

Vietnam National Day Special

Dynamism aided by 50 years of cooperation

PHAM QUANG HIEU
AMBASSADOR OF VIETNAM



This year, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam turns 78. The past 78 years have been an arduous, yet glorious chapter for the Vietnamese people, as they valiantly strived to protect their country's independence and unity, pursue national construction, and fulfill the nation's aspirations of freedom, equality and happiness proclaimed by President Ho Chi Minh in the Declaration of Independence on Sept. 2, 1945.

With the spirit of self-reliance, independence and resilience, from a country ravaged by wars and suffering from isolation and embargo, Vietnam has since grown by leaps and bounds. Given the successful implementation of the Doi Moi restoration, Vietnam has transformed itself into one of the most dynamic and attractive economies in Asia, and a link for multidimensional economic connectivity in international supply and value chains. The Vietnamese economy has integrated extensively into the world econ-



The terraced rice paddies of Ha Giang province
EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

omy, and become an important component in the global supply chain. Vietnam is also known for being an attractive and reliable destination for investment.

2023 also marks the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Vietnam and Japan. Our countries have become reliable partners on the basis of mutual understanding as well as fair and mutually beneficial cooperation. The extensive Vietnam-Japan strategic partnership for peace and prosperity in Asia lays the firm foundation for both sides to further strengthen bilateral ties amid rapid changes in the region and the world. Japan has always been among Vietnam's top partners in trade, investment, infrastructure development and technical assistance.

Under the able leadership of our governments, bilateral relations continue to enjoy robust growth. Both countries have acknowledged each other's important role and stature in the region, and expressed the wish to bolster their strategic partnership in the long run. At present, Japan is Vietnam's largest provider of overseas development assistance. Japan is also ranked second in terms of labor cooperation, third in terms of investment and tourism cooperation and fourth in trade cooperation. Collaboration in politics, diplomacy, security, defense, economic matters, education and training has also been enhanced, with added depth and substance.

In addition, cultural activities, people-to-people exchanges and cooperation among localities have been ever-flourishing, laying the groundwork for the strengthening of our collaboration and trust. Our peoples have long offered each other sympathy and mutual support during times of hardship. Following the severe casualties and loss of property during the historic earthquake and tsunami in northeastern Japan in March 2011, a donation movement to

support Japan was organized and widely endorsed across all Vietnamese provinces and cities and the entire population.

For Vietnam's part, the people shall always appreciate the invaluable and timely assistance from Japan during Vietnam's resistance war against foreign invaders to reclaim independence and freedom, and in the pursuit of reforms and socioeconomic development. Most recently, during the complicated evolution of COVID-19 in Vietnam, the government and people of Japan were the first to provide Vietnam with a large amount of vaccines (over 7.4 million doses), as well

as medical equipment and supplies to aid infection prevention efforts.

This is my first year as the ambassador of Vietnam to Japan. The friendship, goodwill, and significant assistance from the Japanese government, prefectures, private sector and economic and educational organizations, and the fond memories during the time I studied in Japan are long-standing values that will continue to accompany me throughout my journey. I am fully confident that Vietnamese-Japanese ties will continue to thrive, serving as an exemplary model of cooperation for other countries.

Celebrating a half century of ties

YOSHIMASA HAYASHI
FOREIGN MINISTER OF JAPAN



I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on its 78th Independence Day anniversary.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Vietnam, and our ties have never been closer. I am pleased to see the development of bilateral relations in all major areas including politics, the economy and people-to-people exchanges over the past half century.

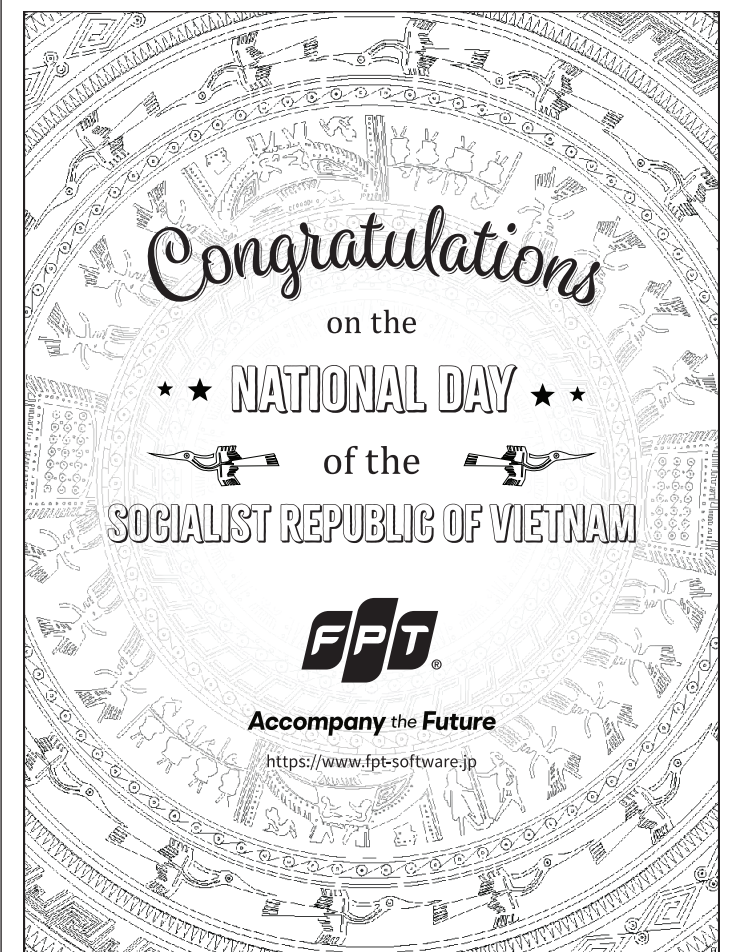
This year alone has seen numerous events attesting to our cordial ties throughout the year in both Japan and Vietnam. Indeed, as recently as June, I attended the Vietnam Festival in Yoyogi Park in Tokyo,

and that occasion gave me an opportunity to reaffirm the sense of familiarity our countries feel for each other. Japan and Vietnam share strategic interests, and Vietnam is an important partner for Japan in realizing a free and open Indo-Pacific. We will continue to work closely with Vietnam to achieve regional and global peace and prosperity through our joint efforts based on the principles of rule of law, freedom of navigation, free trade, strengthening regional connectivity and making the region more conducive to business.

Celebrating the 50th Year of Japan-ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Friendship and Cooperation, we would like to deepen our collaboration with Vietnam even further to strengthen the Japan-ASEAN relationship. At the same time, it is my earnest hope that Japan-Vietnam ties will make further progress in the next 50 years. We will continue to work hand in hand with Vietnam as reliable partners and do our utmost to ensure that the friendship between our countries goes from strength to strength.



Participants pose during the opening ceremony for the Vietnam Festival in Tokyo in June.
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This content was compiled in collaboration with the embassy. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the newspaper.

Congratulations
to the People
of
the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
on the Occasion
of
Their Independence Day



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