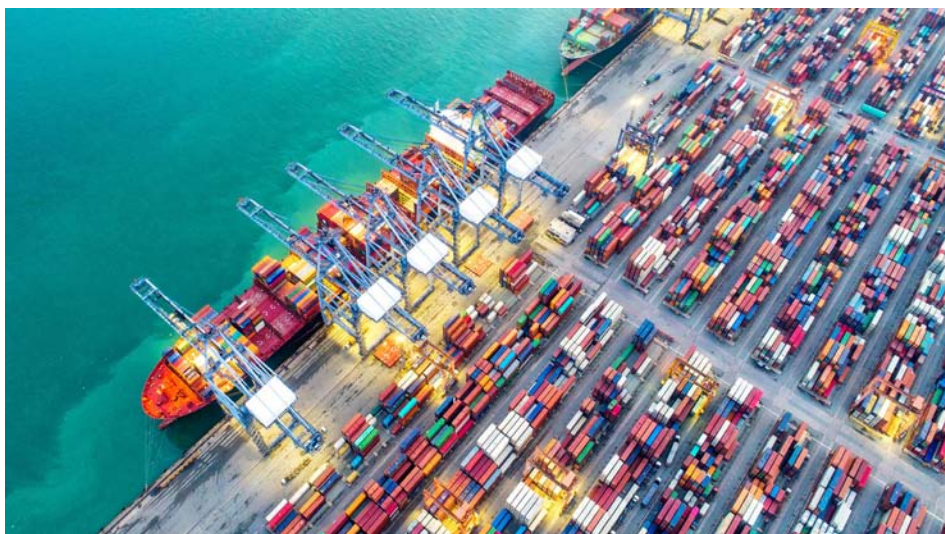
However, with eight UNESCO world heritage sites (Trang An Landscape Complex, Ho Dynasty Citadel, Thang Long Imperial Citadel, Complex of Hue Monuments, Ha Long Bay, Hoi An Ancient Town, My Son Sanctuary, and Phong Nha - Ke Bang National Park) and beautiful beaches, Viet Nam's tourism sector is expected to continue to contribute significantly to GDP growth, particularly when the COVID-19 pandemic has been stabilized.

### INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

With a motto of being a friend and trustworthy partner of all countries, Viet Nam has promoted cooperative relations in trade and investment with 230 countries and territories and signed free trade agreements (FTAs) with 60 economies, opening up potential export markets and contributing to a 187-fold increase in trade revenue, from \$2.9 billion in 1986 to \$543.9 billion in 2020.

Viet Nam has gradually opened up its economy and successfully integrated into the region and the world, joining ASEAN, ASEM, APEC, and the WTO, etc., and signing a number of bilateral and multilateral FTAs.

As of 2021, Viet Nam had officially signed 15 FTAs, including 14 that have already taken effect, with China, EU, India, Japan, Korea, ASEAN, Australia... It is also negotiating two other FTAs. Among the 14 that have taken effect, the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) was the first next-generation FTA Viet Nam signed, followed by the EU-Viet Nam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA).







# VIET NAM'S SOCIO-ECONOMIC POTENTIAL AND ADVANTAGES

The consistent policy of Viet Nam over past decades has been to encourage and create favorable conditions for foreign partners to invest in the country.

## **SOCIO-POLITICAL STABILITY**

Viet Nam is considered one of the most socio-politically stable countries in the world. Its socio-political stability has been a firm foundation for it to regularly record high economic growth over the past decades. Socio-political stability is also a foundation for it to ensure stability and consistency in policies. This is a leading factor in many foreign partners choosing Viet Nam as a destination for investment and cooperation.

## **FAVORABLE LEGAL CORRIDOR**

The consistent policy of Viet Nam over past decades has been to encourage and create favorable conditions for foreign partners to invest in the country. Following this policy, Viet Nam has issued a legal corridor that includes laws and legal documents as well as policies aimed at creating a favorable investment and business environment to attract foreign investors. Accordingly, the Vietnamese Government has played a substantial role in creating favorable conditions for the production and business operations of enterprises instead of controlling such activities. The Government has also spared no effort in implementing digital transformation and administrative reform, improving the business and investment environments transparently and openly in line with international standards. Thousands of unsuitable business conditions have been removed as a result. In the World Bank's 2020 Ease of Doing Business report, Viet Nam was ranked 70th out of 190 economies and fifth in ASEAN.

## **QUALITY HUMAN RESOURCES**

Viet Nam's population by the end of 2020 estimated at over 97 million people. In addition to advantages stemming from its young population, with an average age of 32.5 years, Viet Nam's workforce is also assessed as being hard-working, well-educated, and easily trained. Labor costs are also competitive compared to many countries in the region. The number of workers who graduated from high school accounts for 39.1% of the workforce, while trained workers make up 23.1%. Viet Nam will continue to invest more in education and training to create new competitive



advantages in terms of workforce quality.

## **MARKET SIZE AND INVESTMENT DEMAND**

With a total population of more than 97 million people and GDP per capita of \$3,521 (in 2020), Viet Nam's domestic market boasts significant consumption power. Despite the difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the total retail sales of goods and services in 2020 reached nearly \$219 billion, a year-on-year increase of 2.6%.

Under its socio-economic development strategy for the 2021-2030 period, Viet Nam has high demand for capital, technology, experts, and materials for projects. Estimated State budget capital for mid-term public investment during the 2021-2025 period is VND2,870 trillion (\$123.8 billion).

## **ADVANTAGES FROM FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS**

The free trade agreements (FTAs) Viet Nam has signed and will sign with its partners will undoubtedly present major advantages to the country in its socio-economic development. FTAs are considered "highways" taking Vietnamese goods out to the world, and help the country and its businesses expand markets, increase the trade surplus, and benefit from tax reductions or exemptions on products and services exported to member economies.

The World Bank noted that "global integration has been one of the key drivers of Viet Nam's remarkable achievements in growth and poverty reduction over the past three decades, in tandem with the Đổi Mới reforms. "Viet Nam has the potential to grow faster, and to increase its GDP and trade flows. The estimated gains indicate a GDP increase of 2.4%, in standard productivity, by 2030, relative to the baseline scenario, increasing to 6.8% when the productivity kick is applied. Exports and imports will increase by 12% and 14%, respectively, and get a higher boost."

## **VIET NAM'S INVESTMENT ENVIRONMENT**

Viet Nam's investment environment has remained stable over past decades, with policies and procedures designed to make it more favorable for investors. There has been much improvement seen in infrastructure over recent years, especially the transport network, power network, information technology infrastructure, logistics services, and, particularly, human resources quality.

As of June 20, 2021, 140 countries and territories were investing in Viet Nam, with the Republic of Korea, Japan, and Singapore having the highest volume of registered capital, at \$72.08 billion, \$63.06 billion, and \$62.27 billion, respectively.





# VIET NAM: A DESTINATION FOR INVESTORS

## OPPORTUNITIES AND PROSPECTS



Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc (L) and Minister of Industry and Trade Tran Tuan Anh, together with leaders of other RCEP member countries, witness the pact signing via videoconference on November 15, 2020 (Photo: VNA)

The 13th National Party Congress approved the 10-year socio-economic development strategy (2021-2030) with a vision towards 2045. Accordingly, Viet Nam is to become a developing country with a modern industrial base and upper-middle incomes by 2030 and a developed country with high incomes by 2045. This socio-economic development strategy opens up many opportunities and prospects for foreign partners to invest and do business in Viet Nam, following the policy of “shifting the focus of the foreign investment cooperation and attraction policy from quantity to quality, with high added value, taking technology efficiency as the key and most important measure coupled with environmental protection and sustainable development. Improving foreign investment efficiency with selection and focus, prioritizing projects with advanced and new technology, modern governance, innovation capacity and connecting with the global production and supply chain and closely, organically linking with the domestic economic sector.”

In order to fulfill these targets, Viet Nam will see huge demand for capital, expert experience, and technology, particularly high-end technology and materials, in the short, mid, and long terms. Regarding demand for capital, for example, two projects - Long Thanh International Airport (around 40 km from Ho Chi Minh City, with the first phase expected to be completed by 2025 and full completion by 2050), and the North-South Expressway from Hanoi to Can Tho (over 1,800 km in length and expected to be completed by 2025) - need total estimated capital of more than \$29 billion. It is clear that, over the course of the next decade, Viet Nam will remain a destination of potential for foreign investors.



### ADVANTAGES AND BENEFITS FOR FOREIGN BUSINESSES WHEN INVESTING IN VIET NAM

With advantages in having long-term socio-political stability, favorable investment and business environments with a transparent legal corridor, in which related policies and administrative procedures are designed to create favorable conditions for investors, as well as trained human resources and competitive labor costs together with synchronous infrastructure, Viet Nam has been an attractive destination for foreign investors for the last 30 years and more. The policy on attracting capital and technology investment from overseas was cemented by amending legal documents to create more favorable conditions for investors, such as the Law on Investment 2020, the Law on Business 2020, and legal documents relating to corporate income taxes and import and export tariffs. Existing investment incentives to attract FDI include exemptions or reductions on import taxes and corporate income taxes and preferential land rentals. The identification of investment incentives, for example tax incentives (tax

exemptions or reductions for a period of time or preferential rates on corporate income taxes and import and export taxes) for each project will be based on the following criteria:

**Firstly**, investment location. Investors will receive preferential policies when investing in difficult areas or especially-difficult areas.

**Secondly**, type of investor. Investors that are high-end technology businesses, science and technology businesses, or science and technology organizations will receive preferential policies when investing in Viet Nam.

**Thirdly**, job creation. For example, investment projects in rural areas that employ more than 500 workers will benefit from preferential policies.

Apart from preferential policies, Viet Nam is also striving to improve its business environment and boost administrative reform via the application of e-Government, the development of synchronous and modern infrastructure, and improvements to human resources quality, with the aim of creating the most favorable environment possible for foreign investors.





H.E. Mr. Nguyen Tien Phong and Mr. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry co-chaired the conference to promote bilateral trade between Viet Nam-Pakistan, on November 17, 2022

## Pakistan has great scope to enhance trade and exports with Viet Nam

He said that Vietnam is importing many products including cotton & yarn, medicines, surgical instruments, leather products, fabrics, chemicals, meat & mutton products, pet food, fertilizers and Pakistan should enhance exports of these products to Vietnam to take the bilateral trade to over US\$ 1 billion.

He said that Pakistan has a talented workforce in IT and software field and Vietnam has good demand for these professionals, so Pakistan can increase the export of its IT manpower to Vietnam. He said this while addressing the business community during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The Vietnam Ambassador said that ICCI should form a delegation for Vietnam and he would fully support in making its visit successful. He said that exchange of trade delegations is important to explore new avenues of mutual cooperation. He termed consistency, continuity and stability as key requirements for Pakistan to attract foreign investment from Vietnam, ASEAN and other countries. He appreciated the ICCI plan for organizing Pak-ASEAN Forum and assured that he would fully support it.

Speaking at the occasion, Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President, Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that Pakistan and Vietnam are enjoying cordial relations, but their bilateral trade was just around US\$ 700 million in 2021, which was far below their actual potential. He said that the main reason of low trade is the lack of awareness about business

opportunities between the enterprises of both countries. He stressed for promoting strong business linkages between the private sectors of both countries in order to explore all untapped areas of mutual cooperation in order to make significant growth in trade volume.

ICCI President said that Pakistan and Vietnam can cooperate in many sectors including IT & software, agriculture, education, energy and culture. He said that both countries have been discussing a Preferential Trade Agreement, which should be finalized to boost bilateral trade. He said that Vietnam is an important member of ASEAN block and close cooperation of Pakistan with it can provide us easy access to the big ASEAN market.

He stressed that the investors of Vietnam should explore business opportunities in CPEC and in other sectors of Pakistan's economy. He said that Vietnam should consider investing in smartphone and computer chips, parts and accessories in Pakistan as Vietnam is one of the most advanced and large-scale producers of these products.

Faad Waheed Senior Vice President ICCI, Khalid Iqbal Malik Group Leader, Zafar Bakhtawari, Zahid Maqbool, Mian Shaukat Masud and others also shared useful ideas for improving bilateral trade and economic relations between Pakistan and Vietnam. (Islamabad Post Daily, 17 November 2022)





# Viet Nam's economic miracle: insights for Pakistan



Ms. Le Thi Thu Hang, Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Spokesperson of Viet Nam MoFA along with H.E. Mrs. Samina Mehtab, Ambassador of Pakistan to Viet Nam attended the International Conference to celebrate the golden jubilee of the bilateral relations between Viet Nam and Pakistan, Hanoi, 8 November 2022.

By Dr. Muhammad Abdul Kamal, Assistant Professor at Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan

Pakistan's economy has been plagued by serious macroeconomic issues for some time now. However, it is not too late to resuscitate, as many of the region's best-performing nations started at a low point and were able to embark on a path of sustainable economic growth after enacting the necessary reforms. The economy of Vietnam is one such success tale.

Vietnam's economy was crippled by poverty, and per capita income was stuck between \$200 and \$300 by the mid-1980s. Vietnam's transformation from a poverty-stricken economy to one of prosperity commenced in 1986 when the government launched "Đi Mi", a series of political and economic reforms aimed at strengthening the private sector's role and opening the country to foreign investors.

Under this initiative, Vietnam's GDP per capita increased 12 times between 1985 and 2020, reaching over US\$2,800. Over the same period, poverty rates (US\$1.90/day) fell sharply from over 70 per cent to under 2pc.

The rise of Vietnam's economy can be attributed to three main initiatives according to World Bank; firstly, it has enthusiastically incorporated trade liberalisation. The signing of many free trade agreements (FTA) with both Asian and Western countries signalled the gradual liberalisation of trade. Vietnam has concluded bilateral trade agreements with 72 countries and it also built trade relationships with 165 nations.

In 1995, Vietnam signed the Association of Southeast Asian Nations free trade agreement. In 2000, it executed an FTA with the United States, and in 2007, it joined the World Trade

Organisation. In the recent decade, Vietnam has agreed or structured 12 bilateral and multilateral FTAs with Japan, South Korea and the European Union. On November 15, 2020, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership was established and Vietnam is an active member of the pact. The regional integration is expected to cover 30pc of the world's population, generate \$500 billion in international trade, and yield \$209bn to global revenues by 2030.

Vietnam has benefited from the "open-door" policy, and the country has developed into a manufacturing hub over the previous three decades, with significant foreign businesses such as Intel, Samsung, Adidas and Nike already having established bases there. With one out of every ten cellphones produced in Vietnam, the country has already established itself as a significant exporter of textiles, electronic goods, and footwear, among other goods.

Secondly, Vietnam has supplemented external liberalisation with internal reforms such as deregulation and decreased business costs. In 2007, Vietnam was placed 104th in the Doing Business index, with several major constraints identified by the study. The government has nibbled away at the inefficiencies using the indicators as a guide, and Vietnam has risen to 70th place in the 2020 Doing Business survey.

Vietnam achieved improvement in a variety of areas, including contract enforcement, improving access to credit and electricity, paying taxes, and cross-border trade. Vietnam's placement on the World Economic Forum's Competitiveness Index reflects this transformation, climbing from 77th place in 2006 to 67th place in 2019.

In the Global Innovation Index 2021, Vietnam was ranked 44th out of 132 countries and is one

of four middle-income economies (the others being Turkey, India and the Philippines) having the potential to reshape the global innovation landscape by catching up to larger economies like China.

Thirdly, Vietnam has made enormous investments in human and social capital, leading to the development of a skilled workforce, which has enhanced productivity and competitiveness over time. The Human Development Index for Vietnam increased to 0.706 in 2020, up from 0.682 in 2016, leading it to join the group of countries with a high degree of human development.

Pakistan can achieve its goal of sustainable economic growth by following Vietnam's model. Pakistan must concentrate on growth-oriented reforms and sound policymaking to achieve this goal. Following in the footsteps of Vietnam, Pakistan should liberalise trade and sign free-trade agreements with potential trading partners. Incremental efforts are required to stabilise the country's entire social, economic, and political environment so that much-needed foreign direct investment not only be attracted but in desired sectors such as manufacturing and agriculture.

Furthermore, improvements in the export sector must be accomplished by enhancing domestic industrial production and productivity. To make the labour force more productive, it is essential to invest in human capital. Pakistan must strive to improve its knowledge capital, which will be a major driver of productivity, diversification, higher innovation, and thus higher growth in the future.

*The writer is working as Assistant Professor at Abdul Wali Khan University Mardan. kamal@awkum.edu.pk. Published in Dawn, The Business and Finance Weekly, 2022*





# Viet Nam Tourism: Live Fully in Viet Nam!

## *Welcome to Viet Nam!*

**V**iet Nam is an exhilarating country to travel. Vibrant street life, exquisite food and epic landscapes await you here. A nation on the move, Vietnam balances cool urban culture with traditional values. In the cities, ancient pagodas squat just around the corner from sleek rooftop bars; and in the countryside, life still follows the rhythms of the rivers and the rice harvest. This contrast between old and new Viet Nam is a big part of its appeal. Another great reason to visit Vietnam is its diverse natural beauty.

The capital of Hanoi is your gateway to the treasures of the north: spectacular mountains and bays studded with karsts. Smack in the centre, up-and-coming Danang gives you

easy access to photogenic riverside towns, national parks and long, sandy beaches. In the south, Ho Chi Minh City will entice you with its captivating streets (just watch out for those motorcycles.) Nearby, the water world of the Mekong Delta as well as islands big and small, are just waiting to be explored.

## *Fabulous Food*

If there is one characteristic that unites Vietnamese food, it's freshness. The Vietnamese love their food, and all across the country, markets are bursting with the abundance of sea and soil. Plucked the same morning, feathery herbs, plump vegetables, colourful fruits, and flapping-fresh proteins are just waiting for a skillful cook to transform them into something magical. These beautiful

ingredients are combined with a symphony of delightful textures and flavours. Simply put, it's one of the world's healthiest and most mouth-watering cuisines.

## *Timeless Culture*

Vietnam inherited its cultural wealth from thousands of years of history, sprinkled with a handful of outside influences. The Vietnamese have a strong sense of pride in their traditions. If you're a culture seeker, the central cities of Hue and Hoi An are treasure troves, as is Hanoi, the country's graceful capital.

Outside the cities, many elements of Vietnamese culture trace back to cycles of wet rice cultivation. Old and new, side-by-side, is what makes Vietnamese culture so compelling.





## Blissful Beaches

Sun, sand, and saltwater: Vietnam is home to countless inviting beaches -- some are well-known, others completely hidden. The islands of Con Dao and Phu Quoc are famous for inviting water and pristine shores. If you enjoy activity and nightlife mixed into your beach holidays, the coastal towns of Da Nang and Nha Trang will spoil you with five-star resorts, golfing and watersports. Vietnam also offers countless remote beach destinations, such as Quy Nhon, Con Dao and Phu Quoc, where you can have sublime shores all to yourself.

## Striking Scenery

Vietnam is chock-full of forested peaks, thundering waterfalls, and breezy coastline, so it's no wonder the country is luring more and more nature lovers. While you'll find plenty of pulse-pounding activities here, including spelunking, canyoning, and trekking, there's no shortage of leisurely ways to enjoy Vietnam's natural wonders. Areas such as Phong Nha and Ha Long Bay offer equal opportunities for relaxation and adventure in spectacular natural settings.

## Changing Cities

Vietnam's vibrant urban centres are growing fast. Here you'll find international restaurants alongside cheap-as-chips street food, ancient pagodas across the street from five-star hotels, and glittering shopping malls around the corner from wet markets.

Hanoi is a city of lakes, brimming with historical and cultural treasures. Da Nang is a coastal metropolis on a fast track to becoming a hub for technology and tourism. Ho Chi Minh City is home to uber-cool rooftop bars, trendy co-working spaces, and colonial-chic cafes. Don't forget to hop on a scooter at least once to truly feel the pulse of urban Vietnam.

## Culture & Etiquette

Blend in and follow the local customs by learning these everyday tips.

**TIPPING:** You are under no obligation to tip in Vietnam, especially not at street-side eateries

and small restaurants.

**DRESS CODE:** Most Vietnamese are modest dressers, even on the beach. Always cover up when visiting religious sites.

**SAVING FACE:** As a general rule, keep your cool, and avoid loud arguments and public displays of affection.

**EASY PHRASES:** 'Xin chào' is the Vietnamese salutation used for both 'hello' and 'goodbye'. Thank you is 'cam on'.

**TAKING PHOTOS:** Many Vietnamese like to have their picture taken, but always ask first. culture & etiquette

## Weather

Vietnam is home to several distinct climate patterns from north to south. From December to March, North Vietnam has cool weather. April brings sunny skies until the monsoon rains arrive in June.

Central Vietnam has lots of sunshine most of the year, but November and December can be wet and overcast. Southern Vietnam is always warm, and temperatures soar mid-year. You can expect daily downpours from June to August.

**NORTH:** The northern region has cool and misty winters, with cold nights in the highlands.



**CENTRAL:** March and April are great months to see Central Vietnam before the summer heat.

**SOUTH:** Southern Vietnam has a wet monsoon but the weather remains warm year-round.

## Getting Around

Have a smooth trip around Vietnam with these easy transport options.

**TRAINS:** Vietnam's Reunification Express takes around 36 hours from Ha Noi to Ho Chi Minh City, stopping at main cities along the way.

**FLIGHTS:** The easiest way to see lots of Vietnam, domestic flights are reasonably priced. Check Vietnam Airlines and Vietjet Air.

**TAXI:** Reputable taxi companies operate widely in most Vietnamese cities, and many ride-sharing apps work here too.

**BUSES:** You'll find reliable opentour buses travelling the length of the country. Many of these have overnight options for nighttime travel.

**MOTORBIKE:** Motorbike tours are a great way to see Vietnam and get up close with local life in the cities. Always wear your helmet.

**BICYCLE:** In small towns such as Mai Chau, Hoi An and Hue, you can get everywhere you want to go by pedal power. Cycle away!







## Viet Nam Natural Wonders



Viet Nam is chock-full of forested peaks, thundering waterfalls, and breezy coastline, so it's no wonder the country is luring more and more outdoor enthusiasts. While there are plenty of pulse-pounding activities, Vietnam also offers more leisurely ways to enjoy its vast natural attractions: from mangrove forests to epic cave systems, misty mountains to

sun-drenched rice paddies, the list is truly endless.

### *Caves*

One of Vietnam's most exciting destinations, the Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park is brimming with activities for adventure travellers, including camping, ziplining, and forest trekking. In just a few short years,

Phong Nha has gone from a sleepy outpost to a full-scale tourist centre, boasts Asia's oldest limestone formations and jungle-covered scenery. The discovery of Han Son Doong, the largest cave in the world, catapulted the excitement to new heights.

### *Islands*

A mythical seascape if there ever was one,







it's no surprise Ha Long Bay is home to as many legends as it is islands. This spectacular bay and Natural Heritage Site stretches across the Gulf of Tonkin, 165 km from Hanoi. Hidden among more than 1,600 limestone formations, are secret grottoes, sparkling beaches, and jaw-dropping caves. Aside from Halong Bay, the islands of Con Dao and Phu Quoc are two of Vietnam's most attractive beach destinations.

### ***Highlands***

Mysteries abound in the mountains of northern Vietnam. In deep river valleys and sky-scraping passes, minority tribes like the Hmong and Dzao guard their independence fiercely, sticking doggedly to traditions that have evolved over millennia. The town of Sapa stands at the head of a deep valley of magnificent rice terraces that are still worked today as they have been for centuries. Famous for its countryside charm, Dalat is popular with outdoor enthusiasts and golf aficionados alike.

### ***Rivers***

In Central Vietnam, the cities of Hue and Hoi An simply cannot be separated from their legendary rivers. The Vietnamese in Hue have long relied on the Huong or Perfume River for cooking, bathing, and washing. The water flows between wide grassy banks, changing colour from golden brown to deep blue, depending on the rain. In Hoi An, a collection of picturesque

shop houses and ancestral homes remain clustered along the Thu Bon River, which once welcomed traders from across the seas.

### ***Rice Paddies***

Vietnam's verdant rice paddies are perfect for exploring on two wheels. Wet rice cultivation plays a significant role in the countryside,

especially in parts of the Mekong Delta, the areas surrounding Hoi An, and the lush valley of Mai Chau. Sunrise is a prime time to grab your hat and hop on a bike. With any luck, you'll find yourself in a sea of green, with water buffalo flicking their tails along the path and flocks of herons scattering on the horizon.







# Cultural Heritage



Viet nam inherited its cultural wealth from thousands of years of history, sprinkled with a handful of outside influences. The Vietnamese have a strong sense of pride in their traditions and way of life. The central cities of Hue and Hoi An are treasure troves for culture lovers, as is Hanoi, the country's graceful capital. Outside the cities, many elements of Vietnamese culture trace back to cycles of wet rice cultivation. Past and present, hand-in-hand, are what makes Vietnamese

culture so compelling.

## UNESCO Heritage Sites

In a country that can trace its roots back thousands of years, there's no shortage of ways to step back in time. Vietnam is home to eight UNESCO World Heritage Sites, each one offering an enriching experience for history, nature and culture lovers. Visit the riverside towns of Hoi An and Hue for impressive architecture and bygone culture. For epic land- and seascapes,



try Ha Long Bay and Phong Nha. Wherever you go, don't forget to charge your camera.

## Ethnic Costumes

The most enviable outfits in the Vietnam don't hang on racks in the malls, but are worn in the mountains and deltas by Vietnam's 54 ethnic minorities. The traditional methods of creating these costumes is so detailed and intricate it







boggles the mind. Rhombic weaving patterns, metallic silver threads, pinstripe applique, ribbons, buttons, tassels and embroidery -- all tell a story about the living culture of each ethnic group.

## Coffee Culture

It is a lesser-known fact that Vietnam is the second largest coffee producing country in the world. The history of the coffee bean in Vietnam is not a long one, having been introduced by the French in 1857. In recent years, the unique coffee culture of Vietnam has rapidly become a favourite subject among true coffee connoisseurs and café aficionados around the world. The sidewalk is the ideal location to sip a strong black drip coffee or a sweet iced coffee, and watch everyday life unfold on the street.

## Nguyen Dynasty Relics

The UNESCO-listed Complex of Hue Monuments, featuring the walled Hué Citadel and a sprinkling of magnificent tombs and temples along the river, is not to be missed.

Though badly ruined by war, the Hué Citadel is hugely significant territory. Roam its palaces, pavilions and theatres and you may still catch echoes of life in the Imperial Court.

Along the Perfume River, the tombs of Tu Duc, Minh Mang and Khai Dinh are enveloped in greenery and guarded by fierce mandolins, evoking a striking harmony of nature and

architecture

## Hoi An Ancient Town

Hoi An's allure is distilled in the narrow streets of the Ancient Town. Hoi An was a bustling commercial hub from the 15th to early 19th centuries, when merchants from China, Japan and later Europe settled in Hoi An, creating the unique architectural fusion seen today. The layout of the townscape, with its open market, tight alleys and wooden footbridges, hasn't changed in hundreds of years. After dark, thousands of colourful lanterns light up the sleepy Thu Bon River.

## Cham Legacy

Discover the awe-inspiring art and architecture of the ancient Kingdom of Champa. At its peak, the Champa Kingdom controlled the trade in spices and silk between China, India, Indonesia, and Persia. Many of their shrines honour Shiva--often shown as a linga, while their carvings depict all manner of Hindu deities. Around 50 remaining Cham towers are dotted all over Central Vietnam. The undisputed highlight for those with an interest in Cham architecture is the UNESCO World Heritage site of Mỹ Sơn, located in present-day Quảng Nam province.







# INTANGIBLE CULTURAL

## 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 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.

## 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.

## 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







# HERITAGE OF VIET NAM



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.

## 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.

## 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."

## 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 Inter-governmental 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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

## ***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.

## ***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 Memory of the World 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.





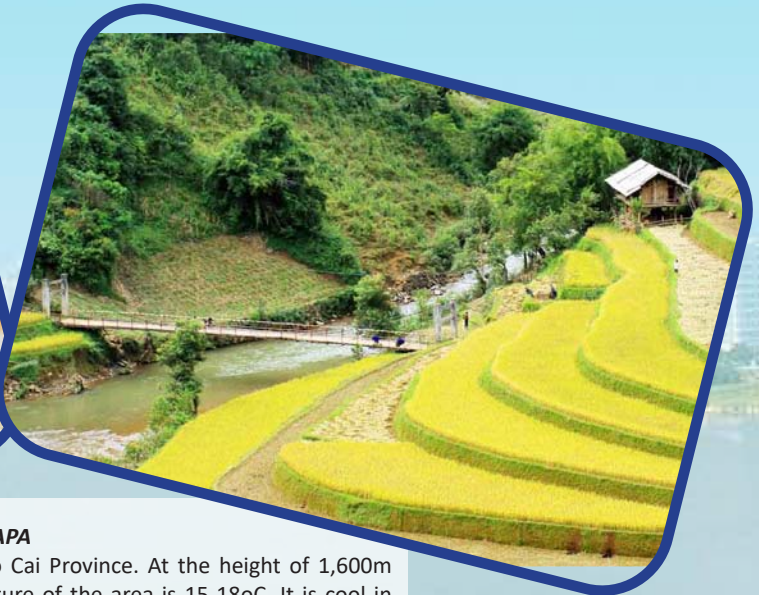


# CULTURE & MUST SEE DESTINATION OF VIET NAM



## 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

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, BUILD IN 1009 WAS RECOGNISED IS 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 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.

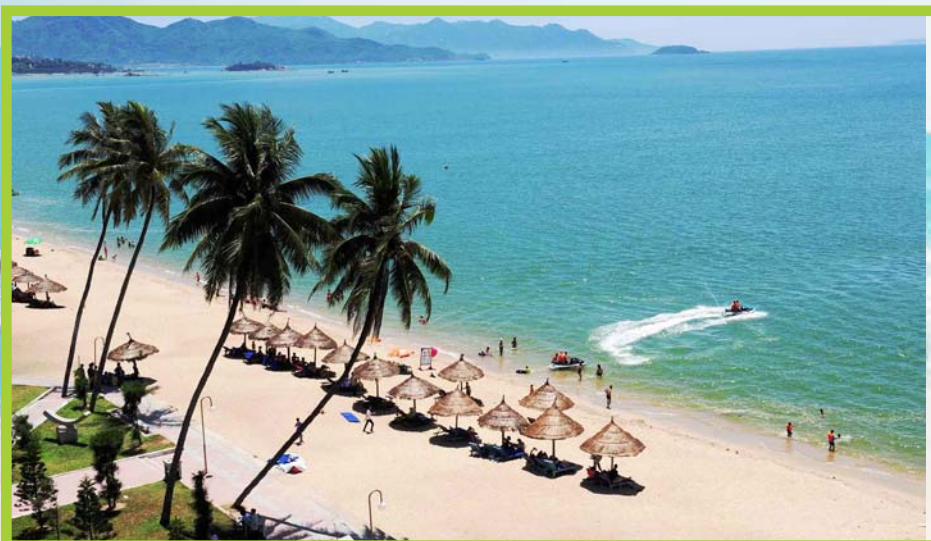
In December, 1999, at the 23th meeting of World Heritage Committee of UNESCO in Morocco, My Son was recognised as world cultural heritage based on two prominent criteria: criterion (ii) an exceptional example of cultural interchange, with an indigenous society adapting to external cultural influences, 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 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 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.







### ***Da Lat***

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 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.



### ***Mui Ne***

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).







# Viet Nam-Pakistan Relations Thru Lens



Ambassador – Designate Nguyen Tien Phong presented the Letter of Credentials from President H.E. Nguyen Xuan Phuc to Pakistan President Dr. Arif Alvi, on 7 June 2021.



The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, H.E. Hina Rabbani Khar, H.E. Nguyen Tien Phong, Ambassador of Viet Nam and Ambassadors/ High Commissioners of ASEAN Countries celebrated the 55th Day of ASEAN.



H.E. Nguyen Tien Phong, Ambassador of Viet Nam to Pakistan visited and laid a floral wreath at the mausoleum of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan in Karachi, on 19 January 2022.



The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, Ms. Hina Rabbani Khar, H.E. Nguyen Tien Phong, Ambassador of Viet Nam and Ambassadors/ High Commissioners of Sri Lanka, Thailand, Japan, Republic of Korea, Myanmar, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Nepal attended an exhibition of Buddhist cultural heritage and Gandhara civilization on Vesak Day 2022 organized at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on 17 May 2022.



Madam Nguyen Thi Thuy Nga posed a group photo with Lady Ambassadors, Spouse of Head of Missions and Colleagues at the reception to celebrate Viet Nam National Day and 50th years of Viet Nam – Pakistan Diplomatic Ties



H.E. Nguyen Tien Phong, H.E. Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, Additional Secretary Asia & Pacific and Ambassadors, Head of Missions, United Nations Agencies and International Organizations accredited in Islamabad celebrated 77th Viet Nam National Day and the 50th Years of the Diplomatic Relations of Viet Nam and Pakistan.





# Viet Nam-Pakistan Relations Thru Lens



Ambassador, H.E. Nguyen Tien Phong visited Federation Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) to promote trade between Viet Nam and Pakistan. This is an event of the series of activities to celebrate the 50 years of diplomatic ties between Viet Nam and Pakistan.



Ambassador Nguyen Tien Phong and Spouse, Madam Nguyen Thi Thuy Nga introduces Vietnamese Traditional Costumes at the Fashion Show "Connecting Through Colours" hosted by The Pakistan Foreign Office Women's Association (PFOWA).



Ambassador Nguyen Tien Phong and Ambassador Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, Spokesperson and Additional Secretary Asia & Pacific at Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad.



Ambassador Nguyen Tien Phong worked with the Pakistan Tea Association (PTA) at Karachi Office, on 20 January 2022.



Ambassador, H.E. Nguyen Tien Phong visited the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI) on 12 November 2021.



Ambassador, H.E. Nguyen Tien Phong and President of the Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI), Mr. Muhammad Idrees chaired an Economic Conference to Promotes Trade between Viet Nam and Pakistan, on 18 January 2022.





# Viet Nam-Pakistan Relations Thru Lens



Ambassador, H.E. Nguyen Tien Phong and Mr. Ahsan Zafar Bakhtawari, President of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ICCI), chaired an Economic Conference to Promotes Trade between Viet Nam and Pakistan, on 17 November 2022. This is an event of the series of activities to celebrate the 50 years of diplomatic ties between Viet Nam and Pakistan.



Ambassador Nguyen Tien Phong and Minister of Culture, Tourism, Antiquities & Archives Department Tourism of Sindh Province at the Ministry Office, on 19 January 2022.



Ambassador Nguyen Tien Phong visited Karachi Custom House and meet with Mr. Engr. Riyaz Ahmed Memon, Collector of Customs, Karachi on 20 January 2022.



. Ambassador Nguyen Tien Phong and Vice - Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of Viet Nam, H.E. Don Tuan Phong attend the Third Regional Seminar for the Asia – Pacific Regional Parliaments on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Islamabad from 12-16th September 2022.



. Ambassador Nguyen Tien Phong worked with the Pakistan Fisheries Exporter Association (PAKFEA), Karachi, on 20 January 2022.



Ambassador Nguyen Tien Phong paid a courtesy call to H.E. Honorable Farooq Hamid Naek, Chairman of the Standing Committee for Foreign Affairs of the Senate of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.





*The Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam  
in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan*



**VIET NAM  
LAND OF  
OPPORTUNITIES**



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