

REMARK

**BY H.E. MR. TRAN DAI QUANG, PRESIDENT OF THE S.R. OF VIET NAM
AT THE STATE BANQUET HOSTED BY
THEIR MAJESTIES THE EMPEROR AND EMPRESS OF JAPAN**

(Tokyo, 30 May 2018)

Your Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My spouse, myself and the Vietnamese high-level delegation are deeply grateful to Your Majesties the Emperor and Empress, the Imperial Family, the Government and the people of Japan for the most hospitable, warm and friendly reception. It is our immense honor to be here with such a large presence of distinguished guests in this magnificently held State Banquet.

We are truly moved by the warm sentiments that Your Majesties reserve for Viet Nam and its people. The wonderful impressions of Your Majesties' historic State visit early 2017 and the two poems Your Majesties composed in thoughts of Viet Nam on the occasion of the 2018 New Year moved the hearts of millions in Viet Nam. They serve as a source of great inspiration for us to advance the enduring cooperation and friendship between our two countries and peoples.

Your Majesties Emperor and Empress,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Viet Nam and Japan are two nations situated in the Orient, and we share a host of similarities in culture and traditions. Since time immemorial the Vietnamese and Japanese people have both made their livings by rice paddy farming and fishing. Both our peoples have polytheistic beliefs and veneration for ancestors and national heroes in their psyches. It is not by coincidence that since those early days the Vietnamese people have considered the Japanese people brothers and sisters of the "same culture, same race, same continent".

The relations between our two countries stemmed from historical, cultural and trade links dating back to the eighth century C.E as the Buddhist monk Phat Triet brought the Lam Ap music to the ancient Capital of Nara. In the 16th century, Japan's Red-Seal Ships came to the port of Hoi An, helping create the first bustling trade centers in Viet Nam. Beautiful symbols of the closeness between the Vietnamese and Japanese peoples are visible in the ancient architectural works first constructed by Japanese merchants in Hoi An, the relics in Pho Hien (Hien Quarter), or the Dong Du movement led by the patriot Phan Boi Chau exhorting our people to learn from the Meiji Restoration, and many others.

Japan is a land beautiful and hospitable, with springs blooming with cherry blossoms, its high-speed Shinkansen trains well known far and wide, and the “Japanese spirit” of its people who always endeavor to advance further. Under the enlightened reign of Their Majesties and the wise leadership of the Japanese Government; the people of the “Land of the Rising Sun” are as diligent, disciplined, dynamic and innovative as ever. All this made the “Japan Miracle” possible, placing Japan as a leading country in the world in economy and science and technology, and the only representative from Asia in the Group of Seven with active contributions to peace, stability, cooperation and development in the region and the world.

The State and people of Viet Nam are elated to witness the tremendous achievements in national building and development by the Japanese State and people in the past years. We are deeply grateful for the companionship, effective and meaningful cooperation, and the invaluable support that the Japanese State and people have accorded to Viet Nam in our national construction, defense and development. For Viet Nam today, Japan is truly a trusted friend and leading partner. The Viet Nam – Japan Extensive Strategic Partnership is growing ever stronger, more comprehensive, more substantive, and more effective.

*Your Majesties Emperor and Empress,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

As I pay this State visit to Japan with the accompanying of my spouse and the high-level delegation, our two countries are organizing diverse activities in commemoration of the 45th anniversary of the establishment of our diplomatic ties. We are delighted to see the excellent, effective, substantive and rapid growth across all areas of the Viet Nam – Japan relations. Presently, Japan is the largest ODA provider and fourth largest bilateral trade partner of Viet Nam. In 2017, Japan became the largest foreign investor into Viet Nam, with a record investment worth \$9.1 billion, four times the figure of 2016. People-to-people exchange between our two countries has been growing steadily. 260,000 Vietnamese nationals are currently living, studying or working in Japan, and nearly 20,000 Japanese nationals work in Viet Nam.

During this visit to Japan, I will hold talks with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and meet with representatives of the political, economic, cultural, and scientific circles to discuss the major direction and measures aimed at elevating bilateral relations to a new stage of development with higher efficacy and added substances in all areas. This will be done in response to the aspirations of the leaders and people of our two countries, and for the peace, stability, cooperation and development in the region and the world.

In this atmosphere of warm friendship between our two peoples, I would like to propose a toast:

- *To the good health of Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan!*

- *To the prosperity of Japan and the happiness of its people!*

- *To the ever-growing and flourishing friendship and cooperation between Viet Nam and Japan*

- *To the good health of all present here today.*

Thank you for your kind attention./.