

Research Article

## **Vietnam's Foreign Activities in the Current Period: Situation, Difficulties and Recommendations for Solutions**

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### **Abstract**

Implement the foreign policy of independence, self-reliance, peace, cooperation, and development; With the multilateralization and diversification of international relations, Vietnam is increasingly actively and proactively integrating into the world with its increasing position and role in the region and in the world. Vietnam's foreign policy, implemented over the past time, has made an important contribution to maintaining a peaceful and stable environment, creating favorable conditions for the development of the country, and actively contributing to the construction of the country. and firmly defend the Fatherland, enhance the position and prestige of Vietnam in the international arena. The process of planning and implementing foreign policy is a complicated process, in which it is necessary to consider the combination of factors affecting both inside and outside, especially in the context of Vietnam's deeper integration regionally and globally. This study focuses on analyzing the current situation of Vietnam's foreign policy in recent years, its achievements, and some difficulties, thereby proposing solutions to improve Vietnam's foreign policy in the next time.

**Keywords:** Foreign policy, situation, difficulties, recommendations for solutions, Vietnam

### **Introduction**

According to Ho Chi Minh's thought (1995, vol 3) and the view of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the Vietnamese revolution must closely combine national strength and the strength of the times both in the people's democratic national revolution and in the socialist revolution. That is, on the one hand, you must rely on your own strength, must be self-reliant, self-reliant (Nien, 2008); internal factors and national strength are always decisive. On the other hand, it must be combined with the power of the times, promoting external forces, and an important and indispensable factor.

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On August 28, 1945, President Ho Chi Minh signed the Decree establishing the Provisional Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, founding modern Vietnamese diplomacy

(Linh et al., 2021). Immediately after the establishment of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (1945), under the wise leadership of Ho Chi Minh and the senior Party leaders, diplomacy played a pioneering role in maintaining independence established the country and successfully defended the fledgling revolutionary government. The bold and clever strategies and decisions of diplomacy, such as “peace to advance”, “split the enemy”, and the principles of “invariable, immutable”, “putting national interests first”, etc., helped the Vietnam revolution overcome the dangerous situations of “thousands of pounds hanging by a hair”. At the same time, diplomacy has taken the lead in mobilizing countries to recognize Vietnam’s peace and independence (Nien, 2008; Minh, 2020).

Diplomacy is one of the basic activities to attract external forces and combine the power of the times (Nien, 2008; Minh, 2020). In the past time, Vietnam’s diplomatic activities have prospered, achieved important results, but there are still many difficulties and challenges, it is necessary to further improve the efficiency of foreign affairs to contribute to the construction building and developing the country.

In the past time, although the political-security situation, the world’s economy - society has changed rapidly, complicatedly, and unpredictably; major countries have increased strategic competition, tensions, and conflicts have escalated in many areas (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2016 & 2021); non-traditional security challenges, such as the COVID-19 epidemic, climate change, water security, terrorism, organized crime, etc., continue to evolve more complicatedly and harder to control in a “the world is flat” However, bilateral diplomatic activities of Vietnam with other countries, especially with neighboring countries, traditional friends and key partners, are still strongly deployed in many flexible forms, effectively use online communication channels at all levels (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2021, vol 1). In which, senior leaders of Vietnam conducted 34 bilateral phone calls and online exchanges with leaders of other countries. In addition, Vietnam also safely implemented a number of important delegation exchange activities. Leaders and senior officials of many countries have chosen Vietnam as a destination to visit and promote relations. Many activities to celebrate the full year, odd year, year of establishing diplomatic relations, maintain intergovernmental committee meetings, sign international agreements with many important partners, etc. are still conducted flexibly creation.

The steps to develop, improve awareness and new thinking on foreign affairs in the Innovation process have become the premise for the Communist Party of Vietnam to build an increasingly complete foreign policy lines and policies in the Innovation period, directing the implementation process so that important achievements in foreign affairs can be obtained.

### **The current state of foreign affairs and issues raised**

In recent years, Vietnam’s foreign and diplomatic activities have made much progress with important results. Our country’s foreign relations and international integration “continue to expand and deepen, creating a framework for stable and sustainable relations with partners” (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2021, vol 1). The Party’s foreign affairs, the State’s diplomacy, and the people’s diplomacy are “implemented synchronously and comprehensively” (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2021, vol 1). The active and proactive international integration has created an open relationship space, taking advantage of the cooperation and help of the international community. Relations with partners “continue to be expanded, practical and effective; signed and implemented many free trade agreements” (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2021, vol 1), etc.

Thanks to that, “Vietnam’s position, prestige, and role in the region and the world are increasingly growing enhanced” (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2021, vol 1).

In recent years, our country’s diplomatic activities have made much progress. To date, Vietnam has established diplomatic relations with 189 out of 193 UN member states; established stable, long-term, and comprehensive relations with 30 strategic and comprehensive partners (Minh, 2020). The country’s position and power in many aspects are getting stronger and stronger; Vietnam’s role and position in the international arena are increasingly enhanced.

The cause of renewal, integration, and development of our country continues to take place in the international context of great changes. That change has advantages for Vietnam in foreign affairs, but our country also has to face many difficulties and challenges.

The basic favorable factors for our country’s foreign activities are reflected and forecast quite clearly. Peace, cooperation, and development in the world is still a big trend; globalization and international integration continue to progress. The world situation continues to change according to the trend of multipolarity, multi-center, major countries still cooperate and compromise. The fourth industrial revolution, especially digital technology, has developed strongly, creating breakthroughs in many fields. The world economy continues to develop in the direction of the knowledge economy, green economy, globalization, etc. The Asia-Pacific region, including Southeast Asia, has an increasingly important strategic position. important; This regional international economic linkage has changed in the direction of strengthening regional cooperation through free trade agreements, etc.

In addition, the international situation has complicated developments leading to difficulties and challenges. The strategic competition between major countries and local conflicts continue to become more intense in many forms; the rise of extreme nationalism. International law and global multilateral institutions face major challenges. The Covid-19 pandemic has affected all countries, causing the world’s socio-economy to be transformed, turned upside down, into a serious and possibly prolonged recession. Countries have adjusted and encouraged the development of domestic industry, making it difficult for exporting countries, including Vietnam. Economic competition, trade war, market competition, resources, technology, high-quality human resources, attracting foreign investment among countries are quite fierce. Global issues continue to be complicated. Disputes over territorial sovereignty, sovereignty over seas and islands take place more intense, complicated, and drastic; peace, stability, freedom, security, and safety of navigation and aviation are subject to great challenges and risks of conflict; ASEAN has many difficulties, etc. (Communist Party of Vietnam, vol 1, 2021).

### **Achievements in Vietnam’s foreign policy**

First, foreign affairs have contributed to maintaining and consolidating a peaceful and stable environment, maintaining independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, and protecting the socialist regime (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2016). & 2021) This is clearly demonstrated in the following aspects: (i) We have handled well and constantly brought relationships with leading partners such as China, the US, Russia, the European Union. (especially Germany), Japan... go into depth and become more and more substantive; (ii) Although some countries have conducted illegal reclamation of islands/rocks in the East Sea in the past time, massively militarized artificial islands that have been illegally occupied, there have been many acts of coercion , violating our country’s sovereignty, sovereign rights, and jurisdiction, but we have skilfully,

persistently and resolutely fought with many appropriate forms and measures, which are highly appreciated by the international community, while protecting independence, sovereignty, sovereign rights, and maintaining a peaceful and stable environment for national development. We are also joining ASEAN and China in actively participating in negotiations on the COC, stepping up exchanges on the delimitation of the exclusive economic zone with Indonesia, and continuing to maintain negotiation mechanisms with China in the outer door area. Gulf of Tonkin and actively research the possibilities of cooperation and development; (iii) Although major countries have tried their best in the past time to mobilize and entice Vietnam to join new groups of forces, we have affirmed a foreign policy of independence, self-reliance, and relatively balanced handling by relations with major countries, etc. (iv) We have also handled relations with neighboring countries well. During the period from 2013 to 2018, although the situation in Cambodia had many complicated political changes, we still persevered in peace and maintained a peaceful and friendly environment. We have also completed the thickening and embellishment of border markers with Laos; are implementing the Protocol and Agreement on border regulation between Vietnam and Laos. With Cambodia, the two countries have also completed 84% of the demarcation and marking and are progressing to complete the document documenting the achieved results. Vietnam is also actively participating and playing an increasingly important role in ASEAN, especially in building the three communities, maintaining intra-regional solidarity, maintaining ASEAN's central role, maintaining and strengthening ASEAN's central role. ASEAN's relations with external partners; (v) We have also fought resolutely and failed many attempts to intervene by hostile forces in the issue of democracy, human rights, and religion; promptly handle many complicated cases of foreign politics, contributing to protecting the regime, ensuring socio-political stability, etc.

Second, foreign affairs have promoted the implementation of the policy of active, proactive international integration, bringing relations with partners deeper and deeper, substantively serving the development of the country (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2021). For more than two years (from 2016 to the present), Vietnam has upgraded its strategic partnership with Japan, Australia; Comprehensive partnership with Myanmar, Canada, Hungary, and New Zealand. Up to now, Vietnam has had 16 strategic partners and 12 comprehensive partners. We have also joined 16 free trade agreements (FTAs), of which 10 have been completed and entered into force, 1 is about to take effect, 1 has been signed and is in progress in the process of completing procedures for ratification and 4 agreements are under negotiation; The market for Vietnamese goods and services is expanding. Up to now, 71 countries have recognized Vietnam as a market economy.

We continue to take advantage of great resources to serve the cause of industrialization and modernization of the country. Since the 12th National Congress, we have signed and implemented hundreds of international cooperation agreements at all levels from central to local levels. The work of information and consulting to many localities and businesses about the world economic situation, economic and trade policies of countries and partners have been enhanced, timely, and received by localities and businesses highly appreciated. Huge resources for development such as foreign investment, development aid, and technical assistance continue to be attracted and maintained. The number of tourists to Vietnam is constantly increasing. International cooperation and integration in health, education, and training, technology transfer, environmental protection, response to climate change continue to be promoted.

Third, Vietnam's position in the international arena is constantly being improved. Sticking to the spirit of the 12th National Congress's Resolution on "Vietnam is a responsible member" and proactively "raising multilateral diplomacy", Vietnam has been active and proactive in multilateral diplomatic activities side, especially in matters of close interest to Vietnam. We not only participate in multilateral activities, but also actively contribute to building and shaping multilateral institutions, rules, and standards. This is most evident in the year of APEC Vietnam 2017. Vietnam is also very active and active in the mechanisms of ASEAN, cooperation in the Mekong sub-region; increasingly assume international responsibilities such as United Nations peacekeeping (PKO), the Human Rights Council, etc. We also take a more active role in global governance and relationship-building mechanisms. cooperation with many international mechanisms, organizations, and initiatives such as the Group of Industrialized Countries (G7), the Group of 20 emerging and developed economies (G20, the Asia-Europe Cooperation Forum (ASEM), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Asian Infrastructure Development Bank (AIIB), etc. Major countries are increasingly attaching importance to Vietnam and placing it in an increasingly high position in their strategies in the region and in the world, Vietnam was elected as Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN, Vice Chairman of the International Relations Committee, Secretary-General of Colombo, etc.

Along with bilateral cooperation, multilateral diplomacy has been actively implemented, with a qualitative change with the step from accession to participation becoming more and more active and active, making substantive contributions and offering many initiatives. widely shared and supported by the international community at multilateral and international forums, leaving a particularly important mark in promoting and elevating Vietnam's multilateral foreign policy, actively and actively contributing to Vietnam's multilateral diplomacy (Minh, 2020), building and shaping multilateral institutions. With the imprints of successfully taking on many international responsibilities at the same time: the ASEAN Chair 2020 and the 41st President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council of Southeast Asian Nations (AIPA), a non-permanent member of the Security Council United Nations term 2020 - 2021..., Vietnam's multilateral diplomacy continues to be an important focus of modern diplomacy.

On November 15, 2020, Vietnam transferred the role of ASEAN Chair 2021 to Brunei. In a challenging geopolitical environment, Vietnam not only affirms its strong leadership role, but also showcases its best on the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the establishment of the ASEAN Community (AC). 2015 - 2020), 25 years of Vietnam joining the "common roof" of ASEAN (1995 - 2020) (Minh, 2020). Looking back over the past year, Vietnam has successfully hosted all the high-level meetings, including the 36th and 37th ASEAN Summits, and more than 30 online ministerial and equivalent meetings as well as daily. Dozens of consultation meetings, both online and semi-online. In particular, the 37th ASEAN Summit (November 2020) with 20 related meetings and more than 80 documents was approved. This is the highest number of documents approved in ASEAN meetings. As the chairman, Vietnam has actively led and coordinated ASEAN to overcome many challenges and effectively respond to the COVID-19 epidemic; at the same time, promoting the spirit of solidarity and international cooperation, supporting masks, medical supplies, and finance for 51 countries and international organizations to respond to the COVID-19 epidemic. In addition, Vietnamese ministries, branches, localities, and friendship organizations have actively participated in supporting countries and partners facing difficulties. Vietnam also enlisted financial support and medical equipment from many countries and international organizations for domestic epidemic control. The effective model of COVID-19

disease prevention and control, along with Vietnam's sense of responsibility and noble gesture in international cooperation in the prevention and control of COVID-19 have been highly appreciated by international friends. Assessing the results of the initiatives implemented by Vietnam, the ASEAN countries said that the topic raised by Vietnam is very accurate and has become a trademark of ASEAN, which is an ASEAN that is "cohesive and leading", "adaptive action".

### **Limitations and challenge**

Besides the advantages and achievements, foreign affairs also encountered many shortcomings and limitations. These are inadequacies and limitations in awareness of implementation, not very effective in diplomacy in the fields of economy and culture, in building staff of the sector, etc., adding more context the world poses many difficulties and challenges.

Our country is entering a new strategic phase with important development goals and tasks, many challenges, and great opportunities. The document of the XIII Congress (2021) of the Communist Party of Vietnam has comprehensively and deeply assessed the situation and major trends. The dialectical view of both the challenges and opportunities of the international situation is reflected in a number of major features:

The face of the world continues to change in the direction of multi-polarity and multi-center; Cooperation and struggle still go hand in hand, but the side of struggle and mutual restraint is emerging more and more fiercely. Globalization and international integration continue to progress, but are facing many obstacles, including the rise of nationalism. International law and global multilateral institutions face great challenges, but they are still mainstream trends that are protected and promoted by most countries. The world economy is in crisis, a serious and possibly prolonged recession due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Countries, especially large countries, have adjusted their development strategies to reduce their dependence on the outside world (Minh, 2020). Economic friction, trade wars, technology competition, and high-quality human resources among countries are increasingly fierce.

In the Asia-Pacific region, the risk of instability and fierce competition among great powers is more complicated. Disputes over territorial sovereignty, maritime and island sovereignty are more intense, complicated, and fierce. Global issues, human security, social security, and non-traditional security cause increasingly negative impacts on countries (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2021).

Meanwhile, Vietnam is also facing many internal challenges. The economy has not developed sustainably and is affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and the global economic recession. The trend of rapid population aging, the negative sides of industrialization and urbanization; the competitiveness of the economy and businesses is not high; the risk of falling into the middle-income trap is still great. The implementation of three strategic breakthroughs in terms of infrastructure, human resources, and institutions needs to be done more drastically. Strategic forecasting is sometimes not proactive and sensitive.

However, in challenges, there are always opportunities, which require us to look at the dialectic, stay awake, and constantly renew our thinking. Peace, cooperation, and development are still the mainstream; globalization and international integration continue to progress. In particular, the fourth industrial revolution, especially digital technology, has developed strongly, creating breakthroughs in many fields, opening up rare strategic opportunities for small and medium-sized

countries, including Vietnam. We develop breakthroughs, overcome the middle-income trap, towards development goals in the new strategic period to 2030, with a vision to 2045 (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2021).

The XIIth Congress (2016) and the XIII Congress (2021) mentioned limitations of foreign affairs and international integration, including: active presence and low efficiency. There is no synchronous and effective solution to limit negative impacts in the process of promoting international integration. In awareness and practical guidance, sometimes it is not possible to keep up with the rapid and complicated changes of the world and regional situation. The coordination and cooperation between sectors and localities are still lacking. Strategic research and forecasting are still limited.

In the past time (from 2016 to the present) in some issues, at some point, our awareness does not keep up with the situation. We have not fully anticipated the complicated and rapid developments in the policies and relations of major countries, especially the US and the US-China relations. The cause of this situation is mainly due to objective factors, due to the complicated and unpredictable fluctuations of the world and regional situation. But the research to assess the situation and strategic forecast have not been as expected.

The implementation of foreign policy and guidelines in practice is still not strong, synchronous, and comprehensive. The creation of interests, deepening relations, building substantive and effective relational frameworks, implementing substantive signed agreements, participating in and taking advantage of multilateral institutions, especially ASEAN to better protect Vietnam's interests is still not as desired. The participation of ministries, sectors, and localities in external affairs is still uneven.

The causes of this situation include (i) not having a clear and full awareness of some external issues – which will be discussed later in the topic, (ii) not being able to mobilize the entire public participation system external cooperation, especially in the policy of international integration and multilateral foreign affairs, partly due to the difference in interests (iii) the optimized mechanism for foreign management, (iv) resources for External relations work, both in terms of material and personnel, is still limited.

### **Solutions to improve the efficiency of Vietnam's diplomatic activities in the coming time**

In order to contribute to improving the effectiveness of diplomatic activities, in the coming time, some basic solutions may be of interest to the following:

Firstly, raise awareness of cadres, party members, and people, and implement more effectively the views of Ho Chi Minh and our Party on diplomacy. Since the country's independence, Ho Chi Minh has been very interested in diplomatic activities and advocated "Vietnam wants to be friends with all democratic countries, not causing enmity with anyone" (Minh, 1995, vol. 4, p. 469). He also advocated comprehensive cooperation with other countries, saying that "for democratic countries, Vietnam is ready to implement the open-door policy and cooperate in all fields" (Minh, 1995, vol 4, p). 523). The person who declared that "Vietnam will cooperate with all countries please cooperate honestly and equally with Vietnam" (Minh, 1995, vol 4, p. 469). Ho Chi Minh's above viewpoints and policies are very unique, comprehensive, delicate,

ingenious, showing his far-sighted and far-reaching vision. Deeply aware of these correct views is the basis for orientation and guidance for Vietnam's diplomatic activities in the coming time.

Immersed in Ho Chi Minh's open-minded thought on diplomacy, our Party has also defined its foreign policy more and more fully, as reflected in the revised 2011 supplementary platform and recent documents here, which requires cadres, party members, and people to thoroughly grasp the basic contents. That is, thoroughly understand the foreign policy of independence, self-reliance, peace, cooperation and development; multilateralization and diversification of relations, proactive and active international integration; wishes to be you, a reliable partner and responsible member of the international community. That is, grasping that our country is ready to cooperate equally and for mutual benefits with all countries based on the observance of the basic principles of the United Nations Charter and international law. Make every effort to support communist and workers' parties and socially progressive movements in the struggle for the common goals of the times; expand relations with left-wing parties, ruling parties, and other parties. Strengthen friendship and cooperation between the Vietnamese people and people of countries around the world; together with Southeast Asian countries to build this region of peace, stability, cooperation, and development. That is, thoroughly grasping that Vietnam's foreign activities are based on ensuring national and national interests, maintaining independence and self-reliance, in order to contribute to raising the country's position, for a country. Socialist Vietnam is rich and powerful, for peace, friendship, cooperation, and development, contributing to the cause of peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress in the world.

Fully and deeply aware of the above viewpoints and guidelines of Ho Chi Minh and our Party will be the first important factor to grasp and apply in practice appropriately and creatively, contributing to improving the efficiency of diplomatic activities.

Second, fully grasp the directions of the Party and State's external work in the coming time. Recently, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has determined the direction of foreign affairs. That is, focusing on thoroughly grasping, implementing, and concretizing resolutions related to foreign affairs and international integration; continue to deepen the relationship with partners, focusing on concretizing the contents and developing action plans and mechanisms for implementing newly established relationship frameworks; well prepare and implement the external activities of senior leaders; vigorously implement the policy of integration, promote the role of responsible members in multilateral forums. That is, understanding the importance of maintaining a peaceful environment, protecting sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national security; upholding the strict implementation of the Joint Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the East Sea (DOC); mobilize and coordinate to continue promoting the early completion and implementation of the Code of Conduct of Parties in the East Sea (COC); actively coordinate and struggle to stabilize the situation in the East Sea. Completing the project of maintaining, protecting, and stably managing the land border, trying to find a satisfactory and long-term solution related to the water source problem of the Mekong River. Actively fighting in the fields of democracy, human rights, and religion; protect our country's interests so as not to affect foreign relations. For economic diplomacy, it is necessary to take advantage of external resources for economic restructuring and growth model transformation; support the effective implementation of international economic integration; continue to implement cultural diplomacy strategy, action program on external information; continue to improve the quality, timeliness, and application value of strategic



research and forecasting in order to take the initiative, be ready to seize opportunities, and handle all situations well.

The 13th National Congress of the Party sets out directions, tasks, and solutions for foreign affairs. Accordingly, the Congress advocated: continue to actively and actively promote foreign affairs, protect citizens; persistently and consistently in the line of independence, self-reliance, multilateralization, and diversification of relations; improve the efficiency of foreign affairs, closely associate the initiative and active international integration with capacity building, synchronous and modern institutions; improve the level and quality of international integration to expand the market, take advantage of capital, technology, knowledge, and management skills; strictly implement international commitments and signed trade agreements (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2021, vol 2, pp. 282-283); maintaining peace, security, safety, freedom of navigation and aviation in the East Sea; “settle disputes by peaceful means on the basis of international law, especially the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea” (Communist Party of Vietnam, 2021, vol 2, p. 284).

The contingent of cadres, party members, civil servants, public employees, agencies, and organizations in the political system and the people, especially relevant individuals and organizations, need to clearly understand and master the directions, solution task above. As a result, we can contribute to better and more effective foreign affairs.

Third, continue to focus on strengthening economic diplomacy. Vietnam's comprehensive foreign policy includes political diplomacy, economic diplomacy, cultural diplomacy, and overseas Vietnamese work. Three diplomatic fields identified as pillars of Vietnam's diplomacy are economic diplomacy, political diplomacy, and cultural diplomacy.

Economic diplomacy means diplomatic activities that contribute to the construction and development of the country; strengthen activities to build good relations with other countries, strive to expand economic cooperation, effectively support ministries, sectors, localities, enterprises, and people in production and business activities. Diplomacy in this field actively does other practical things, such as: Providing information to businesses and people about markets in other countries to choose from, information about potential areas for cooperation, providing information for businesses to be able to check their partners' information before signing contracts; mobilize and guide or lead business delegations from other countries to explore business opportunities, investment, and development of production and business in Vietnam Our country's diplomatic missions in other countries try to support and advise businesses and people when doing business with complicated difficulties to handle and solve; or information about partners intending to do business in our country.

It is necessary for our country's economic diplomacy activities to regularly advise and provide information on the economic situation, make a scientific assessment of the economic trends and trends of other countries to provide information and advice for ministries, branches, and domestic enterprises. The diplomatic sector has strengthened its understanding and discovery of markets, especially regions and countries with potential for cooperation with our country to introduce businesses to and mobilize foreign enterprises to expand their investment investment and economic business in Vietnam in order to have more high-value contracts signed.

The XIIIth Party Congress also focused on: “Building economic diplomacy for development, taking people, localities, and businesses as the service center” (Communist Party of Vietnam,

2021, vol 2, pp. 284); It is necessary to protect the legitimate interests of the State, enterprises, and people of Vietnam in international economic, trade and investment disputes.

Fourth, better implement cultural diplomacy, further promote the work of Vietnamese people abroad. After the country's independence, Ho Chi Minh sent a letter to the US secretary of state, requesting that a delegation of about 50 Vietnamese youths visit the US with the intention of establishing cultural relations with American youth and studying research in other specialties. It was an initiative, foresight, and very valuable experience.

Cultural diplomacy has a very important position and role, strengthening this diplomatic work will create a new impetus for diplomacy in the process of international integration. Cultural exchanges and cooperation activities have made practical and effective contributions to deepening Vietnam's relations with countries around the world, expanding opportunities for exchanges and cooperation with other countries. Cultural diplomacy has promoted the image of Vietnam as beautiful, rich in identity, successfully renewed; campaigning for 39 Vietnamese heritages to be recognized by UNESCO as world cultural heritages (Minh, 2020); contributed to the protection of human values and created resources and opportunities for development in many localities.

The position and strength of the country allow and requires more promotion of cultural diplomacy, paying attention to and vigorously implementing it, and enhancing its effectiveness. To do so, it is necessary to continue to do the following things well: raise the theoretical awareness of cultural diplomacy, the role of cultural diplomacy, and the tradition of cultural diplomacy in Vietnam; closely combine cultural diplomacy with political diplomacy and economic diplomacy, develop specific action plans for regions as well as partner countries, in external activities at all levels, focus on cultural diplomacy content, master and implement well the content of cultural diplomacy strategy. Make every effort to widely promote Vietnam's good image of peace-loving, culture, dynamism, creativity, innovation, integration, development, etc. Effectively promote the value of international titles that our country has achieved, and at the same time continue to campaign for new international titles. Closer combination of cultural diplomacy activities with overseas Vietnamese work. Actively and impressively participate in international cultural organizations and forums, contributing to promoting Vietnam's cultural strengths and responsibilities to the international community. Studying and selectively absorbing the quintessence of human culture in an active, far-sighted, and far-sighted manner, enriching the national culture, raising the people's intellectual level, and serving the national renewal process. Adequate investment in funding and human resources, mobilizing many resources, components, and subjects participating in the implementation of cultural diplomacy to achieve higher and higher results.

Relevant agencies need to do better in summarizing and evaluating the implementation of the policy on overseas Vietnamese work. Continue to review, supplement and perfect relevant domestic systems, policies, and laws accordingly. Continue to widely deploy the mobilization of overseas Vietnamese towards their homeland and country, creating the most favorable conditions for people and attracting overseas Vietnamese intellectuals, businessmen, and Vietnamese students to study abroad visit homeland, live, and do business. Strengthen and consolidate associations and unions of overseas Vietnamese in other countries. It is necessary to actively, effectively, and promptly carry out the work of protecting citizens, protecting the legitimate rights and interests of citizens, legal entities, fishermen, and our workers abroad; interested in

promoting the settlement of issues related to the legal status of our compatriots in some countries....

Sixth, building a contingent of cadres to meet the increasing requirements for the foreign affairs of our country's revolution: President Ho Chi Minh has repeatedly affirmed and upheld his role as the "root" of everything, is the "bridge" between the party and the people, is the "chain" of the machine... of the cadres. To do well in that role, the staff, including diplomats, also need to meet the standard requirements in all aspects. The contingent of cadres engaged in foreign affairs, first of all, diplomats, must have the strong political will; pure morality; really good at expertise; proficient, professional expertise; have erudite wisdom; with enthusiasm and high responsibility, etc. In addition, this team also has to meet special requirements: people who are very reliable in terms of quality, very sensitive to the times, very flexible, skillful in negotiation, and delicate in their application. Therefore, it is necessary to regularly promote the training and capacity building of cadres engaged in external affairs, especially diplomatic cadres in all aspects, both in combat, in research, and in construction, and develop a complete team of experts with in-depth knowledge of foreign affairs and diplomacy. Do well the cadre planning work on the basis of properly assessing cadres, creating a reasonable structure in terms of qualifications, capacity, age, and gender among generations of cadres doing this work. Better performance of emulation and commendation, in order to maximize the positivity, enthusiasm, initiative, and creativity of the staff at all levels in the industry. Only then will this team be able to effectively meet the increasingly heavy tasks of the industry, in line with the new role and international position of our country.

### **Conclusion**

During the 36 years of renovation, especially during the 30 years of implementing the Platform for national construction in the transitional period to socialism (1991), the Communist Party of Vietnam has continuously expanded and strengthened its diverse relations with political leaders parties in different countries of the world, actively participate in international forums, conferences, and seminars of Communist and workers' parties, left-wing parties, and political parties in Asia. From having only relations with the Communist and workers' parties, the main left-wing parties with revolutionary and national liberation orientations, our Party has actively expanded its relations with the ruling parties, the political parties, and the political party's main reference. Up to now, the Communist Party of Vietnam has had relations to varying degrees with over 200 parties in 115 countries on all continents; in which there are over 100 Communist and workers' parties, more than 40 ruling parties, nearly 80 parties are participating in the National Assembly - Parliaments of other countries. At the same time, our Party also regularly participates and effectively participates in multilateral political party forums such as: Annual International Meeting of Communist and Workers' Parties in the World (IMCWP); International Conference of Asian Political Parties (ICAPP); Sao Paulo forum of leftist parties, etc.

This is the result of the profound, comprehensive, and thorough revolutionary transformation process, affirming the Party's renewal policy, including foreign thinking, to be absolutely correct, creative, and in line with reality. Vietnamese revolution and development trend of the current era. The policy of the Communist Party of Vietnam to expand relations with political parties in the world in the current situation is correct and necessary, in order to create consensus and promote the comprehensive reform of the land. A socialist-oriented country won.

Vietnam is entering a new era with a new position and force brought about by the achievements and experience of 30 years of innovation, with its increasingly enhanced position in the international arena, great opportunities and challenges are not small. The Party's renewed foreign policy through the congresses, especially the 12th Congress, has shown consistency, creativity, and systematicity to new heights. We believe that, with the Party's experience in revolutionary leadership and especially in the 30 years of the comprehensive reform of the country towards socialism, it will promote synergy to bring the revolutionary cause of our country to the next level a new turning point. Implementing the Party's correct foreign policy, in the coming time, our country's foreign affairs and international integration will achieve many great achievements, maintaining a peaceful environment and promoting external forces to soon bring the country to the forefront we become an industrialized country in the direction of modernity; successfully realize the goal of rich people, a strong country, democracy, justice, and civilization.

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