

On 7th of July
Embassy of Japan in Vietnam

Ambassador's Speech (The 63rd Japanese Self Defense Forces' Day)

Lieutenant General PHAM HONG HUONG, Deputy Chief of the General Staff, Ministry of National Defence,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all of you for coming tonight to the Japanese Self-Defense Forces Day reception.

The year of 2017 witnesses the beginning of the new era of Japan-Vietnam relationship. In the first half of this year, their Majesties Emperor and Empress of Japan, Prime Minister Abe and his spouse, Speaker Oshima of the House of Representatives and his spouse, and 2 Japanese ministers came to Vietnam; whereas more than 15 Vietnamese members of politiburo and ministers, including Prime Minister Phuc and his spouse and State Vice President Tien, visited Japan.

Grassroots level exchanges have also enhanced a lot in the last five years. For example, the number of Japanese nationals living in Vietnam has doubled and that of Vietnamese nationals living in Japan has increased by nearly five times. Under the Japan-Vietnam Extensive Strategic Partnership, the bilateral tie has greatly strengthened in every field, such as politics, security, economics and culture.

In June, Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc had a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Abe in Tokyo. During the talks, the two countries reaffirmed that they would more closely collaborate with each other in defense and security matters as the reliable partners sharing a number of strategic interests.

Under the diplomatic policy of “Proactive Contribution to Peace based on the principle of international cooperation”, Japan will play even more active role for the peace and stability of the world, focusing on the cooperation in maritime security and PKO.

Japan has widely cooperated with Vietnam in high-level exchanges including their Defense Ministers’ visits, official meetings, capacity building, defense equipment, technology cooperation, and among others.

This April, an escort vessel of the Japan’s Maritime Self-Defense Force, “Fuyuzuki” visited the Cam Ranh International Port, and so did the escort vessels “Izumo” and “Sazanami” in May within the framework of the Pacific Partnership 2017. Through the visits to Vietnam by such vessels and aircrafts, Japan will continue to further promote exchanges and trainings.

Japan has invited a number of promising Vietnamese military officers to educational institutions such as National Defense Academy of Japan. Tonight, we have the company of those who studied in Japan. I sincerely hope that they will greatly contribute to the future of Vietnam through making the best of their experience in Japan.

In this reception, we gain support from defense companies such as NEC, Fujitsu, Mitsubishi Electric, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Toshiba and Marubeni, to offer exhibitions. I hope you will enjoy seeing them. We also gain support from Chef Meat Vietnam to offer some of the hotel’s refreshments as well as Japanese beef and sausages. Please enjoy their tastes and flavors.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Now I would like to propose toast with a hope that the bilateral relationship between Japan and Vietnam will further deepen and a wish for peace and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

Chuc suc khoe.