

## Vietnam national day

## Bright future for relationship

Doan Xuan Hung  
AMBASSADOR OF VIETNAM

Exactly 69 years ago, on Sept. 2, 1945, in the historic Ba Dinh Square, before hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese from Hanoi and all over Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh came out on behalf of the provisional government to solemnly read the immortal Declaration of Independence, giving birth to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (now the Socialist Republic of Vietnam). Inspired by the French Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen and the American Declaration of Independence, Ho Chi Minh wished for the same noble things for the Vietnamese people. In the Declaration of Independence of Vietnam, he stressed: "All the peoples on the earth are equal from birth, all the peoples have a right to live, to be happy and free. Those are undeniable truths... 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." This immortal declaration opened up a new era for the Vietnamese people. Once again, they have the right to hold their heads up high in the pride of being citizens of a free and independent country.

Today, on the Independence Day of Vietnam, each and every Vietnamese citizen is filled with pride, for Vietnam not only succeeded in preserving freedom and independence but also built a much stronger country with a much better life for its people. Vietnam started its comprehensive national reform in 1986. In the years since, the country's GDP has been growing at an average rate of 7 percent, a relatively



high growth rate in the region. GDP per capita increased 20 fold. In particular, the population living below the poverty line defined by the U.N. was reduced from 58 percent in 1993 to 8 percent in 2013. From a rice importer in the 1990s, Vietnam has now become the second-largest rice exporter in the world, with roughly 7 million tons of rice exports per year. At the same time, it is able to ensure food security for its population of 90 million. In terms of foreign affairs, Vietnam became a member of the United Nations in 1977, 2 years after the reunification of the country in 1975. It is now a responsible member of the international community with constantly increasing international stature. Vietnam is also a member of the WTO, ASEAN, ASEM, APEC and others. The country has established diplomatic relations with almost every country around the world and is able to maintain friendly and cooperative relations with all.

For the cause of national development and defense, Vietnam has received great support from many countries around the world, including from the government and people of Japan. We sincerely thank Japan for its invaluable support.

Vietnam and Japan have had diplomatic relations for more than 40 years, but in fact, this relationship between the two countries dates back thousands of years. Over a thousand years ago, Vietnamese Buddhist monks and followers visited Japan. Four hundred years ago, commercial activities between Vietnam and Japan were already vibrant. The traces of this intimate relationship are still found in many parts of Vietnam, especially in the town of Hoi An (Quang Nam province, central Vietnam) where many ancient Japanese-style houses and the Japanese Bridge Pagoda remain intact. Hoi An has been recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage site and has received millions of Japanese

visitors. The two countries are enjoying a better-than-ever relationship. In 2009, we decided to establish a Strategic Partnership. After 5 years, Vietnam-Japan relations have been growing strongly in all areas on the basis of mutual trust and understanding. In particular, during the State Visit to Japan in March 2014 by Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang, leaders of the two countries decided to upgrade bilateral relations to a new level, entering into an Extensive Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity in Asia. Japan has become one of Vietnam's most important strategic partners that will play an essential role in Vietnam's development process in the coming years. Japan is also the largest bilateral official development assistance (ODA) donor to Vietnam. Many important infrastructure projects in Vietnam have been implemented with Japan's assistance such as the Nhat Tan Bridge in Hanoi over the Red River, Tan Son Nhat Airport International Terminal and Terminal T2 at Noi Bai Airport, Lach Huyen Port in Hai Phong and others. Vietnam is grateful for the enormous support provided by the Japanese government and people, and we are committed to using these ODA funds in the most effective way. Japan is also the largest investor in Vietnam with more than 1,310 Japanese companies operating in our country and hundreds of others ready to invest in the Vietnamese market. Our two-way trade reached \$24 billion in 2013. Japan continues to be a leading trade partner of Vietnam, and both sides can do more to maximize our vast potential.

Cooperation in culture, education, science and technology, as well as people-to-people exchanges and cooperation among localities of the two countries have been enhanced. There are over 15,000 Vietnamese students and researchers in Japan. In 2013, Vietnam received 600,000 tourists from Japan and 85,000 Vietnamese



Nghi Son Refinery is the second planned oil refinery in Vietnam. Construction began in 2013 and operations are targeted for 2017. HOANG QUANG

tourists visited Japan. Vietnam always welcomes Japanese tourists to visit our country and we also encourage Vietnamese tourists to visit Japan. The number of Vietnamese tourists to Japan is expected to see multifold increases once better facilitation from Japan, especially in terms of entry visas, is implemented. Exchanges and cooperation among localities of both countries are also flourishing.

There remains huge potential for bilateral cooperation. The Industrialization Strategy for Vietnam until 2020 and its longer vision under the Vietnam-Japan Cooperation Framework and Action Plan have been adopted. Six prioritized sectors have been identified, including electronics, agricultural machinery, agriculture and aquaculture processing, shipbuilding, environment and energy saving, automobile manufacturing and automobile spare parts. Vietnam and Japan also agreed to implement the fifth phase of the Vietnam-Japan Joint Initiative aimed at creating a welcoming environment for Japanese companies to do business and make investments in Vietnam. Agriculture is also a promising area for mutually beneficial cooperation, especially with the two countries engaged in TPP ne-

gotiations. With the prospect of the TPP, Vietnam and Japan, rather than competing against each other, can complement each other to maximize our strengths in agriculture. There are still many other areas of great potential for mutually beneficial cooperation. We firmly believe that Vietnam and Japan, once becoming each other's reliable partners, share great interest in promoting the extensive strategic partnership.

On the occasion of the National Day of Vietnam, I wish to express the most sincere gratitude and the best wishes to His Imperial Majesty Emperor Akihito of Japan, Her Majesty Empress Michiko and other members of the Royal family, H.E. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, members of the Cabinet, Diet members and all of the friendly and hospitable people of Japan. I also would like to extend to all Vietnamese citizens who are studying and working in Japan and the Vietnamese community living in Japan my warmest congratulations. A bright future lies ahead for Vietnam and Japan, two friendly countries and peoples that share many similarities and mutual trust, working together for prosperity of their nations, for peace, stability and development in the region and in the world.

On behalf of Keidanren, we would like to offer our heartfelt congratulations to the people of Vietnam on the occasion of the 69th anniversary of their National Day. Since establishing diplomatic relations over 40 years ago, Japan and Vietnam have enjoyed a relationship marked by a mutual sense of trust. Today, this relationship remains politically strong, with the leaders of both nations making mutual visits, and extends broadly to encompass our economies, cultures, and other aspects of our societies. In 2013, Japan provided \$5.88 billion in foreign direct investment to Vietnam on an approval basis, the most by any country, and trade soared to a record high of \$24.9 billion, illustrating the strong economic trust shared between our countries. Keidanren will strive to deepen this relationship by increasing investment in Vietnam and

working to build up the country's infrastructure through the promotion of large-scale development projects. As the ASEAN Economic Community stands poised for launch in 2015, Vietnam is expected to be increasingly attractive for investors through such steady progress as improving the investment environment through the Japan-Vietnam Joint Initiative, cultivating investments in manufacturing and related supporting industries in line with the nation's industrialization strategy and fostering the development of human resources in management and other fields. The Japanese business community also remains devoted to lending its full support. As part of this commitment, we will visit Vietnam in December, leading a Keidanren mission to reinforce a vital framework for cooperation among the Ministry of Planning and Investment, the Vietnamese business community, the Embassy of Japan in Vietnam, the Japan Business Association in Vietnam and others.

Building on these efforts, Japanese businesses hope to contribute to further development in Vietnam by strengthening private-sector investment and encouraging the country's industrialization. We sincerely hope the strong ties our two countries share will allow both nations to grow and thrive together.

## Excellent potential for investment

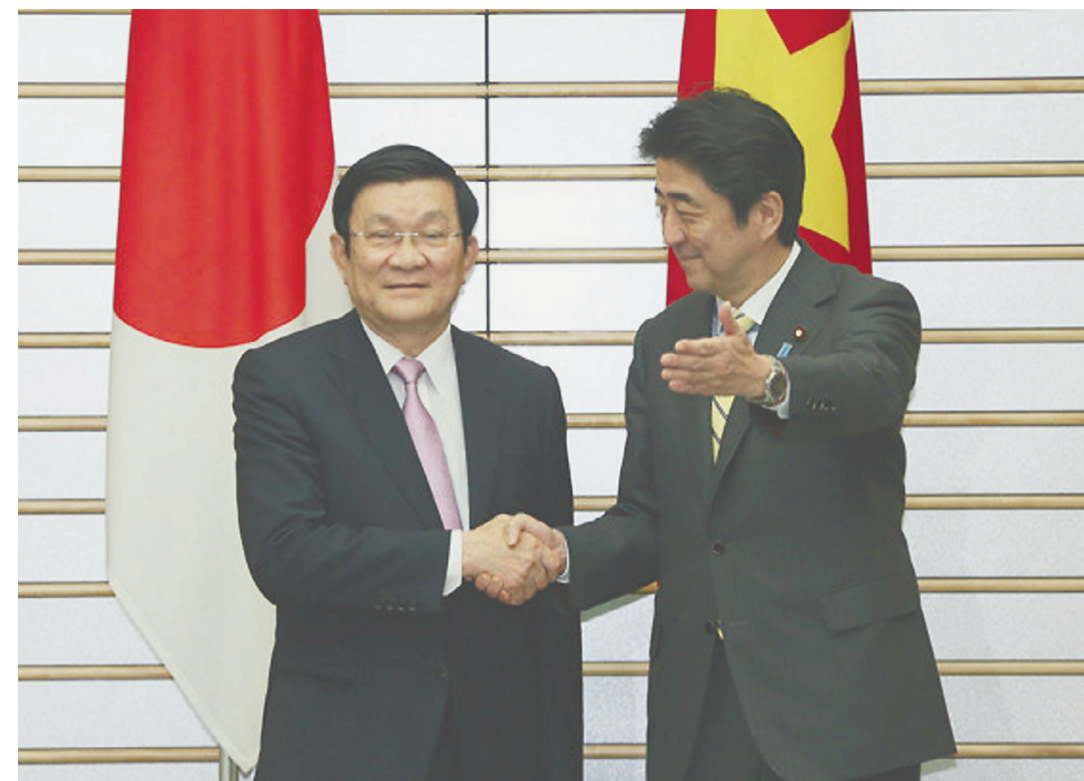


Takahashi and Nakamura  
Kyohei Takahashi and Kuniharu Nakamura  
CO-CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-VIETNAM ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, KEIDANREN

On behalf of the International Friendship Exchange Council (FEC), I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the government and people of Vietnam.

Over the last 69 years, Vietnam and its people have accomplished astonishing miracles that have won the world's admiration. In the current course of economic reform and national development, Vietnam continues to make remarkable achievements. Its regional and international status continues to be raised.

On behalf of the International Friendship Exchange Council (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 69th Anniversary of their national day. In March, the President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam H. E. Truong Tan Sang



President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Truong Tan Sang (left) meets with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Tokyo on March 18. CABINET PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

## Vietnam makes strong economic progress

Toshihiro Nikai  
CHAIRMAN, JAPAN-VIETNAM PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP ALLIANCE

On the occasion of the 69th anniversary of the National Day of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, as chairman of the Japan-Vietnam Parliamentary Friendship Alliance and on behalf of all members of the alliance, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to the government and people of Vietnam.

Over the last 69 years, Vietnam and its people have accomplished astonishing miracles that have won the world's admiration. In the current course of economic reform and national development, Vietnam continues to make remarkable achievements. Its regional and international status continues to be raised.

## Working together to promote exchanges across many fields

Chihiro Kanagawa  
CHAIRMAN, THE INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGE COUNCIL

On behalf of the International Friendship Exchange Council (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 69th Anniversary of their national day. In March, the President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam H. E. Truong Tan Sang

and his wife paid a state visit to Japan. I am honored that the FEC had an opportunity to pay a courtesy call on His Excellency at the State Guest House. It was an invaluable and meaningful opportunity for us. Through this call, the FEC reaffirmed its resolve to continue working hard to strengthen more than ever our close relationship.

I am delighted to note that the FEC will send its ninth delegation to Vietnam at the end of this month, the fourth consecutive year FEC has made this visit. Through our upcoming visit, I am convinced that we will be able to cooperate

I am happy to see the vibrant development of the friendship between Vietnam and Japan as it expands to all areas and becomes increasingly profound. Both countries established a Strategic Partnership in 2009. Last March, President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Truong Tan Sang and his wife paid a State Visit to Japan. During this visit, the leaders of the two countries have agreed to upgrade bilateral relations to a new level of Extensive Strategic Partnership. This embodies the remarkable developments in bilateral relations over the last few years. It also stands as a testament to the trust between both sides and their determination to further promote the Japan-Vietnam relationship.

Japan and Vietnam have long shared many common social and cultural values. Today, our two countries have the same ideas, visions and strategic interests. At the same time, we have to face a number of challenges that require us to

work closely and actively together. Both countries share the common desire for national development to help maintain peace, stability and development in the region. In that spirit, the Japan-Vietnam Parliamentary Friendship Alliance, a close friend of Vietnam, will make every effort to strengthen and promote the sound relations between the two countries. We will also do our best to support Vietnam in its development endeavors.

In celebration of Vietnam's National Day, I am happy to bring you the good news that the precious lotus flower seeds, the national flower of Vietnam, given to me by H.E. To Huy Rua, Chairman of the Vietnam-Japan Parliamentary Friendship Group have blossomed in Japan. This is a meaningful symbol of peace. I believe that the Oga lotus flower of Japan will blossom on Vietnamese soil as well. I hope that together, we will forever preserve this symbol of the friendship between our two peoples.

and his wife paid a state visit to Japan. I am honored that the FEC had an opportunity to pay a courtesy call on His Excellency at the State Guest House. It was an invaluable and meaningful opportunity for us. Through this call, the FEC reaffirmed its resolve to continue working hard to strengthen more than ever our close relationship.

I am delighted to note that the FEC will send its ninth delegation to Vietnam at the end of this month, the fourth consecutive year FEC has made this visit. Through our upcoming visit, I am convinced that we will be able to cooperate

with the Vietnamese people in promoting international exchanges not only in the field of economics but also in tourism, medical affairs, education and other areas. I sincerely hope the strategic partnership between Japan and Vietnam in a wide range of areas will further strengthen the good relationship and trust between the people of our two countries and will be an important key for peace and stability in Asia and the Pacific region. In closing, I pray for the continued development and progress of Vietnam, its people and our mutual relations.

**Congratulations**  
to the State and the People  
of the Socialist Republic  
of Vietnam  
on the 69th Anniversary of  
Their National Day

**Marubeni**

<http://www.marubeni.com>

**Our Warmest  
Congratulations**  
to the State and the People  
of the Socialist Republic  
of Vietnam  
on the 69th Anniversary of  
Their National Day

**Mitsubishi Corporation**

**Congratulations**  
to the People of  
the Socialist Republic of Vietnam  
on the Occasion of  
the 69th Anniversary of  
Their National Day



**MITSUBI & CO., LTD.**

**Congratulations**  
to the People of  
the Socialist Republic of Vietnam  
on the Occasion of  
the 69th Anniversary of  
Their National Day

**Sojitz Corporation**

<http://www.sojitz.com/en>