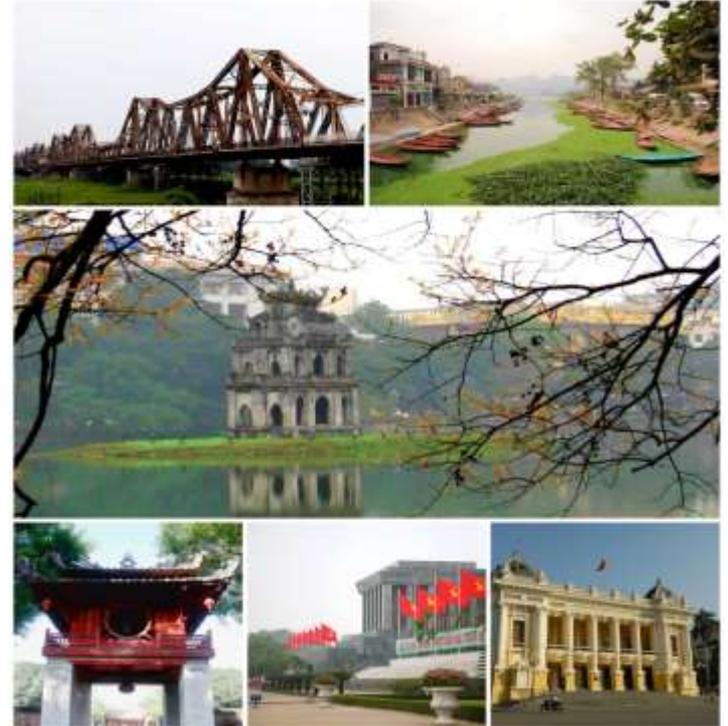


# VIETNAM in BRIEF

Situated on the Indochina Peninsula, Southeast Asia with 331.690 km<sup>2</sup> area; 3.730 km of borders with China, Laos, Cambodia, and 3.260 km of coastline.

Population in 2015 is 91.6 million, 13th most populous country in the world.

Vietnam is multiethnic with 54 ethnicities among them, the Viet (Kinh) are dominant





\***Vietnam Today**: political and social stability; high rates of economic growth around 7% (1990-2012); living standards improved tremendously; international economic integration deepened and broadened.

\* **Development success story, with GDP growth the second highest in the world after only China**, met and surpassed many of the UN MDGs, ensuring progress and justice, eradicating hunger and alleviate poverty.

**Life expectancy >73 years Literacy rate > 95%**

# IN 2015



- GDP growth: 6.68% = \$186 billions (highest in 5 years, 2011: 6.2; 2012: 5.2%; 2013:5.4%; 2014: 6.0%)
- GDP per capita \$2,036 (PPP >\$5000). Lower middle income country from 2010 according the WB
- Exports: \$162 billion.
- Imports: \$166 billion.
- FDI: \$250 billions (as of 2015)

# RENOVATION POLICY

\* Viet Nam advocates the policy of building an independent and self-reliant economy, bringing into full play its internal strengths and international integration and cooperation, in close association with cultural development, social progress and justice, environmental protection, and national industrialization and modernization.

\* Viet Nam embarked on Doi Moi policy in 1986 with three main pillars: (i) to transform the centrally planned economy into a market - oriented one; (ii) to develop a multi - sector economy in which the private sector plays an increasingly important role; and (iii) to actively integrate into regional and global economy.





\* Viet Nam 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, attracting greater foreign direct investment and broadening export market.

\* Viet Nam continues to step up economic restructuring and transforming growth model, creating breakthroughs in three strategic areas: (1) to improve market economy institutions; (2) developing and raising the quality of human resources especially high skilled; (3) to develop intergrated infrastructure to support growth to make Viet Nam a modern-oriented industrial country by 2020.



# FOREIGN POLICY

- Since Doi moi, Viet Nam pursues the consistent foreign policy of independence, self-reliance, diversification and multilateralization of external relations and proactive international integration, striving for Peace, Cooperation and Development; Viet Nam is a friend, a reliable partner and a responsible member of the international community.
- The 11th Party Congress (2011) marked an important shift in foreign policy thinking with the line of “proactive, and active international integration”.
- Foreign policy Achievements: *First*, we have maintained an environment of peace, stability favourable for development, and substantially and effectively deepened external relations.

*Second*, foreign affairs service has contributed actively to the implementation of the objectives of socio-economic development.

*Third*, foreign affairs service have contributed significantly to maintaining territorial, sea, and islands sovereignty, and protecting national security.

*Fourth*, Viet Nam’s position in the international arena has been enhanced through elevation of multilateral external relations from “active participation” to “proactively contribute to building and shaping the general rules of the game,” protecting and effectively promoting strategic interests on security and development of Viet Nam, while reflecting the spirit of a “responsible member of the international community.”

# FOREIGN POLICY

- The 12th Party Congress (2.2016) adopted orientations and major tasks for foreign affairs in the next 5 years: to maintain and consolidate security and external economic environment deepen international integration, and strengthen the position of Viet Nam in the region and the world. The completion of these tasks can face more difficulties and challenges when the situation in the region and the world are developing complicatedly and rapidly.
- With the position and strength of the country after 30 years of Renovation, with steadfast determination to serve national interests, Viet Nam's external relations will increasingly develop and adapt quickly to the changes of the situation, continue to play its role as the forefronts in maintaining peaceful environment favorable for development.

# BILATERAL DIPLOMACY: STRATEGIC AND COMPREHENSIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Main Foreign policy priorities:

- To deepen the established international relations in a stable and sustainable framework, giving priority to strengthening our relations with neighboring countries and major powers in the world. Until now, Vietnam has 15 strategic partners and 10 comprehensive partners.

*Strategic partnership*: to increase cooperation in all areas, including politics, economics, culture, national defense, and security with greater attention to each other's strategic interests with extensive cooperation and shared interests toward strategic trust.

*Comprehensive partnerships*: cooperation level lower than strategic partnerships and higher than friendly cooperation. Some areas of cooperation in comprehensive partnerships reach the strategic level but the connectivity and attention to each other's strategic interests in other areas are not high. This framework stresses broad cooperation to consolidate trust toward the future.

- Proactively and actively engage in comprehensive international integration; deepen participation in global and regional institutions, especially in building ASEAN community by 2015 and strengthening relationship between ASEAN and its dialogue partners.
- Cooperate actively with countries, regional and international organizations; address non-traditional security issues, particularly climate change, food and water resource security, poverty reduction, structural reform, green growth, regional connectivity and human resource development.
- Promote the settlement of outstanding border and territorial issues by peaceful means on the basis of the fundamental principles of international law.

# The South China Sea/East Sea Dispute

- The South China/East Sea has an extremely important position in regional and international maritime transport, it is closely related to security, maritime safety, peace, stability and development of the region

- Viet Nam's consistent policy is to resolve disputes in the East Sea by peaceful means on the basis of mutual understanding and respect, in accordance with international law, particularly the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, respect for the rights of coastal states to their exclusive economic zone and continental shelf in accordance with international law. While seeking a long-term and fundamental solution to the East Sea issue, the parties concerned should strictly implement DOC and join efforts in formulating COC.

- Recent Tensions in the SCS are due to: The acts of large-scale construction, expanding of islands and rocks and militarization of the areas .Viet Nam is concerned about current complicated developments in the East Sea, especially large-scale construction activities which changed the natural characteristics of some structures in the sea, destroyed the marine environment and ecosystem and seriously affect peace, stability and security in the region, causing great concern among ASEAN member nations and countries inside and outside the region.

# The South China Sea/East Sea Dispute

- The reclamation activities of China violate the 2002 ASEAN–China Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea/East Sea and the current efforts of ASEAN towards a Code of Conduct that creates a rules-based framework for managing and regulating the conduct of parties in the South China Sea/East Sea dispute.
  - Many countries in the region voiced their concerns over the recent tensions in the South China Sea/East Sea and acknowledged that the maintenance of peace, stability, safety, and freedom of navigation in the South China Sea/East Sea is in the common interests of the international community.
  - Vietnam firmly requests China to immediately stop such activities, seriously comply with international law, especially the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea in 1982, as well as the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the East Sea (DOC); stop additional actions which complicate and expand the dispute over the East Sea.
- Among claimant states and parties of sovereignty in the East Sea, four ASEAN member countries including Viet Nam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei are engaged in direct disputes in these waters. Other countries like Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand and Cambodia which are lying on the coastal areas of the East Sea share great strategic interests in economic, free trade, security, and national defense.
  - The task of managing conflicts in the East Sea are both responsibilities and strategic interests of ASEAN as ASEAN is striving to ASEAN Political-Security Community (ASPC) by the end of 2015. This also helps ASEAN maintain and strengthen its central role, driving force, in the evolving structure Asia-Pacific, particularly the role of ASEAN in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the East Asia Summit (EAS) and the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM+).

# MULTILATRAL DIPLOMACY

\* 11th National Party Congress Politburo's Resolution 22 : "Proactively and actively participating in multilateral institutions, contributing to building fair and democratic political and economic order, preventing wars and conflicts, strengthening peace and promoting win-win cooperation".

\*Vietnam's election with high votes to important agencies of the UN such as the Security Council (2008-2009 tenure), the Human Rights Council (2014-2016 tenure), the Economic and Social Council (2016-2018 tenure), the International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors (2013-2015 tenure), the World Heritage Committee (2013-2017 tenure) and the UNESCO Executive Board (2015-2019 tenure).

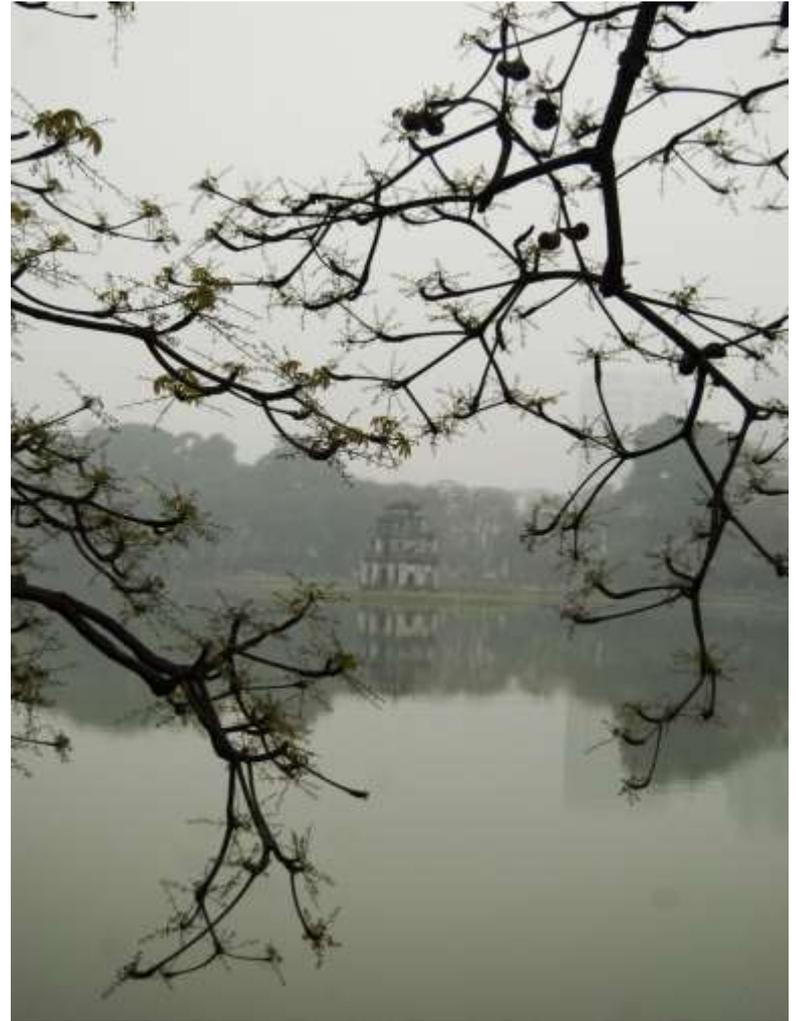
- Multilateral diplomatic activities have been increased in both depth and width through various channels of the Party, State, National Assembly and people-to-people exchange, winning trust from the international community as evidenced by the country's hosting of important regional and global events such as the 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of International Conference of Asian Political Parties ( ICAPP ) Standing Committee in April 2013, the 132<sup>nd</sup> IPU General Assembly in April 2015 and the APEC Summit in 2017.

## INTERNATIONAL INTERGRATION

\* As Viet Nam is actively integrating into global economy, Viet Nam has established trade relations with more than 200 countries and territories, one of the largest export-oriented and open economies in ASEAN (total trade 1.5 of GDP)

\* The country has joined various economic arrangements at bilateral, regional and global levels. It is member of the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Asia - Europe Meeting, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Asia Development Bank and other regional and international organizations.

\* Economic cooperation with major economies like the United States, the EU, Japan, Russia, China and India has been broadened. With 15 free trade agreements to be signed or take effect by 2020, Vietnam will become involved in a network of regional FTAs with 58 partners, including all five permanent members of the UN Security Council and 15 G20 countries, which will account for 80 percent of the world GDP.





- Viet Nam has signed FTAs with the EU, Republic of Korea and the Russia - Belarus - Kazakhstan Customs Union; and most recently the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP). Vietnam's participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).



#### **ASEAN ACTIVE MEMBER**

- \* Joining ASEAN in 1995, Vietnam has become an active member, joining hands with other ASEAN member countries to build the ASEAN Community and consolidate the group's central role in the evolving regional structure.
- Active role in implementing measures to build the ASEAN Economic Community, become a bridge connecting mainland and island ASEAN economies and promoting cooperation between the group and its dialogue partners, turning ASEAN into a centre of the economic-trade network and connectivity in Asia-Pacific.



# VIETNAM – MEXICO RELATIONS

\* Viet Nam and Mexico established diplomatic relations on May 19th, 1975. In 1975, Vietnam opened its Embassy in Mexico. Mexico opened its Embassy in Hanoi in 1976, but closed it in 1980 for economic difficulty reason. In July 2000, Mexico reopened its Embassy in Hanoi.

\* Regarding high-ranking visit exchanges, the most significant ones have been the visit to Mexico by Prime Minister Pham Van Dong (1979), National Assembly Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho (1985), Prime Minister Phan Van Khai (2002, 10th APEC Summit), Standing Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung (2001), Ministers of Foreign Affairs Nguyen Co Thach (in 1975 and 1988), Nguyen Manh Cam (in 1996), and Nguyen Dy Nien (2002). Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism Hoang Tuan Anh came to Mexico in 2015 for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



\* On the Mexican side, there have been a number of visits to Vietnam by diplomatic delegations, Parliament, President's Special Envoy... Mexico supported Vietnam's candidacy for non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council, term 2008-2009.

\* The economic-trade ties between the two countries have grown, but not yet met each country's needs and potentials. The two-way trade volume was USD 187 million in 2004 and reached more than 2 billion in 2015. Mexico imports apparel, footwear and handicraft from Vietnam while exporting cotton, material plastic and furniture to Vietnam.



\* The two countries have signed several cooperation agreements in different areas such as agriculture, healthcare, culture, education, science and technology...Most recently, the two countries signed the Agreement to establish Joint Commission on economic, trade and investment cooperation on the sidelines of the Signature of TPP in New Zealand 4/2/2016.. Vietnam and Mexico have supports each other to become members of UN Human Right Council (2014) and VN support Mexico as Observer of Francophonie (2014).



\* In 2015, two countries celebrated 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations with various activities to strengthen and promote the friendship and cooperation in areas of mutual interests. Now as members of TPP, the two countries will work together to elevate cooperation to a higher level in the interests of the two countries and two people./.

GRACIAS !