

Vietnam National Day

New heights in extensive strategic partnership

NGUYEN QUOC CUONG
AMBASSADOR OF VIETNAM



"All men are created equal. They are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; among them are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

This immortal statement was made in the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America in 1776. In a broader sense, it means that all people on earth are equal from birth and they all have a right to live and be happy and free.

Exactly 72 years ago, on Sept. 2, 1945, President Ho Chi Minh solemnly read out those words of the Declaration of Independence, announcing the birth of a new independent and sovereign state, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, which is today the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

A 72-year period is not a long span in a nation's history of thousands of years. But the past 72 years have witnessed the most dramatic transformation of the country, especially after the country's full reunification in 1975. With an average annual gross domestic product growth rate of around 6 percent, Vietnam has recorded remarkable socioeconomic achievements over 30 years of reforms. In my many travels throughout Japan, I have repeatedly asked many Japanese friends what most impressed them when they visited Vietnam, and their answers were almost identical, with many noting dramatic changes for the better, a vibrant and young society, hard-working, optimistic and hospitable people and fine cuisine.

With a population approaching 100 million, 60 percent of which is under 35, Vietnam today is confidently deepening its international integration and increasingly becoming a proactive and responsible member of the international community. Worthy of note, Vietnam is currently the host of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) 2017 and actively preparing

for the APEC Leaders' Meeting in November, where top leaders from the U.S., China, Russia, Japan, Australia, as well as Association of Southeast Asian Nations member states and other member economies, will gather together to envision the course of cooperation and development for the whole region in the years ahead.

In celebrating the 72nd Anniversary of Independence, the Vietnamese people are also happy to see the extensive strategic partnership with Japan taken to new heights.

In early March this year, Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko made a historic state visit to Vietnam. My wife and I had the great privilege and honor to accompany Their Majesties during the visit and we witnessed with pride the warmest hospitality and sincerest emotions that the Vietnamese people had shown to Their Majesties and the people of Japan.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe re-visited Vietnam in January and will visit again in November for the APEC Leaders' Meeting in Danang. The Speaker of the House of Representatives Tadamori Oshima visited Viet-

nam in May. And most recently, Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc concluded a very successful visit to Japan in June.

Such a high frequency of top-level visits has highlighted the importance of the extensive strategic partnership between the two countries, opening up new opportunities for further mutually beneficial cooperation and friendship between our peoples in all fields.

A recent survey conducted by the Japan External Trade Organization showed that Japanese business circles held a positive view of business conditions in Vietnam. Among those surveyed, 90 percent believed that expanding business activities would help increase their revenues and more than 66 percent saw Vietnam as an important market and planned to expand their businesses in the country.

In his concluding remarks at the Vietnam Investment Forum in Tokyo last June, the Japanese Prime Minister said: "Japan will work with Vietnam to enhance collaboration across the entire spectrum of both markets in Vietnam and Japan under a broad strate-



Hoi An's riverside comes alive at night. SCOTT HERDER

gic partnership. In line with that, I will work with Prime Minister Phuc hand in hand to further strengthen economic ties between our two countries." In response, our prime minister stressed that nothing could hinder a new era of the close cooperation and mutual trust between our two nations.

On the occasion of the 72nd anniversary of the national day of Vietnam, I would like to

extend our sincerest gratitude to the government and people of Japan for their valuable support and cooperation over the years. I am convinced that Vietnam-Japan relations are entering a new era of development on a solid foundation and under favorable conditions. This will undoubtedly help bring about optimal results for our peoples and for peace, stability and prosperity in the region.



Datanla Falls just outside of Dalat LEE STARNES

Congratulations
to the People of
the Socialist Republic of Vietnam
on the Occasion of the 72nd Anniversary of
Their National Day





Check out our state-of-the-art research
Incredible Senseis at Meiji University





1-1 Kanda-Surugadai, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-8301
www.meiji.ac.jp/cip/english

Congratulations
to the People of
the Socialist Republic of
Vietnam
on the Occasion of
the 72nd Anniversary of
Their National Day



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

Congratulations
to the People of
the Socialist Republic of
Vietnam
on the Occasion of
the 72nd Anniversary of
Their National Day



Sumitomo Corporation
<http://www.sumitomocorp.co.jp/english>