

Lecture on Japan-Vietnam Relation

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28th November, 2019

At Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam

Three Episodes

1. A proposal from Vietnam for a joint development of the rare-earth elements in 2010
2. Japan's recognition of Vietnam's market economy status of the WTO in 2011
3. A great historian, professor Phan Huy Le in 2017

First Change: Cooperation in the field of defense and security

● The increasing importance of Vietnam in the field of security

- China's reclamation and militarization of artificial island in the South China Sea (East Sea), and division of ASEAN over political and security issue.
- Vietnam's coherent position is respected and trusted.

⇒ Vietnam is the most trusted country for Japan.

● Japan: Free and open Indo-Pacific vision

Three pillars of free and open Indo-Pacific vision	Japan-Vietnam cooperation
1. Promoting and establishing the rules of law, freedom of navigation, free trade etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ A workshop on the role of international law in maintaining good order at sea, TPP etc.
2. Improving connectivity through developing “high-quality infrastructure” both from hard and soft aspects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Lach Huyen Port Infrastructure Construction Project▪ The East-West Economic Corridor▪ The Hanoi-Vientiane Highway▪ Support for Vietnam customs▪ Human resource development, etc.
3. Securing peace and stability through strengthening the maritime law enforcement capacity, deepening the cooperation in the fields of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Provision of patrol ships▪ Frequent and close cooperation in the field of defense and security

Second Change: Historical Turning Point for Vietnam

- Vietnam is filled with huge potential and energy for growth
 - Vietnam has shown remarkable macro economic developments including strong inflow of FDI from Japan and other countries; however, the two elements are creating several serious concerns...
- (1) Vietnam has set its current public debt ceiling at 65% of GDP.
 - (2) The massive anti-corruption campaign has been conducted since 2017.

⇒ These two elements are important for Vietnam's future.

Several concerns:

- (1) Extreme delay in decision making
- (2) Slow infrastructure building
- (3) Delayed payments for construction fees
- (4) Unilateral cancelation of investment incentives
- (5) Lack of coordination among ministries concerned ... etc.

Second Change: Historical Turning Point for Vietnam (cont.)

- **Japan's contributions to Vietnam's administrative reforms and human resource development**
 - (1) **Provision of training opportunities for more than 800 officials of central government and party, and 120 local government officials.**
 - (2) **Knowledge and experience sharing by Japanese specialists**

Third Change: Vietnam's contribution to Japan's labor shortage

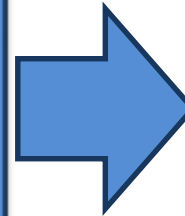
- Severe shortage of labor force due to decreasing birthrate and aging population
- 370,000 Vietnamese live in Japan who contribute considerably to addressing the issue of labor shortage.

⇒Japan would like to express our gratitude to the Vietnamese for their support.

- Serious concerns about Vietnamese residents in Japan:

Concerns:

- (1) The number of criminal cases (No.1)
- (2) The number of illegal residents (No.1)
- (3) The number of disappearance of technical trainees (No.1)



Negative image of Vietnam in Japan and Japan in Vietnam

Root Cause:

Vietnamese come to Japan with huge debt (approx. 10,000-15,000 USD)

Third Change : Vietnam's contribution to Japan's labor shortage (cont.)

- **The Embassy of Japan takes measures such as:**

- (1) Tightening the screening process for student's visa applicants
- (2) Requesting the Vietnamese government to crack down on malicious brokers
- (3) Announcement of malicious agencies on the Embassy's website and rejecting visa application by proxy
- (4) Disseminating accurate information about studying in Japan...etc.

- **Other measures taken by the government, NGO, other organizations:**

- (1) Establishment of taskforce composed of related ministries and agencies to address this problem by the Japanese Cabinet Secretariat
- (2) Establishment of consultation desks by local authorities, NGO, and other organizations in Japan...etc.

Concluding remarks

- Vietnam is the most important partner that shares not only strategic interests but also cultural affinity with Japan.
- Vietnam's sustainable development is important for stability and prosperity in East Asia as a whole.

Thank you for your attention!