

## **REPORT**

on the Visit of  
**Dang Dinh Quy, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Vietnam**  
**Nyugen Tat Thanh, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vietnam**  
10<sup>th</sup> April 2018



## **Centre for Vietnam Studies** **New Delhi**



**Submitted by:**

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## **Members of the Vietnamese Delegation**

**H. E. Dang Dinh Quy**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

**H. E. Nguyen Tat Thanh**, Director General, Department of South East Asia, South Asia and South Pacific, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

**Dr Tran Truong Thuy**, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam

**Mr Trinh Ngoc Anh**, Department of South East Asia, South Asia and South Pacific, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vietnam

**H. E. Ton Sinh Thanh**, Ambassador, Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in India

**Mrs Nguyen Le Thanh**, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in India

**Mrs Hoang Diem Hanh**, First Secretary, Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in India

**Mrs Ho Thi Van**, First Secretary, Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in India

## **Indian Delegates**

**Dr. Ash Narain Roy**, Director, Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi

**Dr. George Mathew**, Chairman, Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi

**Dr. O.P Mathur**, Senior Fellow, Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi

**Prof. Mahendra P. Lama**, Centre for South Asian Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University

**Dr. Sonu Trivedi**, Honorary Director, Centre for Vietnam Studies, New Delhi

**Mr. Ravindra Vikram Singh**, Research Intern, Centre for Vietnam Studies, New Delhi

**Ms. Niharika Saikia**, Research Intern, Centre for Vietnam Studies, New Delhi

**Mr. Avishek Mohanty**, Research Intern, Centre for Vietnam Studies, New Delhi



Honourable Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Dang Dinh Quy and Director General, Department of South East Asia, South Asia and South Pacific, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Nyugen Tat Thanh along with other members of the delegation visited Centre for Vietnam Studies, New Delhi on 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2018. This was the first high level delegation to the Centre after its official announcement by the President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Tran Dai Quang on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2018 during his visit to New Delhi. H. E. Ambassador of Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Ton Sinh Thanh and the Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Vietnam, Nguyen Le Thanh were also present on this occasion. The delegation was well received from the Indian side by Dr. Ash Narain Roy, Director of Institute of Social Sciences and Dr. Sonu Trivedi, Director of the Centre for Vietnam Studies, New Delhi.

The dialogue commenced with Dr. Sonu Trivedi who on the behalf of Centre for Vietnam Studies welcomed H.E Dang Dinh Quy, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Vietnam; H.E Nguyen Tat Thanh, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Socialist Republic of Vietnam and the other members of the delegation. She said that the Centre was announced in March 2018 by the President of Vietnam Mr. Tran Dai Quang during his State visit to India, and a high level delegation meeting within a month of its foundation is a great achievement and will be replicated with more developments in future. She also focussed on closer cooperation of all involved parties for a smooth running of the Centre.

Dr. Ash Narain Roy demystified the historical relations and similarities between India and Vietnam. He went back to the times of colonial regime in both countries and stressed on Rabindranath Tagore's connection with Vietnam. He referred to Tagore's visit to Saigon in the summer of 1929, and gave a speech which left a long lasting impact on India-Vietnam relations. He also said that India and Vietnam had common struggle for liberation from colonial rule and national struggle for independence. He praised Vietnam for their enduring fights against French colonial regime and United States. He mentioned about two quotes from past which still remains an inspiration for many Indians and Vietnamese, "Amar Naam, Tomar Naam—Vietnam" and "Ho Ho Ho Chi Minh, We Will Win We Will Win". In the end, he jubilantly said that India-Vietnam relations have not only influenced the Indo-Pacific region but the whole world, and for more cordial relations there is a need to bolster people to contact, for which Institute of Social Sciences will support with all its capacity.



The visiting Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam H.E Mr. Dang Dinh Quy appreciated the establishment of the Centre, as this is one of the few Vietnam specific Centres established so far throughout the world. He hopes that it could evolve into a 'policy review centre' for consultation and advise on Vietnam related issues. He also focused on the need for partnership with other research institutes in India as well as Vietnam for sustained growth and development of this Centre. He narrated the ancient relations between India and Vietnam and said that in present



times Vietnam considers India as the 'Land of Buddha'. He stressed on the fact that India and Vietnam relations have progressed from traditional to 'Comprehensive Partnership' which will be further strengthened in future, and also focused on bolstering defense, economic and cultural relations which are very important aspects of foreign policies of both countries. He was impressed with the Centre's mandate which covered diverse issues ranging from historical and cultural ties to strengthening trade and investment; defense, strategic and maritime cooperation to non-traditional security issues; political and diplomatic engagements to cooperation in Science Technology and education; development partnership and regional value chains to culture, commerce and connectivity. He wished for its success in developing bilateral relations and also assured full cooperation from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vietnam and Embassy of Socialist Republic of Vietnam in India.



H.E Nguyen Tat Thanh, Director General, Department of South East Asia, South Asia and South Pacific, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam revisited the history and said that the founding stone of modern relations were established by founding fathers of both nations- Jawaharlal Nehru visited Vietnam in 1954 which was reciprocated by Ho Chi Minh's visit to India in 1958. He argued that Vietnam really admires India, and there is a lot to study about India. According to him, in order to study Hindu culture and traditions, the Government of Vietnam strongly

supports India Studies Centre at Hanoi which has published 8 books on India and Vietnam till date. He finally concluded by saying that India is going to be the most populous country in a decade and Vietnam's main priorities for development of bilateral relations is strengthening of economic and cultural partnerships.



H. E. Ambassador of Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Ton Sinh Thanh who has been the main support and motivation behind the establishment of the Centre said he was feeling very happy and lucky to visit the newly opened Centre for Vietnam Studies. He was impressed with the activities mentioned in the Centre's brochure and was hopeful of successfully realising them. He also assured full support from the Embassy of Vietnam in India, Government of Vietnam and big business houses investing in Vietnam. He anticipated that the Centre has the full potential to emerge as the driving force of strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.



Dr. George Matthew, Chairman, Institute of Social Sciences in his remarks focussed on the aims of the Institute to create a knowledge base and with all its capacity will support the Centre for Vietnam Studies to disseminate knowledge not only in the Indo-Pacific region but all over the world. He argued that knowledge exchange is very important in today's world as it strengthens people to people contact. Dr. O.P Mathur, Senior Fellow, Institute of Social Sciences shared his experiences and said that his association with Vietnam has been since a long time. He recollected his memories and envisioned for future areas of cooperation. Prof. Mahendra P. Lama from Jawaharlal Nehru University stressed on India's Act East Policy and the importance of North East India and Vietnam, which is strategically very important for the whole region. He said that the present government is working very hard towards strengthening the Act East Policy and he wished to see North East India and South East Asia come closer in the near future.

On this occasion, Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed between Vietnam Institute for Indian and Southwest Asian Studies, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences, Hanoi and Centre for Vietnam Studies, New Delhi in the kind presence of the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Director General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Vietnam.

