

Vietnam National Day Special

From a glorious past to a bright future

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On Sept. 2, 1945, in the heart of Hanoi, then-President Ho Chi Minh, our beloved father of the Vietnamese nation, read out Vietnam's Declaration of Independence. That monumental mile-

stone in Vietnam's history marked the birth of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (now the Socialist Republic of Vietnam) and opened a new chapter in the history of our modern country.

Over the past 80 years, the Vietnamese people have undergone a journey that, although filled with hardships, was immensely glorious and proud. The road that followed was far from easy: decades of war, hardship and sacrifice tested the strength of the Vietnamese people. These memories still stir deep emotion.

Today, the country is vigorously trans-

forming. No longer a nation struggling to recover from devastation, Vietnam has become one of the world's most dynamic emerging economies. In recent decades, the country has made remarkable achievements, moving from an underdeveloped agricultural economy to a country approaching upper-middle-income status. With the concerted efforts of the party, government and people, Vietnam is now entering a new era, an era of robust and prosperous development for the nation.

The Doi Moi reform launched in 1986 set us firmly on this path. Since then, Vietnam has attracted more than \$500 billion (about ¥73.46 trillion) in foreign direct investment. With Japan as a trusted partner for over half a century, the country ranks third with commitments totaling around \$80 billion. Despite today's uncertain global environment, our economy has continued to show remarkable strength, recording 7.5% growth in the first half of 2025, with a full-year target of 8.3% to 8.5%.

For the past year, Vietnam has undertaken a revolution to streamline its

administrative apparatus, implementing a two-tier local government model from July 1 to ensure the next stage of our journey will be one of greater opportunity.

If Vietnam's story is one of resilience, it is equally one of friendship. Japan has stood with us as a strategic partner and a true friend for more than 50 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations. Over this half century, generations of leaders and the people of both countries have nurtured ties of sincerity, trust and affection that are now deeply woven into the fabric of our relations.

Today, the vibrant community of over 600,000 Vietnamese in Japan is carrying that legacy forward, contributing to the socioeconomic development of both nations and serving as a living bridge across our societies, in classrooms, businesses, families and daily life.

On the 80th anniversary of Vietnam's National Day, I wish to send my warmest greetings to all beloved Vietnamese compatriots living and working in Japan. I also extend my heartfelt gratitude to the government and people of Japan for the sup-



The Golden Bridge in Da Nang boasts sweeping views. DANIEL KORDAN

port and friendship they have shown us over the years.

Looking ahead, I am filled with an unshakable belief that the comprehensive strategic partnership between Vietnam and Japan will continue to grow, bringing benefits to our peoples and contributing to peace and prosperity in Asia and beyond. Eighty years after that historic day in 1945, the spirit of independence continues to inspire us, standing as a reminder of how far we have come and of the brighter future we will build together.

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



Accompany the Future

Congratulations

on the 80th Anniversary of the
Socialist Republic of Vietnam's
Independence Day

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