

THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF
VIETNAM

Basic Information & Directory

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
No 1 Ton That Dam Street, Hanoi, Vietnam

FOREWORD

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam has fulfilled the aspiration of President Ho Chi Minh for national independence and has made great strides toward becoming a strong country with (well-educated, healthy and) prosperous people. Vietnam's recent achievements have been recognized and appreciated by the international community.

Vietnam's achievements in economic, social and political reforms have brought about great improvements in the people's living standards. Vietnam has gone far towards the goal of turning Vietnam into an industrial country by 2020 and building for the people an advanced society of order, democracy and the rule of law.

Vietnam pursues a foreign policy of peace and friendship, expanding exchanges and cooperation with all countries in the world regardless of social-political systems on the basis of mutual respect for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, equality, and mutual benefits. Vietnam works to strengthen friendship and solidarity with all nations and contributes actively to the world struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam are pleased to offer readers basic information about Vietnam. It is our hope that this brochure will provide useful information about Vietnam, a nation endowed with a rich culture, benevolence and friendship, and sincere aspirations for peace, stability and prosperity.

For better future editions, all comments from readers are welcomed. Please forward your comments to:

Press and Information Department
No 7 Chu Van An St, Hanoi, Vietnam
Tel: (844) 199 2516; 845 5401
Fax: (844) 823 4137
E-mail: bc.mfa@mofa.gov.vn

Copyright © 2006 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
All rights reserved.

EDITORIAL BOARD

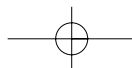


TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER I GENERAL INFORMATION

NATURAL CONDITION

Geographical location
Climate
Rivers
Land, flora and fauna

ETHNIC GROUPS AND LANGUAGES

Population
Ethnic groups
Languages

RELIGIONS AND BELIEFS

Traditional beliefs
Religions
Freedom of belief and religion
Religious practice

ASPECTS OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CHAPTER II THE CONSTITUTION AND POLITICAL SYSTEM

Political system
Constitution
National Assembly
State President
Government
People's Court
People's Procuracy

CHAPTER III FOREIGN POLICY

Traditional diplomacy
Ho Chi Minh's thoughts on diplomacy
Vietnam-Laos relations
Vietnam-Cambodia relations
Vietnam-China relations
Vietnam-US relations
Vietnam-Japan relations
Vietnam-EU relations
Vietnam-Russia relations
Relations with CIS and Eastern European countries
Relations with other countries
Proactive international integration
UN membership
Vietnam in ASEAN
Vietnam in ASEM
Vietnam in APEC
WTO accession
Global issues

CHAPTER IV POLICIES TOWARD THE OVERSEAS VIETNAMESE

National traditions
Current situation and trend
Contribution made by the overseas Vietnamese
CPV Politburo's Resolution 36/NQ-TU
Necessary information for the Vietnamese living abroad

CHAPTER V ECONOMY AND TOURISM

ECONOMY

Overview of the Vietnamese economy
Foreign trade and international economic integration
Foreign direct investment

TOURISM

Current situation and trend
Development of tourism zones
World Heritages in Vietnam
Other Heritages

CHAPTER VI CULTURE AND SOCIETY

Family
Costume
Major festivals
Literature
Performing arts
Architecture
Painting and sculpture
Traditional fine-art handicraft

CHAPTER VII HEALTHCARE & EDUCATION

HEALTHCARE

Healthcare network
Achievements in healthcare
Basic healthcare indicators

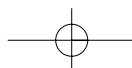
Pharmaceutical and the traditional medical system

EDUCATION

Education system
Vocational training
Achievements in education
International cooperation

CHAPTER VIII USEFUL INFORMATION

Visa
Entry-exit procedures and Customs
Transport
Additional information
Official websites
List of 64 provinces and cities (website and area code)
Countries having diplomatic relations with Vietnam
Vietnamese Missions and representative offices abroad





Official country name: The Socialist Republic of Vietnam

National Day: 2 September

Capital: Hanoi

Area: 331,689 square km

Population: 83,127,700 (as of 2005)



National Flag



The national flag of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is rectangular in shape; its width being equal to two-thirds of its length, in the middle of a red background is a yellow star. The red flag with yellow star appeared for the first time in the Nam Ky revolt (23 November 1940). This flag was recognized as the National flag of Vietnam by the Decree signed by President Ho Chi Minh on 5 September 1945 and the adoption by the National Assembly at the first session of its first Legislature on 2 March 1946.

National Emblem



The national emblem of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam was approved by its National Assembly at the 5th session of its first Legislature in September, 1955. The national emblem is circular in shape; in the middle of a red background is a yellow star symbolizing the revolutionary history of the nation, surrounded by rice ears symbolizing agriculture, below is half a cogwheel symbolizing industry and the inscription "Socialist Republic of Vietnam".

National Anthem

The song "March to the Front" was composed by Van Cao in late 1944. Soon after being released, the song became the official song of the Viet Minh Front. Later, it was approved by the National Assembly as the National anthem of Vietnam at the first session of its first Legislature.

National holidays

New Year: 1 January

Lunar New Year: four-day holiday (the last day of the old year and three first days of the new year in lunar calendar)

Reunification day: 30 April

International Labour day: 1 May

National day: 2 September

Tiến Quân Ca

Tempo di marcia

Nhạc và lời: Văn Cao



Đoàn quân Việt Nam đi chung lòng của quốc gia
(Đoàn quân Việt) Nam đi vào vùng phải phải Đất giặc



Đón vang trên đường gặp gỡ nhà Cờ in máu chiến thắng mang hồn
sẻ quả hương qua nỏ lửa than Cùng chung sức phấn đấu xây đời



miền Súng ngửi xa chen khói quân hành ca Đường vinh
mãi Đồng đều lên gông xích ta đập tan Tội bao



quang rọi tới quân thù Thống gian lao cùng nhau lập chiến
lưu ta nước còn hồn Quê hương anh dũng ta mới thêm



khu Vi nhân dân chiến đấu không ngừng Tiến mau
hơn Vi nhân dân chiến đấu không ngừng Tiến mau



ra ra trường Tiến lên ! Cùng tiến !
ra ra trường Tiến lên ! Cùng tiến



lên ! Nước non Việt Nam ta vững bền Đoàn quân Việt ...
lên ! Nước non Việt Nam ta vững bền .

Chapter I

GENERAL INFORMATION



NATURAL CONDITION

Geographical location

Vietnam is located in the Eastern part of the Indochina peninsula, bordering China to the North, Laos and Cambodia to the West with a long land border of 4,550 km, and facing the Eastern Sea (South China Sea) and the Pacific to the East and the South. On the map, Vietnam is an S-shaped long strip of land, stretching from 23°23' to 8°27' North latitude. The country's total length is 1,650 km from the northernmost point to the southernmost point. Its width, stretching from the Eastern coast to the Western border, is about 500 km at the widest part and about 50 km at the narrowest part.

The country's territory is made up of hills, mountains, deltas, coastal lines and continental shelf, reflecting the long history of geology and topography formation in a monsoon, humid climate and a strongly weathered environment. The topography is lower from the Northwest to the Southeast, which is clearly shown in the flows of major rivers.

Three quarters of Vietnam's territory are made up of low mountains and hilly regions. Regions with elevations less than 1,000 metres above sea level make up 85% of the territory. Mountainous regions over 2,000 metres above sea level only account for 1%. Mountain ranges and hills form a large bow facing the Eastern Sea with 1,400 km length from the Northwest to the Southeast. The highest mountain ranges are all located in the West and Northwest. Fan Xi Pan peak, with a height of 3,143 metres, is considered the roof of Indochina. Nearer to the Eastern Sea the mountain range is lower and ends with a coastal strip of lowland. From Hai Van pass to the South, the topography is less complex. A long limestone mountain range is replaced by large granite mountains followed by a vast plateau known as the Central Highlands behind Truong Son range to the East.

Only one fourth of the Vietnamese territory is covered by deltas separated in many regions by mountains and hills. There are two major deltas with fertile arable land in Vietnam, which are the Red River delta, locally known as the Northern delta of 16,700 sq km, and the Mekong River delta or the Southern delta of 40,000 sq km. Between these two major deltas is a chain of small deltas located along the Central coast from the Ma River basin in Thanh Hoa province to Phan Thiet with a total area of 15,000 sq km.

Vietnam faces the Eastern Sea to the East and the Gulf of Thailand to the South and Southwest. The country has a long coastline of 3,260 kms running from Mong Cai in the North to Ha Tien in the

Southwest. Vietnam's territorial waters in the Eastern Sea extend to the East and Southeast, including the continental shelf and many islands and archipelagoes. There is a group of 3,000 islands belonging to Vietnam in the Tonkin Gulf, including Ha Long Bay, Bai Tu Long, Cat Hai, Cat Ba, Bach Long Vi, Hoang Sa (Paracel) and Truong Sa (Spratley) Archipelagoes. To the East and Southeast, there are groups of islands including Con Son, Phu Quoc and Tho Chu.

Climate

Vietnam is located in the tropical and temperate zone. Vietnam's climate is characterized by high temperature and humidity all year round. North Vietnam, under the impact of the Chinese mainland, has more or less mainland climate. In addition, the Eastern Sea also affects Vietnam's tropical monsoon climate. The monsoon climate does not spread evenly all over the Vietnamese territory, where there are different regions with different climates. Vietnam's climate changes by seasons and by regions from the lowland to highland, from North to South and from East to West. Given the strong influence of the Northwest monsoon, the average temperature in Vietnam is lower than many Asian countries located at the same latitude.

There are two major climate regions in Vietnam. Northern Vietnam (from Mong Cai to Hai Van pass) has a highly-humid tropical monsoon climate with four distinguishable seasons (spring, summer, autumn and winter) and is influenced by the Northeast and Southeast monsoon. Southern Vietnam (from Hai Van pass to Ha Tien) has a rather moderate tropical climate given the weak influ-



ence of monsoon and is characterized by dry and rainy seasons and warm weather all year round.

In addition, given the topographical structure, there are some sub-climate regions in Vietnam including regions with temperate climate, such as Sa Pa (Lao Cai province), Da Lat (Lam Dong province) and regions with mainland climate such as Lai Chau, Son La, all of which are ideal places for tourism.

The average temperature in Vietnam varies between 21°C and 27°C and increases from the North to the South. In summer, the average temperature is 25°C (Hanoi 23°C, Hue 25°C, Ho Chi Minh City 26°C). In winter, temperature in the North reaches the lowest in December and January. In Northern mountainous regions such as Sa Pa, Tam Dao and Hoang Lien Son, the temperature is sometimes down to 0°C with snow.

Vietnam's climate is also characterized by a considerable amount of sunshine with the number of sunny hours varying between 1,400 and 3,000 per year. The average rainfall each year stands between 1,500 mm and 2,000 mm. Air humidity is 80%. Given the influence of monsoon and complex topography, Vietnam is often prone to natural disasters such as storms, floods and droughts (each year, the country suffers from 6 to 10 tropical storms).

Rivers

Vietnam has a dense network of rivers and streams (2,360 rivers of more than 10 km in length), flowing in two main directions of Northwest and Southeast in a bow shape. The Red River and the Mekong River, the two largest rivers in Vietnam, create two vast and



fertile deltas. Each year, the river and stream network is supplied with 310 billion cubic metres of water. The water supply for rivers and streams depends on the flood and drought seasons. 70%-80% of the annual water volume is provided in the flood season.

Land, flora and fauna

Vietnam's soil is diverse with high fertility, thus providing very favourable conditions for the development of agriculture and forestry. Vietnam is also endowed with abundant and diverse flora, including 14,600 species of vegetation. Vietnam's flora is mainly covered by tropical forests with plants and trees adapted to much sunshine, high temperature and high humidity.

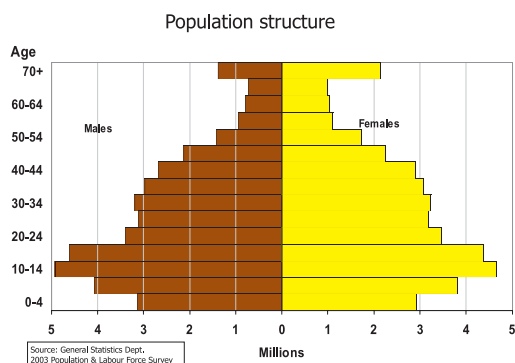
The fauna in Vietnam is as abundant and diverse as the flora. There exists a variety of precious species listed in the World Red Book. At present, there are 275 species of mammals, 800 species of birds, 180 species of reptiles, 80 species of amphibians, 2,400 species of fish and 5,000 species of insects. Dense forests, limestone mountain forests, and multi-canopied forests provide habitats of different species of monkeys, langurs, gibbons and wild cats. Vietnamese forests have typical monkey species such as white-headed langurs, delacours langurs and black langurs. Likewise, there are valuable species of birds such as pheasants and pheinaridia ocellata. The high mountains in the North have many furred wild animals like selenartos, small bears, big black squirrels, foxes, otters and civet cats.

Vietnam preserves some precious national parks of high biodiversity, such as Hoang Lien Son National Park (in Fan Xi Pan mountain, Lao Cai Province), Cat Ba National Park (Quang Ninh Province), Cuc Phuong National Park (Ninh Binh Province), Pu Mat National Park (Quang Binh Province), Bach Ma National Park (Thua Thien Hue Province), Con Dao National Park (Ba Ria Vung Tau Province), and Cat Tien National Park (Dong Nai Province), etc. These national parks are ideal places for Vietnamese and foreign scientists to conduct research and they are also eco-tourism attractions.

ETHNIC GROUPS AND LANGUAGES

Population

With over 83 million people (according to the 2005 Population Census), Vietnam is ranked 13th among the most populous countries in the world. 25% of the population lives in urban areas and 75% in rural areas. The population growth rate is 1.18% per annum. Ho Chi Minh City (5 million people) and Hanoi (3.5 million people) are the most populous cities in Vietnam. Given the trend



toward urbanization in many regions in Vietnam, population in urban areas is expected to grow in the coming years.

Vietnam has a young population with 52 million people of working age. However, the number of elderly people (about 6.3 million over 60 years old, accounting for 7.5% of the population) tends to increase thanks to better living conditions and healthcare. In 2005, life expectancy of Vietnam was 72.

Ethnic Groups

Vietnam is a multi-ethnic country with 54 ethnic groups coexisting peacefully, among which the Kinh people account for 86% of the population. Among ethnic minorities, the most populous are Tay, Thai, Muong, Hoa, Khmer, and Nung with a population of around 1 million each, while the least populous are Brau and Odu with several hundred people each. The Kinh people mainly inhabit in the low land and deltas. The majority of the other 53 ethnic groups are scattered over mountainous areas and the midland spreading from the North to the South. Most ethnic groups coexist in the same regions, particularly the ethnic minorities in Northern and Northern Central region.

The ethnic minorities have uneven development levels. In the Northern midland and mountainous regions, ethnic groups such as Muong, Thai, Tay, and Nung engage in paddy farming techniques. They also grow upland rice and raise cattle and poultry. Some go hunting, fishing and collecting while others make sophisticated traditional handicrafts. Ethnic minorities living in the South are more separated. Except for the Cham, Chinese and Khmer people living in the Central coast and Southern Vietnam which have high devel-

opment level, most ethnic minorities living in the Central Highlands reside in clusters of hamlets and subsist mainly on nature. All ethnic groups have their own diverse and unique cultures. Beliefs and religions of Vietnamese ethnic groups are also disparate.

The Vietnamese government pursues a policy of equality, solidarity and mutual assistance for shared development among ethnic groups. In practice, each and every ethnic group is equal in exercising the rights to development. The government gives priority to investment in socio-economic development in mountainous and ethnic minority areas, first and foremost, focusing on improving the transport system and infrastructure, reducing poverty, effectively exploiting potentials and advantages of each region and, at the same time, ensuring sustainable ecological environment protection, preserving and promoting cultural identities and fine traditions of all ethnic groups in Vietnam.

Languages

In addition to their unique cultures, 54 ethnic groups in Vietnam have different languages. 24 ethnic groups have their own scripts such as Thai, H'Mong, Tay, Nung, Khmer, Gia Rai, Ede, Chinese and Cham, etc. And some of these scripts are used at schools.

The Vietnamese language has been selected as the common language for the education system from pre-school to tertiary education. Vietnamese is the universal language, an instrument for transferring knowledge and a means of communication and state management for all ethnic groups in Vietnam.



The written Vietnamese language today has its origin dated back to the 17th century when a group of European missionaries headed by priest Alexandre de Rhodes introduced in Vietnam a system of Latin-based scripts. Since then, the written Vietnamese language has evolved into a complete writing system and become the official script of Vietnam since early 20th century. After gaining national independence, the State of Vietnam has used the Vietnamese language and its scripts in all aspects of social life.

RELIGIONS AND BELIEFS

Vietnam is a country of many religions and beliefs. The Vietnamese people have a time-honoured tradition of practicing their beliefs. Different ethnic groups in Vietnam have different beliefs linked to their own material and spiritual lives.

Traditional beliefs

With the perception that every object has a soul, since the ancient time, the Vietnamese has worshiped a large number of gods, especially those related to agriculture such as the sun, the moon, land, mountain, river and forest, etc., for good luck. Each ethnic minority in Vietnam has its own way of practicing belief, which is still maintained by some ethnic groups such as Tay, Thai, Hmong, Dao, Chinese, San Diu, Ngai, Cham, Ede, Gia Rai and Mon, Khmer.

In addition, the most popular and time-honoured custom of the

Vietnamese and some ethnic minorities is ancestor worship and commemoration of death anniversaries. Every Vietnamese family has an altar to worship their ancestors and attaches importance to the commemoration of death anniversaries and acknowledgement of the service rendered by the predecessors. Beside ancestor worship in each family and each clan, many villages have a communal house and a temple to worship the village Deity. The custom of worshipping the village Deity and the communal house are the unique features of Vietnamese villages. The village Deity worshiped in the village's temple or communal house can be a Deity or an outstanding figure who rendered great service such as the forefather of a traditional handicraft or a national hero who recorded glorious feats in national building and in the wars against foreign aggression. The Vietnamese people also worship different gods such as the kitchen god or god of the soil, etc.

Religions

Vietnam has a diverse mix of major religions with a large number of followers, religious figures, and monks such as Buddhism, Christianity and Muslim and some indigenous religions such as Caodaism and Hoa Hao, etc.

Buddhism: There are two sects of Buddhism: Mahayana and Theravada (Hinayana). Mahayana Buddhism was introduced in Vietnam in the 2nd century B.C, and Theravada was introduced in Vietnam in the 2nd century A.D. After the 10th century, Buddhism developed very quickly in Vietnam and became the national religion under the Ly-Tran dynasty. At present, there are 10 million Buddhist followers, 20,000 pagodas and 38,000 Buddhist monks and many schools offer Buddhist training in Vietnam.

Catholicism: Catholicism was introduced in Vietnam in the 15th century by European missionaries. Catholicism was first popular in coastal provinces such as Thai Binh, Nam Dinh, Ninh Binh, Thanh Hoa and Nghe An, then spread throughout the Red River delta and cities. At present, there are six million Catholics, 6,000 churches and 15,000 Catholic priests in Vietnam.

Protestantism: Protestantism was introduced in Vietnam in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. However, it was not until 1920 that Protestantism became popular all over the country. At present, there are one million Protestants and 500 Protestant churches in Vietnam.

Muslim: Muslim religion was introduced in Vietnam by the Cham people in the 10th and 11th centuries. At present, there are 100 mosques, 70,000 Muslim followers and 700 dignitaries in Binh



Thuan, Ninh Thuan, An Giang, Tay Ninh, Dong Nai provinces and Ho Chi Minh city. There are two schools of Muslim in Vietnam: orthodox Muslim with followers who are Cham people from Chau Doc, Ho Chi Minh city, Tay Ninh and Dong Nai provinces; and non-orthodox Muslim (or Cham Ba Ni) with followers who are Cham people from Binh Thuan and Ninh Thuan provinces.

Caodaism: Caodaism is an indigenous religion created in Tay Ninh province in 1926. Caodaism worships three Supreme Beings namely Buddha, Jesus Christ and Cao Dai God. At present, there are 2.3 million Cao Dai followers, 7,100 dignitaries and 6,000 temples in Vietnam. The centre of Caodaism is Tay Ninh province.

Hoa Hao: Hoa Hao, also called Hoa Hao Buddhism, is another indigenous religion created in 1939 in Hoa Hao Village, Tan Chau District, An Giang Province. This religious sect is concentrated in the Mekong River delta and its membership is estimated at about 1.2 million.

Freedom of belief and religion: The right to freedom of belief and religion of all Vietnamese citizens is provided for by the law and ensured by the State. This is clearly stated in the Constitution and respected in practice. Article 70 of the Vietnamese Constitution reads: "The citizen shall enjoy freedom of belief and of religion; he can follow any religion or follow none. The places of worship of all faiths and religions are protected by the law. No one can violate freedom of belief and of religion."

The people's right to freedom of belief and religion is reflected in various legal normative documents. The Ordinance on Belief and Religion entering into force on 15 November 2004 has institutionalized State policies on belief and religion and ensured the exercise of the right to freedom of belief and religion. Every citizen, regardless of his belief and religion, is equal before the law and entitled to follow any religion or follow none, he shall enjoy the right to express his belief, exercise worship, pray and participate in religious activities and in the study of religious theories and ethics. All religious organizations are equal before the law. The State ensures the right to freedom of belief and religion, protection of the facilities and assets of religious establishments, such as pagodas, churches, mosques, oratories, sanctuaries, temples and headquarters of religious organizations, religious schools, bibles and worshiping objects. On 1st March 2005, the Government issued Decree 22/2005/ND-CP guiding the implementation of the Ordinance on Belief and Religion. With regard to Protestantism, the Prime Minister issued Directive 01/2005/CT-TTg on 4th February 2005 on some tasks toward Protestantism with a view to

creating favourable conditions for the practice of Protestant followers and ministers.

Religious practice

At present, there are 20 million religious followers, nearly 62,500 dignitaries, monks and 22,345 worshiping places in Vietnam. Training establishments for different religions have grown in number. Currently, Vietnam has 10 religious universities, 3 Buddhist academies, 6 Christian grand seminaries, 1 Institute of Bible and Theology under Vietnam's Confederation of Evangelical Churches and 40 schools training religious dignitaries at different levels. Religious publications, especially bibles and books, are published at the request of religious organizations.

Religious followers enjoy freedom in the practice of religious ceremonies and in expression and exercise of their beliefs. Religious dignitaries and monks are free to exercise religious activities in accordance with religious rules. The ordainment, appointment and secondment of dignitaries are carried out in accordance with church rules. Over the last years, religious organizations recognized by the State have developed in quantitative terms in establishments, followers, dignitaries, newly built worshiping places, bible and book publications and activities provided by its charter, statute, religious rules and law. Dignitaries and monks enjoy the right to study or be trained at home and abroad or participate in religious activities abroad. Many foreign religious organizations have come to Vietnam for exchanges with local religious organizations.



ASPECTS OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Vietnam is located in a region considered a cradle of mankind, one of the earliest agricultural centres practicing wet rice farming, where the stone and metallurgical revolutions took place. On the basis of socio-economic development in the time of the Dong Son culture and given the struggle with nature and against aggression, Van Lang State, the first State in Vietnam was established in the 7th century B.C. Thanks to their hard work and creativeness, Van Lang (and then Au Lac) residents created a civilization that influenced the entire Southeast Asian region. Together with the formation of the first State in Vietnam's history was the evolution of a diverse economy and advanced culture known as the Red River civilization (or Dong Son civilization) symbolized by Dong Son bronze drum, a heritage reflecting the quintessence of the lifestyle, traditions and culture of the ancient Vietnamese.

In the cause of national building, the Vietnamese also had to cope with various foreign aggressions. During 12 centuries from the resistance against the Qin dynasty in the 3rd century B.C until late 20th century, the Vietnamese launched hundreds of struggles and uprisings against foreign aggression. The tactic, as stated in the Proclamation of Victory over the Wu "Binh Ngo Dai Cao," "...Relying on surprises, we placed our weak forces before much stronger ones; In skillful ambushes, our few troops destroyed large units," has become the rule of thumb in the wars of safeguarding the Fatherland of the Vietnamese.



Since the 2nd century B.C, Vietnam had been dominated by different Chinese dynasties for more than a thousand years. During this period, the existence of the nation had been challenged which helped give rise to the spirit of indomitability and staunchness of the Vietnamese in the struggle to maintain the nation's vitality, preserve and build on the quintessence of its culture and the determination to gain national independence.

Despite many vicissitudes, from Van Lang, Au Lac to Van Xuan, Dai Co Viet and Dai Viet, the Vietnamese nation continued to develop in all fields, reflecting its strong vitality and unceasing evolution.

A typical feature of Vietnamese culture is the village culture. It is Vietnamese villages that have nurtured and fostered the quintessence of the traditional culture, the spirit of unity among the Vietnamese in the struggle against the domination of the North and the policy of assimilation of Northern dynasties to gain national independence, maintaining the nation's traditions and cultures.

The Bach Dang victory in 938 opened up a new era in Vietnam's history - the era of development of an independent feudal state, national construction and defense. As a result, the centralized-administration state was established under the Ngo (938-965), Dinh (969-979) and earlier Le (980 - 1009) dynasties.

Then, Vietnam entered the period of renaissance and development under the Ly (1009-1226), Tran (1226-1400), Ho (1400-1407) and Le So (1428-1527) dynasties. Dai Viet, the name of the country under the Ly-Tran-Le So dynasties, was known as a prosperous country in Asia. This period marked the golden age of Vietnam's history. Economically, this period saw the development of agriculture and irrigation (with the construction of the Red River dike) and the formation of traditional handicrafts. In terms of religion, Buddhism, Taoism and Confucianism were considered the three co-existing official religions exerting great influence on people's life. One important achievement in the Ly-Tran dynasties was the introduction of Nom scripts, Vietnam's own writing system based on the reform of Chinese Han scripts. In addition, this period also marked the splendid development of education, science, culture, art, history and law etc (such as the establishment of Van Mieu Quoc Tu Giam - the first university of Vietnam, the introduction of Hong Duc Code and Complete History of Dai Viet etc). This period was called the Civilized Age of Dai Viet. Thang Long (the old name of Hanoi capital) was officially recognized as the imperial city of Dai Viet according to the Proclamation on the transfer of the capital to Hanoi in 1010 by Ly Thai To.

From the 16th century, the backwardness and weakness of the feudal regime under Confucius ideology were revealed, feudalism fell into a decline. While many nation states in Europe were moving to capitalism, Dai Viet was bogged down in internal wars and divisions, which heavily impeded the country's evolution despite certain developments in the economy and culture, the establishment of towns and ports and the growth of trade and exchanges between the 16th and 18th century.

In the 19th century, Western capitalist countries entered the period of imperialism and colonialism. Through missionaries and trade, the French gradually dominated Vietnam. For the first time in history, the Vietnamese nation had to cope with the invasion of a Western country. In that context, some Vietnamese intellectuals were aware of the need to carry out reforms in an effort to bring the country out of stagnation and save national independence. Many plans of reform were proposed, yet rejected by the Nguyen dynasty. Subsequently, the country was driven into backwardness and deadlock. Vietnam became a semi-feudal colony for nearly 100 years from 1858 to 1945.

After setting up the colonist rule in Vietnam, the French colonialists quickly began large-scale exploitation in the country. Capitalist production relations infiltrated in Vietnam, stimulating the formation and evolution of internal capitalist factors, and as a result, narrowing and breaking up the existing feudal production relations. Vietnam's economy thus moved from a backward and self-sufficient economy to a colonized one totally controlled by the French capitalists. A new social structure evolved along the line of capitalism, and subsequently the division between landlords and farmers was deepened while new forces, such as the working class, the bourgeoisies and petit bourgeoisies gradually came into being. Eventually, the struggle against the French colonialists was initiated by two forces i.e. the bourgeoisies (represented by Vietnam Quoc Dan Dang and Yen Bai revolt in early 1930) and the proletarians led by the Communist Party of Vietnam.

The formation of the Communist Party of Vietnam marked the prevailing strength of the working class and revolutionary movements led by the proletarians. In August 1945, under the leadership of the Communist Party headed by Nguyen Ai Quoc (later known as President Ho Chi Minh), the Vietnamese people and the Armed Propaganda Unit for National Liberation (now the People's Army) successfully launched a general uprising to seize power. With the Proclamation of Independence on 2nd September 1945, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam came into being.

The globe-shaking victory of Dien Bien Phu (May 1954) and the Geneva Accord (July 1954) put an end to the war of resistance against the French colonialists, opening up a new era of independence and freedom for the Vietnamese nation in which North Vietnam embarked upon the transitional period towards socialism. According to the Geneva Agreement, South Vietnam was under the temporary control of the French and the Americans in the run-up to the general elections. Nevertheless, the general elections could never be held due to the interference of the United States. The Republic of Vietnam headed by Ngo Dinh Diem was established by the United States. Vietnam continued to be divided for more than 20 years.

Between 1954 and 1975, Vietnam had to fight another war for national liberation and unification. With untold hardships brought out for the Vietnamese people to bear, the war came to an end following the victory of the historic Ho Chi Minh Operation in 1975. Since then, the unified Vietnam has ushered into a new era of peace, unification and national construction.

However, in the first ten years of this period, many socio-economic targets were not achieved due to both internal and external reasons. Vietnam's economy fell into crisis and stagnation and people's lives were difficult.

At the 6th Congress of the Communist Party in 1986, Doi Moi (reform) policy was launched with focus on economic reform. This marked an important milestone in the new stage of development of the Vietnamese nation. Doi Moi policy was consistently reaffirmed throughout the later Party Congresses. With the implementation of



four five-year socio-economic development plans, Vietnam, from a food importing country, has become the second largest rice exporter in the world. Vietnam also exports a lot of other commodities with well-known brands. The economy has attained high growth rate since late 20th century and early years of the 21st century, people's lives have been significantly improved; social policy received greater attention, the legal system has become increasingly complete and social management based on the rule of law put into place.

Looking back at the formation and development of the Vietnamese nation, one can see that patriotism, self-reliance, tradition of unity and the willpower to fight for the righteous cause of the nation are the most important features and the moral standards of the Vietnamese. The tradition of industriousness, creativeness and patience originated from the life full of hardship of the Vietnamese people. The need to stand united to cope with difficulties and challenges has created close bonds between the people and the nature and among the people in the family and in the community in the family-village-nation relations. Throughout history, the Vietnamese people have been characterized by the traditions of mutual assistance, ethic-based lifestyle, benevolence, one-mindedness and sharing of hardships in needy times, flexible ways of behaviour, the tradition of eagerness to learn, respect for righteousness and tolerance. These are the powerful and endless endogenous strengths for the Vietnamese nation to embark on the cause of national construction towards the goals of strong country, prosperous people, just, democratic and advanced society.



Dynasties of Vietnam

Dynasty	Time	Official name of the country	Capital
Dong Son Era	Since 7th century to 208 B.C	Van Lang	Phong Chau (Viet Tri, Phu Tho)
	208 - 179 B.C	Au Lac	Co Loa
Chinese domination	178 B.C - 534		
Earlier Ly Dynasty	544 - 602	Van Xuan	Dai La (Hanoi) Phong Chau
Chinese domination	603 - 936		
Ngo Dynasty	939 - 965	Van Xuan	Co Loa
Dinh Dynasty	968 - 979	Dai Co Viet	Hoa Lu
Earlier Le Dynasty	980 - 1009	Dai Co Viet	Hoa Lu
Ly Dynasty	1010 - 1225	Dai Viet (from 1054)	Thang Long
Tran Dynasty	1226 - 1400	Dai Viet	Thang Long
Ho Dynasty	1400 - 1407	Dai Ngu	Tay Do (Thanh Hoa)
Minh domination	1407 - 1427		
Later Le Dynasty	1428 - 1527	Dai Viet	Thang Long
Post Le Dynasty (*) (Le Trung Hung)	1533 - 1789	Dai Viet	Tay Do (Thanh Hoa) Thang Long
(*) The Post Le Dynasty existed in parallel with the Mac Dynasty and coincided with the time of Trinh - Nguyen war. During the existence of the Post Le Dynasty, the civil war between the North and the South (Trinh - Nguyen conflict) was a catastrophe for people. - The Mac Dynasty (1533 - 1592) was based in Dong Kinh (Thang Long) and called Northern Dynasty; The Post Le Dynasty called Southern Dynasty, set up its capital in Tay Kinh (Tay Do), Thanh Hoa. - During Trinh - Nguyen conflict (1592 - 1789): The capital of the Post Le Dynasty remained in Thang Long.			
Tay Son Dynasty	1778 - 1802	Dai Viet	Phu Xuan (Hue)
Nguyen Dynasty	1802 - 1945	- Vietnam (1804-1838) - Dai Nam (1838-1945)	Phu Xuan (Hue)
Modern time	1945 - now	- The Democratic Republic of Vietnam (1945-1976) - The Socialist Republic of Vietnam (1976-now)	Hanoi (formerly named Thang Long)

Chapter II

THE CONSTITUTION AND POLITICAL SYSTEM



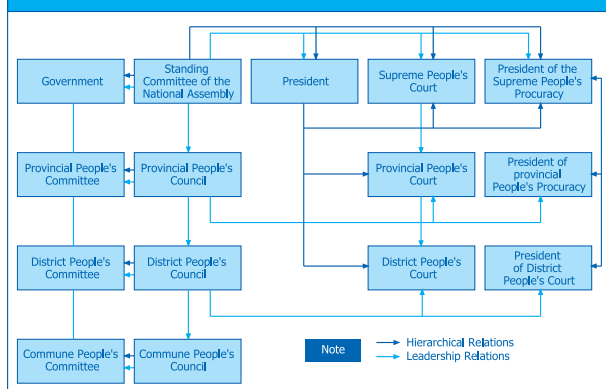
THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM IS A RULE-OF-LAW STATE.

The political system was established upon the birth of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and comprises the following:

The Communist Party of Vietnam is the vanguard and the faithful representative of the interests of the Vietnamese working class, the toiling people and the Vietnamese nation. It is both a component and the leading force of the socialist political system, helping ensure the nature of the working class in the system and that all powers belong to the people.

The State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is the central organization and the pillar of the political system that realizes the will and power of the people, acts on behalf of the people and is accountable to the people for the management of all activities of the social life and in domestic and external affairs.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF THE STATE APPARATUS



Socio-political and mass organizations: These organizations represent the interests of different social communities that participate in the political system in accordance with their principles, objectives and composition. In Vietnam, there are five socio-political organizations, namely the Vietnam Fatherland Front, Trade Union, Vietnam Women's Union, Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth's Union and War Veteran's Association. In addition, there are a large number of social and people's mass organizations.

People in the political system: As the maker of history, the people constitute the decisive force in the process of social evolution and make up the current political system in Vietnam. All powers belong to the people and their powers are exercised through the State. The State regulates the society by laws under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

The current Constitution was adopted by the 8th National Assembly in 1992 and was supplemented and amended in 2001 at the 10th session of the 10th National Assembly. The 1992 Constitution inherits from and builds on previous Constitutions (1946, 1959, and 1980). The introduction of the 1992 Constitution represented an important development stage in Vietnam's law-making history. The 1992 Constitution is the most fundamental legal document and of highest legal power. It institutionalizes basic viewpoints of the Communist Party of Vietnam on economic and political reforms, socialist democracy and civil freedoms reaffirming the goal of building socialism. The 1992 Constitution is structured with the preamble and 7 chapters with 147 articles clearly stipulating the country's Political Regime, Economic System, Culture, Education, Science-Technology, Fundamental Rights and Duties of the Citizens, National Assembly, State President, Government, People's Councils and Committees, People's Supreme Court and Supreme Procuracy, the National Flag, Emblem, National Anthem, National Day, the Capital and Constitution Amendment.

The Constitution clearly indicates that the State power is in the hands of the people. The State is of the people, by the people and for the people. The State ensures and constantly promotes the people's right to mastery in all fields, implementing the policy of



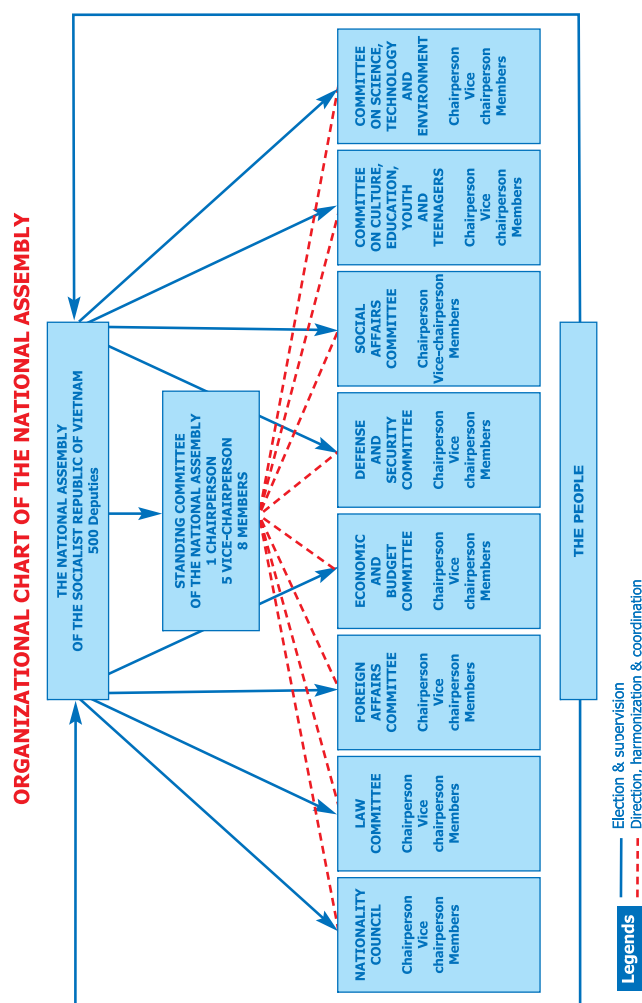
equality, unity and mutual assistance among ethnic groups. The people use the State power through the National Assembly and People's Councils. These agencies are elected by the people and represent the will and aspiration of the people.

The Constitution endows all citizens (men or women alike) with equal rights in all political, economic, cultural and social areas as well as in family affairs; the right to freedom of belief and religion, the right to follow a religion or follow none, the right to freedom of movement and residence in Vietnam, the right to go abroad and return home as stipulated by laws, etc.

The National Assembly is the highest-level representative body of the people; the highest organ of state power of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the sole organ that has the constitutional and legislative rights. The National Assembly decides the fundamental domestic and foreign policies, the socio-economic tasks, national defense and security issues, the major principles governing the State machinery, the social relations and activities of citizens. The National Assembly exercises the right to supreme supervision of all activities of the State.

The National Assembly has the highest authority to make Constitution and Laws. Legal documents promulgated by the National Assembly are the Constitution, codes, laws and resolutions.

The National Assembly authorizes the Standing Committee of the National Assembly to promulgate resolutions and ordinances



according to the agenda adopted by the National Assembly. The National Assembly has the power to allow the Government to make legal documents for the issues which are not covered by Laws of the National Assembly and Ordinance of its Standing Committee.

The National Assembly, Nationality Council and Functional Committees of the National Assembly are to supervise the constitutional, lawful and consistent nature of the legal documents in Vietnam.

The 11th National Assembly has 500 deputies directly elected by the people for a five-year term. Normally, the National Assembly is convened biannually. If needed, it can hold an extraordinary session at the request of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly, or the State President, or the Prime Minister or one third of the deputies of the National Assembly. In the intervals between sessions of the National Assembly, the National Assembly Standing Committee works as the standing organ.

The State President is the Head of State, elected by the National Assembly from among its deputies to represent the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in domestic and foreign affairs, head of all people's armed forces and takes charge of the position of Chairman of the Security and National Defense Council. The term of office of the State President is the same as that of the National Assembly.

The Government is the executive body of the National Assembly and the highest body of State administration of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The Government has the same term of office as the National Assembly. The Government administers the implementation of the State's affairs in the fields of politics, economics, culture, society, national defense and security and foreign relations; ensures the efficiency of the State apparatus from central to grass-root levels; assures that the Constitution and laws are respected and executed; brings into full play the people's ownership in the cause of national construction and defense; and guarantees the sustainability and improvement of the people's material and spiritual life.

The Government consists of Prime Minister, who is a National Assembly deputy as provided by the Constitution, Deputy Prime Ministers, Ministers and other members.

People's Courts: The Supreme People's Court, local People's Courts, Military Tribunals and the other tribunals established by law are the judicial organs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Under special circumstances, the National Assembly may decide to set up



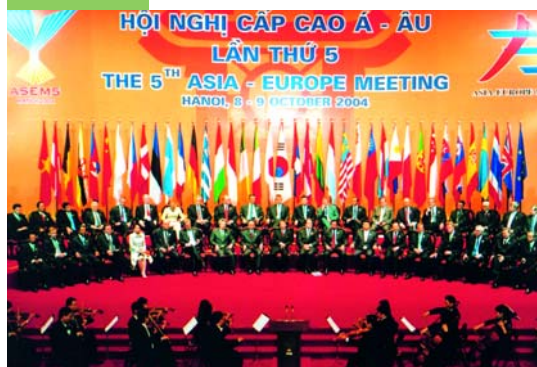
a Special Tribunal. During trials, the Jury is equal to and independent from judges and shall only obey the law. Trials are held publicly except in cases stipulated by laws. Judgments of the People's Courts are made collectively and decided by majority.

The Supreme People's Court is the highest judicial organ of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. It supervises and directs the judicial work of local People's Courts, Military Tribunals, Special Tribunals and other tribunals, unless otherwise prescribed by the National Assembly at the establishment of such Tribunals.

The Supreme People's Procuracy oversees the enforcement of the law by Ministries, Ministerial-level organs, other Government agencies, local administration, economic entities, mass organizations, people's military organs and citizens. It exercises the right to prosecution, ensures serious and uniform implementation of the law. Local People's Procuracy and Military Procuracy oversee the execution of the law and exercise the right to prosecution as stipulated by the law.

Chapter III

FOREIGN POLICY



Vietnam's traditional diplomacy

During their history of national building and defense for thousands of years, the Vietnamese people have always been confronted with natural calamities and foreign aggressors. Through all ups and downs, Vietnam's diplomacy has step by step taken shape and developed with a combination of national identities and the quintessence of mankind, giving Vietnam's diplomacy a distinctive identity.

Vietnam's traditional diplomacy originates from the indomitable spirit in the struggles for national independence and freedom with exemplary figures like Ly Thuong Kiet, Tran Quoc Tuan and Nguyen Trai, etc. and is built on many useful and profound lessons about relations with neighboring countries and behaviours in external affairs. It is also a manifestation of the desire for peace and friendship and the fidelity stemming from the nature of deep humanity and peace-loving tradition inherent in the Vietnamese people. The history of undaunted struggle against foreign invaders of the Vietnamese people has given Vietnam's diplomacy a heroic fighting spirit and the nature of peace, friendship, benevolence and faithfulness, "successfully we confronted barbarity with justice and fought truculence with humanity."

Vietnam's modern diplomacy has developed since the birth of the State of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam in 1945 and was honourably and directly guided and trained by President Ho Chi Minh. A skillful combination of the traditional diplomacy and Ho Chi Minh's thoughts, Vietnam's modern diplomacy has been flexibly and creatively applied in specific conditions. Having undergone different periods of both war and peace, Vietnam's modern diplomacy has inherited the traditions built by the ancestors and made significant contribution to safeguarding national sovereignty, territorial integrity and further prospering the country.

Ho Chi Minh's thoughts on diplomacy are an integral part of his thoughts on Vietnam's revolutionary path. It is a system of theoretical viewpoints on international issues and Vietnam's foreign policy. The fundamental contents of Ho Chi Minh's thoughts on diplomacy include: 1. National independence must be coupled with socialism; 2. Promotion of the fundamental national rights such as national independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unification; 3. Respect for morals, righteousness and humanity in international relations; 4. Protection of peace and against aggressive wars; 5. Independence and self-reliance are linked to international unity and cooperation;

6. Combination of the strength with that of the time (expanded rallying of international forces, increase of friends and reduction of foes); 7. Expansion of external relations on the basis of openness, mutual interests, establishment of friendship with all democratic nations, no harboring of animosity against anyone; 8. Focus on establishing and developing friendship and long-term cooperation with neighboring countries; 9. Due attention paid to addressing relations with major powers; and 10. Diplomacy is a front.

Since the country embarked on Doi Moi (Reform process) in 1986, Vietnam's diplomacy has entered a new stage. This has been a major task of maintaining a peaceful and stable environment and step by step creating every favorable condition for national industrialization and modernization. At the same time, it contributes to the common struggle of people across the world for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

By promoting the tradition and creatively applying Ho Chi Minh's thoughts on diplomacy in the new context, at the 7th National Congress of the Party (in 1991), Vietnam endorsed the foreign policy of openness, diversification and multi-lateralization of international relations. Since then, this policy has been gradually supplemented, completed and consistently and flexibly implemented in the spirit that "Vietnam is a friend and reliable partner of all countries in the international community, actively taking part in international and regional cooperation processes".

At present, Vietnam has diplomatic relations with 170 countries and almost all international organizations, and economic, trade and investment ties with 165 countries and territories. A large



number of bilateral and multilateral agreements have been signed including 87 bilateral trade agreements, 48 bilateral agreements on investment promotion and protection and various multilateral agreements in almost all areas. For the first time in history, Vietnam has normal relations with all major powers in the world. Its external relations have been gradually expanded, diversified with in-depth development.

Vietnam-China relations

Since the normalization of relations in 1991, the friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and China have developed rapidly both in depth and breadth with fruitful outcomes following the motto "friendly neighborliness, comprehensive cooperation, long-term stability and future outlook". The two sides have signed over 40 Agreements at State level, thus creating the legal basis for strengthening mutual trust and cooperation. High level bilateral meetings are regularly organized every year. Besides, exchanges of delegations at different levels have been conducted so as to enhance mutual understanding and deepen the multi-sided cooperation between the two countries.

The bilateral economic, trade and investment ties have sharply strengthened. Vietnam's major exports to China are crude oil, rubber, coal, tropical fruits and vegetables, sea food, vegetable oil, pepper and cashew nuts, etc. Vietnam imports from China machinery and equipment, petroleum, agriculture and construction materials. On border and territorial issues, Vietnam and China have signed a border treaty and an agreement on the delimitation of the Tonkin Gulf and actively carried out other work related to

delimitation and demarcation as well as maintaining negotiations on Eastern Sea issues. The two sides have also agreed on a number of plans to expand the bilateral cooperation including a project to build the Hanoi - Haiphong - Langson - Nanning and Hanoi - Haiphong - Laocai - Kunming economic corridors and the Tonkin Gulf economic belt.

Vietnam-Laos relations

The traditional and special friendship and unity as well as the comprehensive cooperation between Vietnam and Laos have always been built up by the two parties, governments and peoples. Annually, the two sides carry out exchanges of delegations and consultations at different levels. The two countries have signed a large number of agreements on economic, cultural, science and technology cooperation. The two sides have also concretized Vietnam-Laos comprehensive cooperation in specific cooperation plans, both short term and long term. Cooperation in trade, investment and other fields such as education and training between the two countries continues to increase. The two countries have also made efforts to build the common borderline into the one of peace, friendship and development. In foreign affairs, the two countries always work closely together, share common views and experience on issues of common concerns.

Vietnam-Cambodia relations

Vietnam and Cambodia officially established diplomatic relations in 1967. In struggling for national independence, the two sides fought side by side against common enemies and gained many great victories, thus laying firm foundation for long-term relationship. Undergoing ups and downs in the history, the Vietnam-Cambodia relations have seen unceasing development under the motto "fine neighborliness and cooperation, traditional friendship and unity, long-term stability". The bilateral economic and trade cooperation has steadily been strengthened. The cooperation in many other fields has also been expanded especially in agriculture, education and training, healthcare, energy, transportation and tourism. At present, the two countries are working with Laos to implement the "Vietnam-Laos-Cambodia Development Triangle" program adopted at the three Prime Ministers' Meeting in February 2002, in which priorities were given to transportation, trade, tourism, energy, training and healthcare and at the same time the connection between the development of the triangle to ASEAN sub-region is promoted to better take advantage of regional cooperation and assistance.



Vietnam-Japan relations

Vietnam and Japan officially established diplomatic relations in 1973. In 1992, Japan resumed its Official Development Assistance for Vietnam. Since then, the bilateral relations have developed quickly in almost all fields and entered a new stage of substantive development. Economic and political ties as well as cultural exchanges have been unceasingly expanded, resulting in the establishment of cooperation framework at macro level and mutual understanding gradually strengthened. In 2002, the two sides' high level leaders agreed to build the Vietnam-Japan relations along the line of "reliable partnership and long-term stability". The two sides have set up a dialogue mechanism at various levels in all political, economic, security and defense areas.

Japan is Vietnam's top economic partner. The two countries have granted each other the MFN status since 1999 and Japan has become one of the biggest trading partners of Vietnam. With regard to foreign direct investment, Japan now ranks third among countries and territories investing in Vietnam. The two countries concluded the Agreement on Investment Promotion and Protection in November 2003. Japan is the largest ODA donor of Vietnam in the 1992-2006 period. Japan's long-term assistance program for Vietnam focuses on five key areas of human resource development and institutional building, building and upgrading of transportation and electricity projects; agriculture and rural infrastructure development; development of education, training and healthcare; and environment protection.

Vietnam-EU relations

Vietnam always attaches great importance to its relations with the EU. The two sides hold dialogues and maintain contacts at all levels. It is the policy of the European Commission to boost cooperation with Vietnam, especially in economic, trade and investment areas and at the same time to maintain dialogues with Vietnam on political issues. The sub-committee on supporting institutional and administrative reforms and human right issues has been established under the framework of the Joint Commission on Vietnam-EC Cooperation. The EU has actively supported Vietnam's Doi Moi process and international economic integration. The EU is a big trading partner of Vietnam, the third largest ODA donor (after Japan and the World Bank), the largest provider of grants and also an important foreign investor in Vietnam.

According to the "2002-2006 Strategy for Cooperation with Vietnam" adopted by the EC in May 2002 with a budget of 162

million euros, all cooperation programs and projects focus on priority areas in Vietnam's socio-economic development policy, namely rural development aimed at narrowing the rich-poor gap with focus on remote and mountainous regions; human resource development; healthcare and education development; technical support for enhancing business management capacity especially in accounting, auditing, quality control, intellectual property as well as support for administrative, judicial, banking and financial reforms and international economic integration.

In terms of trade, the EU is a major trading partner of Vietnam. Since 1995, trade ties between Vietnam and EU members have increased sharply at 15-20% on average per annum. Vietnam's exports to the EU market have augmented steadily (over 15% per annum) especially in the UK, France, Germany, Sweden and the Netherlands and reached US\$ 8.1 billion by the end of 2005.

In terms of investment, EU member countries have invested in Vietnam since the introduction of the Foreign Investment Law in December 1987. The UK, France and the Netherlands are pioneers in investing in Vietnam. EU countries have invested in 33 localities in Vietnam. However, the investment scale has yet to match the potentials for cooperation of both sides.

Vietnam-Russia relations

Following the Soviet Union collapse, the Vietnam-Russia relations changed substantially. The Agreement on the fundamental principles of the friendly relationship between the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the Russian Federation signed on 14 June 1994 has laid foundation for Vietnam-Russia relations in the new context.



Since 1997, the two countries have carried out exchanges of high level delegations on a regular basis. The framework for Vietnam-Russia relations in the 21st century was established and realized by the signing of the Joint Statement on Strategic Partnership during the visit to Vietnam by Russian President Putin on 28 February - 2 March 2001.

Economic and trade, cultural and educational cooperation between the two countries has seen significant development. Russia is at present among big investors in Vietnam's most investment attracted areas, including oil and gas, construction and fishery. In trade, the two sides still have great potentials to develop. Vietnam mainly exports rice, rubber, tea, textiles and garment, fruits and vegetables, instant noodles and imports steel, fertilizer, petroleum, machinery and cars. Exploration, exploitation and processing of oil and gas are traditional and effective fields of the bilateral cooperation. Cooperation in education and training was resumed in 1995 by the signing of the Cooperation Agreement between the Vietnamese Ministry of Education and Training and Russian Ministry of Education. The two countries have also maintained cultural exchanges.

Vietnam-US relations

Since the formal establishment of diplomatic relations in 1995, the relationship between the two countries has entered a new development stage. Politically, the two sides have had many contacts and exchanges in various fields and at different levels and cooperated with each other in addressing issues, such as MIAs,



clearance of landmines, bombs and UXOs, Agent Orange, etc. Remarkably, since the Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) took effect in December 2001, the economic, trade and investment ties between the two countries have developed vigorously. The U.S. has become a major Vietnam's trading partner with the two-way trade volume of over US\$ 7.6 billion in 2005. The two countries have also been working on measures to boost cooperation in other fields, including science and technology, culture, education-training, healthcare, labour and humanitarian issues as well as security-military and anti-terrorism.

The maintenance and development of the bilateral relations are in the interest of both peoples and instrumental to peace, stability and cooperation in the region and the world over. Vietnam attaches importance to cooperation with the U.S. on the basis of mutual respect, non-interference into each other's internal affairs, equal and mutually beneficial cooperation, striving for solid development of cooperation between the two countries in the new century.

Relations with CIS and Eastern European countries

After a short period of stagnation due to political and social changes in these countries, since 1992 and especially in recent years, relations between Vietnam and CIS and Eastern European countries have been restored and developed. Vietnam has entered into fine political relations with these countries with exchanges of high level visits of both sides' leaders. A large number of Treaties, Bilateral Agreements and Cooperation documents in various fields were signed to create the legal foundation for promoting relations, especially economic and trade. Vietnam and countries in this region share many common views and interests and have favourable objective conditions for strengthening cooperation. The time-honoured and traditional friendship and cooperation, mutual understanding and a great number of experts in the fields of science and technology as well as skilled workers trained in these countries have become important factors contributing to expanding all-round relations between the two sides. The success of Doi Moi process in Vietnam and relatively high economic growth in these countries have served as necessary premises for further effective cooperation with new mechanisms relevant to the new context, corresponding to both sides' potentials and expectations.

Relations with other countries

In addition to neighboring countries, world economic and political centers and traditional friendly countries, since the end of the

1980s, Vietnam has strengthened relations with countries around the world, near and far, big and small, such as those in Latin America and Africa, etc., which have great potentials for developing all-round cooperation. As for Latin American countries, Vietnam has step by step opened embassies, carried out exchanges of delegations of different levels to further mutual understanding, share positions and sign many Agreements and Cooperation documents.

Vietnam has long enjoyed fine political relations with African countries. Vietnam has proactively and actively worked with the NAM and developing countries to struggle for and safeguard the fundamental principles of the United Nations such as equal sovereignty, non-interference into other countries' internal affairs, non-resort to the use of or threat to use force to ensure the interests of developing countries including Vietnam.

Since 1991, Vietnam and African countries have signed many framework agreements on economic, cultural, and scientific and trade cooperation. Vietnam and African countries are all developing countries that are confronted with economic and financial difficulties, and lack investment capital. Therefore, economic and trade ties still fall much below the fine political relations. Vietnam has diplomatic relations with almost countries in the Middle East and Africa.

Proactive international integration with priority given to economic integration has become one of the focuses of the foreign policy and external activities of Vietnam in a world characterized by deepened globalization and science and technology revolution. Vietnam integrates itself into the regional and international economies under the policy of maximization of internal strength while improving the efficacy of international cooperation, ensuring independence, self-reliance and socialism, defending national interests, safeguarding national security, preserving national cultural identity and protecting the environment. In this process, Vietnam has given high priority to expanding external economic relations, seeking and diversifying markets, making use of capital, managerial skills and advanced science and technology from abroad for national industrialization and modernization.

Vietnam has participated actively and effectively into regional and international organizations, such as the United Nations, ASEAN, APEC, ASEM etc. and is now ready to become the 150th member of the WTO. It can be said that multilateral diplomacy is a shining point in Vietnam's external activities in Doi Moi period. The

outcomes of the diplomatic efforts have helped consolidate and enhance Vietnam's position in international relations, maintain security and facilitate national construction and defense.

UN membership

Vietnam officially joined the UN on 20 September 1977. Since then, the relations between Vietnam and the UN have increasingly developed. Vietnam has assumed some positions and run for various posts in the UN agencies including vice-chairman of the General Assembly in 1997, 2000 and 2003. Vietnam became member of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) - the second important agency of the UN after the Security Council in 1998-2000 term, member of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency for 1997-1999 and 2003-2005 terms, member of the Executive Council of the UNDP and UNFPA in 2000-2002 term, and member of the Human Rights Commission (2001-2003) and Social Development Commission (2001-2005).

Vietnam has actively participated in the negotiations and became member of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in 1998, adhered to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in 1996, became member of the Disarmament Conference (CD) on 17 June 1996. Annually, Vietnam participates in the mechanism of registration and examination of conventional weapons of the UN with a view to exercising one of the confidence-building measures with countries and fulfilling responsibilities of a UN member.

At present, the UN assistance has made significant contribution to Vietnam's social and economic development. At the same time,



the UN has become an important forum for Vietnam to promote its external activities. The role and position of Vietnam in the UN have been enhanced. Vietnam's active participation in the UN has been highly appreciated by UN member countries. This helps Vietnam run for the non-permanent membership of the Security Council for the 2008-2009 term.

Vietnam in ASEAN

During the last over ten years since joining the Association in July 1995, Vietnam has actively contributed to the unity and cooperation in ASEAN, striving for an ASEAN of peace, stability and development. In December 1998, Vietnam successfully hosted the 6th ASEAN Summit in Hanoi. Documents and decisions of the Hanoi Summit, including the Hanoi Declaration and Hanoi Plan of Action (HPA), have clearly defined the directions and concrete measures for cooperation and development in ASEAN in the early years of the new millennium, creating momentum for ASEAN to overcome crisis, helping regain international community's confidence in the role and future development of ASEAN. Vietnam also successfully assumed the role of Chairman of the ASEAN Standing Committee (ASC) and Chairman of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and other ASEAN mechanisms.

Though Vietnam is a new member, the country has actively participated in the Association and played an important role in making effort to maintain peace and stability and promote the Association's development. Vietnam has signed the Treaty to build Southeast Asia into a nuclear weapon free zone (SEANWFZ-Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone) and actively lobbied

nuclear powers to sign the Protocol of the Treaty to enhance its significance. Vietnam has also contributed to building the Declaration of Conduct in the East Sea (DOC) and now worked on the establishment of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).

Vietnam has gradually participated in ASEAN economic integration process, strictly implementing the roadmap for tariff reduction in accordance with the program to build the ASEAN Free Trade Area. In development cooperation, Vietnam has also made special contribution to narrowing the gap among ASEAN members by putting forward the initiative on issuing the Hanoi Declaration on Narrowing the Gap in July 2001 and other projects.

Vietnam has made important contribution to setting up cooperation frameworks between ASEAN and dialogue partners such as ASEAN + 3 with three East Asian countries, ASEAN + 1 between ASEAN and China, Japan, Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand.

It can be said that since joining ASEAN in 1995, Vietnam has made significant contribution towards the goal of an ASEAN of peace, stability and development as well as improvement of ASEAN role and position in the international arena in general and in the Asia-Pacific region in particular.

Vietnam in ASEM

Vietnam has made great contribution to the process of establishing ASEM and is one of the 26 founding members of ASEM in March 1996. Since then, together with other partners in ASEM Vietnam has made efforts to help ASEM process evolve towards the set targets and bring the Asia-Europe ties to a new height with more effective and practical significance for the development of both continents. Vietnam has not only actively implemented agreements reached at four summits in three areas of political dialogue, economic partnership and cooperation in other fields, but also put forth initiatives to diversify cooperation activities in ASEM. Vietnam's representatives in the Board of Governors of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), Asia-Europe Vision Group, ASEM Economic Taskforce, Expert Group on Investment have made active and practical contribution to ASEM cooperation.

In addition, from October 2000 to the end of October 2004, Vietnam assumed the role of an Asian coordinator among four ASEM coordinators. In this regard, Vietnam has done a good job and made practical contribution to the ASEM cooperation process, which was highly appreciated by ASEM members. The most



significant contribution to ASEM by Vietnam was the successful hosting of the Fifth Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM 5) in Hanoi from 8-9 October 2004. This event has helped further substantiate, revitalize and bring Asia-Europe cooperation process to a new height.

Vietnam in APEC

Vietnam joined APEC in November 1998. Since then Vietnam has actively participated in cooperation programs on free trade and trade-investment facilitation as well as technical cooperation within APEC. Eight years after joining APEC, Vietnam has achieved important results to intensify international economic integration and strengthen multi-sided cooperation with countries in this dynamic region. Vietnam has been hosting the Vietnam APEC 2006 and is holding the 14th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM) in Hanoi in November 2006.

WTO accession

Aware of the role and significance of the WTO towards global economic development in general and economic growth of each country in particular, Vietnam has made efforts to join the WTO at an early date, considering this an important step in Vietnam's international economic integration process. With the conclusion of multilateral negotiations for WTO accession and all bilateral negotiations including one with the US - the last partner, Vietnam is ready to officially become the 150th member of the organization. The Vietnamese Government has actively been reforming its legal system and restructuring the national economy to be compatible with international norms and practices as well as the fundamental principles of the WTO so as to rapidly adapt to the regulations of the organization.

Global issues

Deeply aware that the world is now facing a range of global issues that no country can successfully address alone, Vietnam has worked closely with other countries and regional and international organizations to jointly deal with common challenges such as pandemics, poverty, transnational crimes, environment pollution and drug trafficking. Notably, since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, Vietnam has actively participated in the joint efforts by various countries to strengthen cooperation to counter terrorism on bilateral and multi-lateral basis with a view to eliminating the root causes of terrorist threats to security and stability of each nation.

Vietnam has also actively supported and stood side by side with the world people to safeguard peace, prevent threats of war and arm races, contributing to setting up a fair and democratic international political and economic order. These efforts have clearly shown Vietnam's sense of responsibility towards friends in the region and the world, making contribution to the common cause of the world people striving for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

Entering the 21st century, the world continues to witness unpredictable and complex developments with opportunities and challenges intertwined. After nearly two decades of Doi Moi, Vietnam now enjoys great opportunities for development, i.e. stable political and economic situation, increasingly enhanced strength and position, the world's prevailing trend of peace, stability and cooperation for development. Besides, Vietnam has to face numerous challenges including the danger of being further lagged behind other countries in the region and the world in economic development, and the threat of terrorism.

In addition to state external activities, the intensive and diversified activities carried out by the Party, National Assembly and mass organizations have contributed greatly to improving the effectiveness and quality of international cooperation, diversifying resources and helping maintain and consolidate solidarity and friendship with all countries, political parties across the world, organizations struggling for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress, expanding relations with ruling parties so as to take advantage of all-round support for the national construction and defense of the Vietnamese Motherland.



CHAPTER IV

POLICIES TOWARDS THE OVERSEAS VIETNAMESE



The overseas Vietnamese constitute an integral part of the Vietnamese community. For a long time, due to different reasons the Vietnamese people have had to go abroad to earn a living. Therefore, Vietnamese communities have been established in many places where fine national traditions are preserved. The Vietnamese people have integrated well into the society of the host countries.

National traditions

The Vietnamese nation has many fine traditions, which have been inherited and preserved for thousands of years. These fine traditions provide a source of strength for Vietnam. No matter where they live and work, all the Vietnamese people always keep in the back of their mind their origin and nation, protect and promote traditional cultural values of the Vietnamese people.

The Vietnamese community abroad has made much contribution to the cause of national liberation for national independence and unification. Regardless of nationalities, religions and social status every Vietnamese who wishes to contribute to building a peaceful, independent, unified and strong country of Vietnam with rich people, just, democratic and advanced society can find a place in the national unity. The State of Vietnam always attaches great importance to the overseas Vietnamese communities and consistently implements the policy of great national unity.

Current situation and trend

The number of Vietnamese people living abroad is about 2.7 million in over 90 countries and territories; over 80% of them are now residing in developed countries. In today's trend of integration, more and more Vietnamese people go abroad to work, study and reunite with their families. That results in the setting up of new Vietnamese communities in different regions. The overseas Vietnamese communities have great scientific and economic potentials as well as technical and managerial expertise. They have relations with international enterprises and organizations and the ability to look for partners and can serve as a bridge with enterprises and organizations inside Vietnam.

Contribution by the overseas Vietnamese

Nowadays, together with encouraging changes in Vietnam, many positive changes can be seen in the activities of the overseas Vietnamese communities towards the motherland especially in investment and trade.

Since the launch of Doi Moi, the overseas Vietnamese communities have invested in the country under various forms. In addition, they have contributed to the State and assisted their families and relatives in Vietnam. Many intellectuals, managers and experienced experts in various fields have come back to Vietnam to work or been invited to work in the country. The overseas Vietnamese communities have been provided with favorable conditions to build up and expand their increasingly close relations with their loved ones, families and the country.

Fully aware that the overseas Vietnamese communities are an integral part of the national community, the State of Vietnam has elaborated policies that give incentives to the overseas Vietnamese, providing them with favorable conditions to deepen their relations with the motherland.

CPV Politburo's Resolution 36/NQ-TW on the affairs related to the overseas Vietnamese and the Government Action Plan issued by Decision No 110/2004/QĐ-TTg on 23/6/2004 represented a breakthrough and a fundamental transformation in guiding the implementation of the work on overseas Vietnamese. The Resolution points out that the work on overseas Vietnamese is the responsibility of the entire political system and people. To effectively implement this task, the Resolution sets out four major clusters of tasks as follows:

- Create favourable conditions and give support for overseas Vietnamese to stabilize their life, integrate into the society of residing countries and maintain close links to the homeland; renew and



diversify mobilizing activities aimed at uniting overseas Vietnamese in mutual assistance, encouraging them to turn towards the motherland on the basis of voluntarism and in conformity with laws and customs of the host countries.

- Improve existing and issue new policies on talents attraction to maximize overseas Vietnamese brainpower to the cause of national development; improve the existing and introduce new policies to encourage overseas Vietnamese to invest and do business in Vietnam;

- Increase investment in the programme of teaching and learning the Vietnamese language for overseas Vietnamese, especially for the younger generation; strongly reform communication and information activities to help overseas Vietnamese better understand the country's situation and the policies of the Party and State.

- Develop the rewarding policy for overseas Vietnamese, put in place the award mechanism for overseas Vietnamese individuals and organizations with meritorious contributions to strengthening the Vietnamese community and building the country; improve the organizational structure, staffing and facilities of the Committee for Overseas Vietnamese to meet the requirements of the new context; Party organizations, State agencies at central and local levels, the Vietnam Fatherland Front and mass organizations, in accordance with their tasks and functions, take an active part in overseas Vietnamese affairs.



Necessary information for the Vietnamese living abroad

Protection of citizens: On the basis of Vietnamese laws and international conventions that Vietnam accedes to, the Vietnamese State exercises the protection of all legitimate rights of overseas Vietnamese. Diplomatic Representative Missions and Consulate Generals abroad are responsible for exercising the protection of the Vietnamese community living in that country. To ensure that the protection of citizens conform to the host country's law and international law and practices, the State of Vietnam has acceded to international conventions related to protection of citizens, such as the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. In addition, Vietnam has signed Consular Agreement and Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement with a number of countries. This provides the legal basis for the effective protection of the Vietnamese citizens.

To implement the protection mentioned above, Representative Missions of Vietnam abroad are responsible for assisting the community in providing necessary documents, legalizing the presence of the Vietnamese community in the host country; representing Vietnamese citizens to protect their legitimate interest before competent authorities of the host country in business activities and in other fields; contacting relevant agencies of the host country for fact-finding and solutions to help the Vietnamese citizens in cases of arrest, detention, fine, deportation or assets seized by a foreign country.

Assist the community in maintaining close ties with the homeland:

Competent agencies of Vietnam have issued a number of legal documents facilitating the maintenance of close links with the homeland (Decision 875/TTg dated 21 November 1996 on repatriation, Decree No 05/2000/ND-CP dated 3 March 2000 on exit and entry of the Vietnamese citizens, which contained some reforms in the procedures for repatriation, as well as rights and obligations of the repatriates). Such procedures as issuance or change of travel documents or other necessary documents for overseas Vietnamese to apply for residence, marriage, birth registration, death declaration or inheritance in the host country have been further specified (Decree No 68/2002/ND-CP dated 10 July 2002 guiding the implementation of the Law on Marriage and Family with regard to marriage and family relations with foreign elements, and Decree No 83/1988/ND-CP dated 10 October 1998 on registration of civic status).

Equal and preferential treatment: Decision 114/2001/QĐ-TTg (31/7/2001), which revises and supplements some provisions of Decision 210/1999/QĐ-TTg (1999) provides for uniform application

of service prices to overseas Vietnamese, Vietnamese holding foreign passports and accompanying family members as to local Vietnamese. Furthermore, the Vietnamese Government offers overseas Vietnamese many incentives for their investment and business in Vietnam in terms of preferential land rent, loans, interest rates, investment credit guarantees, reduction in corporate personal income tax, personal income tax, additional income tax and tariff on machinery import.

The issue of ownership of property attached to land of overseas Vietnamese was institutionalized in the 2003 Land Law. To facilitate overseas Vietnamese's life and business in their homeland, more liberal and conducive regulations in this respect will be introduced. Before that the amended land law had allowed overseas Vietnamese, who invest in Vietnam for a long term and need housing during the investment period, to buy houses with land use rights. The same treatment is also applied to overseas Vietnamese making meritorious contributions to the country, cultural activists and scientists who now frequently come back for activities in Vietnam.

Employment of talents: The Government has adopted policies to invite overseas Vietnamese who are experts and intellectuals to work in Vietnam. Decision 567/TTg (18/11/1993) is one example according to which Vietnamese intellectuals who are living overseas, highly experienced in science and technology management and enthusiastic to contribute to the country are invited to serve as advisors to domestic industries. At present, there are overseas Vietnamese in the Prime Minister's advisor group.



Right to be informed about the country: Overseas Vietnamese, especially those who have relatives living in Vietnam, and organizations who intend to invest and do business in Vietnam have a great demand for information about the economic, political and social situation as well as investment and business policies in the country. It is, therefore, important for them to be provided with accurate information. In addition, a growing number of young overseas Vietnamese has little knowledge about their origin and the history of their nation. The provision of relevant information along with cultural activities will help build up their national pride and patriotism and enable them to contribute to the conservation and development of national traditions among overseas Vietnamese communities.

In response to the demand of overseas Vietnamese communities, information has been provided via major communication channels as follows: **1-** television, radio and internet; **2-** publications including newspapers and books sent from Vietnam; **3-** performances in foreign countries by Vietnamese art troupes, cultural and art exchange programmes, exhibitions, conferences and tour packages to Vietnam.

Chapter V

ECONOMY AND TOURISM



ECONOMY

Overview of the Vietnamese economy

Vietnam embarked on Doi Moi policy in 1986. Since then, the country has seen dramatic changes, first and foremost in the economic thinking. The centrally-planned economy was replaced by the socialist-oriented market economy; national industrialization and modernization were initiated together with the policy of multilateralization and diversification of external economic relations, openness and international integration. Doi Moi process helped Vietnam rapidly reduce hunger and poverty rate, lay the initial foundation for an industrialized economy and maintain a high growth rate and a relatively equal society.

The 1987 Foreign Investment Law was the first legal document that helped form the legal framework for the Vietnamese market economy. In 1991, the Private Enterprise Law and Corporate Law were introduced. The amended 1992 Constitution affirmed the existence and development of a multi-sector economy under a market mechanism, including the foreign-invested sector. This was followed by the promulgation of a number of laws essential for the formation of the market economy, including Land Law, Tax Law, Bankruptcy Law, Environment Law, and Labour Code, etc. Hundreds of ordinances and decrees were enacted by the Government to guide the implementation of these laws for national socio-economic development.

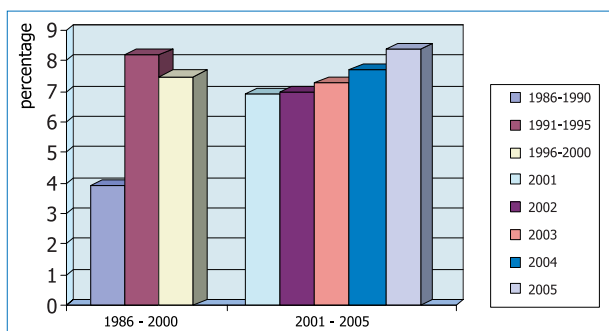
Along with the law-making process, market economy institutions have also been established. It is Government policy to eliminate the

central planning mechanism, emphasize monetary - market relations, focus on economic management measures and establish an array of financial institutions, banks and basic markets for money, labour, goods and land, etc. The administrative reform was promoted so as to improve economic competitiveness and to help create a more favourable business environment and mobilize all resources for economic growth. The political will of the Vietnamese Government is also reflected in the strategy for administrative reform in 2001-2010, which emphasizes the simplification of administrative procedures, amendment of laws and improvement of economic management. These changes will help establish a dynamic mechanism to meet the development requirements of the country in the new context.

Overall, tremendous economic reforms taking place over nearly two decades of Doi Moi have yielded encouraging results. Vietnam has created an ever more competitive and dynamic economic environment. The multi-sector economy has been encouraged to develop, thus mobilizing effectively all social resources for economic growth. External economic relations have been expanded and the flow of foreign direct investment increased. Export of goods and labour, tourism industry and remittances from overseas Vietnamese have been strongly promoted to generate increasing foreign earnings for Vietnam.

As Vietnam's GDP continuously increases, the economic structure has also witnessed notable changes. From 1990 to 2005, the contribution of agriculture sector dropped from 38.7% to 20.89%, whilst that of the industry and construction was up from 22.7% to 41.03%. The service sector stayed relatively constant, 38.6% in

Economic growth rate 1986 - 2005



1990 and 38.08% in 2005. In each sector, the structure has also positively shifted. The agriculture sector has seen a decline in the role of agriculture and forestry from 84.4% to 77.7% during the period 1990-2003, while fisheries gained a higher share. In the industrial sector, the proportion of the processing industry was up from 12.3% in 1990 to 20.8% in 2003 with improved product quality. In the service sector, the share of high-quality services is increasing rapidly such as finance, banking, insurance, tourism and so on.

The economy is well on the road to a multi-sector model operating according to market mechanism under state regulations. This means that the private sector enjoys freedom to develop in all areas not specifically forbidden by law. The legal framework has been revised to facilitate gradual shift from the former centrally-planned economy to a market one, which unleashes production capacity, mobilizing resources effectively and creating a momentum for economic growth and development.

Upon the amendment of the Enterprise Law in 2000, private businesses have enjoyed strong encouragement for development. This Law institutionalized the freedom of all individuals to doing business in areas not prohibited by law. It also removed administrative obstacles that hampered enterprises such as complex licensing procedures or fees, etc. In the 2000-2004 period, 73,000 private enterprises were registered, up by 3.75 times against the period 1991-1999. By 2004, the total number of private enterprises operating under the Enterprise Law amounted to 150,000 with the total capital of VND 182 billion. From 1991 to 2003, the private sector's share in GDP was up from 3.1% to 4.1%; other non-state sectors

increased from 4.4% to 4.5%; and foreign-invested sector from 6.4% to 14%; and the household sector was down from 35.9% to 31.2%. 2005 Enterprise Law, which was applied to both domestic and foreign-invested enterprises and came into effect on July 1st 2006, provides more encouragement through equal rights and obligations of enterprises for all ownership forms.

With a view to raising the productivity of the state-owned sector, policies have been formulated with concrete measures to adjust and reorganize SOEs. The management of SOEs' finance and state equity in SOEs has been strengthened and the process of SOEs' equitization has been well monitored. As the multi-sector economy has further developed, the proportion of SOEs in GDP decreased from 40.1% in 1991 to 38.3% in 2003. The collective sector dropped from 10.2% to 7.9% during the same period. In 2002 and 2003, 1,655 SOEs were listed for reorganization and reform. The figure for 2004 and 2005 were 882 and 413 respectively.

Vietnam has succeeded in translating economic achievements into social progress. Benefits of Doi Moi process, for instance, are delivered to the majority of the population on a relatively equal basis. Economic growth is combined with the improvement of life quality and development of healthcare and education. The Human Development Index of Vietnam increased from 0.583 in 1994 with a rank of 120/174 to 108/177 in 2005. The average life expectancy was raised from around 50 in the 1960s to 72 at present. The poor household ratio dropped from 70% in 1980 to below 7% in 2005.

Foreign trade and international economic integration

The policy of openness and industrialization has opened up new opportunities for Vietnam to make full use of its inherent comparative advantages, i.e. vast natural resources, abundant workforce and low labour cost. These advantages are being exploited to raise Vietnam's exports, which generate an increasing flow of foreign income for economic growth and industrialization. Over the years of Doi Moi process, Vietnam's export growth has averaged 20%. From around US\$ half a million before the introduction of Doi Moi policy, the total export volume of Vietnam reached US\$ 26 billion in 2004 and US\$ 32.23 billion in 2005.

The structure of exports has also seen a positive change. During the 1991-1995 period, major exports of Vietnam were crude oil, fisheries products, rice, textiles, coffee, forestry products, rubber, peanuts and cashew nuts. In 2005, Vietnam was mainly exporting crude oil, garment and textile, footwear, seafood, woodwork, elec-



tronics appliances and rice. This structure reflects the rise in processing and manufactured products and decline in unprocessed products, including agricultural, fisheries, forestry products and minerals. Despite this shift, unprocessed export products still make up a large proportion. Therefore, greater efforts are needed to rapidly raise the proportion of industrial exports.

The policy of "multilateralization and diversification" of international relations has helped Vietnam integrate more deeply into the world and regional economy. Before 1990, Vietnam had trade relations with only 40 partners. Now with the foreign policy of openness, which is to befriend and cooperate with all countries in the world on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, Vietnam has established diplomatic relations with 170 countries, and has signed multilateral and bilateral trade agreements with over 80 nations. The country has MFN status with more than 70 countries and territories, including countries and regions with large capital resources, high technologies and vast markets, such as the United States, Japan, the EU and newly industrialized economies in East Asia.

Following the introduction of Doi Moi, Vietnam signed an economic and trade cooperation agreement with the EU in 1992, joined ASEAN in 1995, AFTA in 2001 and APEC in 1998. Vietnam also signed the Bilateral Trade Agreement with the United States in 2000. Vietnam started negotiations for WTO accession in 1995 and is now ready to become the 150th member of the WTO.

Foreign direct investment

In December 1987, the Foreign Direct Investment Law of Vietnam was introduced to help form the basic legal framework for foreign investment activities in Vietnam. To better respond to business requirements and feedback from foreign investors, this Law was amended and supplemented several times, notably in 1996 and 2002, which created a more open and attractive environment to draw foreign investors into crucial industries such as export-oriented processing and manufacturing, and key economic zones of the country.

2005 Investment Law and 2005 Enterprise Law, which came into effect on July 1st 2006, have been a significant progress in creating an attractive environment. Foreign investors now can invest in any area not prohibited by laws, instead of areas allowed by state agencies. This principle has been applied for the domestic private sector since 2000; now it is applied to the foreign investment.

In addition, the Vietnamese Government made a number of adjust-

ments and conducted reforms to create more incentives for foreign investors such as tackling business obstacles, lowering Personal Income Tax, adopting one-stop-shop policy, reducing telecommunication tariffs to gain competitiveness over other countries in the region, improving infrastructure, expanding investment areas, including those previously closed to foreign investors, such as telecommunication, insurance and supermarkets, etc. As such, Vietnam has become an attractive venue for foreign investment.

The aforesaid measures were conducive to recovery and rapid increase of the FDI inflows in 2005. The sharp rise of FDI is also attributed to political, economic and security stability, high economic growth rate, continuation of economic reform in accordance with market economy principles, improved living standards leading to higher domestic demand, greater international integration and the emergence in the international market of Vietnamese trademarks and Vietnam's growing reputation.

Over the past years, Vietnam has drawn increasing inflows of FDI. From a negligible figure of 1986, FDI into Vietnam reached US\$ 3.2 billion in 1997. Due to the negative impacts of the 1997 Asian financial crisis, the FDI flow then saw a drop during 1998-2000 period, with only US\$ 1.58 billion in 1999. In the past few years, Vietnam has enjoyed a recovery of FDI, from US\$ 2.6 billion in 2001 to US\$ 5.8 billion in 2005. FDI not only generates profits for foreign investors but also represents a significant capital source which comes along with technology transfer and advanced business skills. FDI helps better tap national potential, creates tens of thousands of jobs and raises professional skills for Vietnamese workers.





Current situation and trend

In the past years, Vietnam's tourism has enjoyed great progress. Throughout the period 1991-2001, foreign tourism to Vietnam increased by 7.8 times, from 300,000 to 2.33 millions visitors. The number of domestic tourists jumped 8 times, from 1.5 million to 11.7 million. Revenue from tourism has also increased by 9.4 times, reaching VND 20,500 billion in 2001 (about US\$ 1.37 billion). This area employed 220,000 people and helped create tens of thousands of spin-off jobs. Vietnam's tourism has developed into a spearhead area that takes advantage effectively of the natural conditions, ecology, tradition, culture and history of Vietnam.

The target of Vietnam's tourism strategy in 2001-2010 is to catch up with the region and make Vietnam a prime destination of the region by 2010. To this end, the growth rate of Vietnam's tourism needs reach 11-11.5% per annum. Accordingly, the set targets for 2010 are 6 million foreign tourists and 26 million Vietnamese, bringing about US\$ 4.5 billion in revenue. In fact, foreign arrivals reached 3,467,757 in 2005, an increase of 18.4% compared to that of 2004. China, the U.S, South Korea, Taiwan and Japan are the biggest markets for Vietnam's tourism industry.

Among the key plans of the Vietnamese Nation Administration of Tourism (VNAT) by 2010 are the five national projects, namely the Central Heritage Road, the Central Highlands Green Road, the Legendary Road, the Key Coastal Road and the East-West Corridor (Nghe An - Binh Thuan - Tay Nguyen - Laos - Thailand-Myanmar). These projects will help build Vietnam's tourism into a key economic sector for Central Vietnam and Central Highlands as well as the whole nation.

Development of tourism zones

The Northern tourism zone consists of provinces from Ha Giang to Ha Tinh. Hanoi is the center and the key axis is Hanoi - Hai Phong-Ha Long.

The Northern Central tourism area comprises provinces from Quang Binh to Quang Ngai. Hue and Da Nang serve as the centers and the key axis is Quang Tri - Hue - Da Nang - Quang Nam.

The Southern Central and Southern tourism area consists of provinces from Kon Tum to Ca Mau. Ho Chi Minh City is the center, and the key axes are Ho Chi Minh City - Can Tho - Ha Tien -Phu Quoc and Ho Chi Minh City - Vung Tau - Phan Thiet.

World Heritages in Vietnam

Ha Long Bay

At the 18th Session of the UNESCO's Council of World Heritage held on 17 December 1994 in Thailand, Ha long Bay was officially recognized as one of the World's Natural Heritages. This title confers formal international recognition on this site. In 2000, UNESCO recognized Ha long Bay as the World Heritage for the second time for its geological and geomorphologic values.



Situated in the North East of Vietnam as a part of the Tonkin Gulf, Ha Long Bay covers a total area of 1,553 km² with 1,969 islands of various sizes tectonically aged 250 to 280 million years. This site is strewn with stone islands and famous for its grottoes. Ha long Bay looks like a huge vivid painting that embraces stone islands and breath-taking caves such as Thien Cung, Dau Go, Sung Sot, and Tam Cung, etc.

Also a site of great biodiversity, Ha Long Bay boasts such typical eco-systems as mangroves, corals, lagoons and tropical forests, and thousands of various animals and plants, including rare species that exist nowhere else.

Phong Nha - Ke Bang

Vietnam's Phong Nha-Ke Bang national park was recognized as a world natural heritage by UNESCO's Council of World Heritage at its 27th Session held in Paris from June 30-July 5, 2003.

Located on the north side of Truong Son range in Quang Binh province, Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park covers an area of 85,000 hectares. This park is recognized as one of the two largest limestone sites of the world, with a high bio-diversity and an array of different splendid grottoes and a primeval tropical forest covering more than 95% of the site's area. This is home to 38 endangered species listed in the Vietnam Red Book, 25 species in the World Conservation Union's Red List (IUCN) and 13 Vietnamese endemic species. The site is also the habitat of the three newly-discovered animals, which are Sao La (*Pseudoryx nghetinhensis*), Giant Muntjac and Truong Son Muntjac (*Muntiacus truongsongensis*), in which Sao La and Giant Muntjac are of international significance.

In addition to the outstanding geological and geomorphologic values recognized by UNESCO, a recent report of the British Royal Grotto Association mission says that this site comprises more than 30 grottoes with the total length of over 100 km, in which Phong Nha-Ke Bang grotto alone deserves a place in the list of World Wonders with the seven "bests": the longest grotto, the widest and highest mouth, most beautiful underground lakes; widest and most wonderful dry caves; most splendid stalactite; longest underground river; widest and most amazing stone field and sand bank.

Apart from its natural values, this site also prides itself on invaluable cultural legacies, customs and unique features of tens of thousands of different ethnic minority inhabitants. Among them are Ruc and Arem people who are surrounded by limestone mountains and

live on hunting and collecting. The Sach people reside on lower land with a more advanced civilization. Ma Lieng people are also living on high mountains. These indigenous people still preserve and regularly practice their unique rites, such as the Worshipping Ceremony for Bumper Crop, the Ceremony for New Crop and the Ceremony of March's Full-Moon Day. Traditional forms of entertainment like Folklore singing and other customs such as wedding, proposal, worshipping and safety-and-peace-seeking ceremony remain popular in daily life here.

Ancient Capital of Hue

On 11th December 1993, the UNESCO recognized the architectural ensemble of Hue as a World Cultural Heritage. That is the first time a Vietnam's city ever received such a title.

The ancient capital of Hue was the capital of the Nguyen Dynasty (1802-1945), the final feudal regime of Vietnam. Situated 638 km to the south of Hanoi, only with 6777 ha in area and 280,000 in population, this historical ancient capital has become one cultural and tourism center of Vietnam and the world.

The most amazing thing about Hue is the blend of royal-folk architecture and romantic nature. This romance is all evident in the beauty of the Huong river, Ngu mountain, chanties and folklore songs, ancient citadels, palaces, temples, pagodas, ancient garden houses, special cuisine only found in Hue, court music and dancing, Hue chanties on the River Huong and especially in the souls of the people here.

Beautiful nature, ancient architecture, and elegant people are combined together to make Hue a heaven of poems, music and paintings, and a World Heritage that serves as an everlasting inspiration for generations of artists.



Hoi An Ancient Town

Hoi An Ancient Town was recognized as a World Heritage at the 22nd Session of UNESCO's Council of World Heritage held in Marakesh, Morocco in December 1999.

Lying on the coast of Central Vietnam, surrounded by the quiet Thu Bon river, Hoi An has been a renowned destination for many decades with its ancient features and attraction. After its foundation in the 15th century, Hoi An port quickly became a big commercial center in the southern part of Vietnam. The town is now full of vestiges of Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese, Dutch and Indian people who came here for business or permanent residence and erected lots of pagodas, etc.

Today, the original architecture of Hoi An remains roughly unchanged with an array of various constructions, including houses, club-houses, assembly halls, temples, pagodas, wells, bridges, family worshipping places, ports and markets, etc. The traditional lifestyle with time-honoured customs and cultural activities are well maintained. The town is also a living museum of architecture and urban lifestyle. The town is also decorated by numerous tile-roofed ancient houses built hundreds of years ago covered by moss. The Bridge Pagoda (Chua Cau), the most stunning construction of Hoi An, was built by the Japanese during the very first days of the town. Clay tombs of the Cham people are dated back to the 13th-15th century. Hoi An's touch of romance and its ancient spirit are evident in ancient china glaze plates, glittering lanterns on a full-moon night, quiet streets and unique dishes of Hoi An such as Cao Lau noodle, dumpling cake, and Quai Vac cake.



My Son Sanctuary

Not far from Hoi An is the My Son Sanctuary of the ancient Champa Kingdom, also in Quang Nam province. My Son was recognized as a World Heritage at the 22nd session of the UNESCO's



Council of World Heritage held in Marakesh, Morocco in December 1999.

Fierce wars had destroyed most of the Sanctuary, including more than 50 temples, towers and steles. Only about 20 temples are still standing today. However, that is enough to make My Son a World Heritage to be preserved. Here, archeologists have found relics of a wooden temple dated back to late 4th century under Siva Bhadravaman I regime, which was then burnt down. Today, My Son still preserves vestiges of a unique culture, and many architectural traces of different regimes, with the oldest one of the 13th century.

Nha nhạc (the Royal Refined Music) of Hue

On 7th, November 2003, the Royal Refined Music was proclaimed by UNESCO as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity, the first title of this kind Vietnam has ever received.



The Royal Refined Music was first introduced in the 13th century, but only reached its peak under the Nguyen Dynasty. The Royal Refined Music had long enjoyed a preference as an official form of royal music. It was recognized as the symbol of a powerful and long-lasting monarchy and as an indispensable part of all ceremonies. Each year, the Royal Refined Music was played in nearly 100 different ceremonies.

Varied in its themes, the Royal Refined Music is considered a means of communication to express the respect to gods and kings.

Compared to other forms of art, the Royal Refined Music boasted high artistic value, first and foremost because the court had enough political power and finance to bring together talented composers and players from around the country. Given favourable conditions to practice and improve performance skills, they became professional artists in composing and performance.

After being recognized as a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity, the Royal Refined Music performances have been held in France and Belgium, etc. and were highly valued by the audience and art-culture researchers.



The Cultural Space of Gong in the Central Highlands

On 25th November 2005, the UNESCO decided to recognize "The cultural space of gong in the Central Highlands" of Vietnam as "Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity".

The Central Highlands gong culture emerged from long-standing cultural and historical traditions of ethnic communities living in the region. Illustrating talented cultural creativeness of ethnic minorities in the Central Highlands, the gong culture is level to other masterpieces of human creativity. The ethnic groups in the Central Highlands have obtained thorough understanding and fine techniques of gong usage in their culture and music. As for ethnic minorities in the Central Highlands, gongs and gong culture present a means to affirm the community and its cultural identities. As time went by, gongs have become an attractive and appealing symbol of the culture of the Central Highlands.

The custodians of the space of gong culture in the Central Highlands are the ethnic groups of Bahnar, Brau, Chu Ru, K'Ho, E De, Gia Rai, Gie-Trieng, Ma, M'nong, Ro Mam, Xo Dang, Cham, Raglai, Bru-Van Kieu, Ta Oi, Coh, Hre, Cho Ro, X'tieng and Co Tu.

The Central Highlands' gongs, together with the epics, the treasure of folklore, folk sculpture and folk knowledge, constitute the unique cultural heritage that have attached to the life of the highlanders over thousand years.

Other Heritages

Apart from internationally recognized heritages, many other forms of Vietnam's arts are being studied to be restored and introduced for recognition. Among them are Water Puppetry, Quan Ho singing, Ca Tru singing (literally "singing for reward"), Central Highlands Epics, etc.



Chapter VI

CULTURE AND SOCIETY



Family

In the Vietnamese traditional society, a typical family has three or four generations living together. With the view "more children, more fortunes", many families want to have lots of children. Influenced by Confucianism and the feudal view which favors men, men play the most important roles in the family and always have the final say. Feudal ethics shape women by requiring their obedience to their fathers during childhood, to their husbands when married and to their sons (in case the husband dies) and never able to get married again.

Since the national reunification, the State of Vietnam has adopted a number of legal documents, notably the Law on Marriage and Family, in order to make family relations more equal. Different measures have also been taken to raise the awareness of the public and change the obsolete attitude of men's superiority over women, ensure gender equality and fight for the legitimate rights of women.

Today, the Vietnamese family model tends to be narrowed down to two or three generations. Most couples have only two children. The advocacy for men's superiority over women is weakening and gradually being eliminated. However, the time-honoured tradition of "respect for the elderly and love for the children" has been maintained and advocated in each and every Vietnamese family.

Costume

Most ethnic groups in the Vietnamese territory have their own costumes that reflect their unique cultural identities. Most of these cos-



tumes are decorated with vivid patterns in contrast colours: black-white, black-red, green-red or green-white. Many costumes have striking patterns that give a strong impression of a mysterious beauty. Most costumes are made of ramie, silk, pineapple yarn or cotton. These materials are fine, durable and sweat-absorbing, suitable to wear in tropical climate.

The traditional costume of Vietnamese men was white pants, brown tops with scarf and ordinary sandals or wooden clogs called "guoc". The official costume for men includes velvet or cotton long dress and turban. For women, costumes are more complicated and colourful with black skirt, white brassieres, four-panel dress with "crow-beak" scarf and pergularia-like belt. The official costume includes three layers of dress. The first one is the velvet four-panel dress in dark colour or light brown, then a light yellow dress underneath and a rosy one. Wearing this costume, the woman only fastens the buttons below her underarms, and the upper part is opened to show the three colours of their dresses. Beneath these three dresses is a red brassiere. They wear a special large conical hat called "non", which gives them an elegant look and makes Vietnamese women graceful and sweet.

Today, the official costumes of the Vietnamese people have changed. Suits have replaced the traditional costume of Vietnamese men. The long dress or Ao Dzai, which was first worn under Lord Nguyen Phuc Khoat's regime, has been modified to better suit Vietnamese women and is used in many important ceremonies of the year. The modern Ao Dzai is a tunic slit to the waist with the two loose panels falling down to mid shin. This dress which is really suitable to the small build of a Vietnamese woman reveals the hidden beautiful curves of her body.

Currently, with the expanded exchanges among different world cultures, Vietnamese clothing becomes more diverse and fashionable reflecting a higher level of integration, especially that of urban youth.



Major festivals

Festivals are typical folklore cultural activities organized in all regions of Vietnam. Such festivals bring peace to the heart and mind of the Vietnamese people, wipe out their pressures from daily life, and bring them closer to nature and the motherland. As an agricultural country, most Vietnamese festivals are held during leisure times, which are spring and autumn. There are also national festivals for all Vietnamese people, including the Lunar New Year (Tet Nguyen Dan), July Full-Moon, August Full-Moon or Hung Temple festivals.

The Lunar New Year (Tet Nguyen Dan):

The Lunar New Year is the biggest festival of the entire Vietnamese nation. This is the time for the whole family to get together and enjoy traditional food, visit relatives, friends and colleagues and wish them a happy new year. As perceived by all people, Tet is the end of the old year, the wrap-up of misfortunes to open up a new year of good opportunities. The New Year Eve is the most sacred moment when all family members worship and pay tribute to genii and ancestors. Apart from the New Year Eve Worshipping, other traditional rites such as "the first visitor of the Year", "buds picking" and "lucky money" are still practiced today.

Hung King National Worshipping Festival:

March 10th of the Lunar Calendar is the day of Hung King National Worshipping Festival. This event is celebrated every where in the country and abroad where there are large Vietnamese communities. The major celebration is held in Phu Tho, the first capital of Vietnam under Van Lang Dynasty and the location of the Temple for 18 Hung Kings. During this event, traditional offerings are prepared, including lanterns, incense sticks, wine, betel, areca-nut, water, Chung and Day (Square and Round Sticky Rice) Cakes. In recent years, this event has been considered the National Festival with high formalities, including official music, official costumes and the participation of officials of the Party, State, Government, and Phu Tho province.



The July Full-Moon Festival (Trung Nguyen Festival):

According to Buddhism, on this day, spirits of the dead come to the living world to enjoy offerings. Most families hold worshipping rites for ancestors. Upon the end of the rite, votive papers are burnt for spirits of the dead. Other offerings, including soup, parched rice, dry pancake and fruits are also prepared for wandering spirits, who are not worshiped by relatives. After the rite, offerings are given to the children as a wish of luck.

The August Full-Moon Festival:

This Festival is held mainly for children. Vietnamese families, especially those with little children, always prepare for this festival. On the night of the Festival, most families have a tray of specialties for members to get around and enjoy the Moon's beauty. The specialties are mainly fruits and confectionery formed like animals. During the festival, adults usually buy toys for children. The atmosphere of the festival night is enjoyable with the laughter of children, the light of the Moon, lanterns, and candles of many kinds and children's dancing and singing, such as Lantern Carrying Dance or Lion dance, etc.



Literature

Vietnamese Literature has been developed with a unique identity since the early days of the nation. As a country of multi ethnic groups with different literatures, Vietnam boasts a literature of multi-identities.

Traditional Literature: Including folklore literature, classical Chinese (Han) and Nom (Vietnamese scripts modified from classical Chinese scripts) literature.

Folklore literature was born as early as the primitive time during work and struggle for a living. It was passed down from one generation to another by the words of mouth and existed in various forms, including folk-tales, mythologies, epics, legends, fairy-tales,

funny stories, poetic tales, folklore verses and quizzes, etc.

- Classical Chinese Literature: The classical Chinese scripts were first used in Vietnam during the first period of Northern rule. After gaining national independence in 938, Vietnamese feudal regimes, with high spirit of independence, developed their own literature and used classical Chinese as a means of transmission. There are a number of masterpieces in classical Chinese preserved till today. Among them are Deity's poem by Ly Thuong Kiet, Proclamation to Generals and Soldiers by Tran Hung Dao, and Dai Viet History (Dai Viet su ky) by Le Van Huu.

- Nom Literature: Nom scripts were modified from classical Chinese. Nom Literature first appeared in the 8th century, reached its peak in the 18th century and lived on to the 20th century. Famous works now still remain, including Proclamation of Victory over the Wu by



Nguyen Trai, A Nationwide Collection of Poems with 254 poems by Nguyen Trai, a World Man of Culture, Hong Duc Nationwide Collection of Poems by King Le Thanh Tong, Bach Van Poem Collection by Nguyen Binh Khiem, Laments of a Warrior's Wife by Dang Tran Con or verses reflecting the aspiration for gender equality by the "Queen of Nom poetry" Ho Xuan Huong, etc. The most famous

works of this period was The Story of Kieu by great poet Nguyen Du. In addition, there were historic books written in Nom such as Complete Works of Dai Viet History (Dai Viet Su Ky Toan Thu) by Phan Phu Tien, Ngo Sy Lien and Vu Quynh or History of the Le Dynasty by Le Quy Don.

Contemporary literature: The introduction of the National Language (Quoc Ngu) was the foundation for Contemporary Literature or Modern Literature. The first works using the National Language were the fictions "Who can do that?", "The grass teased by wind" by Ho Bieu Chanh, "To Tam" by Hoang Ngoc Phach, "Watermelon" by Nguyen Trong Thuat, and "The collection of folktales" by Truong Vinh Ky. The Vietnamese Modern Literature has been strongly developed with the introduction of a series of works in the national language by famous writers, including Tan Da, The Lu, Ngo Tat To, Nguyen Cong Hoan, Nguyen Hong, Xuan Dieu, Huy Can, Luu Trong Lu, and Nam Cao, etc. During the 1945-1975 period, the literature works reflected

the nation's aspiration for peace and independence, calling on the people to rise up for national liberation and reunification.

Since the reunification, in pursuit of the policy to build a "modern culture with strong national identity", Vietnamese artists and writers have been seeking to reflect various aspects of the social life in their works. Their writings help fight wrong-doings and call upon the whole nation to build a Vietnam that is a "strong country, wealthy people, a just, democratic and advanced society". The Vietnamese Literature has been rapidly developed with various forms: prose, poetry and literature review, etc., thus contributing to the development of Vietnamese culture.

Performing arts

The Vietnamese performing arts include various types, such as Cheo (popular theatre), Tuong (classical theatre), cai luong (reformed theatre), water puppet, court music and dancing, Quan Ho (Folk-song or Love duet of Bac Ninh), Chau Van (Worshipping Ceremonial Songs), Ca Tru (literally "singing for reward"), "Then" singing of the Thai, "Ly" singing of the Southern region people, etc. Among them, the most commonly performed are cheo, cai luong, water puppet, "ly" singing and nha nhac (refined music), one kind of Court Music. Following is the introduction of some performing arts.

Royal music and dancing: Royal music and dancing thrived during the dynasty of King Le Thanh Tong with various branches, such as Trung Cung Chi Nhac (Palace Music), Yen Nhac (Banquet music),



Nha nhac (Refined Music) and mieu nhac (Confucian temple music), Dai Nhac (great music), Van Vu (civil dance), Vo Vu (military dance), etc. During the Nguyen Dynasty, court music and dancing reached its peak with the most solemn and intriguing,

Bat Dzat dancing performed during Offering Ceremony of Nguyen Kings at Nam Giao Esplanade (Dan Nam Giao). However, the majority of royal dances functioned to wish the King and his family happiness, prosperity and longevity and to perform at royal anniversaries such as Fan Dance, the Tam Tinh Chuc Tho, the Bat tien Hien, the Luc Triet Hoa Ma Dang and the Luc Cung Hoa Dang. Many dances and music pieces are preserved till today. In 2003,

UNESCO recognized Refined Music of Hue Royal Court as the Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity.

Water puppetry:

Loved worldwide, water puppetry is a unique northern Viet puppet tradition that is believed to appear first in the Ly Dynasty (1009-1225). Usually, there are many characters (puppets) involved in one water puppet playlets. The puppets are sculpted from wood and coated with water-proof paint in different shapes and personalities. The prominent character is buffoon Teu with a plump body and a humorous smile. Hidden from the audience by a blind, the puppeteers stand chest-deep in the water, which is coloured to hide the system of bamboo rods and pulleys used to manipulate the puppets. Musical accompaniment is provided by a small orchestra similar to that utilized in Cheo (popular theatre), led by a narrator.



Cheo (Popular theatre):

Long before the 10th century when performances are first mentioned in the record, ancient Viet tradition such as sung storytelling, shamanistic propitiation and call-and-response dialogue songs had influenced the development of hat cheo (popular theatre), a distinct theatrical art with clearly defined characterization and plot. Traditionally performed in the Red River Delta villages during festivals and holidays, Cheo was set to popular northern folk tunes and featured songs and declamation written in popular language, riddled with proverbs and sayings. Cheo includes dancing, singing, music and literature from tales. Part of the abiding appeal of Cheo was that while it taught traditional values such as filial devotion, good morals, justice, benevolence, courage and courtesy, it was always essentially satirical and anti-establishment in nature. Cheo may move the spectators to tears or laughter identified as optimistic, smart, intelligent and mischievous with a clear sense of humanity. This form of art reflects the desire for happiness and a harmonized society where human rights are protected and the good will always wins the evil. Some of the most popular plays through generations are Quan Am Thi Kinh, Luu Binh Duong Le, Chu Mai Than and Kim Nham, etc. These plays are classified as precious treasures of the nation's "popular theatre".

Cai luong (Reformed Theatre)

is a form of traditional opera originated at the start of the 20th century. The roots of Cai luong are Ly folk songs and amateur music from the Mekong Delta. Cai luong uses many of Tuong's (classical theatre) ways of performance and music. Similar to other forms of traditional art opera, Cai luong includes dances, songs and music. A Cai luong orchestra consists mainly of guitars with concave frets and Vietnamese two-cord guitar. Among those most well-known plays are Ms. Luu's Life, To Anh Nguyet, Mong Hoa Vuong (Hoa Vuong Queen), Half Life of Prostitute, Chim Viet Canh Nam (Viet Bird Southern Branch), and Queen Mother Duong Van Nga.



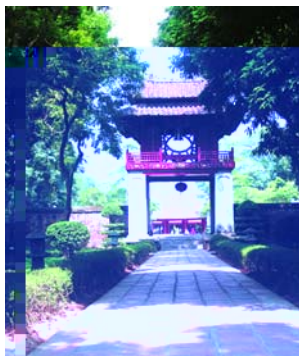
Hat Quan ho (Folk-song or Love duet of Bac Ninh):

This art stemmed from the long-standing form of duets between male and female. The scope of Quan ho is confined within a village once a year during the village festival. Quan ho is a complex and technically demanding style of romantic folk singing linked closely to the custom of "ket cha" (establishing friendship between villages) in which male and female singers, accompanied by a small traditional music ensemble and sometimes additionally by a small chorus, perform songs interspersed with improvised repartee. Folk-song Quan ho has always been a duet, the singing order will be in line with the lyrics and the music; the two sides will respond to each other's lyrics. Today, there remain over 180 Quan ho songs with the content of love matching expressed by beautiful words, using colloquial languages with subtle, fine meanings full of images and feelings. In Quan ho, singers use unique techniques typical to the singing. Of particular note is the special vibrato technique called "nay hat" which characterizes the genre. All of these create the attractiveness and beauty of Bac Ninh traditional folk-song.



Architecture

Folk architecture consists of wood, stone, brick and thatch, bamboo and leaves, which are quite popular throughout Vietnam. Houses made of thatch, bamboo and leaves can be found in many rural areas in Vietnam, while the wooden architecture is most typically represented in pagodas, villages' communal houses and houses of rich families across the country. Some of the well-known historical sites with wooden architecture are One-pillar pagoda, Dau pagoda, Boi Khe pagoda, Thai Lac pagoda, Keo pagoda, But Thap pagoda, Tay Phuong pagoda, Dinh Bang communal house, and ancient houses in big cities, particularly in Hanoi, Hoi An and Hue... The architecture of brick and stone is typically reflected in pagoda towers (Hoa Phong tower, Bao Thien tower, Pho Minh pagoda tower, Thien Mu pagoda tower,...), citadel gates and walls (Ho Citadel gate, Hanoi Citadel gate...), three-door temple gate (Van Mieu three-door temple gate, Tran Vu three-door temple gate, Hien Nhan gate), Hanoi Flag Tower, Ngo Mon (Noon) Gate in Hue... Brick and stone architecture also constitutes a considerable part in temples built by the Cham people (known as Cham temples) scattered from Quang Nam to Binh Thuan, particularly and typically My Son Historical site.



Foreign styled architecture: Since the 19th century, Vietnamese architecture underwent a change, a combination of the two architectural schools, i.e. European, North American architecture and the traditional Oriental one. As a result, Hanoi, Saigon and Hai Phong had chessboard streets which made it convenient for transportation. Many buildings were built in the classical European style, such as the Presidential Palace, Supreme Court, Hanoi Opera House, Vietcombank building, Saigon Municipal building, Saigon Central Post Office, and some villas... Subsequently, in the 19th century, new features emerged in the Vietnamese architecture picture, i.e. Catholic churches in Saigon, Hanoi, Hue and local parishes. Noticeably, temple and pagoda features and traditional Vietnamese architecture could be found in even such European-styled architectural constructions as the Phat Diem church.

- **In the 1954-1975 period:** Notwithstanding the growing Soviet architectural influence, many public buildings constructed during the late 1950s and 1960s continued to follow basic French architectural principles; typical of this period are the Head Offices of the Construction Ministry and Industry Ministry. The Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum successfully combines Soviet-style realism with the simplicity of ethnic minority architecture. In the south, a lot of buildings appeared in the American architectural style, typically the Palace Hotel, the National Library (now the General Science Library of Ho Chi Minh city), and the Independence Palace (now Dinh Thong nhât - the Reunification Hall).

- **In Doi Moi period:** There have been a lot of big, modern construction works in various styles, such as hotels and office buildings (Horizon, Hanoi Tower, Sofitel Plaza, Omni, New World...). Like in many other countries, the current architecture in Vietnam generally consists of four main parts: interior design, architectural design, urban planning design, environmental design and area planning.



Painting and sculpture

Folk painting: There are two kinds of folk paintings: New-year paintings and Worshipping paintings. Folk paintings are closely connected to religious belief of worshipping for forefathers and deities. For mass production, folk paintings were executed through woodblock printing. They became quite popular in the 16th century, and developed steadily at a high level in the 18th and 19th centuries. Given their artistic styles, printing and drawing techniques and materials, folk paintings could be classified into some different brands such as Dong Ho (Bac Ninh province), Hang Trong (Ha Noi) and Kim Hoang (Ha Tay province)...



Today, however, folk paintings are almost obsolete. Amongst the few existing brands of folk paintings under preservation, Dong Ho paintings still develop and can be found in many countries such as Japan, France and the US... Dong Ho is the name of a small village lying along the southern bank of Duong river, in Bac Ninh province. Dong Ho paintings are made in an original way, technically and aesthetically, in every aspect from pattern design, carving, paper production (dzo (poonah) paper is hand-made, coated with white powder made from baked shell), color mixture (made from natural materials) to picture drawing and printing.

Modern painting: The founding of The Fine Arts College of Indochina in 1924 marked a milestone in the development of contemporary plastic arts in Vietnam. The first generation of artists graduating from the Fine Arts College of Indochina and their works are now known in the world. Most prominent are "Hanoi's Old Streets" by Bui Xuan Phai, "Game of Squares" by Nguyen Phan Chanh, "Little Thuy" by Tran Van Can, "Young Lady and the lilies" by To Ngoc Van, "On the bank of Restored Sword Lake" by Nguyen Gia Tri, and "See a student off to the exam" by To Ngoc Van. These paintings are invaluable masterpieces in Vietnam's cultural treasury. In succession to the former generations, current artists, on one hand, pay regard to capturing the quintessence of the world art, and on the other hand explore new styles of Vietnamese paintings on oil, lacquer and silk, etc. This generation of artists has become popular with their works particularly those by Luu Cong Nhan, Pham Cong Thanh, Nguyen Thu, Dang Xuan Hoa and Thanh Chuong, etc. that contribute to the enrichment of Vietnamese Contemporary fine arts.

Ancient sculpture: In the traditional artistic heritage, sculpture experienced continuous development and provided typical images of the Vietnamese in various parts of the country and at each period, whether in the form of deities or earthly human beings. The ancient Vietnamese sculpture was very diverse, but mostly in the following existence: Prehistoric sculpture with sculptured images on stones, in caves, on bronze drums and household utensils; sculpture of Phu Nam and Chan Lap Kingdoms in the Southern part; Cham-pa sculpture in the Southern Central part; Great Vietnamese Sculpture in the Northern part and sepulchre sculpture by aborigines in the Central Highlands. Despite long time of warfare, many regions across Vietnam still manage to preserve a lot of villages' common houses, pagodas and temples with a variety of Buddha statues and reliefs.

Traditional fine-art handicraft

Traditional Vietnamese handicraft has a long history and a diverse range of products, which have become well-known at home and abroad. Vietnamese products of ceramics, lacquer, silk, rattan and bamboo... have made their popular presence in many countries. Today, some handicraft industries are still preserved and developed, offering jobs and incomes to many laborers and contributing to exports, like ceramics, silk weaving, lacquer making, rattan & bamboo weaving, conical hat making, bronzecasting and woodworking etc.



Amongst traditional crafts, the most salient is ceramics which provides a variety of products to meet both civil and industrial demands. Ceramic products are made in many localities across Vietnam, for example in Bac Giang, Bac Ninh, Quang Binh, Dong Nai, Dong Thap provinces and Bat Trang village in Hanoi, and there is also Cham ceramics. Silk weaving came into beings very early throughout Vietnam, yet today the most well-known silk-weaving villages are Van Phuc (in Ha Dong, Ha Tay) and Phuong Tanh - Truc Ninh (in Nam Dinh). As early as the 15th century, Vietnamese silk made its appearance to the world through merchants. Rattan and bamboo weaving has a thousand-year-long tradition. This craft closely links to the availability of these natural materials in all regions across Vietnam. Vietnamese craftsmen have skillfully produced a lot of furniture of charming and beautiful designs, like tables, chairs, beds, cabinets, fruit trays and flower baskets etc. Among the localities renowned for such products are Ha Tay and Thanh Hoa provinces.

Chapter VII

HEALTHCARE AND EDUCATION



HEALTHCARE

Healthcare network

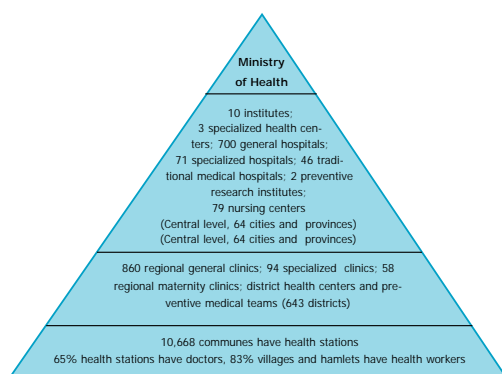
Before the 19th century, identified as Oriental traditional medicine, Vietnam's medicine used mainly herbs. At the end of the 19th century, as Vietnam became a colony of the French, Western medicine was introduced to Vietnam. At that time, clinics could only be found in big cities, while in rural areas, traditional medicine remained the key way of treatment.

When the Democratic Republic of Vietnam came into beings in September 1945, a healthcare system started to be built. The Medical University was established right at the Viet Bac war zone in 1949. Even during that early stage, the Medical University, Research Institute and hospitals had managed to produce some basic medications such as Penicillin and malaria medicine. After the reunification in April 1975, the healthcare sector started to develop rapidly with renowned doctors and numerous achievements that have earned international recognition.

At present, the public system plays the leading role in healthcare and is divided into 3 levels: Central, provincial and local (including district, commune and hamlet).

In addition to the public healthcare system, Vietnam has also developed a private healthcare network. There are now 30,000 private clinics and 36 private hospitals with 2,538 beds (equals to 2% of the hospital beds nationwide) of which there are 4 foreign-invested hospitals.

Public healthcare network



Achievements in healthcare

According to WHO's assessment, Vietnamese health care system ranks 51st among the 191 countries and is evaluated as better than those of countries with the same income per capita. Most of Vietnam's overall indicators on healthcare are higher than those of other countries with the same income. Vietnam has had some fundamental indicators equal to nations with income 10 times higher. The average life expectancy in Vietnam is 72 years, 10 years longer than that in countries with the same income per capita.

Some healthcare indicators

13,102 clinics with 184,440 hospital beds. The average rate is 16.64 public hospital beds for 10,000 citizens; one doctor for every 1,700 citizens. Poliomyelitis and tetanus among infants were eliminated in 2000 and leprosy in 2005. Vietnam has managed to limit the rate of HIV/AIDS increase and reduce the mortality rate of children under 5 years old from 55‰ in 1995 to 32.8‰ in 2003 whilst children under 1 year old from 42‰ to 21‰. In 2003, Vietnam succeeded in controlling SARS, recurrent healthcare spending accounted for 4.5% of the budget, 29.28% of poor households were granted free health insurance and 57.88% of poor households were entitled to the exemption or reduction of hospital fees (2003).

Pharmaceutical and the traditional medical system

The State of Vietnam has made great efforts to ensure the efficient supply of high-quality medicines for the people. Currently, Vietnam has 18 central pharmaceutical enterprises; 132 local pharmaceutical enterprises and 22 joint-venture projects in drugs



manufacturing. There are 10,317 drug stores in communes, wards, even in remote, isolated areas and 9,087 drug cabinets at health stations.

The study and development of traditional medicine prescriptions and treatment continue to grow. Some local medicines are widely used to treat common and chronic diseases. At present, 450 establishments nationwide manufacture traditional medicines with 2,000 Vietnamese traditional medical products. Every year, approximately 30% of the patients are examined by and treated with traditional medicine.

EDUCATION

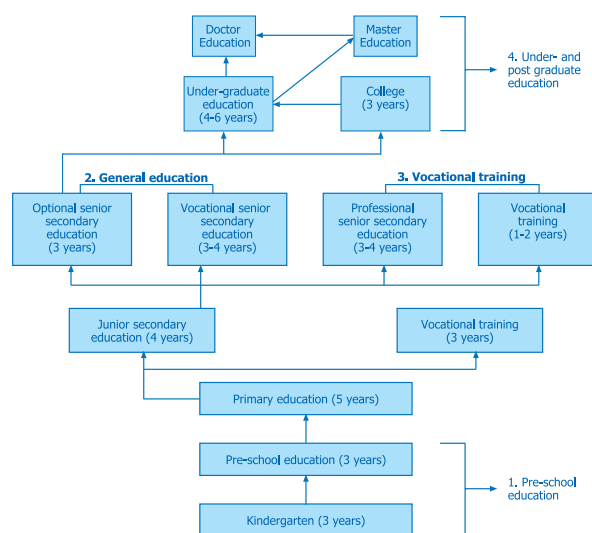
The Education System

Vietnam is an eager-learning nation. Under Vietnam's feudal courts, academic examination and culture development enjoyed much attention. The Temple of Literature, Vietnam's first university, was established in 1076 to train talents. Today, the State of Vietnam considers education a top priority in the national policy. After the country's reunification, a complete education system was formed.

Since 1986, with the reform policy, education has been socialized with different sources of investment. Teaching and training methods are diversified. School management is democratized while content, method and facilities are modernized. At present, a complete, unified educational system has been established throughout the



Diagram of the education system



country encompassing all education levels, skill training methods and school types.

In November 1998, the 10th Legislature adopted the Education Law to develop education, raise people's educational level and train human resources, and nurture talents for the cause of national industrialization and modernization. It is clearly stated in the Education Law that every citizen has equal opportunities for education. The State favors and facilitates children of ethnic minorities, children from especially difficult families, and the handicapped or those under other preferential policies to go to school.

Certificate: Certificates are granted at the end of each schooling phase including primary, junior and senior secondary school and vocational training. There is also a college diploma, a bachelor, a master and a PhD degree.

Vocational training

The goal of vocational training is to increase the rate of trained workers from 20% in 2000 to 30% in 2005 and 40% in 2010 through short and long-term training courses.

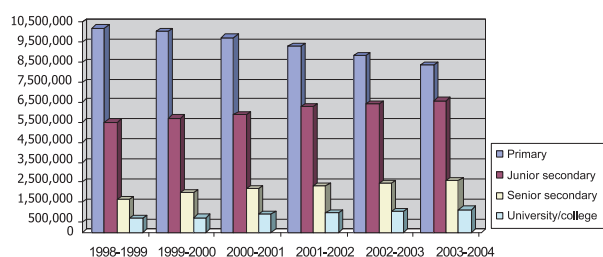
Fields of training: printing technique, press and information; business and office management; computer; techniques; mining and mineral exploitation; production and processing; construction; agriculture; forestry; fishery; veterinary; healthcare; hotel; restaurant; transportation and environmental protection.

Training system: Vietnam now has 164 vocational training schools beside 137 colleges and technical secondary schools engaged in vocational training; 148 vocational centers; 150 job and vocational training service centers.

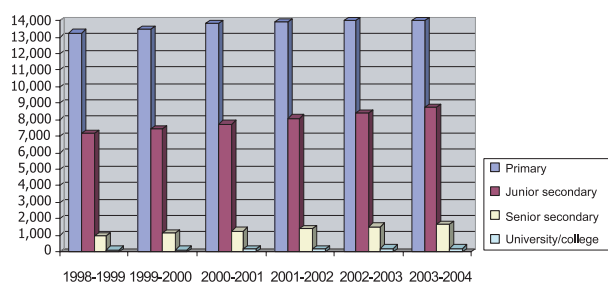
Achievements in education

Efforts made in education have brought about encouraging results. From a country with the illiteracy rate of 95% in 1945, by 2002 91% of the Vietnamese population can read and write. We are trying to sustain and strengthen the results gained in illiteracy eradication and primary educational universalization. At the moment,

Students of different levels

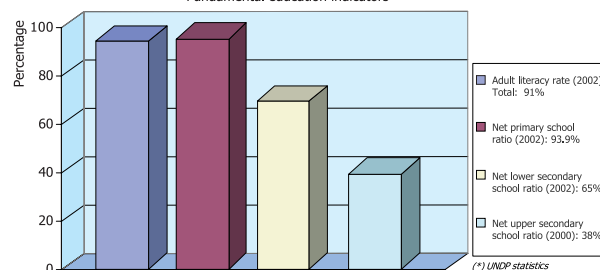


Schools nationwide



the policy to universalize junior school education is under active implementation. 20 provinces and cities are recognized as meeting national standards in this regard. Some big provinces and cities such as Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City have already begun to universalize senior secondary school education. Isolated, remote areas or areas of ethnic minority people have witnessed strong development and progress in education. Basically, a school network is accessible to ethnic students in their hamlets and communes.

Fundamental education indicators



International cooperation

The State of Vietnam attaches great importance to international cooperation in education so as to get wider access to the world's progress in education and training. The Ministry of Education and Training of Vietnam has founded international cooperation with 69 countries, 19 international organizations and 70 NGOs. Through international cooperation, Vietnam has established new directions for training and conducting and application of scientific research in the fields of basic sciences, social sciences and humanities, economic, agro-forestry, electronic-telecommunication, automation, medicine and environment. Annually, thousands of students, interns and research students are dispatched abroad with scholarships and financial aid provided by many countries such as the former Soviet Union and Eastern European countries, the EU, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, China, India, Thailand, the U.S.A and Canada.

Currently, self-financed studying abroad and on-the-spot training (in Vietnam) are two popular forms of cooperation among universities and institutes of Vietnam and foreign partners with an aim to train Vietnamese students. Some renowned Asian centers have been established in Vietnam such as the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), the France-Vietnam Center, Vietnam - Singapore Training Center and the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology of Australia (RMIT).

Chapter VIII

USEFUL INFORMATION



VISA

Foreigners and Vietnamese holding foreign passports are required to have Vietnamese visa when going through entry - exit formalities in Vietnam (or transit in Vietnam for the purpose of visiting or tourism). Exceptions include persons from countries exempted from visa requirement according to agreements signed with Vietnam or unilaterally granted by Vietnam. (For more information, please log on to MOFA website at: www.mofa.gov.vn/en - then click "Consulate affairs" button).

Types of visa

A1: issued to official members of delegations invited by the Party Central Committee, National Assembly, President and Government or counterparts invited by Ministers, Vice Ministers, Chairman, Vice-Chairman of the People's Committee at provincial or city level under direct central authority. A1 is also issued to their accompanied relatives and maids.

A2: issued to members of foreign representative missions and accompanied relatives and house maids.

A3: issued to persons coming to work with the foreign representative missions or visiting members of foreign representative missions.

B1: issued to persons working with the People's Supreme Procuracy, People's Supreme Court, Ministries, Ministerial-level Agencies, Government Agencies, People's Committee of the Provinces or Cities under direct central authority and central offices of mass organizations.

B2: issued to those entering Vietnam for the implementation of foreign invested projects licensed by Vietnamese authorized state agencies.

B3: issued to those entering Vietnam to work with Vietnamese enterprises.

B4: issued to those entering Vietnam to work for foreign representative offices and branches of economic, cultural and specialized organizations; NGOs' offices in Vietnam.

C1: issued to tourists

C2: issued to those entering Vietnam for other purposes.

D: issued to persons entering Vietnam without invitation from an organization, agency or person.

The validity of visa type D is 15 days; other types of visa have the validity of 30 days and more.

Application for visa includes a visa application form (available at Vietnam's representative missions abroad); 02 photos size 4cmx6cm, passport or alternative papers still valid or at least valid for one more month since the expiration of requested visa, and visa fee (except cases of exemption). Those applying for Vietnamese visas need to contact agencies, organizations and persons in Vietnam for clearance of entry procedures or Vietnamese diplomatic missions, consulate offices abroad for specific instructions.



ENTRY - EXIT PROCEDURES AND CUSTOMS

Upon entering or exiting Vietnam, everyone must complete entry - exit and customs procedures. For prompt completion of these procedures, one should specify clearly in the entry-exit and customs declaration form:

- Video cameras, recorders and electronic devices; gold, silver, gemstones and jewellery that are not personal belongings;

- Foreign currency in cash (paper, coins and traveller's cheques) over US\$ 7,000 or equivalent in other currencies; over 5,000,000 Vietnamese Dong in cash.

Duty-free goods: 200 cigarettes, 50 cigars, 150g of tobacco threads, 1.5 litres of alcohol, and other items which are not prohibited with total value not exceeding US\$ 300.

Prohibited export-import goods (if without permit): weapons, ammunition, explosives, inflammables, firecrackers of all sorts, opium and other narcotics, toxic chemicals, antiques, rare fauna and flora, documents related to national security, cultural items improper to Vietnamese traditions and customs, and toys that have negative effects on children's character developments etc.



TRANSPORT

Road

Vietnam has a vast road system. Together with a system of national high-ways are networks of provincial and district roads reaching all corners of the country. In each province, there are bus stations for inter-and-intra provincial routes with convenient bus services. Many cities and towns have developed different services such as taxi and public bus, especially big cities like Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh city, Hai Phong, Da Nang and Can Tho. Motorbikes and bicycles are common means of transportation in Vietnam.

Railway

There are few railway routes, of which the North-South route connecting Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh city is the longest with 1,726 km (stopping in Vinh, Hue, Da Nang and Nha Trang, etc). There are also other railway routes connecting Hanoi with some provinces in

the North namely Lang Son, Hai Phong and Lao Cai.

There are two railway stations in Hanoi. One is Hanoi Station with the Thongnhat Trains heading for the South and International Express train heading for Beijing, China. The second is Tran Quy Cap Station with trains going to provinces in the North and East of Vietnam or the International-Link train to Kunming, China.

Hue, Da Nang, Nha Trang and Ho Chi Minh city stations are the key stops in the North-South route of the Thongnhat train.

Waterway

Vietnam has a dense system of rivers, and a long coastline convenient for the development of waterway transport. There are two main types of waterway transport: sea and river transportation. Besides, canal transportation is also very popular among people living along canals, especially in provinces in the Southern Delta.

Port: includes sea and river ports. While the seaport system usually includes big international ports, river ports are usually small. Vietnam's seaport system has contributed greatly to different economic sectors, including tourism. Tourists can enter Vietnam through big sea ports such as Hai Phong, Da Nang and Ho Chi Minh City.

Aviation

Vietnam's aviation service has undergone significant developments, especially since its international integration in the past few years. Three international airports (Noi Bai, Da Nang and Tan Son Nhat) together with domestic airports have served millions of passengers



and transported tens of millions of tones of goods annually.

Airport fee: For international route: US\$14/person; US\$7 for children under 12.

Domestic flights: Vietnam has domestic flights connecting big cities. In addition, the Northern Aviation Service Company also provides helicopter services at customer's request.

Vietnam has two airlines: Vietnam Airlines (No 1 Quang Trung-Hanoi, tel: (04) 832 0320) and Pacific Airlines (36 Dien Bien Phu-Hanoi, tel (04) 733 2159). Pacific Airlines only provides domestic flights.

International flights: From Vietnam (at international airports, i.e. Noi Bai, Da Nang, Tan Son Nhat), passengers can fly to all big cities in the world and Vietnam Airlines conducts direct flights to many of these big cities. Almost all big airlines have a representative office in Vietnam.

International border gates

Vietnam-Cambodia borderline: The four international border gates are Binh Hiep (Long An province), Moc Bai (Tay Ninh province), Song Tien and Tinh Bien (An Giang province).

Vietnam-Laos borderline: The five international border gates are Cau Treo (Ha Tinh province), Cha Lo (Quang Binh province), Lao Bao (Quang Tri province), Na Meo (Thanh Hoa province) and Nam Can (Nghe An province).

Vietnam-China borderline: The four international border gates are Dong Dang and Huu Nghi (Lang Son province), Mong Cai (Quang Ninh province) and Lao Cai (Lao Cai province).



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Currency

Vietnamese currency is the Vietnam Dong. All kinds of paper-notes which are in circulation have the nominal values of 500,000; 200,000; 100,000; 50,000; 20,000; 10,000; 5,000; 2,000; 1,000; 500, 200 and 100 dong. Types of coins are 5,000; 2,000; 1,000; 500 and 200 dong. Foreign currencies and traveller's cheques can be exchanged at banks, hotels, international airports or at official currency exchange booths. The exchange rate between Vietnam Dong and US dollar is about 16,000 VND/USD (as of July 2006).



Banks

Most of the banks in Vietnam are opened from 8AM to 3PM from Monday to Friday (closed on Saturdays and Sundays). Credit cards are widely accepted. ATMs are available at 5 star hotels and in big cities like Hanoi, Haiphong, Hue, Danang and Ho Chi Minh city.

Postal service

- Telephone: include fixed phone and mobile phone services. These services are available throughout Vietnam.
- Telephone flower delivery: Vietnamese Post Office provides telephone flower delivery service to anywhere inside Vietnam following customers' orders. There are two kinds of this service: telephone flower delivery of condolence or congratulation.
- Mail and parcel postal service: As a member of Universal Postal

Union, most of Vietnam's Post Offices provide all mail and parcel postal services available in other countries, including express and registered services.

- Finance postal service: Post Offices in Vietnam have domestic money transfer service. Besides, Vietnam Posts also have service for one-way remittances from foreign countries to Vietnam like France, Japan, Belgium, USA, Czech, Slovakia, Latvia, Singapore, China and Malaysia.

- Newspaper distribution service: Vietnamese newspapers and magazines can be bought at any Post Offices or agents. Customers can subscribe to Vietnamese newspapers or magazines at any Post Office or directly contact their offices.



Local time zone: GMT + 7.

Working hours of government agencies

7.30AM to 4.30PM (with 1-hour lunch break) from Monday to Friday, off on Saturdays and Sundays.

Power supply

Power supply in Vietnam is 220V/50Hz. Standard sockets are for two pin round plug. Most of hotels have both 220V and 110V power supply.



Official websites

No	Name of Organization	Address on Internet
1	Communist Party of Vietnam	www.cpv.org.vn
2	National Assembly (National Assembly's Office) 37 Hung Vuong St., Ba Dinh, Hanoi	www.na.gov.vn
3	Government (Government's Office) 1 Bach Thao St., Ba Dinh, Hanoi	www.vietnam.gov.vn www.chinhphu.vn www.egov.gov.vn
4	Ministry of Foreign Affairs 1 Ton That Dam St., Ba Dinh, Hanoi	www.mofa.gov.vn
5	Ministry of Justice 56-60 Tran Phu St., Ba Dinh, Hanoi	www.moj.gov.vn
6	Ministry of Finance 18 Phan Chu Trinh St., Hoan Kiem, Hanoi	www.mof.gov.vn
7	Ministry of Planning and Investment 2 Hoang Van Thu St., Ba Dinh, Hanoi	www.mpi.gov.vn
8	Ministry of Trade 31 Trang Tien St., Hoan Kiem, Hanoi	www.mot.gov.vn
9	Ministry of Culture and Information 51-53 Ngo Quyen St., Hoan Kiem, Hanoi	www.cinet.gov.vn
10	Ministry of Education and Training 49 Dai Co Viet St., Ha Ba Trung, Hanoi	www.edu.net.vn
11	Ministry of Science and Technology 39 Tran Hung Dao St. Hoan Kiem, Hanoi	www.moste.gov.vn
12	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment 83 Nguyen Chi Thanh, Dong Da, Hanoi	www.monre.gov.vn
13	Ministry of Industry 54 Hai Ba Trung St., Hanoi	www.industry.gov.vn
14	Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development 2 Ngoc Ha St., Ba Dinh, Hanoi	www.mard.gov.vn
15	Ministry of Construction 37 Le Dai Hanh St., Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi	www.moc.gov.vn
16	Ministry of Transportation 80 Tran Hung Dao St. Hoan Kiem, Hanoi	www.mt.gov.vn
17	Ministry of Health 138A Giang Vo St., Ba Dinh, Hanoi	www.moh.gov.vn
18	Ministry of Fisheries 10 Nguyen Cong Hoan St, Ba Dinh, Hanoi	www.fistenet.gov.vn www.mofi.gov.vn
19	Ministry of Post and Telecom 18 Nguyen Du St., Hoan Kiem, Hanoi	www.mpt.gov.vn
20	Ministry of Labour, War-Invalids and Social Affairs 12 Ngo Quyen St., Hoan Kiem, Hanoi	www.molisa.gov.vn
21	Vietnam State Bank 49 Ly Thai To St., Hoan Kiem, Hanoi	www.vsb.gov.vn
22	Committee for Ethnic and Mountainous Affairs 80-82 Phan Dinh Phung, Ba Dinh, Hanoi	www.cema.gov.vn
23	Committee for Sports 36 Tran Phu St., Ba Dinh, Hanoi	www.ubtdt.gov.vn
24	Committee for Population, Family and Children Affairs 36 Tran Phu St., Ba Dinh, Hanoi	www.vcpfc.gov.vn
25	Vietnam National Administration for Tourism 80 Quan Su St., Hoan Kiem, Hanoi	www.vietnamtourism.com www.vietnamtourism.gov.vn
26	General Department of Vietnam Customs	www.customs.gov.vn

List of 64 provinces/cities - website & area code
(in alphabetic order)

No	Province/City	Website	Area Code
1	An Giang	www.angiang.gov.vn	(84-76)
2	Ba Ria-Vung Tau	www.baria-vungtau.gov.vn	(84-64)
3	Bac Lieu	www.baclieu.gov.vn	(84-781)
4	Bac Kan	www.backan.gov.vn	(84-281)
5	Bac Giang	www.bacgiang.gov.vn	(84-240)
6	Bac Ninh	www.bacninh.gov.vn	(84-241)
7	Ben Tre	www.bentre.gov.vn	(84-75)
8	Binh Duong	www.binhduong.gov.vn	(84-65)
9	Binh Dinh	www.binhdinh.gov.vn	(84-56)
10	Binh Phuoc	www.binhphuoc.gov.vn	(84-65)
11	Binh Thuan	www.binhthuan.gov.vn	(84-62)
12	Ca Mau	www.camau.gov.vn	(84-780)
13	Cao Bang	www.caobang.gov.vn	(84-26)
14	Can Tho (City)	www.cantho.gov.vn	(84-71)
15	Da Nang (City)	www.danang.gov.vn	(84-511)
16	Dak Lak	www.daklak.gov.vn	(84-50)
17	Dak Nong	www.daknong.gov.vn	(84-50)
18	Dien Bien	www.dienbien.gov.vn	(84-23)
19	Dong Nai	www.dongnai.gov.vn	(84-61)
20	Dong Thap	www.dongthap.gov.vn	(84-67)
21	Gia Lai	www.gialai.gov.vn	(84-59)
22	Ha Giang	www.hagiang.gov.vn	(84-19)
23	Ha Nam	www.hanam.gov.vn	(84-351)
24	Hanoi (City)	www.hanoi.gov.vn	(84-4)
25	Ha Tay	www.hatay.gov.vn	(84-34)
26	Ha Tinh	www.hatinh.gov.vn	(84-39)
27	Hai Duong	www.haiduong.gov.vn	(84-32)
28	Hai Phong (City)	www.haiphong.gov.vn	(84-31)
29	Hoa Binh	www.hoabinh.gov.vn	(84-18)
30	Ho Chi Minh (City)	www.hochiminh.gov.vn	(84-8)
31	Hau Giang	www.haugiang.gov.vn	(84-71)

32	Hung Yen	www.hungyen.gov.vn	(84-321)
33	Khanh Hoa	www.khanhhoa.gov.vn	(84-58)
34	Kien Giang	www.angiang.gov.vn	(84-77)
35	Kon Tum	www.kontum.gov.vn	(84-60)
36	Lai Chau	www.laichau.gov.vn	(84-23)
37	Lao Cai	www.laocai.gov.vn	(84-20)
38	Lang Son	www.langson.gov.vn	(84-25)
39	Lam Dong	www.lamdong.gov.vn	(84-63)
40	Long An	www.longan.gov.vn	(84-72)
41	Nam Dinh	www.namdinh.gov.vn	(84-35)
42	Nghe An	www.nghean.gov.vn	(84-38)
43	Ninh Binh	www.ninhbinh.gov.vn	(84-30)
44	Ninh Thuan	www.ninhthuan.gov.vn	(84-68)
45	Phu Tho	www.phutho.gov.vn	(84-210)
46	Phu Yen	www.phuyen.gov.vn	(84-57)
47	Quang Binh	www.quangbinh.gov.vn	(84-52)
48	Quang Nam	www.quangnam.gov.vn	(84-510)
49	Quang Ngai	www.quangngai.gov.vn	(84-55)
50	Quang Ninh	www.quangninh.gov.vn	(84-33)
51	Quang Tri	www.quangtri.gov.vn	(84-53)
52	Soc Trang	www.soctrang.gov.vn	(84-79)
53	Son La	www.sonla.gov.vn	(84-22)
54	Tay Ninh	www.tayninh.gov.vn	(84-66)
55	Thai Binh	www.thaibinh.gov.vn	(84-36)
56	Thai Nguyen	www.thainguyen.gov.vn	(84-280)
57	Thanh Hoa	www.thanhhoa.gov.vn	(84-37)
58	Thua Thien - Hue	www.thuathienhue.gov.vn	(84-54)
59	Tien Giang	www.tien Giang.gov.vn	(84-73)
60	Tra Vinh	www.travinh.gov.vn	(84-74)
61	Tuyen Quang	www.tuyenquang.gov.vn	(84-27)
62	Vinh Long	www.vinhlong.gov.vn	(84-70)
63	Vinh Phuc	www.vinhphuc.gov.vn	(84-21)
64	Yen Bai	www.yenbai.gov.vn	(84-29)

Countries having diplomatic relations with Vietnam
(in alphabetic order)

No	Name of Country	Date of diplomatic establishment
ASIA		
1	Islamic State of Afghanistan	16/09/1974
2	United Arab Emirates	01/08/1993
3	Syrian Arab Republic	21/07/1966
4	Azerbaijani Republic	23/09/1992
5	State of Bahrain	31/03/1995
6	People's Republic of Bangladesh	11/02/1973
7	Brunei Darussalam	29/02/1992
8	Kingdom of Cambodia	24/06/1967
9	People's Republic of China	18/01/1950
10	Republic of India	07/01/1972
11	Republic of Indonesia	10/08/1964
12	Islamic Republic of Iran	04/08/1973
13	Republic of Iraq	10/07/1968
14	State of Israel	12/07/1993
15	Japan	21/09/1973
16	Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan	19/08/1980
17	Republic of Kazakhstan	29/06/1992
18	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	31/01/1950
19	Republic of Korea	22/12/1992
20	State of Kuwait	10/01/1976
21	Republic of Kyrgyzstan	04/06/1992
22	Lao People's Democratic Republic	05/09/1962
23	Republic of Lebanon	12/02/1981
24	Malaysia	30/03/1973
25	Republic of Maldives	18/06/1975
26	Mongolia	17/11/1954
27	Union of Myanmar	28/05/1975
28	Kingdom of Nepal	15/05/1975
29	Sultanate of Oman	09/06/1992
30	Islamic Republic of Pakistan	08/11/1972
31	State of Palestine	19/11/1988
32	Republic of the Philippines	12/07/1976
33	State of Qatar	08/02/1993
34	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	21/10/1999
35	Republic of Singapore	01/08/1973
36	Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka	21/07/1970
37	Republic of Tajikistan	14/07/1992
38	Kingdom of Thailand	06/08/1976
39	Democratic Republic of Timor Leste	28/07/2002
40	Republic of Turkey	07/06/1976

41	Turkmenistan	29/07/1992
42	Republic of Uzbekistan	17/01/1992
43	Republic of Yemen	16/10/1963
EUROPE		
44	Republic of Albania	11/02/1950
45	Republic of Armenia	14/07/1992
46	Republic of Austria	11/12/1972
47	Republic of Belarus	24/01/1992
48	Kingdom of Belgium	22/03/1973
49	Bosnia and Herzegovina	26/01/1996
50	Republic of Bulgaria	08/02/1950
51	Republic of Croatia	01/07/1994
52	Republic of Cyprus	29/11/1975
53	Czech Republic	02/02/1950
54	Kingdom of Denmark	25/11/1971
55	Republic of Estonia	20/02/1992
56	Republic of Finland	25/01/1973
57	Republic of France	12/04/1973
58	Republic of Georgia	30/06/1992
59	Federal Republic of Germany	23/09/1975
60	Hellenic Republic	15/04/1975
61	Republic of Hungary	03/02/1950
62	Republic of Iceland	03/08/1973
63	Republic of Ireland	05/04/1996
64	Republic of Italy	23/03/1973
65	Republic of Latvia	12/02/1992
66	Republic of Lithuania	18/03/1992
67	Grand Duchy of Luxembourg	15/11/1973
68	Republic of Malta	14/01/1974
69	Republic of Macedonia	10/06/1994
70	Republic of Moldova	11/06/1992
71	Republic of Montenegro	04/08/2006
72	Kingdom of the Netherlands	09/04/1973
73	Kingdom of Norway	25/11/1971
74	Republic of Poland	04/02/1950
75	Republic of Portugal	04/07/1975
76	Romania	03/02/1950
77	Russian Federation	30/01/1950
78	Republic of Serbia	10/03/2957
79	Slovak Republic	02/02/1950
80	Republic of Slovenia	07/06/1994
81	Kingdom of Spain	23/05/1977
82	Kingdom of Sweden	11/01/1969
83	Confederation of Switzerland	11/10/1971
84	United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland	01/09/1973

85	Ukraine	23/01/1992
OCEANIA		
86	Australia	26/02/1973
87	Republic of Fiji	14/05/1993
88	Republic of the Marshall Islands	01/07/1992
89	Federated State of Micronesia	22/09/1995
90	New Zealand	19/06/1975
91	Papua New Guinea	03/11/1989
92	Independent State of Samoa	29/03/1994
93	Solomon Islands	30/10/1996
94	Republic of Vanuatu	03/03/1982
AMERICAS		
95	Argentine Republic	25/10/1973
96	Barbados	25/08/1995
97	Belize	04/01/1995
98	Republic of Bolivia	12/02/1987
99	Federative Republic of Brazil	08/05/1989
100	Canada	21/08/1973
101	Republic of Chile	01/06/1972
102	Republic of Colombia	01/01/1979
103	Republic of Costa Rica	24/04/1976
104	Republic of Cuba	02/12/1960
105	Republic of Dominican	07/07/2005
106	Republic of Ecuador	01/01/1980
107	Republic of Guatemala	07/01/1993
108	Grenada	15/07/1979
109	Co-operative Republic of Guyana	19/04/1975
110	Republic of Haiti	26/09/1997
111	Republic of Honduras	17/05/2005
112	Jamaica	05/01/1976
113	United Mexican States	19/05/1975
114	Republic of Nicaragua	03/09/1979
115	Republic of Panama	28/08/1975
116	Republic of Paraguay	30/05/1995
117	Republic of Peru	14/11/1994
118	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	18/12/1995
119	Republic of Suriname	19/12/1997
120	Republic of Uruguay	11/08/1993
121	United States of America	12/07/1995
122	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	08/12/1989
AFRICA		
123	People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	28/10/1962
124	Republic of Angola	12/11/1975
125	Republic of Benin	14/03/1973
126	Burkina Faso	16/11/1973

127	Republic of Burundi	16/04/1973
128	Republic of Cameroon	30/08/1972
129	Republic of Cape Verde	08/07/1975
130	Republic of Chad	05/10/1981
131	Democratic Republic of Congo	13/04/1961
132	Republic of the Congo	16/07/1964
133	Republic of Côte d'Ivoire	06/10/1975
134	Republic of Djibouti	30/04/1991
135	Arab Republic of Egypt	01/09/1963
136	State of Eritrea	20/07/1993
137	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia	23/02/1976
138	Republic of Gabon	09/01/1975
139	Republic of Gambia	30/10/1973
140	Republic of Ghana	25/03/1965
141	Republic of Guinea	09/10/1958
142	Republic of Guinea-Bissau	30/09/1973
143	Republic of Equatorial Guinea	01/09/1972
144	Republic of Kenya	21/12/1995
145	Kingdom of Lesotho	06/01/1998
146	Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	15/03/1975
147	Republic of Madagascar	19/12/1972
148	Republic of Mali	31/10/1960
149	Islamic Republic of Mauritania	15/03/1965
150	Republic of Mauritius	04/05/1994
151	Kingdom of Morocco	27/03/1961
152	Republic of Mozambique	25/06/1975
153	Republic of Namibia	21/03/1990
154	Republic of Niger	07/03/1975
155	Federal Republic of Nigeria	15/05/1976
156	Republic of Rwanda	30/09/1975
157	United Republic of Tanzania	14/02/1965
158	Republic of Togo	08/02/1975
159	Republic of Tunisia	15/12/1972
160	Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	02/03/1979
161	Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe	06/11/1976
162	Republic of Senegal	29/12/1969
163	Republic of Seychelles	06/08/1979
164	Republic of Sierra Leone	24/06/1982
165	Somali Democratic Republic	07/06/1970
166	Republic of South Africa	22/12/1993
167	Republic of the Sudan	26/08/1968
168	Republic of Uganda	09/02/1973
169	Republic of Zimbabwe	24/07/1981
170	Republic of Zambia	13/09/1972

Vietnamese Missions and Representative Offices abroad (in alphabetic order)

ASIA

IN BANGLADESH - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address House # 8, Rd. # 51, Gulshan-2,
Dhaka - 1212, BANGLADESH
Tel (80-02 885 4051/2
Fax (80-02) 885 4051
Email vietnam@citech-bd.com

IN BRUNEI DARUSSALAM - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address House No.18, Simpang 80-11,
House No.9, Simpang 148-3,
Jalan Telanai BA 2312, Mukim Kilanas,
Bandar Seri Begawan, BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
Tel (673) 265 1580; 265 1587
Fax (673) 265 1574
Email vnembassy@yahoo.com

IN CAMBODIA - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address 436 Monivong, Phnom Penh, CAMBODIA
Tel (855) 2372 6273; (855) 2372 6274
Fax (855) 2336 2314
Email vnembassy03@yahoo.com; vnembpnh@online.com.kh

CONSULATE GENERAL OF VIETNAM IN BATTAMBANG

Address Road No.3, Battambang, CAMBODIA
Tel (855) 5395 2894
Fax (855) 5395 2894
Email lsqvnbat@camintel.com

CONSULATE GENERAL OF VIETNAM IN SIHANOUK VILLE

Address 310 Ekreach, Mittakhpiep,
Sihanouk Ville, CAMBODIA
Tel (855) 3493 3466
Fax (855) 3493 3669
Email tlsxsiha@camintel.com

IN CHINA - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address No 32, Guanghua Rd., Jiangou Menwai,
P.O.Box 100600, Beijing, CHINA
Tel (86-10) 6532 1155; 6532 1125, 6532 7038 (consular)
Fax (86-10) 6532 5720
Email suquanbk@yahoo.com

CONSULATE GENERAL OF VIETNAM IN KUN MING

Address 2nd floor, Kai Wah International Hotel,
157 Beijing Road, Kun Ming, CHINA 650011
Tel (86-87) 1351 5889; 1352 2669
Fax (86-87) 1251 6667
Email tlsxcm@yahoo.com

CONSULATE GENERAL OF VIETNAM IN NANNING

Address 1st floor, Touzi Dasha, 109 Minzu Avenue,
Nanning, CHINA
Tel (86-77) 1551 0562
Fax (86-77) 1553 4738
Email tlsxqn@rediffmail.com

CONSULATE GENERAL OF VIETNAM IN GUANGZHOU

Address 2nd floor, Hotel Landmark B Bldg. North, Qiaoguang Rd.
(Haizhu square), Guangzhou, CHINA
Tel (86-20) 8330 5911; 8330 5916; 8330 5910 (consular)
Fax (86-20) 8330 5915
Email tlsxqn@mx2.gd.cel.gov.cn

CONSULATE GENERAL OF VIETNAM IN HONG KONG

Address 15/F, Great Smart Tower, 230 Wan Chai Road, Wan Chai,
HONG KONG, CHINA
Tel (852) 2591 4517; 2591 4510
Fax (852) 2591 4524; 2591 4539
Email vnconsul@netvigator.com

ECONOMIC & CULTURAL OFFICE OF VIETNAM IN TAIWAN

Address 3F, No.65, Sung Chiang Road, TAIPEI, TAIWAN
Tel (88-62) 2516 6626; 2516 6648
Fax (88-62) 2504 1761; 2516 6625
Email vietnamt@ms18.hinet.net

IN INDIA - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address 17, Kautilya Marg, Chanakyapuri,
New Delhi 110 021, INDIA
Tel (91-11) 2301 9818; 2301 0532
Fax (91-11) 2301 7714; 2301 8448
Email sqdelhi@del3.vsnl.net.in

CONSULATE GENERAL OF VIETNAM IN MUMBAI

Address Wajeda House, Gulmohat Cross Rd. No.7,
Juhu Scheme, Mumbai - 400 049, Bombay, INDIA
Tel (9122) 2620 8589; 2620 8549
Fax (9122) 2624 8538
Email vietnam@mtnl.net.in

IN INDONESIA - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address No.25 JL. Teuku Umar, Menteng,
Jakarta-Pusat, INDONESIA
Tel (6221) 310 0358; 315 6775; 315 8537 (consular)
Fax (6221) 314 9615
Email embvnm@uninet.net.id

IN IRAN - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address Vallyeasr Ave., M.Ardebili, Pesyan, Baghestan 6,
Mardani, East Ordibehesht, No.6, Tehran, IRAN
Tel (9821) 2241 1670, 2241 4758
Fax (9821) 2241 6045
Email vnemb.ir@mofa.gov.vn

IN IRAQ - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address Hay Andalus, Mahalla 611, Zuqaq 34, House 71,
P.O. Box 15054 Yarmuk, BAGHDAD, IRAQ
Tel (964-1) 541 3409; 543 9919; 543 4805
Fax (964-1) 541 1388; 873 762; 387 891
Email vuquangtao@yahoo.com; trantuthi@blueemail.ch

IN JAPAN - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address 50-11, Motoyoyogi-cho Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151, JAPAN
Tel (813) 3466 3313; 3466 3314; 3481 6354; 3466 3311
Fax (813) 3466 3391; 3466 7652; 3466 3312
Email vnembasy@blue.ocn.ne.jp

CONSULATE GENERAL OF VIETNAM IN OSAKA

Address Estate Bakurocho Bldg. 10F, 1-4-10 Bakurocho Chuo-ku,
Osaka 541-0059, JAPAN
Tel (81-6) 6263 1600
Fax (81-6) 6263 1770
Email tsvnosa@gold.ocn.ne.jp

IN DPR KOREA - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address 7 Munsu Street, Pyongyang, DPRK
Tel (8502) 381 7353 Consular: 381 7111
Fax (8502) 381 7632

IN REP. KOREA - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address 28-58, Samchong-Dong, Chongno-Ku, 110-230, Seoul, KOREA
Tel (822) 738 2318; 739 2065; 723 0710; 734 7948 (consular)
Fax (822) 739 2064; 738 2317
Email vndsqa@yahoo.com

IN LAOS - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address Thatluang Rd., Vientiane, LAO PDR
Tel (856) 2141 3409; 2141 4602; 2141 3400 (consular)
Fax (856) 2141 3379; 2141 4601
Email dsqvn@laotel.com; lao.dsqvn@mofa.gov.vn

CONSULATE GENERAL OF VIETNAM IN PAKSE

Address #31, Banphabat, Pakse, Champassak, LAO PDR
Tel (856) 3121 2058
Fax (856) 3121 2827
Email ksvnps@laotel.com

CONSULATE GENERAL OF VIETNAM IN SAVANAKHET

Address 118 Sisavangvong, Muong Khanthabouli, Savanakheth, LAO PDR
Tel (856) 4121 2418
Fax (856) 4121 2182
Email tsxavan@laotel.com

CONSULATE GENERAL OF VIETNAM IN LUANG PRABANG

Address #123, 13 North Road, Nasamphanh, Luang Prabang,
Luang Prabang, LAO PDR
Tel (856) 7125 4745/46/48/49
Fax (856) 7125 4749
Email tsqlpb@yahoo.com

IN MALAYSIA - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address No.4, Persiaran Stonor 50450, Kuala Lumpur, MALAYSIA
Tel (603) 2148 4534; 2148 4036 (consular)
Fax (603) 2148 3270
Email daisevn1@streamyx.com; daisevn1@putra.net.my

IN MONGOLIA - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address Ench Taivny Urgun Chuluu 47,
Ulaanbaatar, MONGOLIA C.P.Box 670
Tel (976) 145 4632; 145 8917
Fax (976) 145 8923
Email vinaemba@magicnet.mn

IN MYANMAR - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address #72, Than Lwin Road,
Bahan Township, Yangon - MYANMAR
Tel (951) 524 656; 501 993
Fax (951) 524 285
Email vnembmyr@cybertech.net.mm

IN PAKISTAN - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address House No. 10A, Street No. 31,
Sector F-8/1, Islamabad, Pakistan
Tel (92-51) 2850581
Fax (92-51) 2850582
Email dsqvn.pakistan@yahoo.com

IN THE PHILIPPINES - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address 670 Pablo Ocampo (Vito Cruz)
Malate, Manila, the PHILIPPINES
Tel (632) 525 2837; 521 6843; 524 0364 (consular)
Fax (632) 526 0472
Email sqvnplp@qinet.net

IN SINGAPORE - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address 10 Leedon Park St., SINGAPORE 267887
Tel (65) 6462 5936; 6462 5938
Fax (65) 6468 9863
Email vnemb@singnet.com.sg

IN THAILAND - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address 83/1 Wireless Road, Lumpini, Pathumwan,
Bangkok 10330, THAILAND
Tel (662) 267 9602; 251 5837; 115 / 116 (consular)
Fax (662) 254 4630; 251 7201; 250 7525 (consular)
Email vnemb.th@mofa.gov.vn

CONSULATE GENERAL OF VIETNAM IN KHONKAEN

Address 65/6 Chatapadung,
Khonkaen 40000, THAILAND
Tel (66) 4324 2190
Fax (66) 4324 1154
Email khue@loxinfo.co.th

OCEANIA

IN AUSTRALIA - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address 6 Timbarra Cres., O'Malley Canberra, ACT 2606, AUSTRALIA
 Tel (612) 6286 6059; 6290 1549; 6290 1556 (consular)
 Fax (612) 6286 4534
 Email vembassy@webone.com.au

CONSULATE GENERAL OF VIETNAM IN SYDNEY

Address 489 New South Head Rd., Double Bay, Sydney,
 N.S.W. 2028, AUSTRALIA
 Tel (612) 9327 2539; 9327 1912
 Fax (612) 9328 1653
 Email vnconsul@ihug.com.au

IN NEW ZEALAND - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address Level 21, Grand Plimmer Tower,
 2 Gilmer Terrace P.O. Box 8042, Wellington, NEW ZEALAND
 Tel (644) 473 5912
 Fax (644) 473 5913
 Email embassyvn@paradise.net.nz

EUROPE

IN AUSTRIA - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address Felix-Mottl Strasse 20, A-1190, Vienna, AUSTRIA
 Tel (43-1) 368 0755
 Fax (43-1) 368 0754
 Email embassy.vietnam@aon.at

IN BELARUS - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address No 3, Mozajskovo Str., Minsk - BELARUS 220040
 Tel (3751) 7237 4879
 Fax (3751) 7237 4879
 Email dsqvn.belarus@mofa.gov.vn

IN BELGIUM - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address #1, Boul. Général Jacques, 1050 Bruxelles, BELGIUM
 Tel (322) 379 2737; 379 2731; 379 2736 (consular)
 Fax (322) 374 9376
 Email vnemb.brussels@skynet.be

IN BULGARIA - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address #1, Jetvarka St., Sofia 1113, BULGARIA
 Tel (359) 2963 2609; 2963 3742 (consular)
 Fax (359) 2963 3658
 Email dsqvnsofia@eml.cc

IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address Plzenská 214, Praha 5, 150 00, CZECH REPUBLIC
 Tel (420) 257 211 540; 224 922 074 (consular)
 Fax (420) 257 211 792; 224 916 488 (consular)
 Email dsqvietnamcz@yahoo.com

IN DENMARK - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address Gammel Vartov Vej 20, DK - 2900 Hellerup,
 Copenhagen, DENMARK
 Tel (45) 3918 3932/4178
 Fax (45) 3918 4171
 Email embvndk@hotmail.com

IN FINLAND - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address Aleksanterinkatu 15A, 5Kr., 00100 Helsinki, Finland
 Tel (358) 9622 9900
 Fax (358) 9562 6302
 Email vietnamfinland@gmail.com; vnemb.fi@mofa.gov.vn

IN FRANCE - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address 62-66 Rue Boileau, 75016 Paris, FRANCE
 Tel (331) 4414 6400/ 6421/ 6426 (consular)
 Fax (331) 4524 3948; 4414 6424 (consular)
 Email vnparis@wanadoo.fr; vnparis@club-internet.fr

VIETNAM UNESCO REPRESENTATION IN PARIS

Address 2, Le Verrier, 75006 Paris, FRANCE
 Tel (331) 4432 0877; 4432 0873
 Fax (331) 4432 0879
 Email unescochaups@aol.com

IN GERMANY - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address Elsenstrasse 3, 12435 Berlin, GERMANY
 Tel (4930) 5363 0108; 5363 0113;
 5363 0119; 5363 0100 (consular)
 Fax (4930) 5363 0200
 Email sqvnberlin@t-online.de

SECOND OFFICE IN BONN

Address Konstantinstrasse 37, 53179 Bonn, GERMANY
 Tel (49) 228 957 540
 Fax (49) 228 351 866
 Email sqvnbonn@aol.com

IN HUNGARY - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address Thokoly út 41, 1146 Budapest, HUNGARY
 Tel (361) 342 5583; 342 9922, 343 3836 (consular)
 Fax (361) 352 8798
 Email su_quan@hu.inter.net; dungsq03@yahoo.com

IN THE NETHERLANDS - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address Nassauplein 12, 2585 EB, the Hague, the NETHERLANDS
 Tel (3170) 364 8917; 364 4300
 Fax (3170) 364 8656
 Email emviet@planet.nl

IN POLAND - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address Ul. Resorowa 36, 02-956 Warszawa, POLAND
 Tel (4822) 651 6098 (ext. 14) ((consular - ext. 10)
 Fax (4822) 651 6095
 Email office@ambasadawietnamu.org

IN ROMANIA - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address #35, C.A. Rosetti St., Sec.2, Bucarest, ROMANIA
 Tel (4021) 311 0334/0344
 Fax (4021) 312 1626
 Email vietrom2005@yahoo.com

IN RUSSIA - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address 13, Bolshaya Pirogovskaya St.,
 Moscow, RUSSIAN FEDERATION
 Tel (70-95) 245 0925; 247 0212; 246 0687 (consular)
 Fax (70-95) 246 3121; 246 6807 (consular)
 Email dsqvn@com2com.ru

CONSULATE GENERAL OF VIETNAM IN VLADIVOSTOK

Address 107/1, Puskinskaya St., Vladivostok,
 RUSSIAN FEDERATION
 Tel (7-4232) 205 814; 226 948
 Fax (7-4232) 261 496
 Email binh@fastmail.vladivostok.ru

IN SPAIN - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address C/ Arturo Soria 201, 1-AyB, 28043 - Madrid, SPAIN
 Tel (3491) 510 2867
 Fax (3491) 415 7067
 Email claudiomes@yahoo.com

IN SWEDEN - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address #26, Orby Slottsvag, 125 71 Alvsjo,
 Stockholm, SWEDEN
 Tel (468) 5562 1070/1071; 5562 1079/1077 (consular)
 Fax (468) 5562 1080
 Email infor@vietnamemb.se

IN SWITZERLAND - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address Schlosslistrasse 263008 Bern - SWITZERLAND
 Tel (41) 31 388 7878
 Fax (41) 31 388 7879
 Email vietsuisse@bluewin.ch

REPRESENTATION OF VIETNAM IN GENEVA

Address 18A, Chemin Francois-Lehmann,
 1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, SWITZERLAND
 Tel (412) 2798 9866
 Fax (412) 2798 0724
 Email mission.vietnam@itu.ch

IN TURKEY - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address No. 34 Cayhane Sokak, Gajiosmanpasa,
 Ankara, TURKEY
 Tel (90-312) 446 8049
 Fax (90-312) 446 5623
 Email dsqvntrkiye@yahoo.com

IN THE U.K - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address 12-14 Victoria Rd., London W8-5RD, UK
 Tel (4420) 7937 1912
 Fax (4420) 7937 6108
 Email embassy@vietnamembassy.org.uk;
 vanphong@vietnamembassy.org.uk

IN UKRAINE - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address 01.103 Kiev, 51A Tovarona st., UKRAINE
 Tel (38044) 284 5739/32/34; 284 5738 (consular)
 Fax (38044) 284 5542
 Email dsq@dsqvn.kiev.ua

IN UZBEKISTAN - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address Rashidov Str. 100, Tashkent 700084, UZBEKISTAN
 Tel (9987) 1134 0393; 1134 4541
 Fax (9987) 1120 6265; 1120 6556
 Email dsqvntas@rol.uz

AFRICA**IN ALGERIA - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM**

Address 30, Rue Chénoua, Hydra, Alger, ALGERIA
 Tel (213) 269 2752
 Fax (213) 269 3778
 Email sqvnaler@djazair-conn.ect.com

IN ANGOLA - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address Rue Alexandre Peres No4,
 Maianga - Luanda, ANGOLA (BOX 1774)
 Tel (244) 239 1075; 239 0684
 Fax (242) 239 0369
 Email dsqvnangola@netangola.com; lanhsuangola@netgangola.com

IN EGYPT - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address #8 Madina El Monawara st., Dokki, Cairo, EGYPT
 Tel (202) 761 7309
 Fax (202) 336 8612
 Email vinaemb@intouch.com

IN KUWAIT - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address Jabriya, Block 10, Str.19, Villa 96,
 P.O.Box 1232, Dasman 15463, KUWAIT
 Tel (965) 531 1450; 535 1593
 Fax (965) 535 1592
 Email vnembassy.ku@mofa.gov.vn

IN LIBYA - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM

Address Al-Hadba Al-Khadra Area, P.O.Box 587, Tripoli, LIBYA
 Tel (21821) 490 1456/1354/4294
 Fax (21821) 490 1499
 Email dsqvnlib@yahoo.com

IN SOUTH AFRICA - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM	
Address	87 Brooks St., Brooklyn, Pretoria, SOUTH AFRICA P.O. Box 13692, Hatfield 0028
Tel	(2712) 362 8119; 362 8118
Fax	(2712) 362 8115
Email	embassy@vietnam.co.za

IN TANZANIA - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM	
Address	Plot #869, Old Bagamoyo Rd., Dar Es Salaam, TANZANIA P.O.Box 9724
Tel	(2552) 2277 2269/3172
Fax	(2552) 2277 3138
Email	hungvnemb@yahoo.com; vnembassy@raha.com

IN DUBAI, THE UAE - CONSULATE GENERAL OF VIETNAM	
Address	Villa #11, Str. 323/36, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Rd., Al Jafiliya, Bur Dubai, Dubai, UAE, P.O. Box 11457 (JMRH)
Tel	(9714) 398 8924
Fax	(9714) 398 8624
Email	vnconsul@emirates.net.ae

AMERICAS

IN ARGENTINA - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM	
Address	Calle 11 de Septiembre 1442 C.P. 1426 - Capital Federal ARGENTINA
Tel	(5411) 4783 1802; 4783 1825
Fax	(5411) 4728 0078
Email	sqvnartn@fibertel.com

IN BRASIL - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM	
Address	Shis Q1 05, Conjunto 14, Casa 21, Lago Sul, CEP: 71615-140, Brasilia/DF, BRASIL
Tel	(5561) 364 5876; 364 7587
Fax	(5561) 364 5836
Email	tlsvqnsnp@uol.com.br

IN CANADA - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM	
Address	470 Wilbrod Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1N 6M8, CANADA
Tel	(1613) 236 0772; 236 1398 (consular)
Fax	(1613) 236 2704; 236 0819 (consular)
Email	vietem@istar.ca; vietnamembassy@rogers.com

IN CHILE - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM	
Address	2751 Eliodoro Yanez, Providencia, Santiago, CHILE
Tel	(562) 244 3633; 244 3755
Fax	(562) 356 6564
Email	sqvnchile@yahoo.com

IN CUBA - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM	
Address	#1802, 5ta. Avenide, Esquina A18, Miramarm Playa. La Habana, CUBA
Tel	(537) 204 1501/1502/1042
Fax	(537) 204 1041
Email	embaviet@ceniai.inf.cu; vndaisu@ceniai.inf.cu

IN MEXICO - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM	
Address	255 Sierra Ventana, Lomas de Chapultepec, Delegation Miguel Hidalgo, CP.11000, MEXICO D.F.
Tel	(5255) 5540 1632/7587 (consular)
Fax	(5255) 5540 1612:5520 8689 (consular)
Email	dsqvn9@aol.com.mx; dsqvn@terra.com.mx

IN PANAMA - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM	
Address	52 Jose Gabriel Duque, La Cresta, Ciudad de Panama, Aparatado Postal 12434-6A, El Dorado, PANAMA
Tel	(507) 265 2551
Fax	(507) 265 6052; 264 4909
Email	embavinapa@cwpanama.net

IN THE USA - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM	
Address	1233, 20th St., NW, Suite 400, Washington DC, 20036, USA
Tel	(1-202) 861 0737; 861 2293 (consular)
Fax	(1-202) 861 0917; 861 0694 (consular)
Email	vietnamembassy@msn.com; info@vietnamembassy-usa.org consular@vietnamembassy-usa.org
Website	www.vietnamembassy-usa.org

PERMANENT MISSION OF VIETNAM TO THE UN IN NEW YORK	
Address	866 UN Plaza, Suite 435, New York, N.Y. 10017, USA
Tel	(1212) 644 0594
Fax	(1212) 644 5732
Email	vietnamun@vnmission.com

GENERAL CONSULATE OF VIETNAM IN SAN FRANCISCO	
Address	1700 California St., Suite 430, San Francisco, CA 94109, USA
Tel	(1415) 922 1577; 922 1707
Fax	(1415) 922 1848; 922 1757
Email	info@vietnamconsulate-sf.org
Website	www.vietnamconsulate-sf.org

IN VENEZUELA - EMBASSY OF VIETNAM	
Address	N/A
Tel	(58 212) 261 0074
Fax	(58 212) 264 7324
Email	embavive@yahoo.com.vn

Address	
Tel	
Fax	
Email	

PHOTO	PAGE	PHOTO	PAGE
Tinh Tam lotus Lake in Tu Duc Tomb.	4-5	A Seminar on Vietnamese enterprises and WTO held in Hanoi on 17 August 2006.	51
Hanoi Flag Tower.	7	An overseas Vietnamese intellectuals' conference held in August 2005.	55
An industrial park in Long Dat, Ba Ria-Vung Tau province.	14	A fishery raising farm with investment of an overseas Vietnamese.	56
A Quan Ho performance during Co Loa Festival. Co Loa, in the suburb of Hanoi, was the Citadel of Au Lac (208-179 BC) and Van Xuan (939-965).	17	An overseas Vietnamese businessmen's conference held in September 2006 in Da Nang.	58
President Ho Chi Minh declared the foundation of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam at Ba Dinh Square on 2nd September, 1945.	22	Han Bridge in Da Nang city.	63
Parade during national reunification celebration in 1975.	25	Dinh Co Gas-Liquidizing Factory.	64
Son La Hydro-power Plant construction site - 2005.	26	A production chain at Song Hong Garment Company in Nam Dinh province.	67
Casting ballots in Meo Vac, Ha Giang, for the 11 th National Assembly.	31	A traditional family in Son Tay, Ha Tay province in the early 20 th century. (http://memory.loc.gov/frd/cs/vietnam)	78
A Q & A session at the National Assembly.	32	A Royal Refine Music performance. (Postal photo in early 20 th century)	83
A Government's working session in June 2006.	35	A medicine production line at Traphaco Joint Stock Company.	93
Welcoming foreign guests.	39	A class at San Thau Junior Secondary School in Muong Nhe, Dien Bien province.	94
A landmark on Vietnam-China border.	40	An Ao Dzai show on Truong Tien Bridge in 2002 Hue Festival.	101
An offshore oil rig, symbol of Vietnam-Russia cooperation.	43	Moc Bai Border Gate (Tay Ninh Province) on Vietnam - Cambodia border.	104
Repatriation of MIA remains.	44		
Presentation of a replica of Ngoc Lu bronze Drum to the UN Secretary General on its 50 th Foundation Day 1945-1995.	47		

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs would like to convey its sincere thanks to the Vietnam News Agency, the People's Committee of Da Nang City, the Information Centre of Ba Ria - Vung Tau Province, the Vietnam Tourism Review, the Que Huong (Homeland) Magazine, Son La Hydro Power Project Management Board, Traphaco Joint Stock Company and other individuals for their photographs contributed to this brochure.

Producer: Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)
Manuscript Editor: MOFA's Press & Information Department
English Translation: MOFA's Interpretation & Translation Division
English Editor: MOFA's Press & Information Department
Art Designer: MINT Advertising Co. Ltd.

Printed 4,000 copies in size 11 x 20 cm at the Cultural Publication Printing Company
Publishing License N^o. 284/GP-CXB issued on 20th October 2006
Print completed & deposited in November 2006

