

# Vietnam National Day Special

## Bilateral bonds of trust, efficiency drive red-hot growth

**VU HONG NAM**  
AMBASSADOR OF VIETNAM



Over thousands of years of national defense and construction, the Vietnamese people have made profound history with glorious victories. From the victory of the August Revolution, an epic triumph of Vietnam in the 20th century on Sept. 2, 1945, President Ho Chi Minh solemnly read the Declaration of Independence, proclaiming before the nation and the world the birth of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam – the Socialist Republic of Vietnam today.

Since then, the party, state and people of Vietnam have strived to defend independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, national self-determination and freedom and happiness for the people. In more than three decades of opening and integration, thanks to the invaluable and effective assistance of its international friends, Vietnam has achieved historic milestones in every area. Vietnam has become a middle-income developing country, recognized by the United Nations as one of the leading countries in realizing the Millennium Development Goals. The life of people has constantly improved. The business and investment environment becomes more favorable. Political and social stability are maintained, defense and security are upheld, foreign relations and international integration grow broader and deeper.

In the past three years, despite being heavily affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, Vietnam's gross domestic product growth rate is still among the fastest in the

region and the world. According to the World Bank's latest report published on Aug. 8, Vietnam's economic recovery has accelerated in the first six months of 2022, and GDP growth is projected to increase sharply to 7.5%, compared with 2.6% in 2021. Vietnam's development is inseparable from a peaceful and stable environment in the region and the world.

Bilateral relations are blossoming like flowers cultivated by generations of leaders and people. Economically, Japan is the largest supplier of overseas development assistance to Vietnam, at nearly \$27 billion, accounting for one-third of the total value of ODA to Vietnam. Japan ranks third in terms

of foreign direct investment in Vietnam, with total registered capital of about \$65 billion in key sectors of the economy including energy, manufacturing, auxiliary industry, infrastructure and more. In the first half of 2022, the total import-export turnover between Vietnam and Japan reached \$23.4 billion, up 11.9% over the same period last year.

In April 2022, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida made an official visit to Vietnam, his first visit to the country as prime minister. Five months earlier, Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh was the first foreign guest to visit Japan at the invitation of the new prime minister. Two consecutive high-level visits within five months, especially in light of the

complicated development of COVID-19, are clear evidence of a new and prosperous phase of the extensive Vietnam-Japan strategic partnership for peace and prosperity in Asia, in the spirit of "strong sentiment, honesty, trustworthiness, substantiveness and efficiency" as agreed by the two senior leaders. The two governments and people are counting down to the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2023.

We are living in an era of globalization, full of rapid and unpredictable changes. There is a Vietnamese saying, "Fire tests gold, adversity tests the brave." Historically, the spirit of mutual assistance, solidarity and empathy has proven to be the panacea against adversity, hardship and challenge. In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, I am confident we will emerge triumphant and soon return to normal life.



**Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong (right) receives Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in Hanoi on May 1.** HONG NGUYEN

## Exchanges foster future relations

**TOSHIHIRO NIKAI**  
CHAIRMAN OF JAPAN-VIETNAM  
PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP  
ASSOCIATION



I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations on the 77th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

As the chairman of the Japan-Vietnam Parliamentary Friendship Association, I have long been committed to the development of Japan-Vietnam relations, and I am delighted that the relationship between the two countries is now considered at the best level ever.

Among the many exchange activities between Japan and Vietnam, one is the

exchange of lotus plants. When I visited Danang in January 2020, I donated precious Oga lotuses, which germinated from seeds that had been lying dormant in the ground for about 2,000 years. I hope to nurture various exchanges between the two countries for a long time like these long-living Oga lotuses.

I would also like to highlight the fact that the export of Japanese Unshu mandarin oranges to Vietnam began last year. I will continue making efforts so that people can enjoy delicious fruits from both countries.

The next year will mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Vietnam. I expect that it will open a new page in the history of our bilateral relations.

*This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.*

Happy  
National Day of  
the Socialist Republic of  
Vietnam

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on the Occasion  
of  
Their Independence Day

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