

## Development Aspirations Of Vietnam

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**Abstract:** In the past, our ancestors' generations soon formed the will and aspiration to develop the nation. First of all, the will and aspiration for independence, self-reliance, and power. Over thousands of years of history, the will and aspiration to develop have become the precious traditional spiritual values of the nation, the basis for arousing and promoting spiritual strength, unyielding will, and faith, pride, confidence, the whole nation's efforts to protect and develop our country. Nowadays, we do need to promote the will and aspiration to develop the country quickly and sustainably to get the goal of “rich people, strong country, democracy, justice and civilization” turning our country into a modern industrial country with socialist orientation.

**Key word:** aspiration, country, sustainably, modern industrial country



## CONTENT

The 13<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam took part successfully. The Party's important document has been passed to continue orienting the socialist - oriented development in Vietnam. One of the main ideas that directs the country's development in the coming decade is the aspiration to develop a prosperous and happy country. This idea springs from the theoretical and practical basis of Vietnam, especially the practical basis of the country's development since reform in 1986.

The aspiration to develop a prosperity and happy nation is a general aspiration of mankind. That aspiration springs from the need for comprehensive human liberation and development. Vietnam's development aspirations are based on the theoretical basis of Marxism-Leninism, the theory of human liberation and development.

Since the occurrence of oppression, enslavement, poverty, and injustice in human society, a great desire of mankind is being liberated, free and happy. Many great thinkers and revolutionists have devoted their lives for good and humanitarian ideals and the advancement of mankind, such as the early ideals of Aghit and Cleomenes in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century B.C. or more complete and progressive ideologies of T. Moro, G. Babap, and Saint-Simon, Ph. Phurie, R. Owen, N. Doboboubop. Over 2500 years of history, the ideal of human liberation and development has become a scientific theoretical system in Marxism-Leninism. It explains the radical emancipation and comprehensive human development, building a new society of human, by human and for human. Marxism-Leninism affirms that human can only be truly liberated, free and developed in socialism and communism.

In The German Ideology, K. Marx and F. Engels outlined the comprehensive development of people in communism as following:

- Private ownership of the means of production was abolished and changed to public ownership.
- Class division is abolished, so the domination of one class over others is also abolished, and the state, as the mean of domination, will cease to exist.
- The division of labour is abolished, therefore, there is no longer the opposition between mental and physical labour, between urban and rural areas.
- Every individual is free and fully developed, people own all means and material conditions, actively and voluntarily coordinates them to serve people.
- Communist society has all conditions to transform people into real people in its full sense.

On the inevitability of the birth of socialism, Marx and Engels wrote: "Communism is for us not a state of affairs which is to be established, an ideal to which reality will have to adjust itself. We call communism the real movement which abolishes the present state of things. The conditions of this movement result from the premises now in existence"<sup>1</sup>. V.I.Lenin commented: "Marx posits the question of communism as a naturalist writer would for instance posit the question of development of a new biological variety, given that we know that it arose in such a way, and is evolving in a certain particular direction"<sup>2</sup>; so that "Communism is the inevitable form and resolute principle of the future"<sup>3</sup>.

In the middle of 1920, while searching for a way to save the country, Nguyen Ai Quoc read Draft Theses on National and Colonial Questions by V.I. Lenin. Nguyen Ai Quoc accepted this thesis of V.I. Lenin with excitement and confidence as a revolutionist after many years of theoretical research and practical survey. The thesis of V.I. Lenin had a particularly profound influence on Nguyen Ai Quoc's perception and thought on the revolutionary path of Vietnam. Thanks to this, Nguyen Ai Quoc found the path to liberation, bringing independence and freedom to his country. Nguyen Ai Quoc affirmed: "Only socialism and communism can liberate the oppressed peoples and the workers of the whole world from slavery"<sup>4</sup>. According to Nguyen Ai Quoc, socialism is a good society in which all oppression, exploitation and injustice are eliminated. It is a disciplined, ethical, civilized society, owned by the working people, where everyone has a prosperous, free and happy life. Therefore, socialism is the way to firmly consolidate national independence and completely liberate the nation.

Nguyen Ai Quoc also affirmed that the inevitable path of the national liberation revolution must be

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<sup>1</sup> C.Marx and Ph.Engels, *Complete Works*.

<sup>2</sup> V.I. Lenin, *Collected Works*.

<sup>3</sup> C.Marx and Ph.Engels, *Complete Works*.

<sup>4</sup> Ho Chi Minh, *Complete Works* (National Publishing House, Hanoi, 2011).

develop into a socialist revolution. Nguyen Ai Quoc pointed out: “The national liberation revolution must develop into a socialist revolution in order to achieve complete victory”<sup>5</sup>. Therefore, national independence associated with socialism is the objective and inevitable logic of the Vietnamese revolutionary process. Practice has proven that associating national independence with socialism is absolutely correct and suitable with the trend of history. With reference to that, in the Platform for National Construction in the transitional period towards socialism (supplemented and developed in 2011), the Communist Party of Vietnam affirmed that: “According to the evolutionary laws of history, mankind will definitely move towards socialism”<sup>6</sup>. Therefore, the construction of socialism in Vietnam is also part of the inevitable law of history.

On the basis of Marxism – Leninism, Nguyen Ai Quoc creatively applied such theory to the conditions of Vietnam to make a real liberation revolution for the entire working people. Vietnamese people became masters after being enslaved; became free after being oppressed. The desire for independence, freedom, and happiness has come true.

After the victory of national liberation revolution, Vietnam chose to build the country according to the socialist ideal, creatively applying Marxism – Leninism in a new era.

The aspiration for the independence and self-reliance of Vietnam has been deeply expressed throughout the length of the nation's history. The poem Mountains and Rivers of the Southern Country has expressed that spirit. This is a famous poem in Vietnamese history, considered the first Declaration of Independence of Vietnam, affirming the sovereignty of the Dai Viet. The poem helped Le Hoan to defeat the Song army in 981 and helped Ly Thuong Kiet to defeat the Song army in 1077.

In Proclamation of Victory, Nguyen Trai wrote:

As to Dai Viet, a country of great culture, since time immemorial, our  
mountains and rivers have been lawfully delineated.  
North and South customs are also different.  
The dynasties of Trieu, Dinh, Ly and Tran had established their  
independence  
At the same time, Han, Tang, Song, Yuan had governed their lands.  
Although their strength, their weakness and ours at times differed, men  
of noble character in our country were never in short supply.

Proclamation of Victory is not only a song victory and peace, but also a Declaration of Independence of Dai Viet in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, and a “heroic literature” expressing the aspiration and the pride of the Vietnamese nation.

The struggles against foreign invaders from the era of Trung Sisters, Lady Trieu, Tran Hung Dao, Le Loi, Quang Trung to the era of Ho Chi Minh continued to affirm our aspiration for national independence.

When gaining our independence in 1945, Vietnamese people expanded their relations with other countries around the world to consolidate our independence and develop the country. In his Letter to the United Nations (1946), Ho Chi Minh stated that: “For democratic countries, Vietnam is ready to implement the open-door policy and cooperate in all fields”<sup>7</sup>. In addition, Ho Chi Minh outlined a number of specific solutions such as Vietnam will give favourable reception to the investment of foreign capitalists and technicians in all fields; be willing to expand ports, airports and roads for international trade and transit; be willing to participate in any international economic cooperation organization; ready to conclude special security agreements and related treaties;... During the years of resistance, he planned: “We welcome capitalists from France and other countries who honestly collaborate with us”, “It is possible that we invite experts from France as well as from the United States, Russia or China to assist us in our national construction”<sup>8</sup>. Obviously, those major features outlined a program of development and cooperation with other countries and partners that He had planned for 40 years before our country entered the renovation period.

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<sup>5</sup> Ho Chi Minh, *Complete Works*, vol. 12, p.305.

<sup>6</sup> Communist Party of Vietnam: Document of the 11<sup>th</sup> National Congress of Deputies, Publishing House National Politics – Truth, Hanoi, 2011, p. 69

<sup>7</sup> Ho Chi Minh: *Complete Works*, Vol 12, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2011, p.470, 74.

<sup>8</sup> Ho Chi Minh: *Complete Works*, Vol 5, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2011, p.470, 74.

In 1946, President Ho Chi Minh came to Paris as the V.I.P. guest of the French Government. In addition to official meetings with the government representatives and politicians, he spent a lot of time meeting people, the press and overseas Vietnamese. Through friendly conversations, he analyzed the nature of the new Vietnam, expressed the feelings of Vietnamese people to French people, and shared his concerns with mothers and sisters whose children and siblings were sent to Indochina. As a result, the Vietnamese resistance war enlisted the support of all classes of French people, and they themselves actively contributed to forcing the French government to cease the war and withdraw its troops from Indochina. Ho Chi Minh stated that: “We neither dislike or hate the French people... Our struggle is not directed against France, nor is it directed against honest Frenchmen, but we are fighting the cruel domination of French colonialism in Indochina.”<sup>9</sup>.

In the resistance war against America, He reiterated that point of view: “I have come to the United States, I understand that American people respect justice and have many talents”<sup>10</sup>; “Vietnamese people consider American people as their friends”<sup>11</sup>. Thanks to that correct point of view, in France and in the United States, there were movements of all classes of people demanding their governments stop the war of aggression in Vietnam.

Today, in the foreign relations of expansion, multilateralization and diversification, sticking to the path of independence and self-reliance is a great challenge, and an unchanged principle. Since the policy of national renovation, the Communist Party of Vietnam has realized that integration is an objective, universal and inevitable way to develop our country. Only by integration can Vietnam get the best out of all advantages in science and technology, economy, education, capital, management level, assimilation of cultural values, etc. to build and develop the country. On the other hand, only deep integration can help Vietnamese people apply all their potentials and strengths like creativity, self-esteem, pride, personality, intelligence to resources, culture, traditions, etc. in the process of country development. Therefore, international integration is an inevitable and objective trend.

During the process of international integration, Vietnam has always actively participated in international processes and organizations; promoted an active and proactive role in launching international integration initiatives, been a responsible member of all organizations it took part in. Currently, Vietnam has an increasingly important position and an important voice in international forums and organizations, with the spirit of cooperation and development. Although Vietnam is a country that needs international help in all fields to develop, especially receiving development aid, we have always had a proactive spirit in international relations, implemented many cooperation projects, made investments both at home and abroad. That not only brings benefits to Vietnam but also contributes to the common development, peace and prosperity of other countries around the world.

After the 6<sup>th</sup> National Congress (1986), especially after the issuance of Resolution 13 of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Vietnam (1988) and the Resolution of the 6<sup>th</sup> Plenum of the 6<sup>th</sup> Central Committee (1989), Vietnam had some fundamental adjustments to foreign policy. Along with the policy of normalizing relations with China and the United States, Vietnam has attached importance to improving relations with other countries in Southeast Asian, creating a peaceful and stable international environment in the region, bringing benefits to the development of the country.

In order to promote the process of expanding foreign relations, the 6<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam set forth a strategic policy to expand cooperation and enlist international support. On that basis and the complicated developments of the international situation after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the 7<sup>th</sup> Congress orientated its policies towards “Independence, self-reliance, diversification and multilateralization of relations with other countries” with the motto “Vietnam wants to be a friend and reliable partner with all nations in the international community, striving for peace, independence and development”. The 7<sup>th</sup> Plenum of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Central Committee (1992) officially defined our foreign policy of independence, self-reliance, openness, diversification and multilateralization of international relations. In that spirit, in 1992, Vietnam resumed relations with the IMF, WB, and ADB. After

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<sup>9</sup> Ho Chi Minh: *Complete Works*, Vol 4, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2011, p.65.

<sup>10</sup> Ho Chi Minh: *Complete Works*, Vol 11, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2011, p.271.

<sup>11</sup> Ho Chi Minh: *Complete Works*, Vol 9, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 2011, p.93

that, Vietnam joined the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in July 1995; joined the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) in 1996; joined the Asia-Europe cooperation forum as a founding member in March 1996; and was admitted as an official member of APEC in November 1998.

The strategic policy of the 7<sup>th</sup> National Congress continued to be affirmed and supplemented by the 8<sup>th</sup> National Congress, and by the IX Congress, was developed into “Vietnam is willing to become a friend and reliable partner with all nations in the international community, striving for peace, independence and development”. Thus, the process of reforming the Party's thoughts of foreign affairs has led to the establishment of the basic contents of the foreign policy from “expand”, “be a friend” to “diversification and multilateralization of relations” and “willing to become a friend and reliable partner”. This is an expression of the spirit of independence, self-reliance, creativity, steadfastness in principles and flexibility in strategies, linking revolutionary goals and national development orientations to the development trends. Thanks to the adjustment of foreign policy as mentioned above, Vietnam has gradually broken through the embargo, relatively successfully resolved difficulties and inadequacies in foreign relations, and raised the nation's position in the international arena, integrated more and more actively and deeply with the region and the world.

Vietnam is a responsible member of the international community, actively and responsibly participating in the ASEAN Community building process, enhancing its comprehensive, extensive and substantive participation within the framework of multilateral forums such as the United Nations, APEC, ASEM; served as the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the period 2013-2014; Member of the United Nations Human Rights Council for the period 2014-2016, strengthen cooperation with other countries and international organizations to promote issues on strategic interest.

Vietnam has actively and responsibly participated in regional and international forums; well perform the role of a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council; made important contributions to the building process of ASEAN Community and the ASEAN Charter, successfully assume the ASEAN Chairmanship role, and the Chairman of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA). Relations between Vietnam and communist and workers' parties, left-wing parties, ruling parties and a number of other parties; and foreign affairs have been expanded; international commitments have been fully implemented.

In December 1994, Vietnam submitted an application to join the WTO and in January 1995 the WTO officially received Vietnam's application to conduct specific negotiations. In June 1996, Vietnam joined the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) as a founding member. ASEM is a political dialogue forum, operating on the principle of consensus and cooperation to create a comprehensive partnership between Asia and Europe for the stronger growth of the two regions. In November 1998, Vietnam officially became a member of APEC. APEC is the first economic forum in the Asia-Pacific region that includes 21 members from four continents, representing more than a third of the world's population (about 2.5 billion people), over 50% of global GDP and about 47% of world trade. APEC was established to promote economic growth in member economies, strengthen community spirit and regional relations for the well-being of the people of the entire region.

On 13/7/2000, representatives of the Governments of the United States and Vietnam signed a bilateral trade agreement (BTA) to promote economic and trade relations between the two countries. On 7/11/2006, Vietnam joined the WTO, ending 11 years of bilateral and multilateral negotiations, becoming the 150th official member of the world's largest trade organization. This is a milestone marking a new step in Vietnam's proactive and active international integration process. It also affirms the correctness of the guidelines and policies of the Party and State of Vietnam in the new period, making an important contribution to the creation and expansion of the market for goods, services and investment of Vietnam, attracting foreign direct investment, take advantage of official development assistance (ODA) and other international funding sources.

External activities for economic development are also paid special attention. Up to now, Vietnam has attracted tens of thousands of FDI projects with a total registered capital of hundreds of billions of US dollars. Besides the main markets of Japan, ASEAN, China, Korea, EU, the United States and Australia, at present, Vietnamese goods have consolidated their position in many other markets such as Russia and the Middle East., Latin America and Africa, etc. Vietnam's economic integration process over the past three decades has recorded important achievements in expanding bilateral and multilateral economic relations; establishing

official diplomatic relations with 170 countries and territories, including all major countries such as the US, EU, Japan, Russia, China, India, etc.; establishing economic - trade relations with over 220 countries and territories; normalizing relations with international monetary and financial institutions; attracting a significant amount of foreign direct investment (FDI). In addition, in order to promote the integration process in a proactive manner, Vietnam has joined and signed bilateral free trade agreements (FTAs) with partners within the framework of WTO such as ASEAN FTA; FTA between ASEAN with Japan, Korea, India, Australia, New Zealand, China, and Russia, and ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement.

With that will, aspiration and determination, after 35 years of national renovation (1986 - 2021), Vietnam has gained a new position in the international community with a growing economy. From an agricultural, backward country, and a small economy, with only 14 billion USD and only about 250 USD per capita, after nearly 35 years, Vietnam became a middle income country having economic-trade relations with most countries and territories.

During period of the 2011-2020, Vietnam achieved GDP growth rate of about 5.9%/year, belonging to the group of high-growth countries in the region and in the world. Our GDP scale increased 2.4 times, from 116 billion USD in 2010 to 268.4 billion USD in 2020. GDP per capita increased from 1,331 USD in 2010 to about 2,750 USD in 2020. According to the Ministry of Planning and Investment, in 2020, the size of Vietnam's economy reached about 343 billion USD, ranking in the top 40 largest economies in the world and fourth in ASEAN; GDP per capita reached 3,521 USD, ranked 6th in ASEAN. According to the assessment of the IMF, by the end of 2020, if calculated according to purchasing power parity, the size of Vietnam's economy will reach 1,050 billion USD and GDP per capita must be over 10,000 USD. According to the data from World Bank, with an average economic growth of 6.8% per year in the 2016-2019 period, Vietnam was in the top 10 fastest growing countries.

In 2016, when joining AEC and FTAs, especially the New Generation Free Trade Agreements, Vietnam was one of 32 countries with export turnover of over 100 billion USD with some of the top products in the world; Vietnam is also the country attracting most stable foreign direct investment (FDI) in ASEAN. Accumulated to May 20, 2020, the whole country has 32,025 valid projects with a total registered capital of 376.6 billion USD. The accumulated realized capital of foreign direct investment projects is estimated at 218.48 billion USD<sup>12</sup>.

The negotiation, signing and implementation of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), especially new-generation FTAs, and the hosting of major multilateral conferences in recent years have ensured the national interests of the country and significantly improving Vietnam's international position. Up to now, Vietnam has signed and been negotiating 16 bilateral and multilateral FTAs. Of which, 13 FTAs have been in force and are being implemented. With the negotiation and signing of a series of FTAs, especially new generation FTAs, such as the FTA between Vietnam and the European Union, Vietnam has integrated more and more deeply with the world.

The Free Trade Agreement between Vietnam and the European Union (EVFTA) is a new generation FTA between Vietnam and the 28 EU member countries, officially effective from August 1, 2020. The EVFTA also marks a new step of Vietnam's integration process as it is the first developing country in the Asia-Pacific region to have a free trade relationship with the EU.

Up to now, Vietnam has established strategic partnerships with 16 countries and comprehensive partnerships with 11 countries, including all P5 countries (USA, Russia, China, France, UK) and most of the key partners in the region and in the world; More than 70 countries have recognized Vietnam as a market economy. With an unprecedented combination of great benefits with 27 strategic and comprehensive partners and 59 FTA partners, Vietnam has really been proactively and actively participated in integration with a new position, catching up with trend of the world.

With its will, aspiration and success, Vietnam is becoming a country with new perspectives and approaches to contribute to the orientation of common values for humanity, especially new-generation trade agreements, continuing to affirm the correctness and superiority of socialist regime in the new era.

The Vietnamese people have self-respect, compassion, tolerance, respect for love, morality, and respect for people. These qualities help Vietnamese employees to love and respect each other, to understand

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<sup>12</sup><https://dautunuocongocai.gov.vn/TinBai/6357/Tinh-hinh-thu-hut-dau-tu-nuoc-ngoai-5-thang-dau-nam-2020>

and to take care each other, to prevent evil, promote good, and to fulfill the aspirations of making Vietnam become a country of “rich people, strong nation, equitable, democratic and civilized society”.<sup>13</sup>

The kindness, tolerance, respect for love, morality, and respect for people of Vietnamese people are expressed in the care, sharing, love and sympathy for those in difficulties and tribulations. It is the way of being human and the precious traditions of the Vietnamese nation. During wartime, it is about “Just cause always prevails over tyranny; compassion is the virtue to embrace in place of violence”. In life, it is about loving people, helping and caring for each other. President Ho Chi Minh once wrote: “In life and to be human, we need to love our country, our people, the suffering and oppressed humanity. We need to contribute to making the country independent, the people free and happy, free mankind from suffering”. The kindness, tolerance, respect for love, morality, and respect for people of the Vietnamese people are the basis of the aspiration for freedom, democracy, justice, civilization, happiness, a self-conscious and creative lifestyle; they also make Vietnamese people take collective and national interests as the orientation for their lives, fight against oppression, exploitation and injustice, contribute to overcoming alienation, and develop comprehensive personality.

The kindness, tolerance, respect for love, morality, and respect for people of Vietnamese people has been shown in the days of fighting against the Covid-19 epidemic in recent years. With the spirit of “leaving no one behind”, everyone has been taken care of. In times of need, we can see that the word “compatriots” carry such great and sacred meaning. Our compatriots who are far away from the motherland still want to return to be protected, tolerated, and cared for. The Vietnamese government always considers people's life and health above all else.

The kindness, tolerance, respect for love, morality, and respect for people of Vietnamese people are not only shown within the country's territory but also strongly spreads through Vietnamese communities around the world. Many media agencies in the Czech Republic simultaneously reported on the kindness and solidarity of the Vietnamese community in the Czech Republic for the local government and people in the fight against the COVID-19 epidemic. On March 25th, he Czech News Agency quoted Mr. Marcel Winter, honorary president of the Czech-Vietnamese Friendship Association, that the Vietnamese community is the only expatriate community in the Czech Republic that had supported Czech hospitals and medical forces and people with both material and financial support in the fight against the COVID-19 epidemic. In recent days, national and local media as well as many Czech newspapers such as *Mlada fronta dnes*, *Lidove noviny*, etc. have reported on the solidarity of the Vietnamese community in the Czech Republic with local people in the fight against the COVID-19 epidemic. Earlier, in a speech on the evening of March 23th, Mr. Andrej Babis, Czech Prime Minister, praised the solidarity of the people in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. All of these above events are clear proofs of the kindness and tolerance of Vietnamese people.

Thanks to these values, Vietnam is highly appreciated by the world for its progressive and humanistic values that are being built under the socialist regime. It is a shining symbol of the international spirit and the comradeship of Vietnamese people. More than ever, the kindness, tolerance, respect for love and morality of Vietnamese people continue to be promoted in the establishment of international relations with new values and pure international spirits, for the people around the world.

Vietnamese people always keep good traditional values and are fully capable of absorbing the quintessence of human culture, creatively applying the achievements of the scientific and technological revolution and advanced knowledge on the world to help develop a prosperous and happy country. It is especially important for our country when the financial resources and material resources for our development are still limited, while human resources are extremely rich. Our country is in the golden population period, if human resources can be promoted in a right way, it will be a great power for the development of the country.

Currently, international investors always consider Vietnam as a country with a lot of potentials partly due to that cultural value. Vietnamese people with their qualities have shown a future of strong development. In addition to that, with the right orientations and high determination of the Party, the

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<sup>13</sup> Communist Party of Vietnam: *Documents of the 12<sup>th</sup> National Congress of Deputies*, Office of the Party Central Committee, Hanoi 2016, p.158-159.

Government, and above all, a political institution with a good orientation, leadership and governance, it is absolutely possible for Vietnam to make strong strides in the future, for a prosperous Vietnam.

## CONCLUSION

Vietnam's aspiration is Ho Chi Minh's aspiration, the aspiration for national liberation, the aspiration for development, the desire for prosperity: "The Vietnamese people will definitely become a wise nation", "Socialism in Vietnam is a highly cultural society"... for the nation's will and aspiration to develop and become the internal resources for the development of the country, it is necessary to propagate and affirm the proud achievements that under the leadership of the Party, the entire Party, the whole army, all our people have achieved. Those achievements are also the result of the effective promotion of the will and aspiration to develop the nation. Since then, we have more confidence, more pride, more determination, more basis to affirm the correctness of the development path that our Party and people have chosen - the path of socialist development.

The viewpoint on development aspirations in the Draft Document of the 13th Party Congress shows the creative application and development of Ho Chi Minh's thought into the Party's guidelines and policies to build the country in the new context. It also shows in the best way to fulfill President Ho Chi Minh's aspirations, for a future, good prospects of the nation: Independence, Freedom, Happiness.



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