

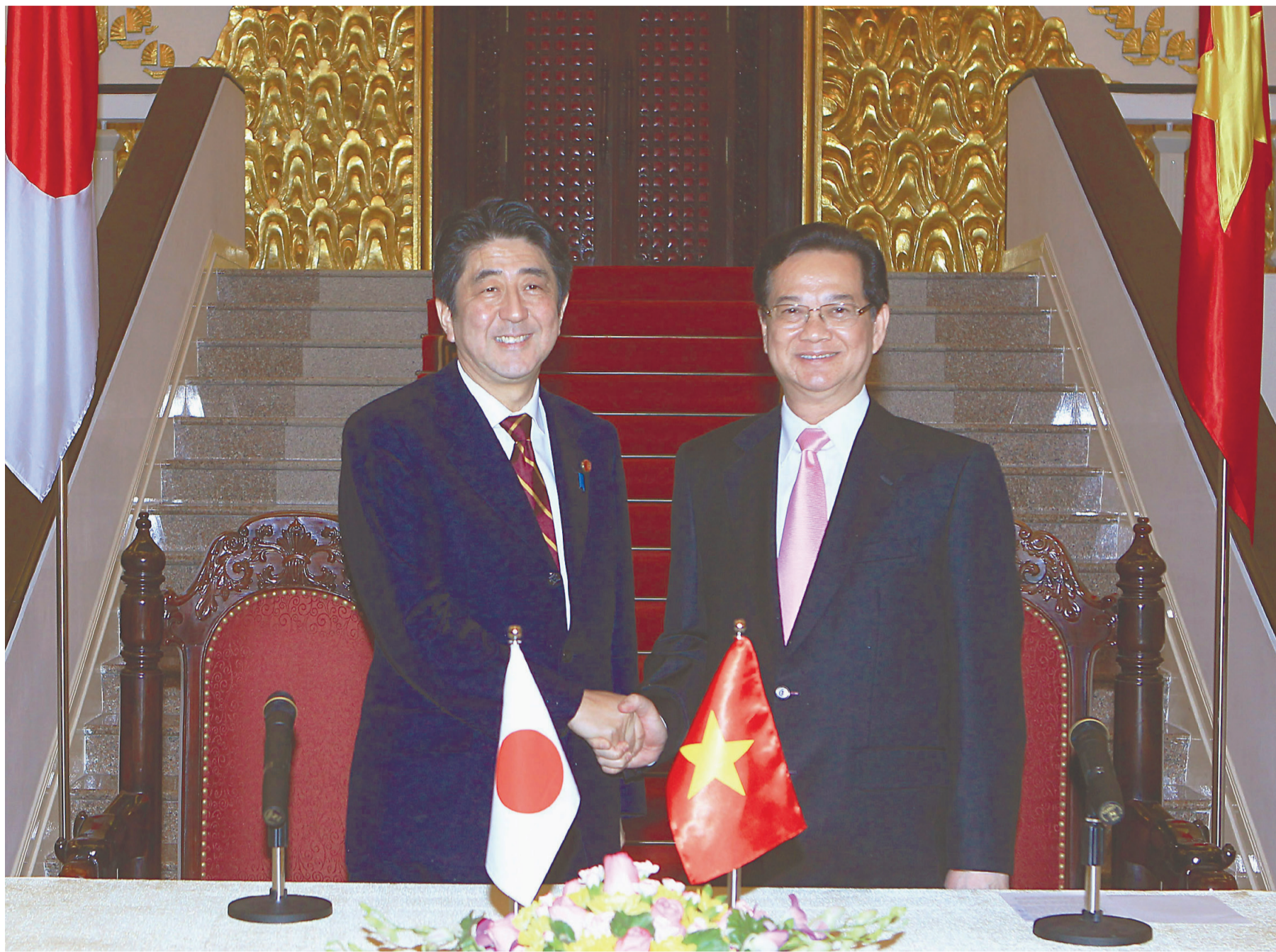
## Vietnam national day

## The future of the strategic partnership

Doan Xuan Hung  
AMBASSADOR OF VIETNAM

On Sept. 2, 1945, hundreds of thousands of people from Hanoi and throughout Vietnam gathered at the historic Ba Dinh Square in a grand meeting, where President Ho Chi Minh on behalf of the interim government solemnly read the immortal Declaration of Independence to proclaim the birth of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam to the entire people of Vietnam and the world. The declaration underlined that "All the peoples on the Earth are equal from birth, all the peoples have a right to live, to be happy and free ... Vietnam has the right to be a free and independent country, and in fact is so already. The entire Vietnamese people are determined to mobilize all their physical and mental strength, to sacrifice their lives and property in order to safeguard their independence and liberty." The declaration opened up a new era for the Vietnamese people. They enjoyed for the first time the pride of being citizens of a free and independent country.

Today, in celebration of their Independence Day, each and every Vietnamese is filled with pride and encouragement, for they have maintained national freedom and independence and built a much stronger country with marked improvement of people's lives. Vietnam has become a nation of high credibility in the international arena and a constructive, responsible member of the international community. The country is a member of the United Nations, the WTO, ASEAN, ASEM, APEC, etc. It has established diplomatic relations with most countries in the world, and forged ties of friendship and cooperation with all countries.



Strategic partners: Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shakes hands with Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung at a joint press conference in Hanoi on Jan. 16 during his visit to Vietnam. EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Vietnam-Japan diplomatic relations and the Vietnam-Japan Friendship Year with an array of meaningful activities

taking place in both countries. Forty years is not a long span of time, but the changes in bilateral relations has been momentous. Cooperation partnership be-

tween the two countries has become increasingly far-reaching, close and trustful in all areas, which was further boosted with the establishment of the strate-

gic partnership in 2009. Japan has become Vietnam's leading strategic partner, and it will be playing an important role in the latter's development in the years ahead. Japan has maintained its position as the largest bilateral official development assistance (ODA) donor for Vietnam, even in the year it was hit by the earthquake and tsunami and the nuclear disaster at the Fukushima nuclear power plant. Japan's funds have been used in building infrastructure, reducing poverty and developing education in Vietnam. The Vietnamese people are appreciative of and thankful to the government and people of Japan for the assistance. We are committed to putting to best use Japan's ODA. Japan has emerged as the largest foreign investor in Vietnam with over 1,200 companies present across the country. Currently, hundreds of Japanese companies are coming to and showing interest in Vietnam. Bilateral trade has exceeded \$25 billion in 2012, making Japan the third largest trading partner of Vietnam with vast untapped potentials. Bilateral cooperation in culture, education, and science and technology has been expanding; people-to-people exchanges and cooperation at the local level have been growing. At present, there are 5,000 Vietnamese under-and-post-graduate students studying and doing research in Japan, and a

much larger number of people desiring to come to Japan for study and research. In 2012, Vietnam received nearly 600,000 Japanese visitors. We welcome all Japanese to Vietnam by making their travel as easy as possible. A special phenomenon is that there is a rising number of Vietnamese coming to Japan as tourists. Japan has become a new, attractive destination for Vietnamese tourists. The number of Vietnamese visitors to Japan may be multiplied if Japan makes it easier for their travel, particularly in terms of granting visas. Exchanges and cooperation among the two countries' localities have also been booming. Many friendship associations with Vietnam were founded in various localities in Japan. We believe that the potentials for bilateral cooperation remain vast in all areas given the context of the bilateral strategic partnership with a high level of mutual understanding and trust. To tap into these potentials, the two sides need to deliver to the highest extent on the existing commitments while promoting mutually beneficial cooperation in line with each country's new stage of development and the regional and international situation. Vietnam has adopted the strategy for industrial development with the participation of Japanese companies, focusing on six priority areas of elec-

tronics, agricultural machinery, agro-fishery processing, ship-building, environment and energy efficiency, manufacturing of automobiles and spare parts. Vietnam and Japan have agreed to implement the fifth phase of the Vietnam-Japan Joint Initiative, which aims to continue improving Vietnam's business and investment environment for Japanese companies. Agriculture is also an area of great potential for mutually beneficial cooperation, especially in the context of both countries being engaged in the TPP negotiations; it should complement, not compete against each other. It is also highly necessary to cooperate in human resources training, first and foremost for the long-term cooperation between the two countries at the strategic level, taking into account the fact that Vietnam has the golden population structure while Japan is facing the problem of an aging population. There are many other cooperation areas, which should be promoted for mutual benefit.

The 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations is observed in Japan with many activities, especially in September. The Vietnamese Days in Japan is the biggest event ever organized in Japan for many years, lasting from Sept. 12-22 in various localities of Tokyo, to Osaka, Kobe, Nagoya, Fukuoka, with hundreds of

thousands of people expected to turn out. Special art performances will be organized in a number of cities; there will be forums for the promotion of economic cooperation, investment and tourism; other events include the Vietnam Festival in Yoyogi Park, Tokyo (Sept. 14-15) and Vietnam Festival in Aichi in Hisaya Odori Park, Nagoya (Sept. 21-22). On Sept. 21, which is the date of bilateral diplomatic establishment, the Vietnam Symphony Orchestra will be performing at the Yokohama Minato Mirai Hall. These activities and other ongoing events are instrumental in furthering the existing good relations between the two countries.

On this occasion, I would like to express our deepest gratitude and best wishes to His Imperial Majesty Emperor Akihito, Her Imperial Majesty Empress Michiko, other members of the Imperial family, H.E. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, members of the Cabinet, parliamentarians and all the Japanese people, who are so friendly and hospitable. I also wish to convey best wishes to the Vietnamese community and Vietnamese citizens studying and working in Japan. A bright future is ahead of our two friendly nations with many similarities and mutual trust. Together, we are heading toward prosperity for our nations and for peace, stability and development in the region and the world.

## Marking our significant milestone with Japan-Vietnam Friendship Year

Fumio Kishida  
FOREIGN MINISTER

On the occasion of the National Day of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on Sept. 2, I would like to offer, on behalf of myself and the government of Japan, my sincere congratulations to the people and the government of Vietnam.

This year marks a significant milestone in the strategic partnership between our two countries, as we celebrate the Japan-Vietnam Friendship Year to commemorate the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations and as we work together to further enhance the existing close cooperation on all fronts.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe kicked off the friendship year alongside Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung when he was in Vietnam during his first trip abroad after taking office this time. Since then, there have been a string of mutual visits and exchanges between our two countries, including ministerial and municipal visits as well as various cultural events in the friendship year.

Japan and Vietnam share strategic interests and work closely with each other in both regional and international arenas. I am pleased to note that cooperation between our two countries goes beyond the bilateral context and is a contributing factor in regional peace and stability.

I am proud to have been active as a member of the Japan-Vietnam Friendship Parliamentary League for 20 years since I was first elected as a Diet member, and to serve as the secretary general of this league today. Vietnam has a special place in my heart, and I look forward to continuing my best efforts as minister for foreign affairs to strengthen friendship and cooperation between our countries.



Commemoration: The official logo of the Japan-Vietnam Friendship Year. EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

## Congratulations

to the People of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

on the Occasion of

the 68th Anniversary of Their National Day

and 40th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations with Japan

We take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the Government and People of Vietnam for their support as well as to our team of Vietnamese staff for their strong contribution to stable operations since we began our oil and gas exploration and production activities in 1992.

We are as ever committed to expanding our activities in Vietnam and will continue our contribution to further strengthening the relationship between Vietnam and Japan.



The Future of Energy, Resources and Materials

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In recognition of Vietnam-Japan Friendship Year (2013), many cultural and intellectual exchange events are being organized in the respective countries.

With these events, we hope that people-to-people exchanges will be more intensive so that mutual understanding will be further deepened.

We will make utmost efforts to further promote and expand Vietnam-Japan relations through our business activities.



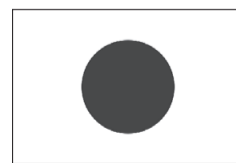
Sumitomo Corporation

## Congratulations

to the People of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on the

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NM Cement Co., Ltd.

NM Cement Co., Ltd. is a Japanese holding company comprised of Taiheyo Cement Corp. and Mitsubishi Materials Corp. NM Cement has been the major investor in Nghi Son Cement Corp. in Vietnam since 1995.

# Vietnam national day

## Japan-Vietnam relations are blooming beautifully

Toshihiro Nikai  
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-VIETNAM  
PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP LEAGUE

2013 marks the 40th anniversary since the diplomatic relationship between Japan and Vietnam was established on Sept. 21, 1973. In January, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited Vietnam as his first official trip overseas since taking office this time. He met with Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung and both heads of state agreed to open the Japan-Vietnam Friendship Year marking the 40th anniversary of the diplomatic relations and to conduct events celebrating the special year.

On the occasion of the 68th anniversary of the independence of Vietnam, on behalf of the

Japan-Vietnam Parliamentary Friendship League, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations on Vietnam's National Day and the cultural exchange activities that will be held during the Japan-Vietnam Friendship Year.

Over the 40 years, Japan and Vietnam have developed close, friendly relations. Both countries are further strengthening their cooperative relationship in a wide range of areas, such as politics, economics, culture, science and technology, human exchanges and education. The heads of state agreed to establish a strategic partnership for peace and prosperity in Asia. Currently, the partnership is being promoted not only among the national and local governments and parliamentarians, but also among various organizations, institutions and private sectors of both countries, which, I expect, will further deepen mutual understanding and trust.

With the cooperation of President To Huy Rua of the Vietnam-Japan Parliamentary Friendship Association and Vietnamese Ambassador to Japan Doan Xuan Hung as well as others involved, we are planning to plant Oga lotus — a renowned Japanese ancient flower, which was resurrected from seed from 2,000 years ago — and Vietnamese lotus, the country's national flower, in a pond in the city of Kinokawa, Wakayama Prefecture. The commemorative project, which aims to have each lotus from Japan and Vietnam coexist in the same pond, should be appropriate to celebrate the 40th anniversary of bilateral exchanges and the related ceremony deeply impressed the participated representatives from both countries.

Japan and Vietnam have similar traditional culture in common since ancient times. Today, both countries take the same stance on strategic interests and



**National flower: To the Vietnamese, the lotus, which is found throughout the country, is the symbol of purity, commitment and optimism for the future.** ASEAN-JAPAN CENTRE

regional peace, stability and development. In this sense, we the Japan-Vietnam Parliamentary Friendship League, as the friends

of Vietnam, will make efforts to further develop our partnership, and I extend my sincere congratulations.

## Hoping for further strengthening of indispensable bilateral ties

Kyohei Takahashi and Kuniharu Nakamura  
CO-CHAIRMEN, JAPAN-VIETNAM  
ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, KEIDANREN

On behalf of Keidanren, we offer our heartfelt congratulations to the people of Vietnam on the occasion of the 68th anniversary of their National Day.

Relations between Japan and Vietnam have been outstanding in recent years, based on a strong sense of mutual trust. We are delighted to see tangible results in the field of economic cooperation, among them increasing foreign direct investment from Japan to Vietnam and large-scale infrastructure projects.

Japanese businesses hope that this bilateral relationship will be enhanced further this year, which marks 40 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Vietnam, and the two countries will thrive together.



Takahashi

Nakamura

As part of these efforts, we visited Vietnam in July leading a Keidanren mission to initiate two key cooperative frameworks.

The first involves Phase 5 of the Japan-Vietnam Joint Initiative to improve the business environment in Vietnam. More than 100 plans of action were formulated under three pillars: solving cross-industry problems, encouraging new investment and putting a foundation for economic development.

The second framework concerns the policy dialogue between Keidanren and the Ministry of Planning and In-

vestment (MPI), which was proposed by the head of the ministry, H.E. Bui Quang Vinh. In this first round of the dialogue, Japanese participants introduced their businesses within the six industry sectors covered by Vietnam's Industrialization Strategy as well as in infrastructure and other areas, and made policy requests directly to the MPI and other government agencies. The dialogue resulted in an agreement on cooperation to increase the level of local procurement by Japanese businesses operating in Vietnam and reinforce technology transfers.

Building on these achievements, Japanese businesses hope to contribute to further development in Vietnam by inducing private-sector investment and encouraging the country's industrialization. We sincerely hope that the indispensable ties between the two countries will be passed on to the next generation.

## Promoting diplomacy and international exchange

Chihiro Kanagawa  
CHAIRMAN, THE INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP  
EXCHANGE COUNCIL (FEC)



On behalf of FEC, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the government and people of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on the occasion of the 68th anniversary of their National Day.

Many people in Japan are convinced that relations between Japan and Vietnam have become closer and tighter during the past decade. To carry forward these relations, FEC will make every effort to promote "people's diplomacy" and to complement government diplomacy. FEC has members in a wide variety of fields, therefore, we are able to cooperate with the Vietnamese people and promote

international exchanges not only in the field of economics but also culture, medical affairs, education and so on.

I am delighted to note that the seventh Japan-Vietnam Economic Dialogue was successfully organized jointly by FEC and the Vietnamese Embassy in Japan on July 18. Through this dialogue, we could deepen mutual understanding and exchange views on problems that Japanese companies are confronted with in connection with their business in Vietnam. Also, FEC will send its eighth delegation to Vietnam this November, the third consecutive year FEC is making this trip. Through our upcoming visit on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Vietnam, I am convinced that our relations will be further deepened.

In closing, I pray for the continued development and progress of Vietnam and its people as well as of our mutual relations.

Motoo Furuta  
PRESIDENT, JAPAN-VIETNAM  
FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION;  
PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO

On the occasion of the 68th anniversary of the National Day of Vietnam on Sept. 2, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the Vietnamese government and people. This year also marks the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Vietnam and Japan. We are encouraged by the fact that the celebration comes



amid unprecedented, comprehensive growth of bilateral relations.

The number of Vietnamese students in Japan can be cited as an example. In 2012, there were 4,373 Vietnamese students in Japan, ranking fourth after China, Republic of Korea and Taiwan. The number of Vietnamese students has been rising fast, from a modest figure of 76 in 1992 to 941 in 2002, an increase of 12.4-fold in 10 years and to 4,373 in 2012, an increase of 57.5-fold. I believe that this number will continue to grow because of the deep sympathy among the two peoples. In 2011, right after the earthquake hit Eastern Japan, a wave of fund raising in support of Japan took place throughout

Vietnam, which greatly inspired the Japanese people. The fact the Vietnamese people stood by us in the time of natural disaster indicates that there exists a strong sense of friendship among the two countries' people.

Japan and Vietnam are building together the strategic partnership for peace and prosperity in Asia, thus opening up an era of most far-reaching bilateral cooperation. However, new issues may arise as bilateral relations deepen. We believe that on the basis of long-standing traditional friendship between the two nations, bilateral relations will see a new era of peace, lasting development and humanity.



**Commercial center: Ho Chi Minh City is the largest city in Vietnam.** ASEAN-JAPAN CENTRE

## Special entertainment, business events liven up Vietnamese Days on 40th anniversary of relations

Music and other cultures in Vietnam will be featured and Vietnamese foods and goods will be offered in cities across Japan during the Vietnamese Days events from Sept. 12 to 22, celebrating the 40th anniversary of Japan-Vietnam diplomatic relations and Japan-Vietnam Friendship Year.

Among the highlights is the Vietnam Festival 2013 from Sept. 14 to 15 at Yoyogi Park in Tokyo's Shibuya Ward. The festival was launched in 2008 to commemorate the 35th anniversary of Japan-Vietnam diplomatic relations, attracting 150,000 people, and has been held annually as the biggest event of the bilateral exchange.

This year, the festival is being co-organized by the Embassy of Vietnam and the Japanese committee. Around 90 booths, which are the largest-ever number for the festival, will display and sell various Vietnamese foods, products and organize exhibitions on culture, business and tourism. With the cooperation of the embassy, the Vietnam House will introduce various attractions of



**Cultural exchanges: Vietnamese traditional music and performing arts, as well as a fashion show of traditional long dresses called "ao dai," will be introduced during the Vietnamese Days in Japan from Sept. 12 to 22.** EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Vietnamese culture. Also, there will be a special event, the first of its kind for the festival, which aims to encourage Japanese



people to make friends with Vietnamese people and vice versa.

Another festival will be held in

Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, from Sept. 21 to 22.

Also in Nagoya, there will be a "Seminar on Investment

in Vietnam" on Sept. 20, in which Aichi Prefecture will invite Vietnamese politicians and businesspeople to make speeches on investment opportunities, science and technology. The seminar event is co-organized by the Vietnamese Embassy, the Vietnamese government, Nagoya Chamber of Commerce and Chubu Economic Federation.

Topics to be discussed at the seminar include "Investment Environment in Vietnam and Vietnamese Industrialization Strategy in 2020," "Vietnam's Position in ASEAN" and "Vietnam's Science and Technology and Expectation on Cooperation from Japan — Introduction of Hoa Lac Hi-Tech Park."

A networking event in which local businesspeople can exchange business cards and mingle with Vietnamese counterparts will also be held after the seminar.

The event will be held on the 12th floor of the Nagoya Sakae Building in Nagoya's Higashi Ward, from 1:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free and the maxi-

mum number of participants is 150.

Aichi Prefecture and Vietnam signed an economic alliance agreement in 2008. The prefectural government has since set up a support desk for local companies that consider entering Vietnam.

Osaka and Fukuoka will have similar seminar events on Sept. 17 and Sept. 19, respectively. Also, as part of the Vietnamese Days, the Vietnam Ensemble Concert featuring traditional music and performing arts, as well as a fashion show of Vietnamese traditional long dresses called "ao dai" will be held in Tokyo on Sept. 12; Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture, on Sept. 18; and Nagoya on Sept. 20.

For more information on Vietnamese Days in Japan, call the Embassy of Vietnam at 03-3466-3311. For more details on the Vietnam Festival in Tokyo, visit [www.vietnamfes.jp](http://www.vietnamfes.jp). For more details on the Vietnam Festival in Aichi, visit [www.vietnamfes-aichi.info](http://www.vietnamfes-aichi.info).

**Congratulations  
to the State and the People  
of the Socialist Republic  
of Vietnam  
on the 68th Anniversary of  
Their National Day  
and 40th Anniversary of  
Diplomatic Relations with Japan**



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