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NEWLY ELECTED STATE PRESIDENT LUONG CUONG:

**DEDICATED TO FULFILLING RESPONSIBILITIES  
TO THE PARTY, STATE AND PEOPLE**

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VCCI Intellectual Property Sole Member Company Limited (VCCI-IP CO., LTD.), belonging to Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, is specialized in Intellectual Property legal services. VCCI-IP was established in 1984 (right after the establishment of National Office of Intellectual Property of Vietnam (NOIP) in 1982), formerly as the Patent & Trademark Bureau of Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, to take the task authorized by the Government to exclusively represent for the registration and protection of intellectual property assets of foreign individuals/entities in Vietnam for years.

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## NEWLY ELECTED STATE PRESIDENT LUONG CUONG

# DEDICATED TO FULFILLING RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE PARTY, STATE AND PEOPLE



President Luong Cuong takes the oath of office at the 8th plenary meeting of the National Assembly

In his address to the National Assembly, newly elected State President Luong Cuong affirmed he would try his best to fulfill his presidential duties according to the Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the tasks entrusted him by the Party, the State and the People.

### BICH HANH

**D**uring the 8th plenary meeting on October 21, attended by all members, the National Assembly approved a resolution to elect Comrade Luong Cuong, Politburo member and Permanent Secretary of the Secretariat, as President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for the 2021-2026 term.

Following the swearing-in ceremony, President Luong

Cuong delivered a speech to the National Assembly.

“At this special moment, I am very moved, honored and fully aware of the great responsibility entrusted to me by the Party, the State, and the People with my election as President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam,” he said.

President Cuong expressed his respectful gratitude to the Party Central Committee, the Politburo, the Secretariat, General Secretary To Lam, and all Party and State leaders for their trust and support in recommending him for this noble responsibility. He conveyed his deep respect and infinite gratitude to beloved Uncle Ho and

paid tribute to the great contributions of predecessors, veteran revolutionaries, heroic mothers, heroes, martyrs and wounded soldiers, compatriots, comrades and people across the country, whose dedication and sacrifice have laid the foundation for Vietnam's current strength, potential, and international standing.

“In February 1975, in the heroic atmosphere of the whole country eagerly advancing toward the South, I volunteered to join the army with the clear awareness and thought: to fight for the liberation of the South and to reunify our country, with the hope of returning alive after victory. I have never sought any official position or rank. I have so far served the revolution for nearly 50 years. I have held many positions, undergoing training and testing in the struggle to safeguard our Fatherland, evolving from a soldier into a high-ranking Party leader. Regardless of the position I hold or tasks assigned to me, I remain politically steadfast and absolutely loyal to the Party, the Fatherland, and the People, striving to overcome challenges, continually study and cultivate my skills, uphold moral virtues, enhance my working capacity, and wholeheartedly fulfil all responsibilities entrusted to me by the Party, the State, the Army and the People,” he said.

On this occasion, President Luong Cuong expressed his



**Leaders of the Vietnamese Party and State present bouquets of flowers to General Secretary To Lam and newly elected President Luong Cuong**

profound gratitude to the Party, the State, the Army, and the Party committees and authorities at all levels. He thanked current and former leaders, comrades, and teammates, as well as the People, for their support, guidance and care, which have enabled him to fulfill his duties.

In light of the increasing demands in the cause of national construction and defense, and having been just sworn in before the National Assembly, compatriots, comrades and voters nationwide in his new position, President Luong Cuong said that he would do his best to fulfill his presidential duties in line with the Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and his tasks entrusted by the Party, the State and the People as follows:

Continue to maintain and strengthen the high solidarity and unity within the Party; join with the entire Party, the entire people and the entire army to build and nurture the strength of great national unity; build a clean, strong socialist rule-of-law state, truly of the people, by the people and for the people; reinforce national defense and security, build a revolutionary, disciplined, astute and modern people's armed forces that remain absolutely loyal and trustworthy to the Party, the State and the People.

Build and consolidate the "people-based position", a solid all-people national defense position and a solid

people-based security position; consistently implement the foreign policy of independence, resilience, peace, friendship, cooperation and development, multilateralization, diversification and active international integration, ensure the highest national interests; and uphold the principle that Vietnam is a friend, a reliable partner, an active and responsible member of the international community.

Resolutely and persistently protect the independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the country, maintain a peaceful and stable environment for national construction and development; resolutely pursue the goal of national independence and socialism, and strive to build a Vietnam with rich people, strong state, democracy, fairness, civilization, prosperity and happiness.

Besides his own efforts and determination, President Luong Cuong hoped that the Party Central Committee, the Politburo, the Secretariat, the General Secretary, current leaders and former leaders of the Party and the State, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, all levels and branches of authority, localities, agencies, organizations, compatriots, comrades, voters nationwide and compatriots abroad will support him to successfully fulfill his assigned tasks. ■

## UPGRADING VIETNAM-FRANCE RELATIONS TO “COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP”

Given bilateral cooperation achievements since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1973, based on similar interests and shared common vision on compliance with the United Nations Charter, Vietnamese General Secretary and President To Lam and French President Emmanuel Macron agreed to elevate Vietnam-France relations to the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership on the occasion of the former’s official visit to France from October 6-7, 2024.

ANH MAI



**Vietnam’s General Secretary and President To Lam (left) and French President Emmanuel Macron at a press briefing before their talks in Paris**

**A**fter concluding his activities at the 19th Francophone Summit, General Secretary and President To Lam and the high-ranking Vietnamese delegation paid an official visit to France at the invitation of President Emmanuel Macron.

During his official visit to France, Lam attended the official welcoming ceremony and met with the media. He held discussions with French President Emmanuel Macron, met with the President of the French Senate, and received the National Secretary of the French Communist Party as well as representatives from the France-Vietnam Friendship Association. He visited UNESCO

headquarters for a meeting with its Director General. Lam also led a high-ranking Vietnamese delegation to Montreuil City, where they laid flowers in tribute to President Ho Chi Minh and attended the inauguration of a commemorative plaque honoring President Ho Chi Minh. He met with the Mayor of Le Havre City.

The leaders of the two countries agreed to declare the elevation of relations to a comprehensive strategic partnership and agreed on major directions and measures to make the deeper and more practical framework of the Vietnam-France Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in line with the cooperation framework of the two countries in the new context.

In the joint statement, the two countries pledged to bolster bilateral ties on the back of mutual respect for international law,

equality, sovereignty, independence, and each other’s territorial integrity and political systems.

The two sides reaffirmed their shared determination to boost economic, trade and investment cooperation - the pillars of the bilateral relationship. They reiterated the significance of fully implementing the Vietnam-EU Free Trade Agreement, including market access and intellectual property protection. On investment, the two sides will continue to promote their projects in each country towards a transparent, stable and predictable business environment. The two sides underlined the importance of the Vietnam-EU Investment Protection Agreement (EVIPA). Vietnam hoped that France would



soon ratify the EVIPA.

Both sides expressed their desire to develop and deepen strategic cooperation in innovation and new technologies, especially through exchanges on public policies and training activities.

Vietnam hoped to bolster cooperation with France and French companies in infrastructure, urban and rail transport, renewable energy, energy transition, non-carbon hydrogen, digital economy, circular economy, logistics and port infrastructure, civil aviation and submarine cable fields. The two sides agreed to

strengthen collaboration in training and research on the application of civil nuclear technology. They also pledged to expand cooperation in satellite fields and essential mineral fields.

At the joint press conference before his talks with General Secretary and President To Lam, President Macron affirmed that France hoped to reinforce cooperation with Vietnam, especially in business cooperation. The French Government is ready to facilitate and welcome Vietnamese companies to invest in France and help them implement their projects effectively. In addition to economic cooperation, looking to the future, France attaches great importance to cooperation in education, health care and research on teaching and training, as well as cooperation in preservation, development and enhancement of cultural values.

General Secretary and President To Lam emphasized that after more than half a century of official diplomatic relations and a decade of the strategic partnership, the Vietnam-France relationship has strongly developed in all aspects. France always holds an important position in Vietnam's foreign policy and has a role and position in the Francophone community and in the world. Given the extensive development of the Vietnam-France relationship as well as the current new international and regional context, more than ever, this relationship needs to be upgraded to a new level. Through this process, France becomes the first country in the European Union to have a new, comprehensive relationship with Vietnam.

France has always been one of Vietnam's leading economic partners in Europe and the EU, with diverse and long-term economic cooperation ties. France is currently Vietnam's fourth largest trading partner in the EU with a



**General Secretary and President To Lam and French President Emmanuel Macron witness the signing of several cooperation agreements between Vietnam and France**

total bilateral trade value of US\$4.8 billion in 2023, up to 1.5 times higher than that in 2013, when the two countries upgraded their relationship to a strategic partnership.

In 2019, the Vietnam-EU Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA) was officially signed, leveraging exporting and importing activities of Vietnamese companies to France. Many top Vietnamese exports such as textiles and garments, footwear, agricultural and aquatic products made inroads into France following this trade pact.

France is also one of the EU's major investors in Vietnam. As of December 31, 2023, France had 678 direct investment projects with a total registered capital of US\$3.8 billion. France also has more than 300 companies, including 170 subsidiaries of French corporations in Vietnam.

During the visit, the two sides signed a number of cooperation agreements, including the Education Cooperation Agreement between the Government of Vietnam and the Government of France and between the Ministry of Education and Training of Vietnam and the Ministry of National Education of France; and contract for the supply of engines and engine maintenance services for 200 narrow-body aircraft between VietjetAir and the Safran Group and CFM International.

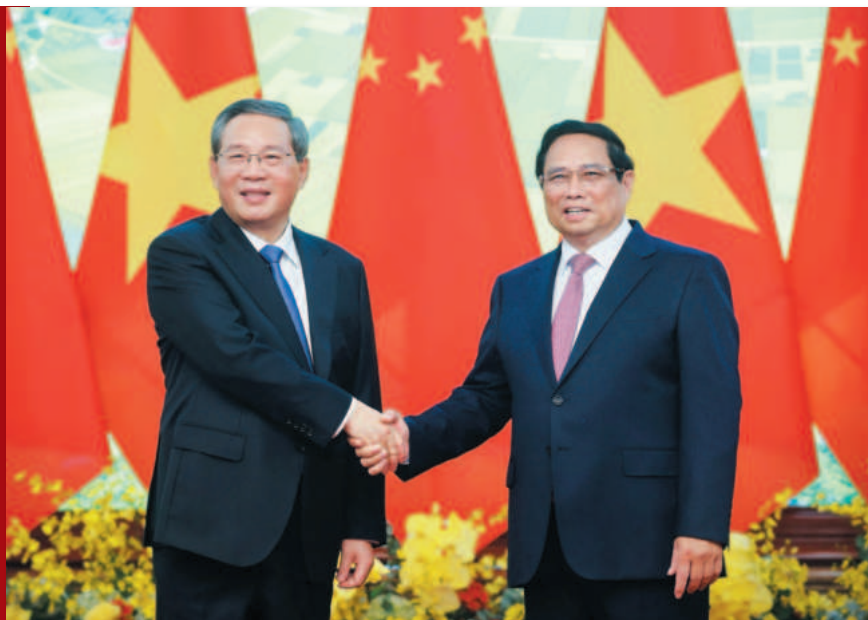
The France working trip by General Secretary and President To Lam together with the high-ranking Vietnamese delegation has contributed to firmly reinforcing the foundations in Vietnam's relations with France and the Francophone community while helping explore new potential areas of mutual cooperation, thus deepening more practical, effective relations with other countries in the new context. ■

## VIETNAM-CHINA

# Increasingly Effective, Substantive, Profound and Comprehensive Relations

At the invitation of Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China Li Qiang paid an official visit to Vietnam from October 12 to 14, 2024.

ANH MAI



Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh (right) and Chinese Premier Li Qiang

**D**uring the visit, Premier Li met with Party General Secretary and President To Lam and Chairman of the National Assembly Tran Thanh Man. In a sincere and friendly atmosphere, the two sides held in-depth discussions and reached broad common perceptions on promoting the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership and the building of the Vietnam-China community with a shared future that carries strategic significance. They also exchanged views on regional and international issues of common concern.

At their meetings and talks, Vietnamese leaders warmly welcomed Premier Li Qiang on his official visit to Vietnam. This marks the first visit to Vietnam by the Premier of the State Council of China in 11 years, and it is also Mr. Li Qiang's first visit to Vietnam in his capacity as Premier. Both sides expressed optimism that this successful visit will positively influence central agencies and localities in both countries, reinforcing their commitment to implement high-level agreements. The aim is to enhance bilateral relations, making them more effective, substantive, profound and comprehensive, thereby contributing to peace, stability, cooperation and development in the region and beyond.

The two sides agreed to fully implement the key common perceptions reached by the top leaders of the two Parties and countries, as well as previous joint statements; persistently adhere to the motto of "friendly neighborliness, comprehensive cooperation, long-term stability, and looking towards the

future," the spirit of being "good neighbors, good friends, good comrades, and good partners," and "six major goals", comprising stronger political trust, more substantial cooperation in defense - security, deeper and more practical cooperation, more solid social foundation, closer multilateral coordination, and better management and settlement of differences in a bid to accelerate the building of the Vietnam-China community with a shared future that carries strategic significance, achieving more substantive and comprehensive results, bringing tangible benefits to both peoples and nations, and making positive and effective contributions to peace, cooperation and development in the region and the world.

The two sides agreed to maintain high-level strategic exchanges, particularly between top Party and State leaders, to guide the development of Vietnam-China relations. The two countries agreed to enhance defense-security cooperation, one of the important pillars of bilateral relations. They consented to foster strategic development connectivity between the two countries, properly implement the cooperation plan on connecting the "Two Corridors, One Belt" framework with the "Belt and Road" initiative, and accelerate the connectivity of railway, expressway and border gate infrastructure. They reached an agreement to accelerate the construction of a road bridge spanning the Red River between Bat Xat in Vietnam and Ba Sa in China, aiming to deepen cooperation in road engineering and enhance "soft connectivity" through smart customs measures.



**Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh and his Chinese counterpart Li Qiang witness the exchange of an MoU between the Vietnam's Ministry of Industry and Trade and China's Ministry of Commerce**

The two sides committed to promoting and supporting reputable companies with advanced technologies to invest in each other's markets. Their collaboration will focus on high-tech agriculture, infrastructure, clean energy, the digital economy and sustainable development. They aim to establish a fair and conducive business environment for enterprises from both countries.

Vietnam and China agreed to promote the role of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area (ACFTA); make good use of e-commerce platforms and exhibitions; strengthen customs cooperation and expand merchandise export to each other. They agreed to strengthen agricultural cooperation, promote cooperation in cultivation and agricultural processing, reinforce cooperation in meteorology and natural disaster

prevention and mitigation, and exchange hydrological data during flooding seasons.

Over the past decade, trade between Vietnam and China has increased more than fourfold. China has emerged as Vietnam's largest import market, while Vietnam has become China's top trading partner in the ASEAN region.

In 2023, the two-way trade value between Vietnam and China reached approximately US\$172 billion, with US\$150 billion recorded in the first nine months of 2024, reflecting a year-on-year growth of 22%. If informal trade were included, the total would be much higher. China's investment in Vietnam has surged over sevenfold, positioning it as the sixth-largest among 148 investor countries and territories in Vietnam. Tourism cooperation has also rebounded strongly, with 2.7 million Chinese tourists visiting Vietnam in the first nine months of 2024, surpassing arrivals from the previous year.

Chinese Premier Li Qiang's visit to Vietnam is particularly significant to bilateral relations as the two countries look toward the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations (2025) and follows important visits by senior leaders of both sides. The visit of great significance continues to deepen the substantive and comprehensive bilateral relationship, thus meeting the aspirations and common interests of the two peoples, for peace, cooperation and development of the region and the world. ■

**During the visit, the two sides signed cooperation documents in the presence of the two Prime Ministers as follows:**

1. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Vietnamese Ministry of Transport and the Chinese National Development and Reform Commission on technical plans for railway connectivity between Vietnam's Lao Cai railway station and China's Hekou North railway station.
2. The working minutes between Vietnam's Ministry of Transport and the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) on a feasibility study for a project to build the planning schemes for the Dong Dang-Ha Noi and Mong Cai-Ha Long-Hai Phong standard-gauge railway routes.
3. The MoU between Vietnam's Ministry of Planning and Investment and CIDCA on jointly promoting repairs and maintenance of the Vietnam-China Friendship Palace.
4. The MoU between Vietnam's Ministry of Planning and Investment and CIDCA on strengthening human resource development cooperation under the Global Development Initiative.
5. The MoU between Vietnam's Ministry of Industry

and Trade and China's Ministry of Commerce on enhancing cooperation in building sustainable agricultural supply chains.

6. The MoU between Vietnam's Ministry of Industry and Trade and China's Ministry of Commerce on establishing a working group to study a model for the development of cross-border economic cooperation zones between Vietnam and China.
7. The Action Plan between the General Department of Vietnam Customs and the General Administration of Customs of China on mutual recognition of Vietnam's Priority Enterprise Program and China's Authorized Economic Operator Program.
8. The MoU on cooperation between the Vietnam News Agency and the China Central Television.
9. The MoU on cooperation between the Vietnam National University of Ha Noi and Peking University of China.
10. The MoU between National Payment Corporation of Vietnam (NAPAS) and UnionPay International on cross-border QR code-based payment service between Vietnam and China.



Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh and ASEAN leaders at the ASEAN Summit

## RESILIENT ASEAN STRENGTHENING CONNECTIVITY, EMBRACING THE FUTURE

Themed “ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience”, the 44th and 45th ASEAN Summits and related summits were greatly successful. During his official trip to Laos to attend these events, Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh and the Vietnamese delegation participated in over 60 bilateral and multilateral activities, underscoring Vietnam's proactive and responsible role while strengthening relationships with partners.

DUY ANH

In preparation for the summits, Vietnam proactively advanced several cooperation priorities aligned with the 2024 ASEAN theme and the shared interests of member countries. Close coordination with Laos, the 2024 ASEAN Chair, and other member states enabled Vietnam to actively contribute to the compilation of summit documents, fostering consensus on key regional and global issues.

Addressing the summits, Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh enriched the concepts of ASEAN's "connectivity" and "resilience" in the current context. He introduced innovative ideas and approaches for regional development, grounded in practical needs.

He said that, in an increasingly volatile world, ASEAN continues to be a bright spot in the global economy, a bridge of dialogue and cooperation, and a focal point of integration and connectivity in the region. Frameworks on digital economy, blue economy and circular economy are gradually shaping new connotations of cooperation in the region.

Believing that ASEAN is preparing for a new development phase with new thinking, new vision, new motivation and new attitude, and with the desire to contribute more to regional

***Vietnam gives top priority to relations with Laos***

*During his attendance to the 44th and 45th ASEAN Summits and related summits in Vientiane, Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh met with all senior leaders of Laos: General Secretary and President Thongloun Sisoulith, Prime Minister Sonexay Siphandone, National Assembly Chairman Saysomphone Phomvihane, and Standing Member of the Party Secretariat and Vice President Bounthong Chithmani. These sincere and substantive exchanges showcased a deep level of attachment and trust between the leaders.*

*Prime Minister Chinh stated that the Party, State and people of Vietnam always attach importance to and give the highest priority to the great friendship, special solidarity and comprehensive cooperation between Vietnam and Laos, considering it a priceless asset, an objective requirement, a top priority, the No. 1 choice and a vital factor for the revolutionary cause of the two countries, which needs to be preserved for future generations.*

cooperation, Prime Minister Chinh suggested that ASEAN needs, more than ever, to take resilience as the foundation to reach new highs, take connectivity as the focus to make breakthroughs, and take innovation as the driving force to pioneer and lead. Resilience and strategic self-reliance are the foundation for ASEAN to remain steadfast amid fluctuations. This involves enhancing internal connectivity alongside external, public-private, and multi-sectoral connections. Innovation will serve as the driving force for ASEAN to advance collectively and lead in both the region and the global arena.

Regarding fostering a resilient ASEAN at all levels, the Prime Minister affirmed that solidarity, unity in diversity, and strategic self-reliance are prerequisites for ASEAN to stand firm in the face of volatility. In implementing relations with partners, ASEAN needs to maintain its centrality, independence, strategic balance and principled behaviors. In international and regional issues, ASEAN needs to firmly adhere to its principled stance, based on international law, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia (TAC) and promote a common voice.

In that spirit, he shared and promoted ASEAN's principled stance on East Sea matters, emphasizing the settlement of disputes by peaceful means, fully and effectively implementing the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the East Sea (DOC) and soon completing a substantive, effective Code of Conduct in the East Sea (COC) in accordance with international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). He also asked partners to support ASEAN's stance and efforts to build the East Sea into a sea of peace, stability, cooperation and sustainable development.

Prime Minister Chinh also underlined the need for strategic connectivity in all aspects, specifically stating connecting a common vision with shared responsible, constructive and willing contributions to peace, stability and prosperity; connecting development cooperation and promoting new growth drivers such as digital economy, green economy, circular economy, sharing economy, stable and resilient supply chains; and connecting people, enhancing exchanges, engagement, understanding, and further strengthening the

identity of the ASEAN Community as well as the foundation of friendly relations between ASEAN and its partners.

Requesting readiness for the new development stage of ASEAN in the face of rapid and complex global and regional movements, Prime Minister Chinh highlighted three tasks for ASEAN's steady and firm development into the future: ASEAN needs to have innovative thinking, breakthrough ideas and drastic actions to foster its pioneering and leading role; ASEAN needs to be a bridge to connect regional priorities with global priorities, thus creating complementarity and synergy in efforts to ensure peace, security and development; and ASEAN needs to encourage broader engagement and contributions of groups and circles, including parliaments, businesses and youth to the process of building the Community. Before the ASEAN leaders, Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh announced that Vietnam will continue hosting the ASEAN Future Forum in 2025 with the desire to contribute more to regional cooperation and connectivity.

He also suggested that ASEAN and its partners need to "be resilient in the face of natural disasters and climate change", promote cooperation in disaster management and damage reduction, enhance community resilience, and assign higher priority to cooperation in energy transition, green transition, environmental protection, and climate change response, particularly recent extreme climate events such as Typhoon Yagi in Southeast Asia or Hurricanes Helene and Milton in the United States.

The activities and statements of Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh and the Vietnamese delegation reaffirmed Vietnam's position on regional and international issues, upholding the principle of respecting ASEAN consensus. Vietnam's active, dynamic and effective engagement has worked with ASEAN member countries and partners to address global and regional issues. Together with member countries, Vietnam maintains and strengthens ASEAN's centrality and promotes ASEAN's responsible voice for peace, stability and development in the region and the world. Vietnam's contributions and initiatives in the key discussions and documents announced, approved, or acknowledged at the summits significantly enhanced the outcomes while effectively safeguarding the country's legitimate interests. ■

*At the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit (ASEAN BIS) 2024, in emphasizing business roles, Prime Minister Chinh stated that "without good businesspeople, the economy will stagnate and the country will not be able to prosper", adding that if businesses develop, the country will develop, if ASEAN businesses develop, ASEAN countries will develop, thus bringing prosperity and happiness to the people.*

*He asked businesses and businesspeople to further work to help ASEAN countries to promote solidarity, unity and resilience, become the center of growth, and support the governments to achieve their goals.*

*He also hoped that the business community of ASEAN countries will continue to cooperate, support and contribute to helping Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia raise their economic connectivity on par with geographical connectivity, historical connectivity, and good political and diplomatic relations.*

## SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION

# Key Strategy for Enterprises

“Transitioning from a profit-driven mindset to a focus on sustainable and nature-positive business is the core element in ensuring for the long-term success of both the enterprise and the economy,” said Mr. Nguyen Quang Vinh, Vice President of Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) and Chairman of Vietnam Business Council for Sustainable Development (VBCSD), in an interview with Vietnam Business Forum.

**DUY ANH****What should businesses focus on to adapt to the greening economy?**

Businesses must shift their mindset, beginning with leadership. Strategic thinking drives action.

Transitioning from a profit-driven mindset to a focus on sustainable and nature-positive business is the core element in ensuring the long-term success of both the enterprise and the economy.

I believe "Leadership means seeing opportunities in challenges, maintaining faith, hope and guiding positive action." With this mindset, business leaders should view sustainable development as an investment and a chance to seize new opportunities, not a burden or cost.

Business leaders must redefine success beyond revenue and profits. Today, success includes adaptability, resilience, and recovery from challenges, as well as long-term growth and contributions to community and environmental sustainability. By balancing economics, society and the environment, businesses can create new value and thrive.

Second, once businesses transform their mindset and redefine success, it's essential for the Board of Directors and top executives to be involved in developing and implementing

a sustainable growth strategy. While Vietnamese companies are increasingly focusing on ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) principles, many still view sustainability as a trend, separate from their core strategy. This approach will not provide a solid foundation for true sustainable development. Instead, ESG must be integrated into the overall business strategy to create a unified framework for long-term success.

Third, businesses must focus on investing in the enhancement of sustainable corporate governance and effectively fulfilling their accountability responsibilities.

Accountability, as defined by the OECD, is a key standard of good corporate governance, closely linked to transparency and information disclosure. With increasing pressure to tackle climate change, accountability and climate target disclosure are increasingly important for the global business community.

In Vietnam, where over 96% of businesses are SMEs with limited resources, we encourage the adoption of the Corporate Sustainability Index (CSI) developed by VBCSD-VCCI. Many companies express a desire for sustainable development but struggle to access green finance. To secure this funding, businesses must disclose information and provide transparent sustainability data to attract international financial institutions.



**VIETNAM BUSINESS COUNCIL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (VBCSD)**

**Sustainable Business,  
Prosperous Societies**

Address: 4th floor, VCCI Building, 9 Dao Duy Anh, Hanoi. Tel: 024 3577 2700 ; Fax: 024 3577 2699 ; Website: [www.vbcسد.vn](http://www.vbcسد.vn)



**VCSF 2024 acknowledges the important role of the sustainable business community in achieving the Net Zero 2050 goal and promoting a sustainable future**

By fulfilling accountability and reporting transparently, businesses can access international investors and broader markets, enabling them to achieve their sustainable development goals.

Fourth, businesses must focus on investing in and promoting the transformation of their value chains. Companies worldwide are prioritizing value chain transformation to meet goals like achieving Net Zero by 2050. Greenhouse gas emissions (90-99%) falls under Scope 3, originating from the value chain rather than the company's own operations. To reach sustainable development goals, businesses must transform their value chains and enhance the capabilities of suppliers and stakeholders, creating a sustainable ecosystem. Without this transformation, achieving sustainability is unlikely.

Fifth, businesses need to further intensify innovation and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

Innovation is crucial for both the approach and implementation of a company's sustainable development strategy. Businesses must differentiate between CSR and sustainable development, as CSR alone does not capture all sustainability aspects.

Furthermore, no business or organization can achieve green transformation alone. Collaboration with stakeholders is essential, as multi-stakeholder cooperation brings together different resources and expertise to address shared challenges in the ecosystem.

Sixth, businesses must pay attention to dual transformation. Digital transformation and the development of new technological solutions must go hand in hand, complementing green transformation. Technological solutions and digital transformation contribute positively to the green and sustainable development efforts of the business community and nations, but they also pose risks that need to be tightly managed.

**How are policy shifts responding to practical demands?**

Sustainable development is a strategic priority in Vietnam's policies, led by the Party and the State. Since 2014, the Vietnam Corporate Sustainability Forum (VCSF) has held 11 editions, alongside National Conferences on Sustainable Development in 2018 and 2019 organized by VCCI. These events have generated many policy recommendations for the Government, contributing to important policies such as Directive 13/CT-TTg on Sustainable Development, Decision 1362/QĐ-TTg for the sustainable development of private sector businesses to 2025 with a vision to 2030, and Resolution 136/NQ-CP on Sustainable Development.

Resolution 41, issued by the Politburo, emphasizes the business community's role in national prosperity and development. I believe that favorable policies will soon be

introduced to support sustainable and responsible business practices, benefiting Vietnamese enterprises.

To create the most favorable environment for sustainable business, the Government should promote green and digital transformation, develop commodity and carbon credit markets, and guide the growth of industries aligned with green and circular economies. Additionally, the Government should issue preferential policies to support technology transformation, establish product development centers, and foster innovation ecosystems. This includes specific guidelines and pilot programs for green transformation. Creating dedicated law on the circular economy would also advance this economic model.

The Government should institutionalize sustainable reporting by integrating multiple reports into a single mandatory tool for corporate information disclosure and management. There should be a long-term plan for developing a unified database for sustainable reporting in Vietnam.

Regulatory bodies need to shift their approach to policy development, management, and oversight. Likewise, the public and society must shift their lifestyle and consumption habits from "gray" to "green."

From VCCI's perspective, as the national organization for the business community, we have long worked together with many ministries to support businesses. This includes facilitating dialogue between businesses and authorities to address issues and sharing sustainable development models. VCSF is a prime example of these efforts.

VCCI has developed various indices to promote sustainable transformation among stakeholders. The Provincial Green Index (PGI) encourages provinces to balance economic development with environmental protection. CSI motivates businesses to adopt sustainable governance practices, enhancing competitiveness and fostering responsible business.

Currently, through the VBCSD, VCCI is collaborating with IDH Vietnam on the Vietnam Sustainable Industrial Park Initiative, which includes the Sustainable Industrial Park (SIP) Index.

We hope that these efforts to connect, collaborate and support the business community in sustainable development, along with policy recommendations to the Government, will facilitate the green transition for Vietnamese enterprises. This will inspire businesses to commit to sustainability, reinforce confidence and work together for a better world through better business practices.

**Thank you very much!**

# Building Solid Foundation for Vietnam-Australia Business Ties



VCCI Secretary General Tran Thi Lan Anh receives a delegation from AusCham, led by President Sam Conroy

Recently, Secretary General Tran Thi Lan Anh of Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) and AusCham President Sam Conroy discussed opportunities and challenges in trade and investment between Vietnam and Australia.

## THU HUYEN

Vietnam has become an increasingly attractive destination for Australian investors, supported by its growing industrial base, youthful workforce and favorable policies. Australia is currently ranked among the top 20 foreign investors in Vietnam. Both leaders agreed there is significant potential for deeper collaboration, especially in education, logistics and foreign direct investment (FDI).

However, they also recognized logistic challenges as a key barrier. "While the foundations of bilateral relations are strong, we need to address issues such as integrating Australian companies into Vietnam's supply chains," said Lan Anh. Sam Conroy said that while Vietnam is viewed as a growing economic hub, logistics and regulatory barriers, especially outside major cities like Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, pose challenges for Australian businesses.

### **Overcoming logistics barriers, expanding FDI**

Although Vietnam has improved its transport and logistics systems, gaps remain, especially outside industrial centers.

Conroy emphasized the need to address logistic bottlenecks that Australian companies encounter when expanding operations. "Logistic inefficiencies can erode business competitiveness, especially in sectors like manufacturing where efficient supply chains are critical," he said.

Lan Anh underscored the potential for Vietnam to become a logistics hub in the region and the need for targeted investments and partnerships, particularly with countries like Australia that have expertise in supply chain management. "We must ensure that our logistics framework can meet the demands of both domestic and international businesses," she said. Both leaders advocated for more joint ventures between Australian and Vietnamese firms to modernize Vietnam's logistics sector, believing these collaborations could

enhance the Vietnam-Australia partnership.

The discussion highlighted the importance of FDI in driving economic growth for both countries. Australia ranks as the 20th largest foreign investor in Vietnam, but Lan Anh noted this could improve with better policies. "To attract more Australian investors, we need a business-friendly climate and simplified regulations," she said. The Vietnamese government is committed to enhancing the ease of doing business for foreign investors bringing capital, technology and expertise.

Conroy agreed, noting that Australian firms bring not only investment capital but also world-class expertise in areas like automation, sustainable manufacturing and digital transformation. These are crucial for Vietnam's long-term economic development. "Vietnamese companies can greatly benefit from increased FDI, particularly through knowledge and technology transfer," he said.

### **Education and skills development: A pillar of cooperation**

Another key area of cooperation between the two nations is education and vocational training. Australia has long been a top destination for Vietnamese students pursuing higher education, and this trend continues to grow. In recent years, Australian institutions have sought partnerships with Vietnamese universities and vocational schools, aiming to align training programs with the demands of the modern workforce.

Lan Anh emphasized that education plays an important role in strengthening ties between the two countries. "It's not just about sending students to study abroad; it's about developing a skilled workforce that can drive the future of both economies," she said. She praised the success of Vietnamese students in Australia and looked forward to more collaborative programs that benefit both nations.

Conroy pointed out the growing demand for vocational training in fields like logistics, IT and high-tech manufacturing.



# Vietnam's Growth Exceeds Expectations, Yet Long-term Challenges Remain

In the third quarter of 2024, Vietnam's economy showed positive results, with growth surpassing expectations, particularly in exports and foreign direct investment (FDI). However, the country still faces long-term challenges, including inflation and a slow recovery in domestic consumption, requiring sustainable solutions to maintain growth momentum.

HUONG LY

## Positive results

By the end of the third quarter of 2024, Vietnam's economy showed progress, with GDP growth at 6.82%, over 1.5 times higher than last year's 4.4%. Despite global economic uncertainty, Vietnam has taken advantage of opportunities in exports, industrial production and services to support its recovery.

Nguyen Quoc Viet, Deputy Director of the Institute for Economic and Policy Research (VEPR), said that GDP growth was mainly due to the industrial and service sectors. Exports and imports also rose, with a total trade turnover of US\$578.5 billion, up 16.3% from last year, and a trade surplus of US\$20.8 billion.

State budget revenue exceeded the planned target, while public spending decreased compared to 2023. This led to a high surplus, allowing for continued fiscal measures in 2024, such as tax exemptions and reductions, especially for sectors affected by Typhoon Yagi.

Trade also showed positive growth, with record FDI disbursements, a strong recovery in tourism, and a declining USD exchange rate at domestic banks, remaining below the ceiling set by the State Bank of Vietnam (SBV). The increase in money supply and credit growth recovered well, contributing to promoting growth and investment, although still lower than the pre-pandemic average.

The SBV continued to implement flexible monetary policies to ease shocks and manage liquidity, helping to lower interest rates and support capital costs without adjusting policy rates directly.

In the first nine months of 2024, over 183,000 new enterprises were registered or re-entered the market, surpassing annual figures from 2018-2021.

“As Vietnam’s economy continues to expand and diversify, there’s an urgent need for skills development in industries critical to its long-term competitiveness,” he said. Australian institutions, he noted, are well-positioned to provide the vocational training and certifications that will help Vietnamese workers succeed in these high-demand sectors.

Both leaders agreed that public-private partnerships are important to address skill gaps and drive workforce development. Lan Anh stressed that the private sector has a key role in shaping Vietnam’s future workforce. “By partnering with foreign institutions, we can ensure our workers have the

Amid global economic recovery, major institutions like the IMF, OECD, World Bank, UN and Euromonitor have revised their growth forecasts for the latter half of 2024, reflecting greater optimism about the global economy.

## Long-term challenges

Despite Vietnam's positive economic results in the first nine months of 2024, Viet warned of ongoing risks and challenges in the near future. The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) declined to below 50 points in September, indicating a contraction in production activities. Furthermore, the ratio of businesses exiting the market remains high compared to new market entries, signaling an unsustainable trend.

Domestic consumption and public investment disbursement have fallen short of expectations, adding pressure on growth. Consumer spending is still below pre-pandemic levels, and inflation in the first half of 2024 has slowed capital growth.

Viet also pointed to the global trend of economic and political fragmentation, along with extreme weather phenomena due to climate change, which could lead to a decline in external demand, negatively affecting exports. Increasing production costs are also weakening Vietnam's competitiveness in the global value chain.

In addition, Viet said that input factors in production still face many barriers, along with challenges in transforming the growth model and implementing reforms. While some progress has been made, the slow pace poses risks to investment and business activities, leading to declining confidence among domestic and international businesses.

Economist Pham Chi Lan highlighted the importance of achieving the development goals for 2024, especially the third-quarter accomplishments, which play an important role in fostering confidence for sustainable recovery and growth in the coming years. However, she expressed concerns that the growth in the third quarter was mainly driven by exports and FDI, while domestic consumption and investment have not increased as expected. She noted that the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to impact consumption and investment activities, contributing to the difficulties faced by the domestic economy.

Based on these factors, VEPR proposed two growth scenarios for the fourth quarter and the entire year of 2024. In the high-growth scenario, GDP growth in the fourth quarter could stabilize at 7.4%, achieving the government's full-year target of 7.0%. However, in the lower-growth scenario, fourth-quarter growth could fall below 7%, leading to a full-year growth rate of about 6.84%. ■

skills needed to compete in global markets,” she said.

Lan Anh and Conroy reaffirmed the importance of continued dialogue and collaboration between the two business communities. While logistical challenges and regulatory barriers remain, both leaders are optimistic about the future of Vietnam-Australia business relations.

“Australia and Vietnam share a bright future. As we navigate the complexities of global business, our cooperation will only become more important. We are committed to working together for a prosperous and sustainable future for both nations,” said Conroy. ■

# Vietnam's Economy Projects Sustained Growth

## Positive highlights

According to the General Statistics Office (GSO), the agriculture, forestry and fishery sector grew by 3.20%, contributing 5.37% to GDP growth. The industry and construction sector increased by 8.19%, accounting for 46.22%, while the service sector rose by 6.95%, contributing 48.41%.

The total added value of the industrial sector rose by 8.34% year on year, with growth rates of 6.47% in first quarter (Q1), 8.78% in Q2, and 9.59% in Q3. The processing and manufacturing sector increased by 9.76%, contributing 2.44 percentage points to GDP growth. The electricity production and distribution sector expanded by 11.11%, adding 0.43 percentage points, while the water supply and wastewater treatment sector grew by 9.83%, contributing 0.06 percentage points. In contrast, the mining sector contracted by 7.01%, subtracting 0.22 percentage points from overall growth.

Merchandise exports are a bright spot for the economy amid improved global trade growth. Total merchandise import and export value was estimated at US\$578.47 billion in the first nine months of 2024, up 16.3% year on year, including US\$299.63 billion from exports, up 15.4%, and US\$278.84 billion from imports, up 17.3%. The domestic economic sector continued to be a good exporter and importer, with stable growth, higher than that of the foreign-invested sector. Merchandise trade balance yielded a trade surplus of US\$20.79 billion in the first nine months of 2024 (versus US\$22.1 billion in the same period last year), thus motivating production and stimulating export.

In particular, the tourism industry maintained its growth

Vietnam's GDP grew by 6.82% in the first nine months of 2024, reflecting strong resilience amid unpredictable global economic and political fluctuations, as well as the impacts of severe natural disasters.

QUYNH CHI

momentum, driven by effective tourism promotion programs. International visitors to Vietnam reached more than 12.7 million from January to September, a year-on-year growth of 43%.

In the January-September period of 2024, Vietnam saw over 183,000 newly established and resumed companies, a 9.7% increase compared to the same period in 2023. This averages more than 20,300 companies per month. However, 163,800 companies withdrew from the market during the same timeframe, reflecting a 21.5% rise, or about 18,200 companies monthly.

According to a business trend survey for industrial processors and manufacturers in Q3 2024, 34.7% of respondents reported improved performance compared to Q2, while 42.6% indicated stability, and 22.7% faced difficulties. Looking ahead, 42.2% expect better performance in Q4 compared to Q3, 40.4% anticipate stable performance, and 17.4% foresee more challenges.

As of September 30, 2024, registered foreign direct investment (FDI) in Vietnam showed robust growth, with 1,027 new projects and increased investment totaling over US\$7.64 billion. This reflects a 7.3% rise in projects and a significant 48.1% increase in investment value compared to the same period in 2023. Disbursed FDI funds grew by 8.9% year on year, reaching US\$17.34 billion in the first nine months of 2024, highlighting continued investor confidence in Vietnam's investment environment.

Inflation was appropriately controlled and actively supported economic growth. The average consumer price index (CPI) climbed 3.88% in the first nine months, and is likely to reach the 4-4.5% target set by the National Assembly in 2024.

## Prioritized growth boost

Given the 9-month bright economic picture spotted with associated difficulties and challenges, the Government and localities are urgently carrying out solutions to overcome the consequences of natural disasters, quickly help affected businesses and business households to resume operation and boost growth drivers.

The Prime Minister emphasized 12 groups of key solutions and five important and urgent tasks for the coming time. The 12 groups of key solutions include focusing on overcoming the consequences, preventing and combating natural disasters, stabilizing people's lives, and promoting business recovery; carefully preparing, ensuring the progress



Merchandise exports are a bright spot for Vietnam's economy, supported by the recovery in global trade growth

and quality of reports and projects at the 8th meeting session of the 14th National Assembly with the spirit of actively implementing assigned functions and tasks, actively and promptly handling difficulties and generating high consensus; further prioritizing enhanced growth associated with maintaining macroeconomic stability, controlling inflation, and ensuring major economic balances; and striving to achieve over 7% of growth in 2024.

Other groups of solutions include creating breakthroughs in public investment capital disbursement; strongly promoting three National Target Programs; striving to disburse at least 95% of investment capital; speeding up the progress of important national projects and expressways; preparing investment in important railway projects; disbursing public investment capital; diversifying markets, products, and supply chains for export; increasing total demand for consumption; completing institutions, laws, administrative procedures and national digital transformation; removing difficulties and obstacles, especially in terms of laws and procedures, to speed up the progress of social housing projects and social housing credit packages.

In particular, the country needs to thoroughly handle outstanding and long-standing issues; pay attention to the mandatory transfer of weak banks; and urgently remove difficulties and obstacles for projects and land in inspection, examination and judgment conclusions.

Regarding five important and urgent tasks, according to the Prime Minister, priority is given to boosting growth, renewing traditional growth drivers (investment, consumption and export) and strongly promoting new growth drivers (green transformation, digital transformation, new industries and fields and high technology); actively, flexibly, promptly and effectively managing monetary policy; coordinating synchronously, harmoniously and closely with a reasonable, focused expansionary fiscal policy and other macro policies; and not allowing shortages of electricity, gasoline, water, medical supplies, essential goods or input materials for production.

In addition, there is a need for coordinating with the National Assembly's Standing Committee and its other committees to carefully prepare laws and resolutions on strengthening decentralization of power, reducing administrative procedures and enabling development creation to submit to the National Assembly; supporting housing repairs for households affected by Typhoon Yagi; speeding up the VND140 trillion credit package for social housing and worker housing; effectively and substantially implementing movements to eliminate temporary and dilapidated houses nationwide; boosting public investment capital disbursement; fostering business activities; improving employment and livelihoods, improve people's material and spiritual life; further preventing, controlling and overcoming the consequences of natural disasters. ■

# Trade Strengthened After 5 Years in CPTPP

After five years, the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) has expanded Vietnam's trade with key markets, particularly in the Americas, including Canada, Mexico, Chile and Peru. It has promoted multilateral trade, driven institutional reforms, attracted foreign investment and strengthened Vietnam's international integration.

HUONG LY

## Exports double

According to the General Department of Vietnam Customs, the country's trade with CPTPP markets in the Americas grew by 56.3%, from US\$8.7 billion in 2018 to US\$13.6 billion in 2023, despite challenges such as the global economic recession and the COVID-19 pandemic.

In particular, Vietnam's exports to CPTPP markets in the Americas nearly doubled (186%), from US\$6.3 billion in 2018 to US\$11.7 billion in 2023. This has contributed to a total trade turnover of US\$137.7 billion with the Americas, including US\$114.5 billion in exports.

Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Nguyen Hoang Long said that Vietnam's participation in the CPTPP has driven institutional reforms and improved legal transparency, helping businesses operate more effectively and enhancing the country's international reputation to attract foreign investors. Relations between Vietnam and American countries have been strengthened through strategic commitments.

Vu Duc Giang, Chairman of the Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (VITAS), mentioned that Canada and Mexico are demanding markets, but the CPTPP has enabled impressive growth for Vietnam's textile industry. He also pointed out three major challenges: evaluation standards, double standards, and payment methods. "Each brand has its own evaluation standards on sustainability and labor transparency, creating significant pressure for businesses," Giang shared.

Vietnam's seafood industry has also developed under the CPTPP, with member markets accounting for 25-27% of total seafood exports. However, in 2023, seafood exports decreased by 16.4% due to inflation, posing major challenges in maintaining growth momentum.

Highlighting Vietnam's trade ties with Canada, Mexico, and Peru during the CPTPP negotiations, Ngo Chung Khanh, Deputy Director of the Multilateral Trade Policy Department (Ministry of Industry and Trade), noted that trade between Vietnam and these three countries has grown quite well. Canada and Mexico saw relatively high and consistent growth, while growth with Peru remained modest.

In terms of bilateral trade improvements, according to Canadian Ambassador Shawn Steil, since the CPTPP's implementation, trade ties between Canada and Vietnam have grown well, with Vietnamese exporters benefiting from reduced tariffs. Vietnam now accounts for 35% of Canada's imports, making Canada one of the top 10 potential



markets for Vietnamese products thanks to the CPTPP.

Canada has successfully expanded trade with other CPTPP members, both in Asia and the Americas. The trade pact has enabled Canadian businesses to tap into new markets, enjoy lower tariffs, gain better market access and benefit from stronger intellectual property protection. Canadian products in Vietnam have become more competitive compared to other markets.

Mexican Ambassador Alejandro Negrin Munoz highlighted the impressive trade growth between the two countries since the CPTPP's implementation. Vietnam is Mexico's 10th largest trading partner, with Vietnam's exports to Mexico increasing tenfold over the past five years. Mexico is Vietnam's largest customer in Latin America. 97% of bilateral trade is from Vietnam's exports to Mexico, while only 3% of Mexico's goods are exported to Vietnam. This suggests there is still plenty of room for bilateral trade between the two countries.

Peruvian Ambassador Patricia Raez Portocarrero, noted that bilateral trade in 2023 reached only US\$700 million, and in the first seven months of 2024, it reached US\$434 million, a 5% increase year-over-year. Despite significant growth, there is still ample room for further trade growth between the two countries.

### Potential for further growth

Despite positive results from the CPTPP, Deputy Minister Nguyen Hoang Long mentioned significant untapped potential: Vietnam's export value added is low, branding needs more focus, and the share of Vietnamese goods in American imports remains limited.

Meanwhile, the Americas is a vast market, closely interconnected through overlapping free trade blocs such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (CUSMA), the Pacific Alliance (PA), and the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR). By taking advantage of CPTPP benefits and the favorable gateway positions of member countries like Canada, Mexico, Chile and Peru, businesses can consider expanding and diversifying their import-export markets to this dynamic and promising region.

To capitalize on these opportunities, Deputy Minister Nguyen Hoang Long urged businesses to gather market information, seek efficient logistics solutions, and better utilize CPTPP tariff preferences. He suggested increasing the use of preferential origin certification (C/O) by establishing domestic raw material centers and leveraging "cross-origin" and "cumulative origin" rules. Businesses should also strengthen connections to engage more deeply in the global supply chain, especially with CPTPP member countries.

State management agencies also need to coordinate closely with businesses. The Vietnamese government is committed to continuing to reform administrative procedures, applying technology in import-export management, and supporting businesses in connecting with international partners.

According to Canadian Ambassador Shawn Steil, businesses need to further raise awareness of the agreement to ensure that all importers and exporters can take full advantage of the CPTPP benefits. Together, they should find creative solutions to promote partnerships, and expand into new markets across the Americas and Asia.

To balance the trade relationship between Vietnam and Mexico, Alejandro Negrin Munoz suggested that Mexico needs to have a business handbook for Mexican enterprises entering the Vietnamese market. The Vietnamese government should support Mexican businesses in accessing agricultural markets, obtaining quarantine certification, and ensuring greater transparency in local regulations in line with CPTPP standards. "The CPTPP balance is positive, so we need to continue working together to fully exploit the potential of these agreements," emphasized Mexican Ambassador Alejandro Negrin Munoz. ■

## Four Pillars Driving Vietnam's Digital Economy

In 2024, Vietnam's national digital transformation focuses on developing a digital economy built on four key pillars: information technology, economic sector digitalization, digital governance, and digital data. It aims to drive rapid and sustainable socioeconomic development.

### PHUONG ANH

According to Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, this is the third consecutive year that Vietnam celebrated the National Digital Transformation Day as an important event demonstrating the joint efforts for national digital transformation, developing the digital economy, digital society and digital citizens.

The event also conveyed the Government's message of tenacity to pursue the digital transformation revolution in a profound, comprehensive, substantive and effective manner to foster rapid and sustainable socioeconomic development, improve the material and spiritual life of the people, modernize national governance, and bring benefits to all people and the country.

### Tremendous progress

Vietnam has made dramatic progress in global digital transformation rankings. Its e-Government Development Index 2024 climbed 15 places to rank 71st out of 193 countries. Its Global Innovation Index 2024 advanced two places to rank 44th out of 133 countries. Its Global Cybersecurity Index 2024 went up eight places to rank 17th out of 194 countries.

The information technology (IT) industry in Vietnam has positively impacted many sectors, with 51,000 digital companies and 1.5 million jobs created. In the first nine months of 2024, digital revenue reached US\$118 billion, a 17.8% increase year on year, while software and digital service



**5G will play an important role in advancing Vietnam's digital infrastructure development**

revenue hit US\$6.64 billion, up 9.9%. Digital exports were projected at US\$100.8 billion, growing by 18.3%. Major firms like Samsung, Qualcomm, Infineon and Amkor are investing billions in manufacturing expansion, with many large-scale projects under negotiation.

Economic digitalization is quite optimistic. Many businesses have fostered digital transformation in management, investment, construction, production and application of many modern technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), cloud computing and internet of things.

E-commerce has continued growing rapidly, ranking among 10 fastest e-commerce growth in the world (revenue reached US\$20.5 billion in 2023, up 23% year on year, and is expected to reach US\$27.7-28 billion in 2024, up 36% - highest in 10 years).

Cashless payments have been widely deployed nationwide. 87% of adults have bank accounts; cashless payments grow 50% annually. As many as 9.13 million customers use Mobile Money.

Digital transformation in the areas of social security and public services has seen significant progress, leading to the gradual establishment of a digital society and empowered digital citizens. This transformation is particularly evident in sectors such as education and training, healthcare, medical services, social insurance and justice. Recently, the integration of electronic medical records and judicial records into the VNeID platform has been implemented nationwide, further enhancing accessibility and efficiency in these vital areas.

### **Upgrading Vietnam's digital economy**

Prime Minister Chinh said that these achievements are just the beginning. He emphasized the need for strong efforts and consistent actions to effectively implement national digital transformation, urging a focus on key areas and the completion of every task.

To be successful in digital transformation, Vietnam needs to have appropriate, important strategies to execute digital transformation in a rapid, effective, more comprehensive and

more innovative manner, he added.

National digital transformation must place people and businesses as the nucleus, the subject, the driving force, the resources and the goals of development.

Regarding main tasks and solutions, Prime Minister Chinh said that digital transformation requires stronger, more drastic, quicker and more innovative actions to ensure substantive and effective progress, foster digital economic development and green transformation, reduce emissions associated with scientific and technological development and innovation. It is necessary to promote three strategic digital breakthroughs: Digital institutions, digital infrastructure and digital human resources, with the working principle of “open institutions, smooth infrastructure and smart human resources.” Vietnam should synchronously deploy solutions to accelerate national industrialization and modernization, and develop new high-quality, professional production forces.

In particular, regarding digital institutional breakthroughs, the Prime Minister emphasized the need to finalize the digital legal framework for economic activities, enhance the investment environment, streamline administrative procedures to reduce compliance costs, and implement tax and fee reductions. He also called for decentralization and resource allocation to improve execution capacity and oversight, while advocating for specific mechanisms and support policies for digital transformation for businesses, families and other entities.

Regarding digital infrastructure breakthroughs, he requested the quick commercial rollout of 5G in key cities, increased investment in national telecommunications infrastructure, and diversification of connection methods, including expanding international submarine fiber optic cables and enhancing satellite services. He called for upgrading IoT infrastructure to improve connectivity and data management, creating a clean land fund for large-scale digital industrial centers to attract high-tech, semiconductor and microchip projects, and prioritizing the establishment of the National Data Center No. 1 by the end of 2025.

Regarding training and developing digital human resources, Prime Minister Chinh requested mobilizing state and social resources, people and businesses, synchronously deploying mechanisms, policies and solutions, and prioritizing digital human resource development; effectively implementing the Project “Developing human resources for the semiconductor industry to 2030, with a vision to 2045”, focusing on research and development (R&D) investment; strengthening international cooperation, exchange and learning in digital transformation.

“National digital transformation will change rapidly, sustainably and comprehensively, inclusively, substantially and effectively, contributing significantly to promoting socioeconomic development, creating a prosperous and happy life for the people, building a powerful and prosperous country in the new era, the era of national development,” he stated. ■

# Hanoi's New Era

Hanoi's socioeconomic performance over the past 70 years, from its Liberation Day on October 10, 1954, to the present, has exhibited remarkable growth and impressive achievements. To ensure sustainable development for Hanoi moving forward, it is necessary to leverage local advantages and strategically allocate resources to comprehensively enhance the identified key sectors.

Dr. DOAN DUY KHUONG



Hanoi's socioeconomic performance over the past 70 years has attained remarkable growth and impressive achievements

## October 10, 1954 opening a new era for Hanoi's development

Since the "Edict on the Transfer of the Capital" of Emperor Ly Thai To in 1010, Hanoi has experienced and witnessed a lot of historical changes. In its glorious history, Hanoi has faced over ten wars against foreign invaders and ended them in triumph. Particularly, the Capital Liberation Day on October 10, 1954 is one of the brilliant milestones opening a new era in its development process.

Hanoi plays an important role in defining the country's political, economic, social and cultural identity. As the center of power and decision-making, it embodies the nation's identity through its symbolic architecture and adherence to sustainable economic, social and environmental standards. Additionally, it seeks to establish its position within the national and regional urban landscape.

According to experts, Hanoi's socioeconomic performance in the past 70 years, from its Liberation Day on October 10, 1954 to the present, has always been strongly growing, with stunning achievements.

Hanoi's socioeconomic performance over the past 70 years, from its Liberation Day on October 10, 1954, to the present, has demonstrated remarkable growth and impressive achievements. The city has constantly maintained good growth and contributed positively to the country's growth. In addition, Hanoi has also focused on developing the economy, culture and society, including a special topic on cultural development. Hanoi has invested in the preservation and restoration of over 5,000 historical relics. Its education is always at the top of the country.

In terms of connectivity infrastructure investment, the city has initiated a project to construct Ring Road 4 for the Capital region, along with parallel roads. This project aims to significantly enhance Hanoi's connectivity with neighboring provinces and cities.

On June 28, 2024, the National Assembly passed the amended Law on the Capital, effective January 1, 2025, and reviewed the master plan for capital construction to 2030, with a vision to 2050. This legislation provides a solid foundation for effectively implementing Resolution 15-NQ/TU of the Politburo, aimed at transforming Hanoi into a "Cultured - Civilized - Modern" capital.

However, in the era of new technological revolution, combined with global development and competition, Hanoi still sees many opportunities but also confronts many challenges in sustainable development and needs new approaches to maintain its domestic position and successfully integrate into the world.

In reality, cities around the world are the most important and complex systems, have a lot of residents and generate more than 80% of global GDP while occupying only about 3% of the earth's land area. Moreover, cities today are not merely economic centers because the focus on only economic efficiency and development often leads to unexpected outcomes. Instead, they should be seen as a set of diverse values and benefits. The allure of a city is shaped by the resources actively cultivated by its government, alongside the interplay of its economic, social and environmental ecosystems.

Therefore, the world's leading cities must always promote financial generation as the World Bank noted: "A competitive city is a city that successfully facilitates its firms and industries to create jobs, raise productivity, and increase the incomes of citizens over time." A city's capital stock, along with the interaction among its many forms, significantly influences the quality of life and overall livability.

## 5 solutions for more sustainable development

With this urban approach, we can propose five solutions for sustainable development that better support the country's political, economic and social objectives.

*First, necessarily identifying and focusing on comprehensively mobilizing its five resources from basic capital sources*

Specifically, with its economic capital (this resource is

*(continued on P.45)*

## COCOHIHI ORGANIC FRESH COCONUT

# Conquering International Market

Vietnam has established itself as one of the largest coconut producers globally. Renowned for its natural sweetness, freshness, and consistent quality, Vietnamese fresh coconut has increasingly asserted its position in the world market.

THANH NGA



Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh and Chinese Premier Li Qiang visit the exhibition of Vietnam's premium agricultural products for export to China

**K**nown as the "coconut land of Vietnam", Ben Tre boasts the largest coconut cultivation area in Vietnam, covering over 79,000 ha and producing more than 700 million coconuts annually. Recently, the General Administration of Customs of China (GACC) approved 133 coconut growing areas and packaging facilities in Ben Tre, recognizing their adherence to China's production standards. Ben Tre has also registered a code for a designated fresh coconut export area of over 8,000 ha,

involving nearly 13,000 participating households.

Notably, Vinh Phat Fertilizer Joint Stock Company operates eight GACC-certified coconut growing areas and a packaging facility in Ben Tre. Aiming to become a leading supplier of organic coconut products in the international market while promoting environmental sustainability and enhancing the livelihoods of coconut farmers, Vinh Phat has focused on developing a variety of coconut-related products. The company offers a diverse range of CocoHihi-branded fresh coconuts for export, including whole green coconuts, diamond-cut coconuts, bald coconuts with rings, and easy-cut coconuts.

Currently, the company's products are mainly exported to China and expanded to other neighboring countries.

CocoHihi organic fresh coconuts for export are not only a delicious fruit but also a symbol of purity and nature. Renowned for their natural sweetness, these coconuts are rich in vitamins, minerals, and antioxidants that promote health. Cultivated and processed without chemicals, they adhere to strict organic standards. Moreover, organic coconut farming helps reduce soil, water, and air pollution, preserves biodiversity, and contributes to climate change mitigation.

Vinh Phat's CocoHihi organic fresh coconuts embody a blend of tradition and modernity, profit and social responsibility, as well as quality and international certification. CocoHihi organic fresh coconuts are set to conquer even the most demanding markets, establishing themselves as a source of pride for Vietnamese agriculture. ■



Cultivated and processed without chemicals, Vinh Phat's CocoHihi organic fresh coconuts adhere to strict organic standards

# HANOI INTEGRATES OCOP SALES WITH TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

Hanoi, known for its distinctive agricultural products, has developed brands that leverage its tourism potential. Integrating One Commune One Product (OCOP) initiatives with tourism is a key strategy to optimize investment and enhance Hanoi's tourism offerings.

DINH BAO



**Hanoi is establishing many showrooms to promote and sell OCOP products linked to tourism and local craft villages**

## Integrating OCOP into tourism supply chain

According to the Hanoi Office for New Rural Development, the city currently has over 2,700 products included in the OCOP Program, with 3- to 5-star certifications. Many products belong to the culinary and memorial industries. In fact, many industries and localities have integrated OCOP products into tourism activities, like Gia Lam, Hoan Kiem, Son Tay, Chuong My, Phu Xuyen, Thuong Tin and Thanh Tri districts. Souvenirs such as ceramics, bamboo and rattan items and mother-of-pearl inlays or culinary products like lotus tea, rice rolls and pork spring rolls have both enhanced the attractiveness of tours and boosted local production. In particular, Hong Van Rural Tourism Service Site (Thuong Tin district) and Phu Dong Green Park Ecological Area (Gia Lam district), after being recognized as 4-star OCOP products, have become charismatic tourist destinations.

Mr. Mai Van Ngan, Vice Chairman of Hong Van commune, said: Hong Van will be an attractive destination for tourists far and wide and turn trade, services and tourism into key economic sectors by 2025. The commune also continues to promote its strengths, with a focus on developing trade, tourism, services and craft villages. "Based on its research and assessment, the commune defined tourism development as a right and inevitable approach for its stable, sustainable and friendly economic development. This has helped develop agricultural production, trade and service sectors, utilize local tourism potential and strengths to improve income, material and spiritual life of the people," he added.

Compared to many other localities, Tay Ho district does not have many OCOP products, but it is a typical example of combining tourism development with OCOP products.

Currently, more than 40 OCOP products in the district have been evaluated and recognized by Hanoi City. Most of the products are combined with tourism activities. Typical examples include its traditional cakes (like baked cakes, sticky rice cakes, pork rolls and green rice cakes) or Tay Ho lotus tea and Phu Thuong sticky rice have long been known as 4-star OCOP products. Currently, in addition to developing products, Tay Ho district prioritizes developing OCOP products in line with community tourism service to create the "Tay Ho OCOP tourism services" product.

To develop OCOP products associated with tourism, Hanoi is building dozens of innovative design centers and showrooms to promote and sell OCOP products and tourism-driven craft villages like the Center for Innovative Design, Introduction, Promotion and Marketing of OCOP Products and Craft Villages linked with tourism in Bat Trang commune (Gia Lam district), Chuyen My commune (Phu Xuyen) and Phu Nghia (Chuong My). These centers aim to increase the value of handicraft products, OCOP products and craft villages, build a closed chain from creative design, production and processing to marketing by preserving and promoting the traditional cultural values of craft villages with community tourism, agritourism and rural tourism in the circular economy.

Tran Thi Phuong Lan, Acting Director of the Hanoi Department of Industry and Trade, said that the establishment of centers for innovative design, introduction, promotion and marketing of OCOP products and craft villages associated with tourism will help create an environment to support rural industrial entities and production and business entities in craft villages to form and develop creative design, introduce, promote and sell OCOP



products and craft village products associated with developing experiential tourism forms, thus helping restructure the rural economy in the city.

### Leveraging local products

Nguyen Dinh Hoa, Deputy Director of the Hanoi Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, said: Hanoi, known as the "Land of Hundred Trades," boasts 1,350 craft villages, including 331 officially recognized by the Hanoi People's Committee. The city is home to 1,090 active agricultural cooperatives, 1,695 farms, 149 production and consumption chains, over 164 high-tech applied models, and more than 13,000 traceable agricultural, forest, and aquatic products.

Particularly, Hanoi and 43 provinces and cities across the country have actively maintained and supported the development of 977 safe food supply chains for Hanoi. To advertise local products, the Hanoi Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has proactively coordinated with the Departments of Industry and Trade, the Department of Tourism, the Department of Health, districts and towns to organize events, fairs, festivals, seminar and week shows to promote investment, trade and tourism to introduce OCOP products, craft villages, agricultural products and foods to meet consumer needs and introduce tourism and cultural products to domestic and foreign consumers and tourists, thereby helping popularize local agricultural products to other provinces and cities, stimulate demand, boost trade and flaunt its products together with other localities across the country.

Mr. Ngo Van Ngon, Deputy Chief of the Hanoi Coordination Office for New Rural Development, said: Seeing craft villages as a large space for its OCOP Program development, Hanoi City has adopted many policies and strategies to support the development of craft villages, contributing to the preservation, conservation and development of traditional trades, craft villages and cottage industries. In particular, the OCOP Program has helped craft villages focus more on innovation, design and other activities to preserve their cultural identity and have improvements suitable for modern trends and integration. The OCOP Program has also motivated generations of artisans and skilled workers to pass on their skills to next generations, enabling the preservation and development of craft villages.

To enhance product quality in its craft villages, Hanoi has been supporting cooperatives, cooperative groups, and households by facilitating infrastructure development, production site improvements, technology transfer and community tourism initiatives. ■

## Vietnamese Culture of Conical Hat Village

Most Chuong villagers focus on making conical hats instead of farming due to the village's dense population. The exact origins of this craft remain unknown, according to village elders.

### BAO NGOC



**Chuong Village is renowned as one of the most famous cradles for conical hat making in Hanoi**

### Unique Chuong village market

The market has become an integral part of life and a cultural hallmark of this ancient conical hat-making village, which has existed for centuries. It operates for just two hours each morning on the 4th, 10th, 14th, 24th, and 30th days of the lunar calendar. Notably, "buyers sit in one spot while sellers move about to sell."

The market starts at 4 a.m. and lasts till 6 a.m. Sellers, buyers and visitors flock to create a bustling, simple scene, unique to this rural market. It starts to bustle at 5 a.m. The communal house yard, over 400 square meters, brings together hundreds of sellers and dozens of buyers. Most customers are old and often buy in batches, at least 10 hats a batch. Unlike traditional markets where buyers look for sellers, at the Chuong hat market, sellers walk along entrances to the market to find buyers who usually sit in fixed positions waiting to check products and negotiate prices. Buyers want to buy beautiful and durable conical hats made by Chuong craftspeople. In addition to buying finished conical hats at the market, buyers can also easily find materials for making hats such as plastic thread, silk chin straps and leaves there for hat-making.

Ms. Le Thi Hoa in Tan Tien village, Phuong Trung commune, has purchased hats here for wholesaling and retailing in other provinces for over 40 years. Besides Chuong Market, she also goes to Van La, Kim Thu and Cao Duong communes in Thanh Oai district to buy hats and make them more good-looking. She said that each buyer has different requirements for hats, depending on the style, quality and price of conical hats. This is also the reason

☞ why some traders only choose cheap hats, but others only buy beautiful ones, priced from VND80,000 to over VND100,000 each. Having been involved in hat-making since her childhood, Hoa happily said that hat-making has existed for centuries. Although there are now many types of headwear, Chuong conical hats are still popular and in high demand.

### Preservation and development

The attractiveness and uniqueness of the conical hat market is that visitors can directly watch how famous conical hats are skillfully made with the kindness, enthusiasm and warm welcome of Chuong villagers. Additionally, Chuong village retains the ancient Vietnamese architectural space with banyan trees, wells and communal house yards. The government and people of Chuong village have been cherishing and preserving them as precious cultural assets passed down by their ancestors. Chuong market is a unique feature. After each market day, tens of thousands of conical hats follow tourists or merchants to be sold all over the country.

Chuong village is one of the most famous conical hat-making cradles in Hanoi. However, like other craft villages, currently very few people live on hat-making, most of them are elderly, or middle-aged men and women trying to preserve the profession left by their ancestors.

Artisan Ta Thu Huong, a woman passionate about the traditional trade, keeps the values of Chuong conical hat village from the risk of being lost, bringing Chuong village's conical hats to many international tourists and exports them to many countries around the world. On average, each year, her production facility exports 20,000-30,000 conical hats to Japan, Korea, Europe, China, Russia and other markets where selling prices are expensive domestic ones.

Currently, Chuong village still lacks a linking organization to form a systematic chain of experiential tourism. Phuong Trung commune has gathered craft villages with typical products like conical hats and hand fans but there is no interconnection, resulting in small scale and mostly spontaneous production. Therefore, experiential tourism remains sparse. "I hope that the Party and the Government will have mechanisms and policies for development of the Chuong Village Conical Hat Tourist Site to create a space for domestic and foreign tourists to experience the hat-making village. So, we will preserve and promote the conical hat village and ensure social security for local people," said artisan Ta Thu Huong.

Mr. Pham Viet Hung, Chairman of Phuong Trung Commune People's Committee, Thanh Oai district, said that about 3,000 out of more than 4,000 households still live on conical hat production. Most of them are elderly people who want to preserve the traditional profession and hope to have more income in their spare time. To continue the profession, the village has collected, preserved and stored documents on its traditional values and its products, and supported building galleries, craft museums, craft villages and traditional craft showrooms. Chuong Village has a conical hat museum which displays its typical conical hats along with tools, instruments and making techniques.

Moreover, Phuong Trung pays special attention to vocational training, transmission and propagation. The commune has introduced support mechanisms and policies for the maintenance and development of artisans and encouraged artisans to participate in this work. Artisans regularly open training classes for students and local residents to pass on skills and love for the profession to next generations. They are guided by experienced, highly skilled, and dedicated artisans to practice making conical hats, from processing palm leaves and weaving hats to decorating, said Hung. ■

# Empowering Advanced New Rural Development

After more than 13 years of implementing the New Rural Development Program, Hanoi's rural areas have transformed significantly. The changes are evident not only in the enhanced, larger, and more beautiful infrastructure but also in the increasing incomes of residents.

## MINH NGOC

**A**s a purely agricultural district facing significant challenges, Phuc Tho district (Hanoi) has made remarkable progress in its New Rural Development Program, thanks to the collective efforts and determination of the political system. Recently, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Liberation of the Capital (October 10, 1954 - October 10, 2024), Phuc Tho held a ceremony to unveil a plaque for the city-level project of Long Xuyen Secondary School. The school features three spacious four-story buildings and modern facilities, standing out in the peaceful countryside.

Mr. Kieu Van Hung, Chairman of the Long Xuyen Commune People's Committee, stated that after over 60 years of development, Long Xuyen Secondary School has been recognized by the Hanoi City People's Committee as meeting national standards level 1. To accommodate the increasing number of teachers and students, the school has received more than VND80 billion in investment from the district for new facilities. This expansion will provide better learning conditions for children in the commune and support the commune's efforts to enhance educational standards as part of building advanced new rural areas.

In October, Mai Dinh commune (Soc Son district) celebrated the recognition of meeting advanced and exemplary new rural standards. Nguyen Thi Thanh Huyen, Chairwoman of the Mai Dinh Commune People's Committee, announced

that in less than a year, the commune had received two city recognitions: first as meeting advanced new rural standards in February 2024, and then as meeting model new rural standards in August 2024.

Returning to the countryside that once endured significant war losses, the former communes of the Khu Chay Safe Zone such as Dong Tan, Trung Tu, Tram Long, and Dong Lo have transformed and come alive with vitality. The village roads, once muddy and narrow, are now spacious, clean, and lined with greenery. Today, Khu Chay is recognized as a key rice-growing area, featuring a high-quality rice value chain and the brand "Khu Chay Quality Rice."

Hanoi has placed significant emphasis on rural development, mobilizing over VND84,316 billion for the New Rural Development Program from 2021 to the third quarter of 2024. Many districts and towns have not only allocated budget capital but have also diversified funding sources by leveraging local advantages to attract additional investment.

The new rural development movement has significantly engaged individuals and hamlets across the region. Localities like Soc Son, Dan Phuong, Ba Vi, and Ung Hoa have implemented practical and effective models. Each year, these areas host the contest "Keeping villages and residential areas bright, green, clean, beautiful, and safe," which receives enthusiastic participation from the community.

Across Hanoi's rural areas, the number of One Commune One Product (OCOP) offerings from farmers is steadily increasing. OCOP has established itself as a trusted brand in the market, with products gaining recognition not only throughout Vietnam but also reaching some international markets.

When the new rural construction began, the income of Hanoi farmers was about VND10 million per person per year. After more than 13 years, this average has risen to over VND70 million. This significant increase reflects the commitment of Party committees and authorities to prioritize farmers' incomes as a foundation for building new rural areas. It has also encouraged farmers to innovate and adopt a multi-value integrated economic mindset.



**The New Rural Development Program has enhanced village roads, making them more spacious and aesthetically pleasing**



**The improvements are clearly reflected in Hanoi's upgraded infrastructure**

According to the Hanoi Coordination Office for New Rural Development, by the end of the third quarter of 2024, all 382 communes in the city have met new rural standards, with 188 communes achieving advanced standards and 76 recognized as model communes. Furthermore, all 18 districts and towns (100%) have met new rural standards. Notably, Thanh Tri has become the first district to achieve advanced new rural status, while Dong Anh, Gia Lam, Dan Phuong, Thuong Tin, and Thanh Oai are on track to be recognized as advanced districts. ■

# ELEVATING COMMUNES TO MODEL NEW RURAL DEVELOPMENT



**Me Linh district is striving to enhance advanced rural criteria, with a particular focus on developing infrastructure to support urbanization**

The Rural Development Program in Me Linh district has led to beautiful, civilized villages and improved the material and spiritual lives of residents in the district.

## BAO DAN

### **Focusing on cultural infrastructure**

Me Linh district has prioritized the construction of new rural areas as a key task, implementing initiatives from the district to the grassroots level to meet set goals. Currently, the district has three communes that meet advanced new rural standards and one commune that meets model new rural standards as of 2023.

At the end of March 2024, Lien Mac commune became the first locality in Me Linh district to meet the criteria for model new rural area status. Mr. Hoang Ngoc Phu from Bong Mac village expressed his excitement, saying, "Building advanced new rural areas has transformed my commune. Since the Bong Mac communal house lake area was equipped with sports and exercise facilities, villagers frequently come here to exercise, socialize, and enjoy each other's company."

A key achievement in Lien Mac commune is the construction of cultural infrastructure. Alongside the standard cultural house, the local government mobilized residents to create additional community activity points

in Bong Mac, Xa Mac, and Yen Mac villages. Mr. Nguyen Van Huy, head of Xa Mac village, noted that all four hamlets now have community activity points built from social contributions, along with several entertainment and sports facilities in the commune.

In addition to cultural infrastructure, associations and unions have actively contributed to building new rural areas. Residents participate in cleaning village roads and alleys and maintain flower and ornamental plant gardens, enhancing the green, clean, and beautiful rural landscape.

### **Comprehensive and sustainable development**

In March, Tien Think, Tam Dong, and Dai Think communes qualified to be submitted to the City People's Committee for recognition as meeting advanced new rural standards. Tam Dong started from a low point and was the last in Me Linh district to complete the National Target Program for New Rural Development in 2020. Chairman of the Tam Dong Commune People's Committee, Nguyen Van Huynh noted that building new rural areas is an ongoing effort, with the commune focusing on improving traffic infrastructure through support from Hanoi City and Me Linh district.

Nguyen Thi Thanh Tam, Director of the Me Linh District Economic Department, said that Me Linh has achieved its goal of building advanced new rural areas in five communes and has one commune that has completed the model new rural area standard, reaching 30% of its plan. In 2024, the district will invest in socio-economic infrastructure to meet advanced and model new rural area criteria, aiming for 3-4 additional communes to meet advanced standards and 1-2 to achieve comprehensive model status.

Mr. Ngo Van Ngon, Deputy Chief of the Hanoi Coordination Office for New Rural Development, emphasized the need for Me Linh district to focus on maintaining and improving advanced rural criteria, particularly by developing infrastructure toward urbanization. Recognizing and publicly acknowledging community contributions - whether material or spiritual - is essential for advancing toward the new rural development goal. ■

# Leveraging OCOP for New Rural Advancements

In developing One Commune One Product (OCOP) in My Duc district, the focus is on enhancing product quality and brand building. The strategy leverages existing resources to strengthen internal capabilities and elevate products.

## NGOC DAN

According to a report by My Duc district, in the 2024 OCOP product classification round, My Duc has 13 new candidate products, including 10 industrial and commercial products, two agricultural products, and one agricultural, industrial and commercial product. Of the 13 products, five products (hand-embroidered paintings of national flowers welcoming the Spring, hand-embroidered paintings of Van Mieu-Quoc Tu Giam, hand-embroidered paintings of One Pillar Pagoda, hand-embroidered paintings of sunflowers, and hand-embroidered paintings of Zen lotus) belong to My Duc Hand-embroidered Cooperative; three products (celastrus Hindsii tea, Solanum procumbens tea and turmeric jelly pills) belong to My Duc Agricultural Company Limited, two products (wood grain pillows and hand-embroidered silk scarves) are made by My Duc Mulberry Silk Company Limited, and three products (spiral rattan lamps, Nhu Y rattan mirrors and Van Nhi bamboo lamps) are manufactured by Nhan Van Bamboo and Rattan Unit.

Collectives and cooperatives are increasingly asserting their role in new rural development in My Duc. In addition to diversifying cooperative services, developing agricultural cooperatives - typically the strength of the district - continues to be endorsed by district leaders. To tap that potential and strength, the district advocates restructuring agriculture, forming specialized production areas and commercial production areas, restructuring crops, and converting ineffective rice growing areas to suitable crop models or livestock models.

So far, the district has 24 active agricultural cooperatives, 36 livestock farms, 35 aquaculture farms, and seven mixed farms. My Duc is home to 31 craft villages, with six accredited by Hanoi City. Typical 5-star OCOP products in the district include self-woven silk cotton blankets, lotus silk scarves and silk scarves made by My Duc Mulberry Silk Company Limited (Phung Xa commune). Moreover, the district also has some agricultural products from craft villages that are highly appreciated in the OCOP Program such as Huong Tich plum wine, yam cakes (Huong Son commune) and cotton towels (Phung Xa commune).

In Bot Xuyen Agriculture Cooperative that supplies agricultural products, Dien Bot Xuyen grapefruit is a highly commercial product for its members. The cooperative planned to build and develop Dien grapefruit into a key crop of the district. Currently, the grapefruit has been awarded a 3-star OCOP certificate by the Hanoi People's Committee.



**OCOP plays an important role in the socio-economic development of My Duc district**

According to the My Duc Economic Department, the OCOP Program has contributed to creating stable jobs for thousands of local workers, increasing their incomes, improving their lives and raising revenue for OCOP businesses and producers.

Given the effectiveness of the OCOP Program, My Duc district will consider OCOP an important solution to develop commercial production along the value chain with local advantages, Mr. Le Van Trang, Vice Chairman of the My Duc People's Committee, stressed. Regarding OCOP-certified products, the district will continue to innovate designs and improve quality to upgrade the star rating. It will maintain and expand product introduction and sales points to boost local economic development.

The OCOP Program is associated with the Advanced New Rural Development Program to meet the "Economy and production" criterion and is becoming a driving force for rural construction to move towards the goal of a livable and ever-growing countryside.

Remarking on the OCOP Program of My Duc district, Nguyen Van Chi, Standing Deputy Chief of the Hanoi Coordination Office for New Rural Development, said that The OCO Program is actively underway in My Duc, providing organizations, businesses, and individuals access to experts, technology, and advanced equipment to enhance production and product value. The district has established OCOP promotion and marketing points and organized conferences to help OCOP entities and businesses collaborate and share experiences to improve their production capacity. ■



# Revitalizing and Preserving Bamboo Dragonfly Village

Thach Xa village in Thach That district is famous for its bamboo dragonflies. Crafted by skilled artisans, these delicate traditional gifts attract both domestic and international tourists.

## BAO DAN

**A**rtisans in Thach Xa craft village have passed down the art of making bamboo dragonflies through generations, showcasing ingenuity and creativity in their handcrafted products.

### Gifts of childhood

Bamboo dragonflies are beloved toys for children. Skilled artisans create these intricate designs, which require significant time and effort. The process involves chopping, splitting, and shaving bamboo, drilling holes, and painting patterns. Each dragonfly's head, body, and tail come from specific bamboo pieces, with careful measurements to ensure stability. After shaping the tail and head, the wings are thinned and polished before assembly. On average, a craftsman can make about 200 dragonflies a day.

As the first person to introduce the making of bamboo dragonflies to Thach Xa, Mr. Do Van Lien, born in 1965, said: Bamboo dragonfly crafting in Thach Xa is a recent handicraft, not a traditional village craft. In 2000, while living near Tay Phuong Pagoda, I noticed a visitor with a bamboo dragonfly that balanced perfectly at its jaw. Intrigued, I decided to try making my own. After several attempts, I discovered how to achieve that balance. Initially, I sold my dragonflies to visitors at the pagoda, but soon more people learned about them and began placing orders. An important step is instilling a "soul" into the product. After crafting the unrefined piece, artisans skillfully paint and decorate dragonflies with various patterns and motifs, ensuring durability and beauty with lacquer. The unique charm of Thach Xa bamboo dragonflies lies in their designs inspired by rural life. Craftspeople also create butterflies, peacocks, birds, turtles, and other bamboo items.

Artisan Nguyen Van Tai, who has worked in this profession for nearly 20 years, said: The hardest part is attaching the wings to the body to ensure the dragonfly stands evenly. The wings must be aligned symmetrically for the dragonfly to balance when perched on a base, finger, or thread.

After many meticulous and careful stages, bamboo dragonflies made from the dedication of Thach Xa artisans have become a gift of childhood, a souvenir for children in the village and tourists when they visit Thach Xa village.

### Preservation and outreach

Currently, only about 4-5 households in Thach Xa village are still engaged in making bamboo dragonflies. According to local artisans, this trade does not bring in high income. In recent years, some bamboo dragonfly making families have coordinated with many organizations, cultural and tourism centers to carry out research projects, preserve Vietnamese toys as well as find directions for bamboo dragonflies in foreign markets.

To preserve this trade, bamboo dragonfly making families in Thach Xa have cooperated with some social organizations, such as the Center for Assistance for Poor and Disabled Children - Cenforchil (under the Vietnam Union of Science and Technology Associations - VUSTA) and MyHanoi (Vietnam) to carry out the Vietnamese plaything research and conservation project. At present, Do Van Lien's family has also connected with schools and travel companies to organize experiential trips for students and tourists to make bamboo dragonflies, which are very popular for all. As a result, in addition to serving tourists at domestic destinations, Thach Xa bamboo dragonflies have also conquered demanding customers in the United Kingdom, France, Japan, the United States and other markets. This can be considered a new direction that opens up many opportunities for artisans in the context that this trade is fading away.

The robust development of rural agritourism has enabled bamboo dragonflies to freely show off their colors to visitors from all over the world at tourist destinations. Each bamboo dragonfly that flies far away not only demonstrates the creativity of Vietnamese craftspeople, but also contains many profound cultural values with the hope of highlighting the national cultural identity. ■



**The unique charm of Thach Xa bamboo dragonflies is rooted in their designs, which are inspired by rural life**

# FOSTERING BREAKTHROUGH DEVELOPMENT TO TURN QUANG YEN INTO DYNAMIC CITY



**Mr. Tran Duc Thang,  
Chairman of the Quang Yen People's Committee**

Nestled along the Bach Dang River, known for its three naval battles against foreign invaders, Quang Yen town in Quang Ninh province is currently thriving with expansive roads and modern developments, gradually evolving into a new urban area. In its journey to attain city status by 2025, the town is prioritizing the planning and completion of integrated infrastructure. This is the foundation for Quang Yen to become a "smart city" and a hub for the processing industry and high technology of the province and the region.

**TRAN TRANG**

## **Robust development**

Quang Yen is a coastal town of Quang Ninh province, 125km east of Hanoi City, 30km southwest of Ha Long City, 12km southeast of Uong Bi City and about 20km east of Hai Phong City. This is a particularly important location, a connection point of Northeast interregional traffic works, a hub of modern seaports or developing industrial parks (IPs), vegetable production areas, maritime farming areas and fruit growing areas with high economic value.

Promoting these advantages, in recent years, central and provincial authorities have prioritized investment resources for infrastructure construction, especially traffic and social infrastructure. During the 2020-2023 period, Quang Ninh province prioritized the allocation of VND8,250 billion from its public investment fund to Quang Yen, representing 14% of the province's total state investment fund for 2021-2025. This amount is three times that of the allocation for the 2016-2020 period, positioning Quang Yen as the second-highest recipient among the province's 13 localities, following Ha Long City.

Quang Ninh province is currently investing in key traffic projects in the town, including Ha Long Xanh Interchange, Dam Nha Mac Interchange, a riverside road connecting Ha Long-Hai Phong Expressway to Dong Trieu town, Ben Rung Bridge and a road linking Ben Rung Bridge with roads leading to Quang Ninh province with Hai Phong City. Meanwhile, Quang Yen is also focusing resources on upgrading many roads like Provincial Road 331B, extended Provincial Road 338, a road connecting Provincial Road 331 with Provincial Road 338, a road connecting from Cho Roc Interchange to Phong Hai Interchange.

In 2023, the total production value in the town reached VND51,982 billion, marking a 44.5% increase compared to 2022 - the highest ever recorded. In the first six months of 2024, the production value reached VND29,312 billion, achieving 47.2% of the annual plan and reflecting a 45.2% increase over the same period in 2023. The industry and handicrafts sector continues to be the driving force for economic growth, with industrial parks contributing VND18,450 billion, which accounts for 94.2% of the total industrial value. Quang Yen also leads the province in attracting foreign investment projects.

Specially, the inclusion of the Quang Yen Coastal Economic Zone Planning approved by the Prime Minister (under Decision 29/2020/QĐ-TTg dated September 24, 2020) into the Vietnam Coastal Economic Zone Planning is a big boost for the town to develop strongly. The Quang Yen Coastal Economic Zone is projected to experience annual growth of 14-15% during its first decade (2021-2030) and 8.5-9% in the subsequent five years (2031-2035). By 2030, it is expected to generate between 53,000 and 55,000 jobs, with this figure rising to an estimated 60,000 to 62,000 jobs by 2035.

Quang Yen town has successfully completed the revised Master Plan for 2040 and the Urban Development Program for 2030. It has prioritized social security, welfare, and cultural initiatives aimed at improving residents' livelihoods. Notably, there are currently no households classified as poor according to provincial criteria. In 2023, Quang Yen exceeded its targets by eliminating 55 temporary and dilapidated houses, achieving 196.5% of the assigned goal. Furthermore, there has been progress in culture, sports, education, and healthcare within the community.

Mr. Tran Duc Thang, Chairman of the Quang Yen People's Committee, said: Quang Yen town, once a hero during wartime and now a symbol of



peace and prosperity, is embracing comprehensive integration. This is paving the way for impressive socioeconomic advancements in a coastal area with significant untapped potential. The town has successfully engaged its residents in this transformative development period.

### The stature of a dynamic coastal city

The resolution of the 21st Quang Yen Town Party Congress (2020-2025 term) states that: Quang Yen aims to achieve city status by 2025, positioning itself as a center for industrial and seaport logistics services. By 2030, it plans to be recognized as a second-class urban area.

To realize the above goals, the town has focused on prioritizing modern and sustainable industrial development by fostering cooperation and attracting investment into industrial parks. In particular, priority will be given to the development of seaports and logistics services, as well as industries such as ship repair and building, electronics, automobile manufacturing and assembly, information technology, new materials, and environmentally friendly manufacturing. This focus aims to create more job opportunities for workers while accelerating both economic and labor restructuring in the region.

The town is home to five industrial parks covering a total area of 4,591 hectares. These include Dong Mai Industrial Park, Song Khoai Industrial Park, Nam Tien Phong Industrial Park, Bac Tien Phong Industrial Park, and Bach Dang Industrial Park. Notably, Song Khoai Industrial Park (Amata City Ha Long) stands out for its strategic advantages in the economic zone, benefiting from some of the most favorable tax incentives in Vietnam. The industrial park offers a range of exceptional benefits, including significant tax incentives, seamless connectivity to major highways, and proximity to Hai Phong port and Cat Bi airport, all of which enhance logistics efficiency. Additionally, it boasts an abundant and skilled labor force. Its competitive cost advantages make it an optimal location for companies looking to transfer production to neighboring countries.

After more than six years of development, Amata Ha Long Industrial Park has successfully completed infrastructure investment across over 200 hectares. It has attracted 19 foreign investment projects, with a total investment capital exceeding US\$2.9 billion from major investors, including Foxconn (Taiwan), Autoliv (Sweden), Jinko Solar (Hong Kong), as well as many investors from Japan and South Korea. As a result, Amata Song Khoai Industrial Park has emerged as the leading industrial park in Quang Ninh province, achieving the fastest investment results and the highest total foreign direct investment (FDI) capital to date.

Mr. Nguyen Van Nhan, General Director of AMATA City Ha Long Joint Stock Company, said, "Our project is strategically located in a key area of the province, offering attractive tax incentives and a readily available land fund. Amata City Ha Long is proud to be recognized as one of the



**Mr. Tran Duc Thang, Chairman of Quang Yen People's Committee at a working session with Ms. Somhatai Panichewa, CEO of Amata VN PCL**

fastest-growing industrial parks in Quang Ninh province." Currently, Amata operates a clean water supply plant with a capacity of 27,000 m<sup>3</sup> per day, with plans to expand this capacity to 48,000 m<sup>3</sup> per day to meet the growing investment needs of factories in the industrial park. In addition to the clean water supply system, which adheres to environmental protection standards, Amata has also invested in a centralized wastewater treatment plant, complemented by a collection pipeline system with a total capacity of 16,000 m<sup>3</sup> per day. Further investments are planned to increase this capacity to 36,000 m<sup>3</sup> per day in the near future.

In addition, the industrial park has made investments in a green landscaping system, underground sewer lines, and telecommunications infrastructure. It has partnered with telecommunications service providers to establish base transceiver stations (BTS), ensuring coverage throughout the entire industrial park.

In addition, other industrial parks such as Nam Tien Phong, Bac Tien Phong, Dong Mai and Bach Dang all have prime locations, large areas, and the most preferential mechanisms and policies. Thus, they are exerting a strong allure to potential domestic and international investors. In the coming time, the town will continue to accelerate the construction of Tien Phong Port (Nam Tien Phong and Bac Tien Phong); attract investment capital for constructing and developing a logistics center in Dam Nha Mac General Service Industrial Park; prioritize the development of warehouses, wharves and yards to serve freight transit, supply raw materials and store products for industrial parks.

In addition to prioritizing industry as a key economic sector, Quang Yen is actively supporting large firms in expediting investment in high-end resort projects. At the same time, the town advocates restructuring the agricultural sector in conjunction with building advanced new rural areas, maximizing all resources for synchronous infrastructure development, and upgrading urban infrastructure to become a city by 2025 and a second-class urban area by 2030.



## An enabling environment for businesses

One of the key driving forces behind Quang Yen's sustained growth and development is its commitment to facilitating and supporting businesses in the most effective way possible, said Chairman Tran Duc Thang.

Accordingly, Quang Yen always defines accelerating administrative reform, improving the quality of the investment and business environment, the quality of economic management and competitiveness, creating the most favorable conditions for sustainable business development as key priority tasks. The town is active, determined and innovative to direct, manage and create synchronous participation of all levels, sectors and the entire political system in an effort to build an enabling government, link administrative reform with improving the investment and business environment. The locality takes the satisfaction of people and businesses as a measure of service.

Furthermore, it actively opens many different channels to listen, create an open, friendly and intimate atmosphere between the government and investors and businesses.

In addition, the town effectively promotes localized investment promotion with many practical solutions like accompanying businesses, serving businesses from the smallest things, and creating the trust of investors and businesses. In early March 2024, Quang Yen established a working group to support and promote local investment to actively grasp information, promptly resolve recommendations and problems of investors. Thus, the town has continuously stood among the best performers in the District and Department Competitiveness Index (DDCI) in Quang Ninh province since 2019. In 2019 and 2021, it topped all localities in the DDCI Index.



**Chairman of Autoliv paid a working visit to the Autoliv Vietnam factory project in the Amata City Ha Long (Song Khoai Industrial Park) in Quang Yen town, March 2023**

“Quang Yen recognizes that business development is integral to local progress. The town is committed to consistently supporting businesses and investors by enhancing the investment environment and facilitating opportunities for enterprises to fully leverage their development. This effort aims to expand production capabilities and drive prosperity, positioning Quang Yen as a new growth engine for Quang Ninh province and the northern key economic region,” Chairman Thang asserted. ■



**Amata City Ha Long (Song Khoai Industrial Park)**

## VINH PHUC

# FOSTERING BUSINESS INVESTMENT IN INDUSTRIAL PARKS

Besides enhancing investment promotion, the Vinh Phuc Industrial Zones Management Board has actively reformed administrative procedures to support businesses in expanding their operations and attracting new projects. This effort has boosted confidence among existing investors and positively influenced potential newcomers. Our reporter interviewed Mr. Ha Dinh Nha, Director of the Vinh Phuc Industrial Zones Management Board, on this topic.

NGUYET THAM



**Vinh Phuc Provincial People's Committee Chairman Tran Duy Dong and Director of the IZs Management Board Ha Dinh Nha chair a conference on the sustainable development of industrial parks**

### What were the province's key investment promotion results in the first nine months of 2024?

The province confronted a lot of difficulties in investment promotion and attraction into industrial parks in the first months of 2024, but we always paid attention to reforming focused, intensive investment promotion activities and achieved encouraging results.

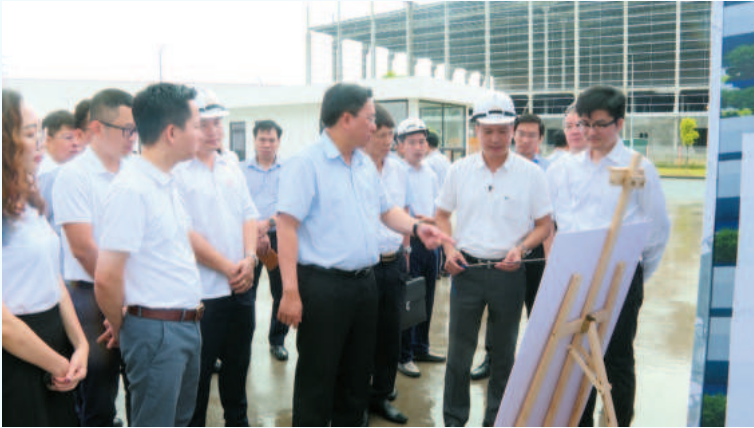
Specifically, we collaborated with media outlets such as Vinh Phuc Television and VTV to produce reports on the investment environment in industrial parks. We also worked with relevant agencies to review and propose economic cooperation initiatives with Japanese organizations at the Vietnam-Japan Economic Forum. Additionally, we implemented cooperation agreements with Chungcheongbuk Province (South Korea), Pernik Province (Bulgaria), and the Toscana region (Italy) through 2025, as

outlined in the Vinh Phuc Provincial People's Committee's working plan.

We also coordinated with the Department of Industry and Trade to organize the "Link to Grow" exhibition in Vinh Phuc to promote and introduce potential cooperation opportunities between Hanoi and provinces in the northern key economic region; notified and invited tenants in industrial parks to attend investment promotion programs and forums abroad such as investment and trade promotion delegations to Japan and the United States, study programs, field surveys and attendance to the 33rd Japan Information Technology Exhibition in Japan, and trade promotion delegations to France, Belgium, the Netherlands and other countries.

Besides, the province engaged with business leaders seeking to understand investment policies, procedures and projects in industrial parks, including representatives from the Korean Chamber of Business in Vietnam (Korcham), a business delegation from India, Young Poong Group, META Investment Fund, Grandway Singapore Company, Signetics Joint Stock Company (South Korea), a business delegation from Chungcheongbuk province (South Korea) that visited and worked with Powerlogics Vina Company. We collaborated with the Department of Planning and Investment and CNC Tech Group to organize the Workshop on Investment Promotion in Vinh Phuc Industrial Parks in 2024, attended by over 80 companies, including 70 participants from South Korea.

Moreover, we advised the Chairman of the Provincial People's Committee to organize a conference for the signing ceremony of the investment cooperation



**Chairman of the Provincial People's Committee Tran Duy Dong pays a working visit to Ba Thien I Industrial Park**

agreement between CNC Tech Group and South Korean investor Signetics. Additionally, we exchanged investment promotion experiences with the Binh Thuan Industrial Zones Authority.

Through our investment promotion efforts, we issued new investment registration certificates for 37 projects and revised licenses for 34 projects, totaling newly registered capital of US\$411.94 million and VND4,098.6 billion in the first nine months of 2024.

#### **How does the board support businesses in overcoming investment challenges?**

In the past time, we have regularly monitored and engaged in dialogue with businesses to understand and address their challenges promptly. Additionally, we recommended that the Provincial People's Committee create a supportive environment to assure investors of long-term stability in Vinh Phuc province.

In the first nine months of 2024, we actively supported investors in overcoming difficulties by inviting businesses for direct discussions, coordinating with relevant units through formal requests, providing written responses, and offering infographic guidance via phone and Zalo as follows:

**Obstacles in investment licensing procedures:** Guiding companies to adjust investment project objectives to comply with relevant legal regulations for Inno Flex Vina II Co., Ltd and Kowa Company among others.

**Obstacles in investment activities:** Support in removing difficulties and obstacles for companies like Big Stone Vina Co., Ltd, Space Ju Material Company, Mirae Vina Company, CoAsia Precision Vina Company, KI Tech Vina Company, Sentronix Vina Company, and Vinaton Vinh Phat Vinh Phuc Joint Stock Company.

**Obstacles in infrastructure and project location:** Support in tackling difficulties in infrastructure during project implementation for Notori Furniture Vietnam EPE - Vinh Phuc Branch; completely resolving project location matters between DM Vina Co., Ltd and Viettronics Company; adding project location outside the industrial park for Hiko Tech Vina Co., Ltd.

In addition, we provided guidance on resolving matters relating the management and operation of leaders and

members of KSR Vietnam Co., Ltd; regularly coordinated, exchanged information, and sought opinions from relevant agencies (the Department of Planning and Investment, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, the Department of Industry and Trade, the Department of Science and Technology, the Tax Department and the Customs Subdepartment) in consulting with experts, handling investment problems in industrial parks.

We continued to seriously and effectively implement Party and State guidelines, policies and laws on investment attraction and investment project management in industrial parks; continued to focus on improving the investment and business environment and reduce costs for enterprises; paid attention to the recommendations and proposals from enterprises and investors, including foreign investors in the

spirit of sharing, understanding and accompanying with the province's overarching principle of "Placing businesses as the center, the subject, the goal, the driving force and the resource for development."

In the future, we will continue to promptly and effectively receive and handle recommendations from companies on difficulties, obstacles and shortcomings in executing investment and business regulations; strengthen post-investment support to limit and prevent investment disputes; and advise the leaders on solutions to resolve investors' difficulties and disputes.

#### **What specific achievements did you make in administrative reform and improving the business environment in the first nine months of 2024?**

Reforming administrative procedures and improving the investment and business climate in industrial parks is always effective, helping increase more investment capital into local industrial parks. In the first nine months of 2024, the Vinh Phuc Industrial Zones Management Board continued to strengthen support, facilitate and quickly resolve administrative procedures for investors and companies to implement projects, expand production and business, increase investment capital or carry out procedures to adjust and supplement investment objectives, adjust project progress, change investor information and rename investment projects. As of September 15, 2024, we resolved 426 administrative procedures, including 422 administrative procedures completed on time and ahead of schedule (accounting for 99.06%).

In the remaining months of this year, we will continue to promote administrative reform, apply information technology to administrative management, improve the effective use of document management and operation systems, provide online public services throughout the process, and manage project activities using software to create a favorable investment and business environment for investors and enterprises.

At the same time, we will adjust the archived documents (2nd time) and carry out the LAN system and IT infrastructure upgrade investment project.

**Thank you very much!**

## DEVELOPING GREEN ECO-INDUSTRIAL PARKS TO CREATE SUSTAINABLE COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES



Chairman of the Vinh Phuc Provincial People's Committee Tran Duy Dong conducts an inspection of the current situation at Song Lo I Industrial Park

At the "Sustainable Development of Vinh Phuc Industrial Parks" conference last September, Chairman of Vinh Phuc Provincial People's Committee Tran Duy Dong emphasized the need to develop green eco-industrial parks for sustainable competitive advantages. He instructed agencies to address investors' concerns about land issues, including pricing, filling, compensation and site clearance.

NGUYET THAM

### Focused development of eco-industrial parks

According to the Vinh Phuc Provincial Planning for the 2021-2030 period, with a vision to 2050, the province will draw strategic investors and multinational corporations with investment projects using advanced technology and new environment-friendly technology, having positive effects, and connecting global production and supply chains. Following this approach, the province's industrial park (IP) infrastructure developers have always focused on developing green, ecological industrial parks to create sustainable competitive advantages.

Mr. Nguyen Anh De, Deputy General Director of Vinh Phuc Infrastructure Development Joint Stock Company

(VPID) - one of the first industrial park infrastructure developers in Vinh Phuc and the developer of Khai Quang Industrial Park, said: VPID always strives to create green, sustainable industrial parks where everyone has the opportunity to develop in a clean, safe and prosperous environment. Currently, the wastewater treatment plant at VPID applies SRB technology to improve treatment efficiency and reduce operating costs. It is also building module 2 with a daily capacity of 14,000 cubic meters to raise the treatment capacity to 25,000 cubic meters a day in Khai Quang Industrial Park.

Remarking on efforts to develop green, sustainable industrial parks, Ms. Dam Bich Ngoc, Director of Amane Joint Stock Company, the developer of Thai Hoa - Lien Son - Lien Hoa Industrial Park, stated that to successfully attract investment fund and developing industries as planned, the province needs to target investors with advanced technologies, high added value, high investment rate, low use of fossil energy, less emission, circular business and clean technology in the coming time.

Mr. Kenta Kawanabe, General Director of Thang Long Vinh Phuc Industrial Park Corporation, said Vinh Phuc province needs to effectively train workers, and continue to have open investor support policies regarding land compensation and site clearance.

Appreciating their remarks, Dong instructed agencies to address investors' concerns about land issues, including pricing and compensation. Vinh Phuc will focus on transforming traditional industrial parks into eco-industrial and high-tech parks, prioritizing R&D, digital transformation, and energy conservation. The province aims to attract projects that effectively use land, promote regional development, ensure environmental sustainability, and enhance the industrial-urban-service ecosystem.

Besides, priority is given to attracting high-tech industrial manufacturers, including computers, telephone and electronic equipment, semiconductors, electric vehicles, pharmaceuticals and high-tech agriculture, as well as projects registered by leading multinational corporations and key suppliers in global supply chains led by multinational corporations.

### Close investor support, prompt troubleshooting

At the conference "Sustainable Development of Vinh Phuc Industrial Parks in 2024", Dong affirmed: Vinh Phuc is enhancing support for businesses and investors by accelerating administrative reforms and digital transformation. The province is improving responsibility, consulting quality, and troubleshooting methods for land, investment, construction, and firefighting procedures. Additionally, it coordinates with local authorities on land compensation and site clearance, while focusing on the

maintenance of green spaces and technical infrastructure, and ensuring fair land and factory rental rates in industrial parks.

“With the motto that investors in Vinh Phuc are citizens of Vinh Phuc and businesses are rich, Vinh Phuc develops, the province is committed to creating all favorable conditions for investors to do business effectively,” he stated.

At present, Vinh Phuc province has 17 IPs with a total area of 3,142.96 ha, including nine in operation (Kim Hoa, Khai Quang, Binh Xuyen, Ba Thien, Binh Xuyen II - Phase 1, Ba Thien II, Tam Duong II - Zone A, Thai Hoa - Lien Son - Lien Hoa - Section II - Phase 1, and Thang Long Vinh Phuc), three under construction (Son Loi, Tam Duong I - Zone 2, and Song Lo I) and five blueprint IPs (Binh Xuyen II - Phase 2, Nam Binh Xuyen, Phuc Yen, Song Lo I, and Dong Soc).

The appeal of Vinh Phuc-based industrial parks comes from a favorable geographical location and available land for industrial development in addition to a synchronously invested infrastructure, and open and transparent investment attraction policies. The province adopts close administration of local industrial zones. Provincial agencies and local authorities have actively strengthened the State administration of industrial parks.

The province has 495 valid investment projects in industrial parks as of September 15, 2024, including 119 domestic direct investment (DDI) projects with a total investment capital of VND38,822.71 billion and 376 foreign direct investment (FDI) projects with US\$6.73 billion. The occupancy rate of industrial parks is 44.62% (calculated on the allocated land: 70.62%).

FDI investment projects come from 20 countries and territories, largely engaged in electronic equipment manufacturing (accounting for 50.4%), and automobile and motorbike manufacturing (12.8%). Foreign investors have disbursed up to 60-65% of their pledged fund. IPs have created jobs for nearly 142,500 workers. Among the countries and territories investing in the province, South Korea takes the lead with 183 projects and US\$1.9 billion, followed by Japan with 48 projects and nearly US\$1.1 billion, Taiwan (China) with 44 projects and US\$1.1 billion, China with 42 projects and US\$387 million, and Thailand with 10 projects and nearly US\$750 million.

Indeed, tenants in Vinh Phuc province-based industrial parks not only contribute to socioeconomic development and increase budget revenue, but also help create jobs, improve livelihoods and ensure local social security. ■



Chairman of Vinh Phuc Provincial People's Committee Tran Duy Dong (left) at the meeting with Mr. Han Sung Won, CEO of SK Group

## SK Group Considers Expanding Investment in Vinh Phuc

Mr. Tran Duy Dong, Chairman of the Provincial People's Committee of Vinh Phuc, recently hosted a working meeting with Mr. Han Sung Won, CEO of SK Group of Korea in Vietnam. The meeting was also attended by leaders of relevant agencies.

### TRAN TRANG

**D**ong said, South Korea is currently the largest foreign investor in Vinh Phuc province with more than 200 companies that have registered to invest a total of more than US\$3 billion. Currently, Vinh Phuc province is giving priority to attracting high-tech industry, semiconductor industry, electric and electronics industry, industrial park infrastructure, urban infrastructure, commercial centers, hotels, housing and tourism services. He hoped that, as the third largest multinational conglomerate in South Korea, SK Group will continue to research and choose Vinh Phuc as its first direct investment destination in Vietnam.

While highly appreciating the investment environment in Vinh Phuc, especially its business support policies, CEO Han Sung Won also presented some difficulties in expanding investment and recruiting personnel for the Group's investment project at ISCVina Manufacturing Co., Ltd. He hoped that Vinh Phuc Provincial People's Committee will continue to accompany and facilitate the group to expand its investment in Vinh Phuc. He also invited Chairman Tran Duy Dong to pay a working visit to ISCVina Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

To help SK Group understand the investment environment in Vinh Phuc, Chairman Dong tasked the Vinh Phuc Industrial Zones Management Board with coordinating information on provincial investment policies. He also pledged to visit ISCVina Manufacturing Co., Ltd soon and instructed the Industrial Zones Management Board and the Department of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs to assist SK Group in overcoming challenges related to investment expansion and worker recruitment.

SK Group manufactures and trades chemicals, telecom, oil and gas and energy. In Vietnam, the group is currently an important shareholder of many giant corporations such as Vingroup and Masan. SK Group recently acquired stakes in ISCVina Manufacturing Co., Ltd that manufactures and trades semiconductors in Ba Thien II Industrial Park (Binh Xuyen) with a total investment of US\$300 million. ■

# Tenants in Vinh Phuc IPs Boast Strong Growth



Jahwa Vina Co., Ltd at Khai Quang Industrial Park

Since the beginning of the year, the global market has shown signs of recovery, leading to an increase in orders across traditional markets. As a result, enterprises operating in Vinh Phuc industrial parks (IPs) have experienced good growth in their production and business outcomes compared to the same period in 2023.

## QUYNH NGOC

According to the Vinh Phuc Industrial Zones Management Board, several key industrial products showed significant growth in the first nine months of 2024 compared to the same period last year. The electronics industry recorded an estimated revenue increase of 14%. Noteworthy projects include Partron Vina (+30%), Jahwa (+31%), DKT (+31%), Amo Vina (+66%), BH Flex (+26%), Yingtong (+66%), Compal (Vietnam) (+47%), Minh Duc (+17%) and Arcadyan (+38%).

The electronics sector comprises over 43% of the total enterprises investing in Vinh Phuc province's industrial parks, offering a diverse range of products including laptops, smartphones, headphones, high-end Wi-Fi transmitters and support components for Samsung Electronics. With stable orders and markets, electronics companies have experienced good growth in business

indicators compared to the same period last year, contributing to the overall expansion of the industrial parks.

Other industrial sectors also showed strong performance, with revenue increases of over 30%. Notable examples include Cosmolink (+48%) and Nippon Paint (+22%). New projects like Accton and Assa Abloy further boosted growth in the sector.

The automotive and motorbike spare parts industry remained stable, with some enterprises posting solid growth. Meisei saw a 16% increase; Lam Vien, 12%; Kingduan, 16%

and Star Engineers, 26%.

The construction materials manufacturing sector experienced slight growth after a period of stagnation in the real estate market. Notable increases included Prime Group at 10% and Viet Duc Steel at 18%, while Vitto Bricks reported revenues at around 80% of last year's figures.

Despite these positive developments, some sectors faced challenges due to decreased purchasing power. The automobile and motorbike manufacturing and assembly industry experienced a 10% revenue decline. The textile industry also declined by 18%.

As of September 15, 2024, Vinh Phuc's industrial parks host 416 active projects, comprising 337 foreign direct investment (FDI) projects and 79 domestic direct investment (DDI) projects. This represents 84.04% of the total number of investment projects.

Among the 79 projects not yet in operation, 14 are in the construction and installation phase of factory machinery and equipment, accounting for 2.83% of total projects. Additionally, 4 projects are engaged in land compensation and clearance, making up 0.81% of the total. There are 57 newly licensed projects and those in various stages of implementation procedures, which constitute 11.51% of the total. Furthermore, 4 FDI projects are experiencing delays in progress and are in the process of terminating operations, also representing 0.81% of the total.

It is expected that 13 more projects will commence production and business operations in the final three months of the year, including nine FDI projects and four DDI projects. The estimated investment for these FDI projects is approximately US\$90-100 million, while the capital for DDI projects is projected to be between VND500-700 billion. ■

# Businesses Honored for Significant Contribution to Local Development

Recently, the People's Committee of Vinh Phuc province held a meeting with entrepreneurs and businesses to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Vietnamese Entrepreneurs' Day (October 13, 2004 - 2024).

THANH LOAN

**A**t the meeting, Chairman of the Vinh Phuc Provincial People's Committee Tran Duy Dong emphasized the important role of entrepreneurs and enterprises in the province's socio-economic development. With over 15,000 registered businesses, including more than 400 foreign direct investment (FDI) companies, they have generated jobs and income for over 580,000 workers and significantly contributed to the province's budget revenue.

Additionally, enterprises and entrepreneurs in the province actively engage in gratitude programs, hunger eradication, poverty reduction and support efforts to recover from natural disasters and epidemics, significantly contributing to social security and improving living standards. Dong expressed his hope that entrepreneurs and businesses will leverage their strengths and seize opportunities to overcome challenges, striving for their development goals while benefiting the state and the community. He encouraged them to continue contributing ideas and advising on policy development and planning, furthering the province's growth and prosperity.

He called on all levels and sectors to focus on eliminating bottlenecks and barriers, actively supporting enterprises by



**Provincial Party Secretary Duong Van An and Provincial People's Committee Chairman Tran Duy Dong extend their congratulations to the Provincial Business Association**

listening and responding to their needs. He emphasized the importance of effectively implementing policies and guidelines to facilitate business operations. He expressed confidence that, with a dynamic and creative spirit, the business community in Vinh Phuc will continue to thrive, working together to enhance the province's prosperity.

During the meeting, Secretary of the Provincial Party Committee Duong Van An presented the Third Class Labor Medal of the President to Song Tinh Company Limited. Chairman Tran Duy Dong awarded the Government's Emulation Flag to Vinh Phuc Pharmaceutical Joint Stock Company and Viet Duc Steel Joint Stock Company. Additionally, the Vinh Phuc Provincial People's Committee honored seven collectives with Emulation Flags and five collectives with Certificates of Merit for their outstanding achievements in production and business activities in 2023. The Provincial Business Association also awarded Emulation Flags to 10 outstanding young entrepreneurs in 2024. ■

## Positive Trends in Vinh Phuc Investment Attraction

In the first nine months of 2024, Vinh Phuc's industrial parks (IPs) attracted many new projects, boosting investor confidence and paving the way for future investment growth.

NGUYET THAM

**A**ccording to a report released by the Vinh Phuc Industrial Zones Management Board, in the first nine months of 2024, the board completed procedures for investment certificates for 37 new projects and 34 existing projects with a total



**Assa Abloy Smart Product Vietnam at Ba Thien Industrial Park**

registered investment capital of US\$411.94 million and VND4,098.6 billion (US\$170 million).

Specifically, the board licensed 26 new foreign direct investment (FDI) projects to invest US\$179.43 million and 28 existing FDI projects to increase their investment capital by

## Korea Leads in Projects and Investment in Vinh Phuc Province



**Young Poong Electronics Vina Co., Ltd, a wholly Korean-owned enterprise, provides stable employment for over 1,000 workers**

With its geographical location, well-developed infrastructure and transparent investment attraction policies, Vinh Phuc's industrial parks have emerged as favored destinations for foreign investors including those from Korea.

### BAO NGOC

**A**ccording to the Vinh Phuc Industrial Zones Management Board, there are currently 20 countries and territories investing in the province's industrial parks. Korea leads with 185 projects and a registered investment capital of approximately US\$2,558.6 million, accounting for 38% of the total investment capital. Taiwan follows in second place with 45 projects and US\$1,168.4 million,

US\$232.51 million. The agency also permitted 11 new domestic direct investment (DDI) projects to invest VND2,932.58 billion and six existing DDI projects to raise their investment capital by VND1,166.02 billion.

As of September 15, 2024, industrial parks housed 495 projects, including 119 DDI projects with VND38,822.71 billion of registered investment capital and 376 FDI projects with US\$6.73 billion.

The board expected to license 3-5 FDI projects with a total registered capital of US\$70-100 million in the last three months of 2024 (planned to license a project of Signetics soon) and 1-2 DDI projects with VND80-100 billion. Besides, the province saw 13 more projects start operations (including nine FDI projects with US\$90-100 million and four DDI projects with VND500-700 billion).

To achieve these goals, The Vinh Phuc Industrial Zones Management Board will focus on localized investment promotion, engaging with businesses, preparing industrial

representing 17.4% of the total. Japan ranks third with 49 projects and an investment capital of US\$1,167.0 million, making up 17.3% of the total. Thailand is fourth with 10 projects and US\$734.5 million, which constitutes 10.9% of the total investment capital. China rounds out the top five with 41 projects and an investment of US\$384.8 million, accounting for 5.7% of the total. Others include Italy, Singapore, the British Virgin Islands, Samoa, Seychelles, the Netherlands, Sweden, the UK, the USA, India, Belize, Indonesia, Spain, Mauritius and France.

After more than seven years of operation in Binh Xuyen II Industrial Park, Young Poong Electronics Vina Co., Ltd., a wholly Korean-owned enterprise specializing in the production of electronic circuit boards and surface mount circuit boards for mobile phones and computers, has established a strong market presence. The company has become a key partner for major corporations such as Apple, LG and Samsung. It is the first enterprise in the province to be certified as a high-tech support enterprise in the priority development plan.

In a recent meeting with the leaders of Vinh Phuc province, Mr. Hawng Jin Ju, General Director of Young Poong Electronics Vina Co., Ltd., commended the investment environment in Vinh Phuc. He emphasized that this favorable environment is an important factor in the company's decision to expand with a third factory in the Dong Soc Industrial Cluster, alongside its existing facilities in Binh Xuyen district.

Investment projects from Korean enterprises are primarily concentrated in key sectors such as electronic components manufacturing, automotive and auto parts, textiles, and electronics and semiconductor manufacturing. These industries align with Vinh Phuc province's priorities for attracting investment.

To maintain the industrial parks as an attractive destination for investors, especially from Korea, local authorities will continue to enhance efforts in land compensation and site clearance. This will ensure the availability of clean land for enterprises to establish factories and implement production projects. Additionally, reforms will be made to streamline administrative procedures, addressing challenges and facilitating the granting of investment licenses and related permits for investors. ■

zone infrastructure to attract investors, connecting with potential investors and corporations, enhancing foreign investment effectiveness per Resolution 50-NQ/TW, and targeting investment in key industries.

In addition, the board will coordinate with relevant agencies and localities to foster and strengthen the connection between FDI firms and DDI companies; encourage companies to boost business cooperation, transfer technology, convert from processing and assembling to design and manufacturing, increase added value, and create a foundation to entice and develop high-tech industries.

At the same time, the agency will effectively grasp investment situations and trends in the world and in the region, and create practical forecasts to have appropriate, flexible and timely solutions in investment promotion, appraisal and licensing and provide favorable conditions for foreign investors. ■



# Enhancing IP Infrastructure Management and Investment

Since the beginning of the year, the management and investment in infrastructure construction of industrial parks (IPs) in Vinh Phuc province have been significantly enhanced by the Provincial Industrial Zones Management Board. It has advanced infrastructure projects, streamlined legal procedures, and expedited construction processes. As a result, there is now a ready supply of developed land available for secondary investors to lease promptly.

THANH LOAN



Overview of Khai Quang Industrial Park

As of now, Vinh Phuc province has established 17 industrial parks (IPs), comprising 4 with foreign investment and 13 with domestic investment, totaling approximately US\$246.82 million and VND17,662 billion in registered capital. The approved construction planning covers a total area of 3,142.96 hectares, with 2,356.85 hectares designated for industrial and service use. Currently, nine industrial parks are operational, and the industrial land leased to secondary investors for factory construction amounts to 1,051.67 hectares.

In the first nine months of 2024, the Vinh Phuc Industrial Zones Management Board advised the Provincial People's Committee on several approvals, including the approval of the investor for Phuc Yen Industrial Park (Decision 324/QD-UBND, February 21, 2024), submission for the detailed construction planning of Son Loi Industrial Park (Decision 335/QD-UBND, February 22, 2024), granting the investment registration certificate for the infrastructure project of Phuc Yen Industrial Park, and making adjustments to the investment registration certificates and policies for Nam Binh

Xuyen, Ba Thien II, and Son Loi industrial parks.

Additionally, efforts are underway to prepare the Pre-Feasibility Study Report for Chan Hung Industrial Park while consulting with relevant agencies on the planning and appraisal of the General Urban Planning project through 2035 and the 2024 Land Use Plan for Vinh Yen, Yen Lac and Song Lo. In the first nine months of 2024, the board also issued 23 new construction permits and granted renovation and repair permits for two projects.

In the last months of the year, the Provincial

Industrial Zones Management Board will focus on coordinating with investors, the Song Lo District People's Committee, and many departments to initiate construction on the Song Lo I, Phuc Yen and Nam Binh Xuyen industrial parks. Additionally, the board will work with the Vinh Tuong and Lap Thach districts to expedite the approval process for the pre-feasibility study report, which will be submitted to the Ministry of Planning and Investment for appraisal and subsequently to the Prime Minister for approval of the Chan Hung Industrial Park Infrastructure Construction and Business Investment Project. Furthermore, efforts will be made to finalize the investment policy proposals for Lap Thach I and Lap Thach II Industrial Parks. The board will also collaborate with relevant agencies to urge infrastructure developers to complete land compensation, land clearance and further develop infrastructure for established industrial parks, including Khai Quang, Binh Xuyen, Ba Thien, Ba Thien II, Son Loi and Tam Duong II - Zone A. This aims to create clean land funds to attract investors and address challenges faced by each industrial park. ■

# Honda Vietnam Advances Key Industrial Products for Green, Circular Economy

Recently, the leaders of Vinh Phuc province met with Honda Vietnam Co., Ltd. to discuss the company's production and business situation, as well as its development strategy for the upcoming period.

NGUYET THAM



**Provincial Party Secretary Duong Van An and Provincial People's Committee Chairman Tran Duy Dong visit Honda Vietnam factory**

**D**uring the meeting, General Director Koji Sugita expressed gratitude to Vinh Phuc province for its continued support and collaboration, which have enabled the company to thrive. He highlighted Honda Vietnam's commitment to shifting its strategy from manufacturing gasoline-engine vehicles to producing hybrid vehicles that combine gasoline and electric technologies.

The leader of Honda Vietnam proposed to the Government, relevant ministries and Vinh Phuc province the exploration of incentives related to the special consumption tax for hybrid vehicles that combine gasoline and electric technologies. He also emphasized the need for timely guidelines on carbon credit registration and a carbon offset mechanism for urban tree planting areas in 2023, as well as the allocation of forest planting areas in the 2024 plan. This would enable the company to comply with carbon credit exchange and offset mechanisms.

During the meeting, Provincial Party Secretary Duong Van An and Provincial People's Committee Chairman Tran Duy Dong recognized Honda Vietnam's contributions to budget revenue, job creation and social security, and its important role in the development of Vinh Phuc province.

The leaders of Vinh Phuc province emphasized the commitment of the Party, State and Government of Vietnam to sustainable economic development, green economy and circular economy. They reaffirmed that Vinh Phuc province is dedicated to supporting the development strategies of enterprises, including Honda Vietnam, particularly in advancing key industrial products aligned with green and circular economy principles. This support extends to facilitating the company's transition toward producing hybrid vehicles.

The leaders of Vinh Phuc province encouraged Honda Vietnam to explore operating models in the electric vehicle manufacturing sector to develop a strategy that aligns with Vietnam's realities. They affirmed the province's commitment to supporting enterprises, including Honda

Vietnam. They acknowledged the company's concerns regarding the special consumption tax on hybrid vehicles and pledged to relay these recommendations to the National Assembly, Government and relevant ministries.

For matters within the province's jurisdiction, the provincial leaders tasked relevant departments and branches with coordinating efforts to address the company's challenges in accordance with legal provisions. They also urged Honda Vietnam to continue its research and production of electric vehicles, motorcycles, and high-end cars at its Vinh Phuc factory, while increasing the localization rate of its products. Furthermore, the province emphasized the importance of collaboration in forecasting human resource needs, supporting training initiatives, and supplying skilled labor for the automobile and motorcycle industries. They also encouraged the promotion of supporting industries for manufacturing and the timely completion of documentation required for the province to facilitate licensing for battery leasing operations.

During the working session, the provincial leaders witnessed the Department of Planning and Investment awarding the 15th adjusted investment certificate to Honda Vietnam.

Currently, Honda Vietnam operates three factories in Vinh Phuc: two for motorcycle production and one for automobiles. These facilities encompass nearly 150,000 m<sup>2</sup> and have a production capacity of 1.75 million motorcycles and 35,000 automobiles annually. The localization rate for motorcycle production stands at 96%, while the rate for automobiles is 27%.

In the first nine months of 2024, Honda Vietnam reported sales exceeding 1.8 million motorcycles and more than 19,200 cars, contributing nearly VND9,300 billion to the State budget. In addition to its production and business activities, the company is actively engaged in social initiatives, including safe driving training, educational support, environmental protection and community assistance. ■

# Yen Bai Enhancing Transport Infrastructure to Establish Economic Axes



The development of the transport infrastructure system serves as a catalyst for the growth of Yen Bai province

Large-scale transport projects have been invested in to boost Yen Bai's regional connectivity and develop key economic zones.

## DUY ANH

Recognizing that "transport opens the way" for socioeconomic development, Yen Bai province has developed a diverse transport infrastructure system to enhance economic and cultural exchanges with regional provinces and major economic centers in Vietnam and beyond.

From 2021 to 2025, the Provincial People's Committee is investing nearly VND13,300 billion in 26 key projects, including 17 transport infrastructure projects totaling VND 9,800 billion - 65.38% of the portfolio and 73.68% of the funding. Some completed projects, like Gioi Phien Bridge and roads connecting National Highways 32C and 37, have already contributed to socioeconomic development. The province is also speeding up the connection of roads linking Muong La, Than Uyen, Tan Uyen, Mu Cang Chai, Van Chan, and Van Yen to the Noi Bai-Lao Cai Expressway and other important routes.

Along with national highways, rural traffic is also a focus. From 2021 to the end of July 2024, Yen Bai province solidified 2,012 km of cement concrete roads, equal to 100.6% of the plan (2,000 km) in 2021-2025. Road repair, maintenance and upgrades have been done, helping protect people's lives, eliminate hunger, reduce poverty and ensure sustainable economic development.

Mr. Tran Viet Dung, Director of the Department of Transport, said: The resolution of the 19th Provincial Party Congress states "Building a synchronous socioeconomic infrastructure system, with a focus on such fields as transport, information, telecom, irrigation, urbanization and industrial zones, linking rural development with urban development, and aligning industry and services with agriculture and regional linkage." The Yen Bai Provincial Planning for the 2021-2030 period, with a vision to 2050, also emphasizes "Attracting maximum social investment resources for building transport infrastructure (intraregional transport connectivity, linkages with the Red River Delta and with Hanoi.)

Following this approach, the province will continue to utilize resources to create a smooth traffic

network between other regions, connect with the national transport network to create smooth regional connectivity, with emphasis on the Kunming-Lao Cai-Hanoi-Hai Phong-Quang Ninh Economic Corridor.

Yen Bai will continue to coordinate with central agencies and localities to invest in upgrading and expanding Noi Bai-Lao Cai Expressway, build a new road connecting Noi Bai-Lao Cai Expressway with Ha Giang province; upgrade and renovate existing national highways (37, 70, 32, 32C and 2D); and plan new national highways (32D and 3B). Then, six economic axes and two urban centers will be formed.

Accompanying businesses and investors, the Department of Transport will accelerate administrative reform, promptly advise on solutions to tackle difficulties and obstacles (especially in site clearance) to help speed up project progress. The department will concentrate on selecting consultants and construction contractors with sufficient capacity and experience to ensure progress and quality of projects. ■



*Transport infrastructure system development will be an important driving force for Yen Bai province to form economic axes according to the Provincial Plan for the 2021-2030 period, with vision to 2050.*



# Resolute in Digital Transformation

Digital transformation in Yen Bai embodies creativity, methodology, persistence, and a commitment to action. The province consistently upholds the motto: "Digital transformation must center on people as the focus and goal of development."

## HUONG GIANG

### Top-down, bottom-up synchronization

Mr. Nguyen Thuc Manh, Deputy Director of the Department of Information and Communications, Yen Bai province said: Yen Bai views digital transformation as a key solution for socioeconomic development from 2021 to 2025, aiming to help the province catch up with others despite starting later. With this commitment, officials and citizens are united in advancing digital transformation.

In particular, the 19th Provincial Party Committee issued Resolution 51-NQ/TU dated July 22, 2021 on digital transformation in 2021-2025, with a vision to 2030. To bring Resolution 51 into practice, the Provincial Party Committee, the Provincial People's Council and the Provincial People's Committee built and promulgated 76 documents on leadership, direction and implementation, including Action Program 15/CTr-UBND dated October 26, 2021 of the Provincial People's Committee; Decision 2015/QD-UBND dated October 3, 2023 of the Provincial People's Committee on ratification of Yen Bai Digital Transformation Project for the 2023-2030 period.

These documents clearly define the contents to be implemented, tasks assigned to each agency, unit and locality with an action roadmap and have products for demonstration. In particular, not just "catching up and going together with other localities", some policies are even ahead of the country like Resolution 60/2022/NQ-HDND dated December 9, 2022 on some support policies for digital transformation in 2022-2025.

"These important documents clearly demonstrate determination; engage the participation of the entire political system from the provincial to grassroots levels for comprehensive digital transformation," he added.

The province has established 1,529 community digital transformation teams with 10,851 members across all areas. Yen Bai is among the first three provinces to do so nationwide. These teams organize digital transformation events, guide residents on the digital citizenship platform (Yen Bai - S), host conferences, and partner with companies. Notable initiatives include Van Yen district recognizing nearly 9,000 digital citizens and Yen Bai City's "Online Thursday" model, along with a pilot for labeling Shan Tuyet tea in Suoi Giang commune.

Along with the government, people have also changed their thinking and awareness and gradually become active participants in digital transformation, with activities like

electronic transactions, electronic health insurance cards and remote medical examination and treatment services.

### Towards digital government, digital economy and digital society

With the high determination and effective methods of the province, digital transformation has made much progress in Yen Bai although it has limited resources for this work. In 2022, Yen Bai ranked 15th out of 63 provinces and cities, up 25 places from 2020; and ranked 3rd out of 63 provinces and cities in DTI Index improvements. The province strives to basically complete digital transformation targets on all three pillars by 2025: Digital government, digital economy and digital society.

Currently, 100% of specialized databases of agencies are connected to the Provincial Public Service Portal. The document management and administration platform has activated nearly 12,000 user accounts. All governmental agencies have adopted electronic reporting (digital signature). In addition, the province completed digitizing, updating and synchronizing 24,352 records (100%) of civil servants with the national civil servant database. It also strongly deployed paperless meeting rooms. In 2021, Yen Bai City operated its Intelligent Operations Center (IOC) with the goal of building digital citizens in the digital economy and digital society.

Its digital economy has grown quite well, accounting for 12.2% of the gross regional domestic product (GRDP). To date, 100% of local enterprises are using digital platforms; the digital economy in industries and fields is about 5.73% on average; and e-commerce to total retail sales is 9.3%. Up to 50% of businesses are using electronic contracts. Workers in the digital economy account for over 1.6% of the workforce.

The province has issued 89 growing area codes and supported bringing nearly 5,000 agricultural products to e-commerce platforms. The Market Model 4.0, featured by cashless payment, has been deployed in all nine districts, towns and cities with more than 600 QR code scanning points for cashless payment. Among adults, 68.72% are using cashless payment services.

The digital society in Yen Bai is thriving, with four companies launching electronic medical records platforms. Two hundred medical facilities now use chip-embedded ID cards and VNeID for patient care, and all accept cashless payments. In education, 410 of 442 schools (92.8%) have implemented school management software, regularly updating sector-specific databases. Additionally, all schools utilize electronic academic records and communication channels, while over 65% of adults frequently access the "Yen Bai S" app.

The Department of Information and Communications will focus on enhancing digital transformation institutions and applying new technologies such as AI, blockchain, big data, and to improve governance and business operations. They will also train civil servants in relevant skills. "Yen Bai aims to leverage digital transformation to enhance people's happiness and drive sustainable provincial development in a 'Green, harmonious, unique, and happy' direction," said Manh. ■

# Weaving Together Culture and Tourism



**Ao Dai Festival 2024 made a good impression on visitors, creating new opportunities for the city's tourism industry**

The successful Hanoi Tourism Ao Dai Festival has opened a new pathway for developing tourism products closely tied to cultural heritage.

### THU HUYEN

**T**he Hanoi Tourism Ao Dai Festival 2024 officially wrapped up after three exciting days at Doan Mon Square, Thang Long-Hanoi Heritage Conservation Center. This special event celebrated the 70th anniversary of Hanoi Liberation and widely promoted the image of Ao Dai - a traditional Vietnamese dress and cultural symbol of the Vietnamese people - to international friends. The festival attracted more than 63,000 visitors.

This festival was also expanded to many rich activities besides traditional Ao Dai performances. Impressively, the "Quintessence of Ao Dai" City Bus brought the image of Ao Dai through famous landmarks of Hanoi such as Hoan Kiem Lake, the Temple of Literature and the Opera House. Passengers not only admired the city's landscapes, but also participated in the festive atmosphere with Ao Dai performances right on the bus.

Bui Lien, a participant, said: Attending the event deepened my appreciation for the ancient beauty of Hanoi and the Vietnamese Ao Dai. It was a creative and impressive

approach to promoting cultural tourism.

The Ao Dai Design Competition for students from four universities in Hanoi particularly encouraged young talents to express their creativity and pride in traditional costumes. With the participation of 40 contestant teams, the designs were highly applicable and outstandingly creative, creating an inspiring artistic space. The judges highly appreciated the works imbued with national cultural identity but illustrated with innovation and modernity.

The festive cultural space was also highlighted with more than 100 booths displaying Ao Dai made by artisans and designers from all over the country. These booths not only brought artistic experiences to visitors but also helped spread the love of Ao Dai, thus generating a deep connection between traditional values and modern culture. Visitors also had the opportunity to participate in such activities as experiencing handicraft demonstrations and seeing artisans embroidering and tailoring Ao Dai at the event.

Mr. Pham Tien Dung, Vice President of the Hanoi UNESCO Travel Club, Director of Golden Tour, said: "The festival strengthened tourism attraction in Hanoi, especially during low season. Tourism activities associated with Ao Dai not only help promote cultural images but also create unique, attractive tourist products."

Mr. Nguyen Hong Minh, Deputy Director of Hanoi Tourism Department, shared positive reviews of the event. "The Hanoi Tourism Ao Dai Festival 2024 successfully achieved the goals stated in Plan 207/KH-UBND of Hanoi People's Committee. After three years of implementation, the Hanoi Tourism Ao Dai Festival (in 2016, 2022 and 2023), combined with the goals of stimulating tourism, preserving, honoring and tapping national Ao Dai values, has become a unique tourism product for domestic and international tourists. The department hoped that through the festival, Ao Dai tourism will become a "tourism ambassador" that conveys the message that Hanoi tourism is a 'Safe - Friendly - Quality - Attractive' destination.

The Hanoi Tourism Ao Dai Festival 2024 made many good impressions on tourists and opened up new opportunities for the city's tourism industry. With the spirit of 'Connecting culture - Stimulating tourism', the festival has truly become an unforgettable experience, serving as a bridge between the past and the present, and connecting cultural heritage with sustainable tourism development. Ms. Dang Huong Giang, Director of Hanoi Tourism Department, stated: "This year's festival has been successful in promoting the images of Ao Dai and Hanoi to international visitors. We will continue to uphold these cultural values to attract more tourists to explore the cultural and heritage values of the capital city." ■

# Promoting Cultural and Natural Potential of Ha Giang Tourism

## Recovery efforts

Ha Giang province has long been renowned for its majestic natural landscapes and the unique culture of its 19 ethnic minorities. Famous destinations such as the Dong Van Karst Plateau, Ma Pi Leng Pass and Quan Ba have become major attractions for tourists. However, Typhoon Yagi caused significant damage, particularly to the transportation infrastructure, severely impacting key tourism areas.

Speaking at the conference, Mr. Nguyen Hong Hai, Director of the Department of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Ha Giang province, said that the province has swiftly addressed the damages to ensure safety in tourist areas. The transportation system has been repaired, and tourism services have been upgraded, ready to welcome back visitors. In addition to recovery efforts, Ha Giang has also achieved significant international recognition, such as being named "Top Emerging Destination in Asia 2023" and "Top Cultural Destination in Asia 2024," underscoring the province's strong development potential.

## Enhancing promotion and developing tourism products

To attract tourists back after the disaster, Ha Giang has focused on promoting its image and improving the quality

A conference on promoting Ha Giang tourism post-Typhoon Yagi was recently held in Hanoi by the Department of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Ha Giang province. The event aimed to restore tourism, attract visitors, and exploit the unique local natural and cultural potential.

GIANG TU

of tourism products. Currently, the province boasts 982 accommodation facilities, an increase of 108 compared to the same period last year. This progress is crucial in enhancing the service capacity for visitors, especially as the number of tourists continues to rise each year. In the first nine months of 2024, Ha Giang welcomed 2.45 million visitors, including 290,000 international tourists, representing a 14.3% increase over the previous year. This reflects the province's strong appeal to domestic and foreign travelers, thanks to effective promotional campaigns.

Mr. Nguyen Trung Khanh, Director General of the Vietnam National

Administration of Tourism, emphasized at the conference that Ha Giang needs to leverage its cultural and natural landscape potential to attract tourists. He emphasized that the province has opportunities to develop distinctive tourism products, such as cultural tourism, nature exploration, and experiences of local ethnic life. He also pointed out that continued investment in infrastructure and the creation of high-end tourism products are essential to meet the demands of international travelers.

To meet this demand, Ha Giang has implemented robust promotional campaigns through social media platforms and organized promotional events in major tourism markets. The campaign titled "Ha Giang - Asia's Leading Cultural Destination" has garnered significant attention from tourists, promising to usher in a new wave of international visitors to the province.

In promoting tourism, Ha Giang focuses not only on developing popular destinations but also on preserving traditional cultural values. Hai affirmed that the province would use culture as a foundation for tourism development and employ tourism as a tool to preserve and elevate the values of historical sites and the culture of ethnic minorities. This approach is critical for sustainable tourism development while maintaining the unique cultural identity of Ha Giang province.

With the efforts from government authorities, businesses, and local communities, Ha Giang province is gradually reclaiming its position as a safe and attractive destination after the challenges posed by the natural disaster. The province hopes to attract an increasing number of visitors, particularly international tourists, due to its unique cultural values and stunning natural landscapes. ■



Quan Ba Twin Mountain is a must-visit destination in Ha Giang for nature lovers

(from P.20)

created from fees, taxes, land rents and other revenues), we can use it to reinvest to create more economic capital (for example, infrastructure investment) and support or enhance other forms of capital.

With natural capital (such as water surface, land and trees), this capital depends a lot on local geographical conditions and how it is used and managed. If we manage it well and use it reasonably, this resource will increase. Specifically, there needs to be strong research and investment in Hanoi's river and lake areas such as the West Lake, the Red River and the Duong River to maximize the effectiveness of the city's natural capital.

With human capital (including skills, knowledge and production capacity that help individuals create more capital), we see that human capital plays an important role in economic growth and education is the basic way to accumulate human capital. Therefore, investment in education is a factor that promotes economic growth.

With social capital (that comes from the scale and quality of political economic institutions, legal environment, business, culture, education, social organizations and families), the connection between social capital and human capital is very strong. With a population of nearly 8.5 million (in 2022), Hanoi is the second most populous city in the country. If we manage and utilize this resource, it will help promote the prestige, reputation and brand of the capital city so that the city can increasingly attract investment, talent migration and other forms of capital.

Regarding product capital (this can be considered the fundamental resource and purpose of sustainable economic development), because quality products and services are the crystallization of effective resource management. Products and services reinvested in the form of input capital such as consumer goods and means of production will increase the value of output capital in the form of products and services with higher added value. Therefore, there is a need for policies to promote and develop core "made in Vietnam" products in the country's strategic industrial production sectors.

*Second, building the government as an effective partner with the city's ecosystem to actively develop capital resources*

The system is the metabolic process of the government and the ecosystem of local organizations that demonstrate their cumulative and interactive metabolism. The ecosystem

is a network of interlinked organizations and businesses linked together, flexibly interacted through competition and cooperation to increase revenue and existence. The system converts capital from one form to another or increases the value of input capital.

In addition, Hanoi's development in the context of globalization demands not only knowledge but also creativity, innovation and a transformative mindset among government leaders.

Therefore, the government plays the role of building a capital-generating model and system to increase the capital productivity of other members in the ecosystem, helping nurture innovators to promote their creativity in resource development.

*Third, establishing a capital budget framework*

This involves a series of processes aimed at developing public infrastructure and projects in Hanoi. Establishing a budget framework will enhance budget management, restructure public investment and assess the effectiveness of existing public policies.

*Fourth, building governance model*

This is divided into four levels of governance: Strategic level (setting a long-term plan for dividing capital generation, how the city will invest in capital generation to facilitate its ecosystem to develop resources), action level (turning goals into specific plans by developing partnerships with key members of its ecosystem to build hard and soft infrastructure), analysis and systematization level, and continuous performance management level.

*Fifth, positioning Hanoi in the national and regional urban network*

Hanoi needs to position itself in spatial relations with provinces and cities across the country in general and in the Northern growth triangle in particular, especially connecting the gateway to the East Sea with the largest port cluster in the country, Lach Huyen Port (Hai Phong). In addition, it is necessary to have key strategic partnerships with economic centers and the capitals of eight developed countries that have comprehensive strategic partnerships with Vietnam.

By effectively implementing these solutions, we will undoubtedly establish Hanoi as a trusted representative of a country with a strong competitive edge and sustainable development both regionally and globally. ■

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