

CONFERENCE REPORT

International Conference on Emerging Horizons in India-Vietnam Relations



On 3-4 July, 2017 at the Seminar Room
Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi

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Department of Political Science, Zakir Husain Delhi College, University of Delhi

Nehru Memorial Museum and Library in association with Southeast Asia Research Group and Zakir Husain Delhi College, University of Delhi organised a two day International Conference on **Emerging Horizons in India-Vietnam Relations** on 3-4 July, 2017 commemorating 45th anniversary of the India-Vietnam diplomatic relations. Conference was scheduled from 10:00 am to 6:30 pm on both days in the Seminar Room at Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Teen Murti Bhawan, New Delhi.

The two day Conference witnessed Working Sessions on various sub-themes of the Conference—viz. historical and cultural linkages, socio-political and economic dynamics, from strategic to comprehensive partnership, traditional and non-traditional security issues, security and defense cooperation, maritime and energy security, environmental protection and disaster preparedness and several other emerging issues critical in India-Vietnam relations. Around 60 delegates from Vietnam, Singapore and other parts of India including New Delhi participated in these brainstorming Sessions for two days.



The idea behind the Conference was to provide a platform for dialogue and an interface between the policy makers, researchers and academics for looking into the future and emerging dynamics of India-Vietnam relations.

10:00 – 11:30 am	INAUGURAL SESSION
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Welcome Address	Shri Shakti Sinha (Director, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library)
Introduction	Dr. Sulekh Chandra (Principal, Zakir Husain Delhi College, DU)
Chair’s Remarks	Amb. Rajiv Bhatia (Distinguished Fellow, Gateway House, Mumbai)
Opening Remarks	H. E. Amb. Ton Sinh Thanh (Amb. of Socialist Republic of Vietnam)
Inaugural Address	Shri Ram Madhav (Director, India Foundation)
Special Invitee	Amb. Nalin Surie (Director General, ICWA, New Delhi)
Vote of Thanks	Dr. Sonu Trivedi (Zakir Husain Delhi College, University of Delhi)



The inaugural session was addressed by Shri Shakti Sinha, Director, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, who welcomed the guests to the conference and introduced the renowned panelists. The welcome address was followed by introductory note given by Dr. Sulekh Chandra, Principal of Zakir Husain Delhi College, Delhi University. Recalling the mutual interests between the two states since the times of Ho Chi Minh and Nehru, he accentuated the significance of conference in contemporary times and gave highlights of schedule of sessions for two days.

Ambassador Rajiv Bhatia, who is a Distinguished Fellow, Foreign Policy Studies Programme at Gateway House, chaired the session. Welcoming all on the behalf of the hosts, he provided a brief introduction and the objectives of the two days conference, which aimed to undertake comprehensive analysis of India – Vietnam relations. The conference was organised at such an important juncture of geo political terms, he acknowledged, when the changing situation is shaping regional politics and East Asia is emerging as powerful states in global affairs.

Overwhelmed with such an effort of bringing intellectuals and students from both countries on a common stage to share their views, Ton Sinh Thanh, Ambassador of Socialist Republic of Vietnam, remarked it to be an excellent opportunity to review the relations of India and Vietnam and take it to higher levels in the years to come. Specifying few of the unique features that both countries share like cultural affinity and mutual sympathy for those who suffered from colonialism, His Excellency maintained that mutual trust and new economic opportunities have enhanced cooperation to a great extent. He also noted few weaknesses such as less number of Indian investors in Vietnam and new problems of connectivity, which are required to be mended for improving their reliable partnership.

In his inaugural speech to the conference, Ram Madhav, Director India Foundation lauded the P.M. Modi's visit to Vietnam in September 2016, which for him has taken the relations between the two countries to a new level. He highlighted the geographical and cultural connections between the two. Given the historical origins that both the countries share, he reminded the audience of the ancient relations that Vietnam had with India during the time of the Great Champa Dynasty. He also mentioned the 'path breaking work' of French Scholar, George Ceodes, titled 'The Indianized States of South East Asia', which records the historical relations of the two countries and compares it. We are living in such an important region today, he said, which is emerging as a 'new global power house' and plays a crucial role in international politics. All important powers want relations with Vietnam, which is a fastest growing economy and emerging as a middle income country. He further concedes that like India, Vietnam also has a history of 'nation which never surrendered' to the colonial powers. Although the paths might have differed, objectives of both countries in their respective journey have more or less been the same. Both countries should, thus, work together to ensure that sovereignty and security of all countries are protected, so that the region and the world could prosper in harmony in times to come. According to him, given the emerging rivalry in the Indo-pacific region the era of 'neo-colonialism' could be a reality.

Ambassador Nalin Surie, Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi, thanked the organisers and number of experts whose exhaustive efforts made this conference possible. India attaches great importance to Vietnam in ASEAN, he extolled, and looks forward to achieve an ambitious agenda to cooperate in diverse set of sectors. He shed light on few of the joint

statements and MoUs signed between both the countries enabling them to develop comprehensive partnership.

Dr. Sonu Trivedi, Assistant Prof. of Zakir Husain College, DU, expressed her gratitude to the panel and the participants for such an overwhelming response. She thanked all the financial supporters and institutional partners for the support and others whose diligent efforts made the conference successful.

Given the context of cultural, historical linkages, geo-strategic paradigm and the forces shaping the emerging horizons of India-Vietnam relations, the two day International Conference sought to deliberate upon the internal political dynamics of Vietnam and the factors determining its foreign policy orientations vis-à-vis the 'Great Powers' in the region and its engagement with India at large.

Remarks by H.E. Dr. Ton Sinh Thanh at the International Conference on Emerging Horizons in India–Vietnam Relations

Shri Shakti Sinha, Director, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Dr Sulekh Chandra, Principal, Zakir Husain Delhi College, Amb. Nalin Surie, Director General, ICWA, Amb. Rajiv Bhatia, Gateway House Ladies and Gentlemen,



It is my great honour to participate in this International Conference on “Emerging Horizons in Vietnam – India Relations” to celebrate the 45th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between our two countries.

I believe that the Conference will be an excellent opportunity for us to review the achievements of our bilateral relationship over the past 45 years and to find out the ways to bring our relations to higher level in the time to come.

First of all, it is worth to recall that 7 January 1972 was the date when our two countries upgraded our consular relations which started from 1956 to full-fledged Ambassadorial level. This is undoubtedly an important turning point in the thousand years of interactions between the two peoples.

Since then, despite many ups and downs that have taken place in the world and the region, the relations between Vietnam and India have not been shaken. Moreover, our relations have been continuously growing, upgrading and expanding. Especially, the last 10 years have proved to be the best period of our relationship, which reached the highest level – the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

It is not exaggerated to say this is a rare and unique relationship that I expect researchers from both countries should explain. In my opinion, there are some features that make our relations special.

Firstly, the two countries enjoy many cultural similarities as a result of thousand years of religious and commercial interactions. There have already been quite many studies and seminars on these similarities. So I don't think I need to elaborate on this.

Secondly, an important factor that binds our two countries together was the mutual sympathy between the two peoples who suffered from colonialism and imperialism. The two peoples continued to support each other even after they regained independence and started the process of national construction and defense. Vietnamese people have received not only spiritual and diplomatic support but also material assistance from Indian people and government during our struggle for national liberation and reunification and in the period of post-war embargo imposed by the US in the 1980s. We can even now feel very clearly the good sentiment of most Indians extended to Vietnam and Vietnamese people.

Thirdly, the relationship between Vietnam and India has been almost free from any problem and always "as clear as sky without cloud" as described by late Prime Minister Pham Van Dong. Moreover, the two countries have very high level mutual trust, and especially convergence of strategic interests. That is why the two countries enjoy a very good political relationship and strong security- defense cooperation. We can say that Vietnam and India are not only two reliable partners but also two brothers, willing to share almost all bilateral and multilateral issues, including the South China Sea.

Fourthly, the past 10 years have also witnessed the expansion of our economic relations many times more than previous decades. Two way trade has increased more than 5 times. India now is among top 10 trading partners of Vietnam. In the first five months of this year, bilateral trade was growing much faster than the world trade, reaching more than \$ US 3 billion, which gives prospect of reaching \$ US 7 billion for the whole year.

The expansions of our economic relations are attributed to positive impact of economic development of the two countries since the renovation in Vietnam and reform in India. The average GDP growth of the two countries since then has been about 7%, which always at the top of the world. Vietnam and India have become two most attractive destinations for foreign investments. India has made impressive achievements in service sector, especially IT industry, while Vietnam has made a great leap in exports, the volume of which is now 150% more than our GDP. Obviously, the economic development in each country has provided a lot of opportunities for cooperation between our two countries.

Fifthly, our foreign policies have many aspects in common. Vietnam and India share the same objectives of creating a stable and peaceful environment for the national development. Both countries follow multilateralisation and diversification of external relations, advocating forming an open and balanced regional structure. We both give priority to relations with our

neighbours. While Vietnam and other ASEAN countries have promoted their dialogue partnership with major world partners, particularly welcome India's more active engagement in Southeast Asia, India since Prime Minister Modi came into power has developed many concrete programs to implement the Act East Policy. It is the special relationship with India that gives Vietnam an advantage to assume the role of coordinating the ASEAN-India dialogue relations from 2015-2018.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I believe that the above-said factors will continue to be solid foundation for the development of our relationship in the future. We need to continue consolidating our good political ties, strengthening defense-security cooperation in a more effective manner, and coordinating more closely in international forums. We should focus on making our strategic partnership truly comprehensive. This means we need to put more efforts on economic and science-technological and culture-educational cooperation which are equally important pillars in our comprehensive strategic partnership.

These are the areas where a lot of potentials remained untapped. I hope that researchers of the two countries at this conference will help to explain why our bilateral trade is still much lower than our trade with other partners. Is it because we don't have enough promotion activities to introduce our products to each other's market, or should we need a breakthrough measure such as a bilateral FTA between the two countries. In short, what should we do in order to achieve trade target of US \$ 15 billion by 2020?

Why has India's investment in Vietnam since 1988 been only \$ 775 million, ranking as low as 27th among international investors in Vietnam? Is it necessary to have more investment promotion activities or more attractive conditions for Indian investors?

As regards to tourism, I believe that when Vietjet Airlines launches direct flights from Ho Chi Minh City in September this year, it will significantly solve the problem of air connectivity between the two countries. But the question is what should be done to increase the flows of Indian tourists to Vietnam to catch up with other Southeast Asian nations.

There are so many issues that the scholars of the two countries need to study and find solutions to better exploit the potentials and promote cooperation to meet the aspirations of the two peoples. We hope that the scholars in this conference would engage in an open and frank discussion and make useful recommendations for the two governments to further promote our bilateral relations.

In conclusion, I would like to thank Ministry of External Affairs and Delhi University for coordinating with the Embassy of Vietnam to organize this event. I wish our conference a great success, thus making contribution to celebrating the 45th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations and 10 years of strategic partnership between our two countries.

Thank you.

Remarks by Dr Sulekh Chandra, Principal, Zakir Husain Delhi College, University of Delhi at the International Conference on Emerging Horizons in India-Vietnam Relations



On behalf of Zakir Husain Delhi College, University of Delhi I welcome all the delegates to this International Conference on Emerging Horizons in India-Vietnam Relations.

India-Vietnam share multi-faceted relationship, the foundation of which was laid by two prominent leaders – Vietnamese President Ho Chi Minh and Indian Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru – in the 1950s. Through mutual trust, understanding and shared national interest in regional as well as international forums, Vietnam and India have enhanced this traditional friendship.

Given the context of cultural, historical linkages, geo-strategic paradigm and the forces shaping the emerging horizons of India-Vietnam relations, the two day International Conference seeks to deliberate upon the internal political dynamics of Vietnam and the factors determining its foreign policy orientations vis-à-vis the ‘Great Powers’ in the region and its engagement with India.

This session would be followed by two day of interactive Working Sessions on various sub-themes of the Conference. Around 50 delegates from Vietnam, Singapore and other parts of India including New Delhi would be participating in these brainstorming Sessions for two days on 3-4 July 2017. The Conference proposes to provide a platform for dialogue and an interface between the policy makers, researchers and academics for looking into the future and emerging dynamics of India-Vietnam relations.

I look forward to hear from the distinguished Guests experts present here today.
Thank You!

Text of the Inaugural Address by Shri Ram Madhav, Director, India Foundation at the International Conference on Emerging Horizons In India Vietnam Relations



It is a great pleasure to participate in the dialogue of two great civilisations. Like India, Vietnam too is an ancient civilisation with known history dating back to several millennia while the archaeological remains trace its civilizational origins to the Paleolithic age around 500,000 BC.

India too is an ancient civilisation whose history and archaeology date as back as that of Vietnam if not more.

We are two nations and peoples connected by land, across Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia; connected by sea, through the great Indian Ocean; and connected through millennia by history and culture. The great Champa dynasty of Vietnam had had interactions with the kingdoms in India at least 18, 19 centuries ago and we can find the remnants of those cultural engagements in the form of ancient temple complexes in parts of Vietnam. It is true that the initial engagements were probably through naval expeditions by the Indian kings like Bhadravarman. But the lasting engagements had been those of culture and religion. In his path-breaking work 'The Indianised States of Southeast Asia', the early 20th century French historian George Coedes records the evidence about this religio-cultural engagement between the two countries in the first and second millennia. Referring to a ninth century inscription he concludes that the kings of Champa had claimed themselves to be the descendants of Maharshi Bhrigu of Mahabharata period. He also refers to the inscriptions of Bhadravarman that reveal the dominance of the 'cult of Siva – Uma' in the Cham kingdom. It is heartening to revisit those relationships today that can form an abiding bond between the two countries.

Vietnam is a great nation with a great history. Like India, Vietnam too has seen invaders come and go, dynasties rise and fall and Colonialists conquer and recede. Like India, Vietnam's history too is that of a nation never surrendered. Centuries of struggles mark the history of Vietnam that culminate in its final independence in 1954 from the Colonial French rule. It is pertinent to remember here that we in India too have waged continuous wars against invaders and Colonialists for more than a millennium before finally securing independence from the British Colonial rulers in 1947.

We had our Gandhiji; they had their Ho Chi Minh and others. Our paths were different; but our objective was the same – freedom from Colonialism.

As nations that were subjects of Colonisation and the ones to fight it back just less than one century ago, we know the evils of Colonialism. It is important for us to make sure that the 21st Century versions of the same Colonialism do not return to haunt us and succeed.

Geo-politics in the Indian Ocean region makes the possibility of the return of neo-Colonialism a reality with countries trying to dominate others through money, markets and military. India and Vietnam should jointly and independently work towards defeating all such tendencies and forces.

Vietnamese are heroic people. They have passed through countless struggles. They have defeated Colonialists; and they have defeated Colonialist designs subsequently by undoing the artificial partition; they have endured blockades and embargoes. Yet, at the end of all this, they have come out in shining colours. Vietnam today is one of the fastest growing new economies in the region and the world.

A country once shunned by the West is being wooed today by all the important powers in the world. Vietnam has today emerged as an important player in the Indo-Pacific region. It's close to 100 million population is fast coming out of economic backwardness and the country is emerging as a middle income country.

Indian Ocean region is today home to such progressive and prospering populations and countries. From Japan to South Korea to China to Singapore to Vietnam to India to Indonesia and beyond up to Australia, the Indo-Pacific region has today emerged as the new global power house. Global power axis has moved away from the Pacific-Atlantic region to the Indo-Pacific region in this century. Several of the world's largest and fastest growing economies are situated in this neighbourhood. We are all linked by sea lines that carry 70% of the world's container traffic and transshipments of close to half of the world's energy resources.

It is also the region that is home to big militaries, with massive defence budgets and ever increasing military movements and purchases. It is projected that by 2025 half of world's submarines and war ships would be roaming around in this region. Trade and tyranny coexist in the backyards of many countries in the region.

It is important for countries like India and Vietnam to come together to ensure that sovereignty, security and sentiments of all the countries are protected and maritime laws respected. Together and also by mobilising the support of other nations in the region we should strive to evolve a new Indian Ocean maritime order that ensures peace, stability, freedom of navigation and overflights, and non-interference of outside powers in the affairs of the region. India and Vietnam have been working together in many areas including trade, oil exploration, science and technology, space and defence. India cherishes its bonds with Vietnam that have started immediately after Vietnam's independence in 1954 and further strengthened through uninterrupted bilateral engagements over decades.

The relationship has touched a new high when Prime Minister Modi visited Hanoi in September 2016 and both the countries signed the strategic partnership agreement. India is committed to supporting Vietnam in its endeavour for self-reliance in defence and space technology area.

India and Vietnam enjoy a strong cultural bond also. Humanity and harmony are the hallmarks of traditional Vietnamese culture. Vietnamese people regard family and community values very highly. It is these values that we in India also cherish deeply.

The BJP, India's ruling party and the India Foundation would be willing partners in enhancing people-to-people relationships between our two great peoples and nations.

Thank you!

**Remarks by Amb. Rajiv Bhatia as Chair of
Inaugural Session of
International Conference on
Emerging Horizons in India-Vietnam Relations**



H.E. Mr Ton Sinh Thanh, Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Sri Ram Madhav, Director India Foundation, Sri Shakti Sinha, Director NMML, Sri Nalin Surie, DG ICWA, Dr. Sulekh Chandra, Principal Zakir Husain Delhi College, Dr. Sonu Trivedi, Convener, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the Chair of the inaugural session of this international conference, it is both my pleasure and privilege to address a sizeable gathering of dignitaries, eminent experts and keen students of India-Vietnam relations. On behalf of the host institutions, I welcome you warmly and thank you all for your presence here today. We assure you that the next two days will give you a rare intellectual treat. Your active participation will further enhance its value and impact. Usually Delhi witnesses every year several national and international conferences on East Asia as well as India's Act East Policy. It is, however, not a frequent occurrence to see an international conference being held, which is exclusively focused on India's relations with a specific country of the region. In this sense, this event is exceptionally significant as it aims to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the relationship with one of India's most important and enduring strategic partners – Vietnam.

I fondly recall a similar international conference, the fruit of collaboration between the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam and the Indian Council of World Affairs, which was held in Hanoi in July 2012. Within a month of taking over as DG, ICWA, I had the opportunity to lead a delegation of well-known scholars to that conference. The President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam extended the unique honour by receiving us at his office. Our dialogue in Hanoi resulted in a book entitled *India-Vietnam Agenda for Strategic Partnership*, which received considerable acclaim.

India's multi-dimensional relations with Vietnam have their origins in ancient times. India's cultural interaction with Champa, modern-day central and southern Vietnam, left 'an indelible impression' on the life and society through a process that was entirely peaceful. Our collective memories of exchanges of that era provide a solid foundation to our relationship.

In modern times, relations have been nurtured and enriched by the earnest endeavours of several generations of leaders of both countries. The people of India have deep admiration for the Vietnamese people – for their strong patriotism, impulse for discipline and sacrifice, and nationalist traits that enabled their nation to prevail over not one but three great powers at different stages in history. Today, Vietnam stands in the front rank of countries that have

achieved rapid economic development and are committed to the cause of peace and security in the region and respect for international law. This is a marked commonality and a strong mutual bond between our two nations.

This conference is being held at a particularly important juncture in geopolitical terms. This is the time when East Asia has emerged as a key theatre of changing power dynamics. These changes are taking place not on a yearly or a monthly basis but perhaps on a weekly and daily basis. The changing equations among four major powers – US, China, India and Japan – as well as the internal and external dynamics of ASEAN have been shaping and re-shaping regional politics. In this process of constant, even bewildering, change – the impact of which may not be grasped fully at this stage, the innate strength and vitality of India-Vietnam relations remain a stable and reassuring factor.

We look forward to the distinguished dignitaries and panelists providing us not only a rear view of the shared journey so far, but also a creative roadmap for the future trajectory of the multi-dimensional ties that bind our two nations. The hosts hope to produce a publication based on the deliberations and outcomes of this momentous international conference. I wish it all success.

Thank you for your attention.

**Remarks by Ambassador Nalin Surie, Director
General, ICWA at the
International Conference on
Emerging Horizons in India-Vietnam Relations**



At the outset, I would like to congratulate Zakir Husain Delhi College, the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library & Southeast Asia Research Group, University of Delhi for arranging this international conference on 'Emerging Horizons in India-Vietnam Relations'. We at the ICWA are particularly happy to have supported them in this endeavour.

India's relations with Vietnam stand out in its overall relationship with Southeast Asia and constitute a vital part of its Look East and Act East policy. This is not new but has historically been the case. Our comprehensive strategic partnership underscores that point.

The ICWA is developing a partnership with the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences with whom we entered into an MOU in September last year. Since then, we have had the pleasure of receiving the President of VASS and his delegation in April this year at which

time we had a substantive dialogue on how to develop our collaboration. We are looking forward to visit Hanoi later this year for further discussions with our colleagues at VASS.

ICWA had also participated in the international conference held in Hanoi in March this year to commemorate forty five years of our diplomatic relations and ten years of our Strategic Partnership with Vietnam.

The strategic partnership between Vietnam and India has been based on 'traditional friendship, mutual understanding, strong trust, support and convergence of views on various regional and international issues.' This was upgraded to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during PM Modi's visit to Vietnam last year in September and enables us to build a platform for attaining a comprehensive understanding of each other's regional strategic compulsions and a deeper understanding of each other's strategic needs and interests.

The strategic and defense cooperation between our two nations has steadily progressed. Both our countries support freedom of navigation, unhindered commerce and peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with international law including UNCLOS.

Both our countries also have an ambitious agenda of joint cooperation across a diverse set of sectors ranging from agriculture to industry, to energy, ICT, trade to connectivity, to institution building, and infrastructure, space and culture. There have, undoubtedly, been some problems in the process implementation. These are being actively addressed to clear road blocks and expedite implementation of agreed projects. The trade target of USD 15 billion by 2020 is attainable. Enhancing bilateral economic engagement is a strategic objective.

Indian companies are well advised to focus on collaboration with Vietnam in sectors such as education, health care, pharmaceuticals, ICT, cyber security, defence manufacturing, power generation, infrastructure and hydrocarbons. Collaboration in the solar energy sector could be yet another area of focus.

The opportunities for greater cooperation in the economic sphere remain relatively under exploited. In this context, connectivity, including digital, must be addressed including through provision of direct air flights. Serious attention should also be given to the development of the India-Vietnam Economic Corridor and greater India-CLMV surface connectivity.

Another area where opportunities exist and need to be systematically developed and exploited is that of tourism. In this context, establishment of study centres in each other's countries could be of some assistance.

The maritime economy, nuclear energy, HADR and remote sensing are priority areas for future cooperation. Tapping into regional economic opportunities including value addition chains will be of special interest to India.

India attaches great importance to Vietnam's role in ASEAN and in the East Asian Region. We have convergence of views on various regional and international issues. We look upon Vietnam as pillar of support in the development of our relations and strategic partnership with ASEAN as a whole. Vietnam will have an important role to play in the evolution of all three pillars of the ASEAN community established in December 2015.

We also look upon Vietnam as an important constituent in the evolution of a regional security architecture for the Indo-Pacific that is open, inclusive, transparent and ensures equal security for all.

The conference has before it an exhaustive agenda and many experts. The outcome of the discussions and the recommendations will, no doubt, be of great interest to policy makers both in New Delhi and Hanoi.

In conclusion, I would like once again to congratulate the organizers for putting together this important conference on India-Vietnam relations in the 45th centenary year of our diplomatic relations.

11:45 am – 1:15 pm

PLENARY SESSION

Theme: Emerging Horizons in India-Vietnam Relations

Chair: Prof. Amit Shovon Ray

Centre for International Trade and Development, School of International Studies, JNU

Presenters

- 1) *Title: Prominent Features of the Vietnam - India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership*

Dr. (Ms) Nguyen Phu Tan Huong

Vice Dean, Faculty of International Politics and Diplomacy Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vietnam

- 2) *Title: Emerging Horizons in India-Vietnam Relations: Problems and Prospects*

Prof. Baladas Ghoshal

Formerly at School of International Studies, JNU, New Delhi

- 3) *Title: Sources of India-Vietnam Engagement*

Prof. Harsh V. Pant

King's College London & Distinguished Fellow, Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi

- 4) *Title: India-Vietnam Relations and the Regional Balance of Power*

Mr. Sanjay Pulipaka

Senior Consultant, East Asia Research Programme, ICRIER, New Delhi

- 5) *Title: India's Defence Diplomacy with Vietnam: Quest for a Quasi-Alliance*

Mr. Manish S. Dabhade

Assistant Professor, School of International Studies, JNU



The plenary session was chaired by Prof. Amit Shovon Ray, Centre of International Trade and Development, School of International Studies, JNU. Before introducing the presenters, he delineated few of his observations, from an economist’s lens, on India and Vietnam economy. While Vietnam’s economy, he pointed, has showed significant poverty reductions, stable inflation levels, and has a vibrant manufacturing sector, it also has some flip sides which include backwardness of agriculture, fragile poor population and domestic private sector. Similarly, Indian economy also grapples with weaknesses in few sectors, while uninterruptedly developing in other sectors. Contending that any bilateral relations cannot be read in isolation from global affairs, he hoped that the papers presented in the conference might succeed in touching upon the relevant factors shaping the relationship between India and Vietnam.

Dr. Nguyen Phu Tan Huong, Vice Dean, Faculty of International Politics and Diplomacy, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vietnam, presented the first paper titled *‘Prominent Features of the Vietnam – India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership’*. The paper emphasised on the main features of India – Vietnam relations and suggested few strategies and solutions to develop their strategic partnership more comprehensively. Whereas political and defence relations are moving at faster pace, she complained that other sectors such as economic, cultural, educational and science and technology are not developing equally. Trade, according to her, is still far below potential. Turning towards Common South China Sea concern, she hoped that India would come forward to support the parties involved. With the hope of strengthening relationships between the two countries, she recommended that both countries should carry out conservational preserves, advertise about their rich culture and hold

interactive seminars and workshops to work in the direction of making their relationship more harmonious.

Prof. Baladas Ghoshal, formerly at School of International Studies, JNU, presented the next paper titled *'Emerging Horizons in India – Vietnam Relations: Problems and Prospects'*. He began his presentation on the presumption that analysis of new horizons should be based on present relations and horizons. Taking account of the link that history and certain ideological commonness provide to these countries, he was of the view that optimism should not obscure the political reality. China plays a crucial role impacting the political decisions of both the countries. He argued that China brings India and Vietnam closer to each other but also acts as a constraint. While India could only support Vietnam for capacity building, where relations could be developed, in strategic terms, he contended, neither India nor Vietnam could have cooperation beyond limit.

The paper titled *'Sources of India – Vietnam Engagement'* was presented by Prof. Harsh V. Pant, who is a Distinguished Fellow at Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi. He outlined the major sources for studying India-Vietnam engagement at the global and regional level delineating the specific political, economic and strategic issues between both countries. He also focused on the need for 'ideational convergences' in between the Great Powers as to—what kind of political order is expected in the region. Agreeing over the idea of balancing China's rise but simultaneously taking account of the constraints, he argued that changes in domestic politics and global structural context influence the relations between the two countries. While trade and defence establishment helped both engage with each other, political leadership and robust policies are also important drivers for improving relations. He, therefore, found it necessary that India and Vietnam need to identify the ideational order they are comfortable with, so that both could respond together when it comes under attack.

Mr. Sanjay Pulipaka, in his paper titled *'India Vietnam Relations and the Regional Balance of Power'*, focused on changing strategic and security dimensions in the Indo-pacific region. He provided a detailed account of state powers engaging in bilateral and multilateral ties, and reflected on how middle powers are trying to assure the possibility of working together in international power politics. He also emphasised upon weak India – Vietnam trade relationship and pondered over both countries' capabilities of maintaining strategic relations. He also outlined the need for 'tri-lateral and mini-lateral' arrangements in seeking enhanced partnership between the major powers in the Asia-Pacific.

The last paper of the session titled *'India's Defence Diplomacy with Vietnam: Quest for a Quasi-Alliance'* was presented by Manish S. Dabhade. He began by explaining the theoretical aspects of defence diplomacy, followed by mapping the history of defence ties between India and Southeast Asia in general and Vietnam in particular, and identifying modes and arenas of

defence cooperation, and convergences and divergences in India's defence diplomacy with Vietnam. He concluded by asserting that this defence diplomacy marks forming a quasi-alliance in Southeast Asia, and discussing an overall critique of India's defence diplomacy.

2:00 – 3:30 pm

Working Session I

Theme: India-Vietnam Strategic Partnership: Exploring New Horizons

Chair: Dr. Sreeram Sundar Chaulia

Dean, Jindal School of International Affairs, OP Jindal Global University, Sonapat

Presenters:

1) *Title: Strategic Significance of Vietnam-India Relations*

Dr. Vo Xuan Vinh

Deputy Director, Institute for Southeast Asian Studies, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences, Vietnam

2) *Title: Defence and Strategic Cooperation between India and Vietnam*

Dr. Pankaj Jha

Assistant Professor, Jindal School of International Affairs, OP Jindal Global University, Sonapat

3) *Title: India-Vietnam Relations in the Context of Act East Policy and ASEAN*

Dr. Nehginpao Kipgen

Executive Director, Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, OP Jindal Global University, Sonapat

4) *Title: India-Vietnam Relations: The Role of Soft Power*

Mr. Tridivesh Singh Maini

Assistant Professor, Jindal School of International Affairs, OP Jindal Global University, Sonapat



The first session post-lunch comprised of four esteemed speakers comprehending on the present status of bilateral ties between India and Vietnam, and the scope of enhanced engagement between the two states. The session was chaired by the Dean of Jindal School of International Affairs, OP Jindal Global University, Sonapat, Prof. Sreeram Sundar Chaulia, giving a brief introduction to the theme of the session convened the proceedings during the entire session.

The first presenter, Dr. Vo Xuan Vinh reflected on the 'Strategic Significance of Vietnam-India Relations'. Tracing the history of ties between the two states, he discussed the content of treaties signed between the nations, and their 'special engagement' since the Cold War. India supported Democratic republic of Vietnam's struggle for Independence which enhanced their relations. He discussed the relevance of how in 2016, 'Indo-Vietnam Strategic Partnership' was escalated to 'Indo-Vietnam Comprehensive Partnership' encompassing the ideal of co-dependence between the two nation-states. The usage of the term 'East Sea' rather than the 'South China Sea' in 2013 by the former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh reflected the state of progressive ties between India and Vietnam. Concluding his argument, Dr. Vinh exclaimed that the phenomenal rise in the Indo-Vietnam economic engagement has become a highlight in the Indo-pacific region.

The second speaker, Dr. Pankaj Jha spoke about the 'Defence and Strategic Cooperation between India and Vietnam'. Mentioning the differences and commonalities between the defence and strategic ties between states, he traced the trajectory of development of military ties between India and Vietnam. Procuring defence artilleries from a common source, the then Soviet Union, the inter-dependence between the two states witnessed a significant rise. The burgeoning collaboration in development of technological and infrastructural of defence structures between two states not only reflects the advancement of present ties, but also opens the doors for future developments.

The next presenter, Dr. NehginpaoKigpen spoke about the 'India-Vietnam Relations in the Context of Act East Policy and ASEAN'. The two key points he discussed during the presentation were: a) The Indo-Vietnam ties and their association with ASEAN; b) Determining the reason of why New Delhi supports Hanoi in the case of South China Sea. Making an attempt to answer these enquiries, he pointed out that Vietnam has attained an important position in India's 'Act East Policy', and urges all nations to abide by the International law set by United Nations to attain peaceful reconciliation in cases of territorial disputes (and in this case, it particularly aims at the South China Sea). He remarked that India is improving ties with Vietnam for its strategic concerns, i.e., to attain a bargaining position with Beijing, and Indo-Vietnam ties are essential for these states to counter balance China in regional as well as global realms.

The final speaker for the session, Mr. Trividesh Singh Maini reflected on the theme 'India-Vietnam relations: The Role of Soft Power'. The primary point he made was that it is essential for soft power to be backed power, wherein soft power (comprising of socio-cultural and people-to-people connections) remains a dynamic concept premised on contextual circumstances. In case of India, he suggested that India's agenda of soft power is through 'capacity building'; in terms of religious exchanges, relaxing visa regime for tourists, improving connectivity between states and enhancing people-to-people ties. In this era of changing global scenario, Mr. Saini suggested that engagements in this sector could be crucial in defining both bilateral and multilateral ties between nations, and thus the soft power engagements between India and China must be given greater significance.

3:30 – 5:00 pm

Working Session II

Theme: India-Vietnam: Foreign Policy Dynamics

Chair: Prof. Sanjeev Kumar Sharma

Head, Department of Political Science, CCS University, Meerut

Presenters:

- 1) *Title: India in Vietnam's Foreign Policy in the New Context*

Ms. Huynh Thanh Loan

Deputy Head, Department of International Relations, Vietnam Institute for Indian and Southwest Asian Studies, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences

- 2) *Title: India-Vietnam Relations in the Indo-Pacific Era*

Mr. Sudarshan Ramabadaran

Deputy Director, India Foundation, New Delhi

- 3) *Title: India-Vietnam: Perspectives on 3Cs in Act East Policy*

Dr. Shristi Pukhrem

Senior Research Fellow, India Foundation, New Delhi

- 4) *Title: Growing Significance of Vietnam in India's Act East Policy*

Mr. Subhadeep Bhattacharya

Research Assistant, Netaji Institute for Asian Studies, Kolkata

- 5) *Title: India-Vietnam: Cooperation, Integration and Challenges*

Dr. Vikas Saharan

Post Doctoral Fellow, JNU



The second working session of the day one of the *International Conference on Emerging Horizons in India Vietnam Relations*, chaired by Prof. Sanjeev Kumar Sharma, stood true to its theme of '*India-Vietnam Foreign Policy Dynamics*'. After a brief introduction by the august chair, the first speaker Ms. Huynh Than Loan, in her paper titled '*India in Vietnam's Foreign Policy in the New Context*', provided the audience a succinct historical account of Vietnam's approach towards the outside world. She traced the roots of Vietnam's commitment to be a reliable member of the international and the regional community to the Eleventh Congress of the Communist Party. International integration, her paper said, is extremely crucial to Vietnam's orientation towards the outside world. In view of the recent developments in the world of International politics, the paper discussed the aspirations of Vietnamese foreign policy in dealing with the challenges and Vietnam's path of multilateralisation and diversification of its relations. And, in the course of all this, reiterated the significance India holds as a major strategic partner to Vietnam and the hope of strengthening of this bond in near future.

The second paper, titled '*India-Vietnam Relations in the Indo-Pacific Era*', presented by Mr. Sudarshan Ramabadrnan, threw light upon the relevance of the Indo Pacific region. The speaker began with providing the audience with an account of the origin of the term Indo-Pacific. Tracing historical connection between India and Vietnam, the paper discussed the relevance of peace to both countries by giving examples of Ho Chi Minh calling himself a disciple of Mahatma Gandhi, an illustration from the past, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's unwavering commitment to peace in the present. The paper also highlighted important areas of convergence between the two countries like, economic, security and defense, at the level of leadership, and the respect the two countries share for United Nations Convention on the Laws

of the Seas, to name a few. Looking forward, the paper discussed the possibility of common maritime security coalition architecture in the Indo Pacific region and also proposed an intriguing suggestion of a trilateral between India, Vietnam and Japan.

'India-Vietnam: Perspectives on 3Cs in Act East Policy', the third paper of the session presented by Dr. Shrishti Pukhrem, taking the audience through the shared history the two countries of struggle against colonial rule, elucidated upon the three C's flagged for the India-ASEAN relations by the India Minister of External Affairs, Mrs. Sushma Swaraj. The speaker thereafter, narrowed these three C's i.e.: Commerce, Culture and Connectivity to India-Vietnam relations and how they could contribute in strengthening the ties that are already rooted in strong civilizational and historical connections.

Mr. Shubhadeep Bhattacharya presented the fourth paper of the session, *'Growing Significance of Vietnam in India's Act East policy'*. Demolishing the general perception that India began to look eastwards only post cold war, the speaker familiarized the audience with the Act East policy of India that prevailed even in the *Nehruvian* era. However, it cannot be denied that engagement with Vietnam at that point in history was not as robust as it is being aspired for now. The paper also addressed the elephant in the room i.e. China and the implications that geopolitical changes in Asia post 1975 had on the India-Vietnam relations. Talking of the contemporary times, the paper acknowledged the relevance that Vietnam holds for India as an important pillar of its Act East Policy. It also highlighted the significance of the South China Sea for India for the reasons of freedom of navigation and strategic relevance, particularly in the sphere of trade. The speaker also went ahead to question the dormancy in India's approach towards the South China Sea and stressed that the region does hold significance for India and hence should be looked into by the latter actively. Also, Vietnam's relevance for India needs to be realized in areas beyond foreign policy as well, here the speaker emphasized upon the economic areas of cooperation and collaboration.

The last paper of the session was presented by Dr. Vikas Saharan, titled *'India-Vietnam: Cooperation, Integration and Challenges'*. True to its title, the paper provided a pan view of the relations between the two countries. The speaker discussed different sectors like industry, agriculture, services etc., drawing a comparison between India and Vietnam and corroborating his various hypotheses with statistical evidence. The paper moved on to discuss how economic and strategic interests facilitate strong ties between India and Vietnam and urged for making use of the tremendous opportunity for cooperation that the two countries have owing to the scope in import export sector.

The session was wrapped with concluding remarks from the chair, who then invited the participants for an informal discussion over tea.

5:00 – 6:30 pm

Working Session III

Theme: Multilateral Engagements and the Dynamics of External Actors

Chair: Shri Shakti Sinha

Director, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library

Presenters:

- 1) *Title: Vietnam and its Multilateral Engagements*

Ms. Do Thi Nhan Thien

Researcher, Central Institute for Economic Management, Vietnam

- 2) *Title: Achieving a Free and Open Indo-Pacific Region with India and Vietnam: Japan's Perspective*

Mr. Shunichi Inoue

Counsellor, Embassy of Japan, New Delhi

- 3) *Title: Mekong-Ganga Cooperation and India-Vietnam Relations through the Prism of Act East Policy*

Dr. Bharti Chhibber

Assistant Professor, Lakshmi Bai College, University of Delhi

- 4) *Title: Vietnam in India's Strategic Ambitions: An Expanding Partnership*

Dr. Sampa Kundu

Research Assistant, Southeast Asia and Oceania Cluster, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses

- 5) *Title: The Big Brother Role played by Japan in Strengthening Vietnam-India Relations*

Ms. Teresa Mili

Research Scholar, Centre for East Asian Studies, JNU



There were five speakers in this session who spoke extensively on the present bilateral and multilateral situations not only between India and Vietnam but also Japan and other South Asian countries. This session was chaired by Shri Shakti Sinha, Director, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi. The first paper, titled, '*Vietnam and its Multilateral Engagements*', focused extensively on Vietnam's comprehensive economic growth. The speaker Do Thi Nhan Thien gave an overview of Vietnam's international integration in trade and other developments as were initiated by National party Congress. Some milestones among them were the formation of ASEAN. The period between 1995-2016 witnessed some of the most important developments as far as the history of Vietnam is concerned. This was the time when Vietnam established its engagements with WTO, domestic relationship with many countries and its imports increased by more than 15 times. The speaker emphasised on country's stable political and social condition and also descent demographic structure behind these above mentioned achievements. Along with these the speaker also focused on the weaknesses of country's economic structure, such as, absence of transparency and accountability in public sector, limited skill of labours and absence of competitive domestic firms, etc. At the end of this paper the speaker recommended some features which can be taken into account for further development and more comprehensive growth of the concerned country, for example, improvement in people's physical and mental well-being, more emphasis on macro-economics, business environment reforms, transparency in legal and police system etc.

The second speaker Bharti Chibber's paper titled, '*Mekong-Ganga Cooperation and India-Vietnam Relations through the Prism of Act East Policy*'. At the beginning she spoke about the history of ASEAN, starting from 1967 to 2015. The year 2015 is considered as the watershed moment of the entire history of the region as it was the beginning of India's 'Act East Policy'. In doing so, the speaker mentioned about all the pacts and treaties that were signed between India and Vietnam and most importantly the Mekong-Ganga Initiative of 2000. This initiative includes cooperation and promotion in tourism, culture, education, language, regional trade, transportation etc. Though she focused extensively on the activities and positive outcomes of the above mentioned initiative, she also mentioned some of the shortcomings of it which need to be taken care of, such as the better implementations of adhoc projects under the Mekong-Ganga Initiative, and expansion of the trilateral highway through Myanmar. As India and Vietnam share the same concerns, little more push at the diplomatic level from both the countries is needed for further development. She also recommended that for India South-East Asia is the gateway to develop its north-eastern states as it will help for better connectivity and people to people contact.

The third speaker of this session was Shunichi Inoue, on a different note not only spoke about relation between India and Vietnam but also threw light upon Japan's perspective in the entire issue of free and open Indo-Pacific region. This paper was titled, '*Achieving a Free and*

Open Indo-Pacific Region with India and Vietnam: Japan's Perspective'. He spoke about these three country's long shared history through Buddhism and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's attachment with them. As his focus was on the importance of more strong relationships between these countries, he said though Japan is a technically developed country, on the other hand the demographic dividend of India and Vietnam is way higher than that of Japan and that is an indisputable asset. These three countries also share an important strategic interest as reliable partners. The speaker also focused on the importance of Indo-Pacific Region and Prime Minister Abe's speech on values of freedom, the rule of law, market economy free of coercion etc. His special emphasis was on rule based international order which provides a set of common principles for the region, freedom of navigation and commerce, resolves territorial and maritime disputes peacefully in accordance with the international law, regional economic connectivity, and strengthening of maritime security. He also said that along with joint military drill sharing defense technology and creation of a free and fair economic zone are also important. In the present day situation it is important to formulate better connectivity between India and Vietnam.

The title of the fourth paper of this session was *'Vietnam in India's Strategic Ambitions: An Expanding Partnership'*. The speaker Sampa Kundu spoke extensively on changing relationship between India and Vietnam under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Like the second speaker of this session, she also spoke about ASEAN, other treaties and pacts and most importantly India's Act East Policy. As one of the important features of ASEAN, India is helping the other countries in many forums specially by providing soft power. She also emphasised on importance of India's position in South-China Sea as 55% of India's trade passes through it and this region needs to rely on each and every country's neighbor forces. India and Vietnam have more potential to develop their relationship as they do not share any conflicting interests and China's policy of territorial aggression is alarming for both the nations. She finally recommended that it is important to have reciprocity between India and other ASEAN countries.

The last paper of this session was delivered by Teresa Mili. Her paper, titled, *'The Big Brother Role Played by Japan in strengthening Vietnam-India Relations'*, focused mainly on the relationship between Vietnam and Japan. During Vietnam's crucial time for rebuilding the nation, it was Japan that stood by its side with aid, though it is not ruled out that Japan too had its own interest. The relationship was more of a relation between a developing economy and investors. Japan's economic assistance helped Vietnam to develop nuclear energy cooperation, join WTO, ASEAN and to establish medium and small industries of finished goods. On the other hand, it is also important to develop maritime welfare between India and Vietnam because both the countries are suffering from China's territorial aggression, reiterating what the

previous speaker too had spoken. And more importantly India with its growing population needs more natural resources and Vietnam is the gateway of trade in the concerned region.

DAY -2
(4th July 2017)

10:00 – 11:30 am	Working Session IV
<i>Theme: India-Vietnam: Revisiting Historical and Cultural Ties</i>	

Chair: Prof. Darvesh Gopal

Professor of Political Science, School of Social Sciences, IGNOU

Presenters:

- 1) *Title: Buddhist Female Iconography in the Art of Ancient Vietnam: A Study of the Interrelationships of Indian and Southeast Asian Art*
Ms. Abira Bhattacharya
Assistant Curator, National Museum, New Delhi
- 2) *Title: Indian Business Diaspora in Vietnam: An Opportunity to Enhance Connectivity, Commerce and act as Cultural Ambassadors of India in Vietnam*
Mr. Salu D' Souza
Research Fellow, Centre for Diaspora Studies, Central University of Gujarat
- 3) *Title: Culture Commerce and Connectivity: In Search of Emerging Dynamics of India Vietnam Relation*
Ms. Ankita Chakraborty
Research Scholar, Department of Political Science and Rural Development, Vidyasagar University
- 4) *Title: Emerging Research Horizons of Indo-Vietnamese Shared Cultural Heritage*
Mr. Shubham Singh
Research Scholar, Department of English and Modern European Languages, University of Lucknow
- 5) *Title: Culture, Commerce and Connectivity in India-Vietnam Relations*
Ms. Bhavna Agarwal
Research Scholar, Jindal School of International Affairs, OP Jindal Global University, Sonapat



The First Session on the second day of the Conference was Chaired by Prof Darvesh Gopal who in his initial remarks gave an overview of the India-Vietnam Relations. Ms. Abira Bhattacharya, in her well researched paper titled *'Buddhist Female Iconography in the Art of Ancient Vietnam: A study of the Interrelationships of Indian and Southeast Asian Art'*, revisited the historical connections between India and Vietnam to explore Indian influence over the Vietnam art and culture. Proving the blend of Dwaravati feature of Thailand and Indian cultural features in Vietnam's Art, she showed the evolution of syncretic culture of Buddhism and Shaivism in Vietnam. With the display of several imageries of Tara and Prajnaparamita, who are identified with Dharma in the three Jewels of Buddhism, she traced the roots of the artistic works of these images and categorised them in periodical manner.

In the paper titled *'Indian Business Diaspora in Vietnam: An Opportunity to Enhance Connectivity, Commerce and Act as Cultural Ambassadors of India in Vietnam'*, Mr. Salu D'Souza shed light on the growing significance of Indian Diaspora for India and other states. Elucidating the relevant features of Indian Business Diaspora and the crucial role it plays in developing the economy of respective countries, he analysed various constraints that such diaspora confronts in Vietnam, despite being proven beneficial in other states. He enlisted few of such constraints which included the stringency of immigration policy and absence of concessions for establishing new businesses. He concluded his presentation with the recommendation of revisiting and amending structural policies of Vietnamese government towards Indians.

The paper titled *'Culture Commerce and Connectivity: In Search of Emerging Dynamics of India Vietnam Relation'* was presented by Ms. Ankita Chakraborty. Providing the significant

historical connections that both countries share, her paper dealt with exploring the possibilities of bilateral relations between India and Vietnam amidst contemporary international politics. Organising intercultural events, she conceded, particularly seminars and workshops would open new doors of opportunities for young Indian and Vietnamese students.

Shubham Singh, in his paper '*Emerging Research Horizons of Indo-Vietnamese Shared Cultural Heritage*', explored the fresh areas of probable research in the realm of cultural relations of India and Vietnam. Accentuating the shared features of cultural and religious heritage and active restoration practices of heritage sites, he mulled over the opportunities available for practical research of the restoration activities and their scope. Although immense research has been conducted in exploring the historical connections between the two countries, he specifically emphasised on the need of research in the neglected fields of literature, music and arts.

The paper titled '*Culture, Commerce and Connectivity in India-Vietnam Relations*', presented by Bhavna Aggarwal, provided the historical and cultural account of India and Vietnam with the precise timeline of their historical interactions. With the Yoga as an emerging soft power tools in the relations of the two countries, acknowledging its increasing popularity in Vietnam, the paper analysed the role of yoga in developing the relationship.

11:45 am – 1:15 pm

Working Session V

Theme: India-Vietnam: Socio-Political and Economic Dynamics

Chair: Dr. Udai Bhanu Singh

Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi

Presenters:

1) *Title: Delhi-Hanoi Entente Cordiale: The Stamp of the 'Modi Doctrine'*

Dr. Rajeew Ranjan Chaturvedy

Research Associate, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore

2) *Title: India-Vietnam Bilateral Economic Ties: The Road Ahead*

Dr. Rashmi Singh

Associate Economist at PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi

3) *Title: Vietnam- India Investment Cooperation: Potential and Challenges*

Mr. Tran Le Tien

Head of Economic Section, Vietnam Embassy, New Delhi

4) *Title: Solutions to Promote Economic Relations between Vietnam and India*

Dr. Nguyen Van Lich

Dean, Department of International Economics, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam



The fifth session of the conference, premised on the *'India-Vietnam: Socio-Political and Economic Dynamics'* was chaired by Dr. Udai Bhanu Singh, Senior Research Associate at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi. The panelists of this session included four of the renowned experts analyzing and proposing policies for enhanced Indo-Vietnam ties.

The first speaker of the session, Dr. Rajeev Ranjan Chaturvedi presented a paper on *'Delhi-Hanoi Entente Cordiale: The Stamp of the 'Modi Doctrine''*. The primary theme of his paper was to analyse the Indian Foreign Policy in its current regime and how exactly did the Democratic Republic of Vietnam fit into it. He commented that a nation's foreign policy is driven by the state's national interests, with accordance to the party/Government in power. In the same limelight, he suggested that since the inception of Modi Government in 2014, the relations between India and Vietnam have escalated to new heights, along with improved ties between India and other states in the region of South-East Asia. In accordance with his views, the key drivers of a state's policies are: a) Securing the state's territorial and national interests; b) Enhancing inclusive growth; and c) Attaining and escalating one's Global position. In the case of India and Vietnam, he suggests that both countries have difficult 'neighbourhoods', and must thus participate in higher level engagements. Taking an exemplar of the South China Sea, he exclaimed that not only is the Indo-Vietnamese engagement vital to India's geo-strategic interests, but it shall also aid Vietnam to counterbalance China in the region. Therefore, external threats and expansion of global prowess aligns with the convergence of India and Vietnam's interests.

The second speaker of the session, Dr. Rashmi Singh presented her paper on 'India-Vietnam Bilateral Economic Ties: The Road Ahead', which was classified into four categories; the historical background of India-Vietnam's economic ties, the macroeconomics advantages of this bilateral relation, the current status the Indo-Vietnam economic ties, and prospects of enhanced future engagements. Reasserting the point made by the previous speaker, Dr. Rashmi exclaimed that the geo-strategic location of the two states and China's growing progress is among the primary reasons shaping Indo-Vietnam's ties. Analyzing the growth charts and factual data, it can be seen that India's penetration in the Vietnamese economy is higher than Vietnam's inclusion in the Indian economy. With the decline of China, and growth of Vietnam as an export destination for India, the trade partnership has prospects for higher growth. On one hand, Vietnam can attain India's technological and economic aid for further growth in their already booming economy. On the other hand, India can use Vietnam's lower labour cost and its central location in South-East Asia to enhance its economic status in the regional as well as global territories.

The next speaker, Mr. Tran Le Tien titled his paper as 'Vietnam-India Investment Corporation: Potential and Challenges'. Highlighting Narendra Modi's visit to Vietnam in 2016, Mr. Tien suggests that though bilateral ties between the two states have been upgraded, there is still a need for higher trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. Though the Foreign Direct Investments from India to Vietnam, and vice-versa, have witnessed a progressive growth, they instill difficulties and challenges due to their common interests and geographical locations. The investments in the realm of oil and gas exchanges, advancing academic development, increasing the number of inter-state projects, are a few of the many areas that hold potential for further development between India and Vietnam.

The final speaker of the session, Dr. Nguyen Van Lich restated the 'Solutions to promote Economic Relations between Vietnam and India'. His paper focused on two key points: a) Advantages of the Indo-Vietnam's economic ties; b) Solutions to the lacuna existing in the current framework of bilateral economic ties between the two states. He suggests that there are limitations on economic engagement between India and Vietnam. The difficulty of economic and trade ties being considered less significant than their political affiliations, is being treated as an example by Dr. Lich to lay emphasis on his point. He suggests that the two countries must realize their potentials and develop improved economic ties. India and Vietnam are both, opening up their economies for Foreign Direct Investments by different nations into their economies, and contain structures and resources for development of various trade products.

2:00 –3:30 pm

Working Session VI

Theme: India-Vietnam: Security and Defense Cooperation

Chair: Prof. Sunil Choudhary

Department of Political Science, University of Delhi

Presenters:

- 1) *Title: India And China: Vietnamese's Neighbour Issues in the New Regional Context*

Dr. Nguyen Tran Tien

Deputy Dean, Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University, Hanoi

- 2) *Title: South China Sea Dispute in the Narrative of India-Vietnam Relations*

Dr. Rup Narayan Das

Director, Research and Information Division, Lok Sabha Secretariat, Parliament Library

- 3) *Title: India and Vietnam: Defense and Strategic Cooperation*

Dr. Dhruvajyoti Bhattacharjee

Research Fellow, Indian Council of World Affairs

- 4) *Title: India-Vietnam Maritime Cooperation: An Indian Perspective*

Dr. Om Prakash Dahiya

Assistant Professor, Zakir Husain Delhi College (Evening), University of Delhi



The chair opened the session by calling on to the first speaker, Dr. Rup Narayan Das to present his paper. Dr. Das's paper '*South China Sea Dispute in the Narrative of India-Vietnam Relations*' in detail dwelled upon the historical and geographical significance of the South China Sea. The speaker traced development across years in the region and, also looked at the trajectory of the increased assertion of Chinese presence and claim in the same. The paper also

discussed India's foray into the South China Sea and moved onto discuss the influence of the US pivot to Asia Strategy in this involvement of India in the region.

The second paper *'India-Vietnam Maritime Cooperation: An Indian perspective'* was presented by Dr. Om Prakash Dahiya. He started his presentation by locating the relevance of maritime power in the works of Alfred Mahan, an American naval officer and historian, who said that national greatness is associated with the control over the sea and, that whosoever will control the Indian Ocean will dominate Asia. The paper covered four broad aspects: it addressed the defense relations between India and Vietnam; it looked at maritime engagement between the two countries; the possible areas of maritime cooperation were explored and, lastly the speaker made recommendations for a robust and meaningful defense and general association between India and Vietnam

'India and China: Vietnam's Neighbour Issues in the New Regional Context' was the third paper of the session presented by Vietnamese scholar Dr. Nguyen Tran Tien. The speaker gave the audience a historical view of the China-Vietnam relations and elucidated upon the reasons behind Vietnam's choice of India as a strategic partner, over China, in the region emerging from the historical associations as well as the geopolitical needs. The paper also celebrated the unflinching friendship between India and Vietnam that is marked with perpetual peace and emergence of zero areas of conflict of interests in these many years of association. To conclude, the speaker looked forward to a continuation of this friendship that will serve the interest of both the countries.

The last paper of the session was presented by Dr. Dhruvajyoti Bhattacharjee, titled *'India and Vietnam: Defense and Strategic Cooperation'*. The speaker began with discussing how world history marked by Cold War molded the India- Vietnam relationship and made the two countries maintain close ties with each other, so meet each other's need; a feature of the Ho Chi Minh- Nehru era. This bond has only grown deeper over the years as leaders from both sides, across years, have not failed to express the relevance of the two countries to each other. The paper gave the following three to be the basis of strategic cooperation between India and Vietnam: traditional friendship, strategic understanding and, congruent views on different issues. In current times the two countries have ventured into areas of energy resource explorations and cyberspace technology and defense technology development and the new leadership in India has only vowed to further improve this cooperation. In conclusion the speaker recommended probable areas of mutual cooperation between India and Vietnam that could be worked upon, this included the possibility of future multilateral and trilateral associations (the speaker gave the example of India-Israel and Vietnam- Israel relationship)

Thereafter, the chair opened the house for questions and the audience raised relevant questions on issues like the role of U.S in the region, the need for peaceful solution to conflicts in International Politics, the area of cargo shipping between India and Vietnam etc. The panelists addressed all these questions within their academic capacities.

Wrapping up the session, the august chair called for moving beyond the China phobia and grabbing the opportunities that the contemporary times present. India and Vietnam, he said, should make the most of these opportunities. He also called for a 'Transform East Policy' on part of India that would transform India's relationship with many countries in ASEAN. With this he thanked the audience and the participants and concluded the session.

3:30 – 5:00 pm

Working Session VII

Theme: Emerging Dynamics in India-Vietnam Relations

Chair: Dr. Ash Narain Roy

Director, Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi

Presenters:

- 1) *Title: Indian-Vietnamese Cooperation on Non-traditional Security Issues*

Dr. Do Thu Ha

Professor, Faculty of Oriental Studies, Vietnam National University, Hanoi

- 2) *Title: A Comprehensive View of India-Vietnam Relations*

Dr. Prashant Kumar Singh

Associate Fellow, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi

- 3) *Title: India-Vietnam Cooperation on Traditional and Non-Traditional Security Issues- Surfing Waves Together*

Mr. Tapan Bharadwaj

Researcher, Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, New Delhi

- 4) *Title: Engaging Vietnam: Emerging Strategic Importance for India's Act East Policy*

Dr. Lungthuiyang Riamei

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Dyal Singh College, University of Delhi

- 5) *Title: India-Vietnam Relations: Emerging Horizons*

Mr. Abizer Shabbir Shaikhmahmud

Research Scholar, Jindal School of International Affairs, OP Jindal Global University, Sonapat



Like other previous sessions, this session also had five speakers and they spoke extensively on various genres of traditional and non-traditional security issues. The first paper, titled, 'Indian-Vietnamese Cooperation on Non-traditional Security Issues', focused on unconventional issues regarding relations between the two countries and their foreign affairs. The speaker, Dr. Do Thu Ha, spoke extensively on illegal immigration, drug trafficking and water resources, calling them some of the main non-traditional security issues between India-Vietnam. She focused on the trail of how the illegal immigrants are entering into Vietnam and how this is contributing to the problem of heavy drug trafficking. In order to address this problem that pans across the route from Africa through India, to Vietnam, the speaker suggested better cooperation between India and Vietnam under the Mekong-Ganga initiative.

The second speaker, Prashant Kumar Singh, gave a comprehensive account of Indo-Vietnam relations. As the title of his paper is 'A Comprehensive View of India-Vietnam Relations', it emphasised distinctively on the characteristics of political, cultural and strategic relations under India's 'Look and Act East Policy'. The paper highlighted the shared legacy of anti-imperial solidarity, along with the common regional and international strategic concerns and the issue of a rising China that both India and Vietnam face. The speaker suggested addressing these areas of concern through robust bilateral relations along with pragmatic engagements being undertaken by the two countries in defense, trade, cultural, science and technological and other areas of mutual cooperations.

The third paper, titled, 'India-Vietnam Cooperation on Traditional and Non-Traditional Security Issues-Surfing Waves Together' spoke of the traditional and the non-traditional

security issues as two areas of cooperation between the two countries. The speaker, Tapan Bharadwaj spoke of how the strategic partnership between India and Vietnam is a product of a natural process. He brought to notice the domination of traditional security issues over the non-traditional ones and also acknowledged the potential threat that China poses to the two countries. The paper provided hope for a bright future for India-Vietnam ties emerging from robust cooperation in all areas of possible association, traditional and non-traditional.

Lunghuiyang Riamei was the fourth speaker of the session and his paper titled, 'Engaging Vietnam: Emerging Strategic Importance for India's Act East Policy', highlighted the relevance of the north-east region to the 'Act East Policy' of India. The speaker spoke extensively on the need to enhance an activity, further cultural ties, develop the trans-Asian highway and East-West Corridor as few of the important steps that could contribute to strengthening the India-Vietnam relationships. This paper also addressed the need for India to complete the Naga insurgency talk and also spoke of how India and Vietnam could support each other in international fora.

The last paper of this session was presented by Abizer Shabbir Shaikhmahmud titled, 'India-Vietnam Relations: Emerging Horizons. Giving a historical account the speaker acquainted the audience with India Vietnam relationship from pre-historic to modern times. The speaker spoke of avenues of economic cooperation and association in the areas of human resource development, convergence in renewable energy sector, as well as in the area of cyber security between the two countries. The paper corroborated how the ever increasing dynamism in the Indo-Pacific region enhanced the relationship between India and Vietnam and also celebrated the shared history between the two across time.

5:00 – 6:00 pm

Working Session VIII

Theme: Environmental Protection & Disaster Preparedness

Chair: Shri P. P. Shrivastav

Governing Council Member, Asian Confluence & Advisory Member, National Disaster Management Authority

Presenters:

1) *Title: Building the Stronger Bilateral Relationship through Environmental Protection*

Mr. Somanand Saraswati

Research Scholar, School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies, Central University of Gujarat

2) *Title: Disaster Preparedness and Resilience: Providing Technical Safety*

Ms. Athira Anand

Assistant Professor, School of Distance Education, University Of Calicut



The last session of the two-day conference reflected on the theme '*Environmental Protection and Disaster Preparedness*'. The session was chaired by Shri P.P. Shrivastav, a Governing Council Member at the Asian Confluence, and an Advisory member at the National Disaster Management Authority. He reflected on the need for global cooperation in Disaster-prevention through environment-protection to minimize Climate-change, than on mere post-disaster relief for the nations which are most prone to environmental catastrophes. He commented that while the most-developed nations have caused the highest damage *per capita* to the environment, they are not fulfilling their responsibilities to aid and assist the developing nation-States in crucial areas, like e.g., meeting their growing energy-needs from clean and renewable natural sources (solar, hydro, wind etc) instead of continuing to burn hydrocarbons and adding to global warming that hastens Climate Change with all its adverse repercussions on natural disasters. In this context, it is interesting to note that both India & Vietnam have long coastlines and the potential of power generation from tidal energy is tremendous: that needs to be seriously explored. Also, India has made considerable progress in management of natural disasters, and that includes, devising Early Warning Systems using Space Technology, holistic and permanent Management of Landslides etc. There was thus tremendous scope for India-Vietnam cooperation in Disaster Management, he added.

The first speaker of the session, Mr. Somanand Saraswati's paper was centered around '*Building the Stronger Bilateral Relationship through Environmental Protection*'. Delving on exploring factors and new horizons, to build and sustain stronger ties with Vietnam, he suggested that Environment Protection could be their new realm of engagement. Vietnam's socio-economic prosperity lies in its natural environment. But due to changes in the global climatic conditions, and Vietnam's geographical vulnerability, the effect of environmental disasters such as floods, typhoons, earthquakes, rise in sea level, etc., leaves the nation to

suffer from higher level of damages. Mr. Somanad thus suggests, that global appreciation and recognition of enhanced environmental protection techniques will enhance both, geo-political and economic state of the country. And India’s attempts in this direction can elevate the peaceful sustenance of people and states in the region.

The second and final speaker of the session, Ms. Athira Anand reflected on ‘*The Geopolitics of Climate Change: Environmental Degradation, Coastal Disasters in Vietnam*’. Premised on the ideal of enhanced Indo-Vietnam relations, Ms. Anand reflected on the essentiality for disaster preparedness and resilience which has high level of socio-political impact. Taking an example of West Secretariat in Geneva’s initiative of ‘Living with Risk, 2002’, which talked about techniques around the globe to manage disaster, Ms. Anand suggested that there is a need for enhancement in technological and scientific ways to reduce damages in the nation-states most prone to natural disasters. Vietnam, a country located in the ‘South-East Asian typhoon belt’ has a long coastal line. And these coastal lands, which are at a higher risk of being affected by natural disasters, also contain the highest population of people living in these areas. Despite the increase in the centres and organisations for disaster management, the funds allocated to this precarious problem are insufficient. Since 2015, the world has entered into an era of Sustainable Development, and in advancing this idea the India and Vietnam, which share a relation of trust and friendship, need to widen their cooperation in the realm of environment protection. She suggested that diplomatic resilience between India and Vietnam, vis-à-vis, providing technical and technological inducements to counter the effects of these disaster, can broaden the horizon of engagement and development of ties between India and Vietnam.

6:00 – 7:00 pm	VALEDICTORY SESSION
Chair	Shri Shakti Sinha (Director, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library)
Summing up & Future Agenda	Prof. Navnita Chadha Behera (HOD, Dept. of Political Science, DU)
Vote of Thanks	Dr. Sonu Trivedi (Zakir Husain Delhi College, University of Delhi)



Major Takeaways:

Based on the rich interaction between the delegates and other participants in the Conference following takeaways could be drawn from the Conference.

1. Establishment of Vietnam Study Centre at New Delhi and a regional Centre at Guwahati may help in broadening the visibility of Vietnam in Indian educational institutions and research centres.
2. Enabling network of scholars in India and Vietnam to do joint study and academic research and contribute to knowledge building.
3. Promoting academic exchange programme for Post-Doctoral scholars and faculty in between the two countries.
4. Role of 'soft power' in enhancing people-to-people ties could be crucial in defining both bilateral and multilateral ties between the two nations.
5. Cultural cooperation for preservation of common heritage sites could be highlighted.
6. Commercial interests in terms of trade and investment cooperation could be strengthened.
7. Greater opportunities of cooperation in the economic sphere and tapping into regional economic opportunities including value addition chains will be of special interest to India.
8. Connectivity is a major concern between the two countries. Provision of a direct Air Flight between the two countries would go a long run in bridging this gap. Connectivity through land route and developing the East–West corridor as a part of the Trans-Asian Highway project would enhance the physical connectivity between both the countries.

9. Cooperation in the field of capacity building, technical assistance, information sharing, naval cooperation and developing physical connectivity are key areas of concern.
10. Association in the areas of human resource development, convergence in renewable energy sector, as well as in the area of cyber security could promote enhanced partnership between the two countries.
11. Changing power dynamics in the region calls for a stronger strategic and defense partnership between the two countries.
12. Recognizing the strategic significance of 'trilateral' and 'mini-lateral' arrangements in Asia-Pacific such as, India-Vietnam-Japan and India-Vietnam-United States make a strong case for strategic convergences between the active players in the region.
13. Collaboration in the solar energy sector could be yet another area of focus.
14. Tourism is another area which has immense potential. Promoting tourism through 'Buddhist Corridor' may tie up people to people relationship between both the countries.
15. Health care, medical tourism and pharmaceutical sector offers immense opportunities of cooperation between the two countries.
16. Collaboration in the field of ICT could be promoted further.
17. Maritime engagements and possible areas of maritime cooperation could be enhanced between India and Vietnam.
18. A deeper cooperation in the non-traditional security issues is envisaged between India and Vietnam.
19. Both the countries must widen their cooperation in the field of environmental protection and disaster preparedness.
20. India and Vietnam should jointly and independently work towards defeating common tendencies and forces of 'neo-colonialism' in the wake of emerging rivalry in the Indo-pacific region.

LIST OF INTERNATIONAL DELEGATES

(in alphabetical order)

S.No.	INTERNATIONAL DELEGATES	AFFILIATION	CONTACT DETAILS	Title of Presentation
1.	Do Thi Nhan Thien	Researcher, Department for Macroeconomic Policy and Integration Studies, Central Institute for Economic Management, Vietnam	nhanthien@mpi.gov.vn +84 979714173	Vietnam and its multilateral engagements
2.	Do Thu Ha	Faculty of Oriental Studies, Vietnam National University, Hanoi, Vietnam	dothuha2000@gmail.com 84-0912339491	Indian- Vietnamese Cooperation on Non-traditional Security Issues
3.	Huynh Thanh Loan	Deputy Head, Department of International Relations, Vietnam Institute for Indian and Southwest Asian Studies, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences	loanvass.lh@gmail.com +84 1669034899	India in Vietnam's Foreign Policy in the New Context
4.	Nguyen Phu Tan Huong	Vice Dean of the Faculty of International Politics and Diplomacy Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vietnam	nguyentanhuong@mofa.gov.vn, nguyentanhuong08@gmail.com +84 973056476	Prominent Features of the Vietnam - India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

5.	Nguyen Tran Tien	Deputy Dean - Faculty of Oriental Studies, University of Social Sciences and Humanities, VNU, Hanoi	ntrantienussh@gmail.com / tiennt@vnu.edu.vn (+84) 1257310888	India And China: Vietnamese's Neighbour Issues in the New Regional Context
6.	Nguyen Van Lich	Department of International Economics, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam	nvlichir@yahoo.com/ 0084 914094159	Solutions to Promote Economic Relations between Vietnam and India
7.	Rajeev Ranjan Chaturvedy	Research Associate, Institute of South Asian Studies, National University of Singapore	isasrrc@nus.edu.sg / rrchaturvedy@gmail.com +65 84687710	Delhi-Hanoi Entente Cordiale: The Stamp of the 'Modi Doctrine'
8.	Tran Le Tien	Head of Economic Section, Vietnam Embassy		Vietnam- India Investment Cooperation: Potential and Challenges
9.	Vo Xuan Vinh	Deputy Director, Institute for Southeast Asian Studies, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences, Vietnam	voxvinh@gmail.com	Strategic Significance of Vietnam-India Relations

LIST OF OUTSTATION DELEGATES

(in alphabetical order)

S.No.	OUTSTATION DELEGATES	AFFILIATION	CONTACT DETAILS	Title of Presentation
1.	Ankita Chakraborty	Research Scholar, Vidyasagar University	ankitachakraborty1989@gmail.com	Culture Commerce and Connectivity: In search of

				emerging dynamics of India Vietnam Relation
2.	Athira Anand	Assistant Professor, School of Distance Education, University Of Calicut	anandathira408@gmail.com, +918129919977	Disaster Preparedness and Resilience: Providing Technical Safety
3.	Salu D' Souza	Research Fellow Centre for Diaspora Studies Central University of Gujarat Sector - 29, Gandhinagar	saludsouza@yahoo.com	Indian Business Diaspora in Vietnam: An Opportunity to Enhance Connectivity, Commerce and act as Cultural Ambassadors of India in Vietnam
4.	Munmun Majumdar	Associate Professor, Dept. of Political Science, NEHU, Shillong.	munmunmaj@yahoo.com 9436702700	India, Vietnam and the South China Sea
5.	Pema Tseten Lachungpa	Research Scholar, Department of International Relations Sikkim University, Gangtok	pematseten5@gmail.com 9564974430	India-Vietnam in the Changing Tide: Exploring the Significance of the Relations
6.	Sanjeev Kumar Sharma	Head, Department of Political Science, CCS University, Meerut	officeipsa@gmail.com, sanjeevaji@gmail.com 9412205348	Chair
7.	Shubham Singh	Research Scholar, Department of English and Modern European Languages University of Lucknow	mailshubh7@gmail.com 9452162581	Emerging Research Horizons of Indo-Vietnamese Shared Cultural Heritage

8.	Somanand Saraswati	Centre for English Studies School of Language, Literature & Culture Studies Central University of Gujarat	somanandsaraswati@gmail.com 9871912169	Building the stronger bilateral relationship through Environmental protection
9.	Subhadeep Bhattacharya	Research Assistant, Netaji Institute for Asian Studies (NIAS), Kolkata	sbcu2005@gmail.com 98749-40215	Growing Significance of Vietnam in India's Act East Policy

LIST OF LOCAL DELEGATES

(in alphabetical order)

S.No.	LOCAL DELEGATES	AFFILIATION	CONTACT DETAILS	Title of Presentation
1.	Abira Bhattacharya	Assistant Curator Department of Anthropology National Museum, Delhi	abiradca@gmail.com +91-8586886163	Buddhist Female Iconography in the art of Ancient Vietnam: A Study of the Interrelationships of Indian and Southeast Asian Art
2.	Abizer Shabbir Shaikhmahmud	Jindal School of International Affairs, OP Jindal Global University	abizer93@gmail.com +91 9558699622	India-Vietnam Relations: Emerging Horizons
3.	Amit Shovon Ray	Centre for International Trade and Development, School of International Studies, JNU	amit.shovon.ray@gmail.com 9810528062	Chair
4.	Ash Narain Roy	Director Institute of Social Sciences New Delhi	ashnarainroy@gmail.com	Chair

5.	Baladas Ghoshal	Professor (Retd), Centre for Indo-Pacific Studies School of International Studies Jawaharlal Nehru University New Delhi	Email: profbala@hotmail.com Mobile: 9891448059	Emerging Horizons in India-Vietnam Relations: Problems and Prospects
6.	Bharti Chhibber	Assistant Professor, Lakshmibai College, University of Delhi	bharti.chhibber@gmail.com 9811892859	Mekong-Ganga Cooperation and India-Vietnam Relations through the Prism of Act East Policy
7.	Bhavna Agarwal	Jindal School of International Affairs, OP Jindal Global University	15jsia-bagarwal@jgu.edu.in	Culture, commerce and connectivity in India-Vietnam relations
8.	C. M. Meena	Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, Dr BRA, College, University of Delhi	cmk305jnu@gmail.com cheetarmalmeena@yahoo.co.in 9868925512	The Geopolitics of Climate Change: Environmental Degradation, Coastal Disasters in Vietnam
9.	Darvesh Gopal	Former Dean & Professor of Political Science, School of Social Sciences, IGNOU	darveshgopal@hotmail.com dgopal@ignou.ac.in	Chair
10.	Dhrubajyoti Bhattacharjee	Research Fellow, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi	dhrubajyoti@icwa.in 8826755706	India and Vietnam: Defense and Strategic Cooperation
11.	Harsh V. Pant	Professor of International Relations, King's College London & Distinguished Fellow, Observer Research Foundation	harsh.pant@kcl.ac.uk 9311677885	Sources of India-Vietnam Engagement

12.	Lunghuiyang Riamei	Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Dyal Singh College, University of Delhi	lungthuiyang@gmail.com 9818157404	Engaging Vietnam: Emerging Strategic Importance for India's Act East Policy
13.	Manish S. Dabhade	Assistant Professor Centre for International Politics, Organization and Disarmament, School of International Studies Jawaharlal Nehru University New Delhi	mdmanish@jnu.ac.in mdmanish@gmail.com 9810397303	India's Defence Diplomacy With Vietnam: Quest for a Quasi-Alliance
14.	Nalin Surie	Director General, ICWA, New Delhi	dg@icwa.in	Special Invitee
15.	Navnita Chadha Behera	Professor and HEAD, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi	navnita@iriis.in	Reflections on the theme
16.	Nehginpao Kipgen	Assistant Professor Executive Director, Centre for Southeast Asian Studies, Jindal School of International Affairs	nehginpao@gmail.com	India-Vietnam Relations in the Context of Act East Policy and ASEAN
17.	Om Prakash Dahiya	Assistant Professor, Zakir Husain Delhi College (Evening) University of Delhi	opdjnu@gmail.com Mobile: +91-9868093329	India-Vietnam Maritime Cooperation: An Indian Perspective
18.	P. P. Shrivastav	Governing Council Member, Asian Confluence & Advisory Member, National Disaster Management Authority	ppshri@gmail.com	Chair

19.	Pankaj Jha	Assistant Professor, Jindal School of International Affairs, Editor, Jindal Journal of International Affairs	pankajstrategic@gmail.com 9811059098	Defence and Strategic Cooperation between India and Vietnam
20.	Prashant Kumar Singh	Associate Fellow Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi	prashant.idsa@gmail.com 8588046204	A Comprehensive View of India-Vietnam Relations
21.	Preeti Saran	Secretary, EAST, Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India	secyeasto@mea.gov.in secyeast@mea.gov.in	Keynote Address
22.	Rajeev Bhatia	Distinguished Fellow, Gateway House, Mumbai	rajivbhatia1949@gmail.com	Chair, Inaugural Session
23.	Ram Madhav	National General Secretary, BJP	rammadhav@gmail.com shristipukhrem@indiafoundation.in	Inaugural Address
24.	Rashmi Singh	Associate Economist at PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry	rsevasingh@gmail.com 9818327761	India-Vietnam Bilateral Economic Ties: The Road Ahead
25.	Rup Narayan Das	Director, Research and Information Division Lok Sabha Secretariat Parliament Library	rndas_osd@yahoo.com +919968277128	South China Sea Dispute in the narrative of India-Vietnam relations
26.	Sampa Kundu	Research Assistant Southeast Asia and Oceania Cluster, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi	sampa.sun@gmail.com	Vietnam in India's Strategic Ambitions: An Expanding Partnership
27.	Sanjay Pulipaka	Senior Consultant East Asia Research Programme ICRIER	psanjay.in@gmail.com 9971227257	India-Vietnam Relations and the Regional Balance of

		New Delhi		Power
28.	Shakti Sinha	Director, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, New Delhi	sinha.shakti@gmail.com	Welcome Address
29.	Shrishti Pukhrem	Senior Research Fellow, India Foundation, New Delhi	shristi25@gmail.com 9999424973	India-Vietnam Relations: Perspectives on 3Cs in Act East Policy
30.	Shunichi Inoue	Counsellor Embassy of Japan, New Delhi	shunichi.inoue@mofa.go.jp 011-46104610	Achieving a Free and Open Indo-Pacific Region with India and Vietnam: Japan's Perspective
31.	Sreeram Sundar Chaulia	Professor and Dean, Executive Director, Centre for Global Governance and Policy, Jindal School of International Affairs	schaulia@jgu.edu.in	Chair, India-Vietnam Strategic Partnership
32.	Sudarshan Ramabadaran	Deputy Director India Foundation New Delhi	sudarshan@gmail.com	India-Vietnam Relations in the Indo-Pacific Era
33.	Sulekh Chandra	Principal, Zakir Husain Delhi College College, University of Delhi	sulekhchandra@gmail.com	Introduction & Felicitation
34.	Sunil Choudhary	Department of Political Science, University of Delhi	skchoudhary@polscience.du.ac.in 9958990287	Chair
35.	Tapan Bharadwaj	Researcher, Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, New Delhi	tapan@ipcs.org, tpbhardwaj92@gmail.com	India-Vietnam Cooperation on Traditional and Non-Traditional Security issues- Surfing waves together

36.	Teresa Mili	Research Scholar, Centre for East Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University	teresa.mili2009@gmail.com 9582580415	The Big Brother role played by Japan in strengthening Vietnam-India relations
37.	Ton Sinh Thanh	Amb. of Socialist Republic of Vietnam	vnemb.in@gmail.com	Opening Remarks
38.	Tridivesh Singh Maini	Assistant Professor, Jindal School of International Affairs	tsmaini@jgu.edu.in	India-Vietnam Relations: The Role of Soft Power
39.	Udai Bhanu Singh	Senior Research Associate, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi	udaibhanusingh1@gmail.com	Chair
40.	Vikas Saharan	Post Doctoral Fellow, Jawaharlal Nehru University	vikas.sw18@gmail.com 9968475357	India-Vietnam: Cooperation, Integration and Challenges

