

## Toast

by President Nguyen Minh Triet at the State Banquet  
hosted by His Majesty Emperor Akihito

Your Majesties the Emperor and Empress,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a great pleasure and honour for me and my wife to be able to visit Your Respected Country, the land of cherry flowers and to be the guest of Your Majesties the Emperor and Empress at this State Banquet in an atmosphere of growingly warm and close relationship between Vietnam and Japan.

On behalf of the State and People of Vietnam, I would like to sincerely thank for the warm reception and keen interest that Your Majesties have shown to the country and people of Vietnam and to the development of relationship of friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and Japan.

Your Majesties the Emperor and Empress,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Vietnam and Japan are both located in Asia, sharing a great amount of cultural similarities and entertaining a long-standing friendship. Almost four centuries ago, many Japanese merchants came to do business in

Vietnam, constructing relics in the town of Hoi an and laying foundations for the two countries' relationship. At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a movement of Dong Du, going to Japan to study the policy of reform has emerged vigorously. The spectacular growth of Your Respected Country in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and nowadays and especially the miracles achieved in the field of economy, science, technology has earned great admiration of our Vietnamese people's admiration. Additionally, our people has long been deeply moved by the kind hearted sentiments and the affection that His Majesty has reserved for the land and people of Vietnam.

In recent years, our multifaceted cooperation and friendship between the two governments and peoples of Vietnam and Japan have rapidly grown in all fields, creating solid grounds for the two countries to move towards a strategic partnership in a spirit of mutual trust, sustainability and mutual benefits.

The Government and people of Vietnam highly appreciate and sincerely thank for the tremendous and efficient assistance extended by the Government and people of Japan to Vietnam's current cause of industrialization and modernization. We always give high priority to our ties with Japan and are ready to do our utmost to move further our bonds, responding to the interests and expectations of the peoples of our two countries, thus contributing to the cause of peace, stability and development in the region and across the world.

Your Majesties the Emperor and Empress,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our two countries are actively preparing for the eventual celebration of the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between Vietnam and Japan. I am fully convinced that this event will constitute an important milestone, marking a new and promising growth in our relations.

With a strong conviction in the bright prospects of development of Your Respected Country, of Vietnam and of our Vietnam-Japan relationship, may I propose a toast:

- To the health of Your Majesties the Emperor and Empress,
- To the prosperity of Japan and to the happiness of the Japanese people,
- To the ever more growing and reinforced relationship of friendship and cooperation of Vietnam and Japan,
- To the health of you all present here tonight,

I wish to thank you, Your Majesties the Emperor and Empress./.