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*Happy
New Year*
2025



**CREATING BREAKTHROUGHS IN ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY
TO ACHIEVE DOUBLE-DIGIT GROWTH**

BAC GIANG: EFFORTS TO BECOME INDUSTRIAL AND MODERN PROVINCE

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2025

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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- 7 Providing legal advice and representing for settlement of appeals, disputes of IPRs
- 8 Providing legal advice and representing for settlement of IPRs infringement and anti-counterfeits in Vietnam and foreign countries
- 9 Providing legal services and representing for Recordal of license/assignment of IPRs and technology transfer



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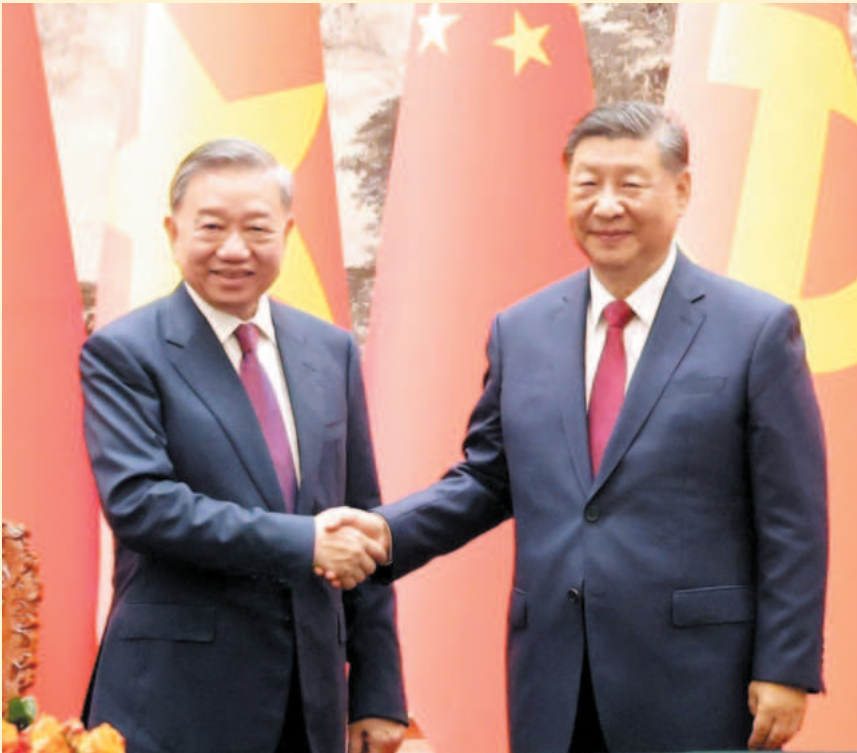
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CREATING BREAKTHROUGHS IN ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY TO ACHIEVE DOUBLE-DIGIT GROWTH



August 19, 2024 - General Secretary of the Communist Party of China and President of China Xi Jinping (R) welcomes Vietnamese General Secretary and President To Lam

Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh recently presided over a meeting with ambassadors and leaders of Vietnamese representative agencies abroad to evaluate 2024's economic diplomacy outcomes and outline tasks for 2025, aiming to drive breakthrough growth.

BINH MINH

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, economic diplomacy has actively helped realize the directions of the Government and the Prime Minister on renewing traditional growth drivers and promoting new growth drivers.

In 2024, nearly 60 foreign affairs activities led by senior Party and State leaders prioritized economic matters, yielding tangible and substantive outcomes. Highlights included the Prime Minister's visits to India, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, the UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Hungary, Romania, the

Dominican Republic, China, and Russia. Over 170 cooperation agreements were signed during these high-level diplomatic engagements.

Vietnam's foreign relations continued to be expanded, upgraded and elevated. The country promoted the renewal of traditional growth drivers in trade, investment, tourism and labor with major markets and key investment partners, especially in Northeast Asia, America, India, the Middle East, China, South Korea and Japan. Economic diplomacy, especially technology diplomacy, semiconductor diplomacy and innovation diplomacy, was boosted with key partners and giant corporations.

Particularly, leading global corporations such as Apple, Intel, Google, NVIDIA, Samsung, LG, Cadence, Qorvo, Marvell, and Siemens have significantly invested in and expanded their partnerships with Vietnam. To date, Apple has completed transferring 11 audiovisual equipment manufacturing factories to Vietnam. Intel has expanded the second phase of its chip testing facility in Ho Chi Minh City. Google is expanding skills training in Vietnam to enhance AI cooperation.

NVIDIA signed a cooperation agreement with the Vietnamese government to establish its Artificial Intelligence Research and Development Center and AI Data Center in Vietnam. Following Samsung's R&D Center, LG also planned to open its third R&D center in Vietnam.

Regarding markets with much room for growth such as Latin America, the Middle East, Africa and Central Eastern Europe, Vietnam has fostered economic diplomacy with important partners such as Chile, Argentina, Peru, Hungary, Romania, the UAE and Qatar to promote new directions like developing the Halal industry.

With 17 FTAs signed, Vietnam has aggressively implemented these agreements while proactively addressing market barriers to accelerate economic recovery and drive export growth. The country has focused on removing technical obstacles in implementing EVFTA, pushing EU members on the adoption of the Vietnam-EU Investment Protection Agreement (EVIPA) and the removal of the IUU yellow card against Vietnamese seafood, and mobilizing the US to lift Vietnam out of the D1-D3 group and soon recognize Vietnam as a market economy.

Trade with established and emerging markets in the Middle East and Latin America has experienced significant growth. Vietnam has actively advanced Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations with the Southern Common Market





Vietnamese President Luong Cuong at the 31st APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Lima, Peru, November 2024

Economic diplomacy - a new important driving force

Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh commended the success of economic diplomacy, highlighting it as a bright spot in foreign affairs and a vital contributor to Vietnam's socioeconomic development in 2024. All 15 targets were met or surpassed, including about 7% GDP growth, an 11-month FDI increase of 12.4% to US\$31.4 billion, record-high FDI disbursement of US\$21.7 billion, and a total import-export trade value of around US\$800 billion.

Economic diplomacy has truly become a key content in all foreign affairs, especially high-level events. There has been a change in thinking and working methods

☞ (MERCOSUR), the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) and the ASEAN-Canada FTA.

However, economic diplomacy has still posed certain shortcomings: Not taking full advantage of relations elevation with partners, incommensurate economic cooperation with some strategic areas in comparison with the cooperation framework, slowing implementation of commitments and agreements in some places, slow and passive research, forecast and consultation on development movements in some cases.

During the meeting, delegates reviewed and evaluated the current landscape, examined underlying causes, drew key lessons, and proposed innovative solutions to enhance trade and investment cooperation. Their focus was on attracting greater investment inflows to Vietnam, expanding import and export markets, and boosting trade turnover. They also discussed how to foster technology transfer, acquire experience in institutional improvement, attract human resources and adopt management science. In particular, they proposed the need to connect and encourage Vietnamese companies to invest abroad to bring their products and brands to the outside world.

Delegates proposed upholding economic diplomacy in high-level diplomatic events; establishing mechanisms to accelerate the implementation of high-level commitments and agreements; and making breakthroughs in economic, trade, investment and labor relations as well as new growth drivers like science and technology, innovation, green economy, digital economy, and especially emerging industries like artificial intelligence, semiconductors, internet of things and cloud computing.

toward a more positive, substantive and effective direction, which has effectively contributed to the implementation of strategic breakthroughs. Economic diplomacy has been institutionalized and systematized and it has reached the consensus and engaged the participation of the entire political system as well as the close coordination of central and local levels.

Reviewing 700 economic diplomacy, trade, investment and tourism promotion activities launched by Vietnamese representative agencies abroad and more than 400 trade and investment promotion activities in domestic and foreign localities with diverse, rich and flexible forms, Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh stated that economic diplomacy has been increasingly substantial and methodical, characterized by clear results, clear products and clear contributions to the country's socioeconomic development.

Some measurable and quantitative specific results include attracting chip manufacturers to Vietnam, especially NVIDIA; expanding agricultural export markets and obtaining all-time high agricultural export value; boosting strong tourism development, followed by aviation development; and expanding big trade surplus. Partners' trust has been enhanced and high-level cooperation momentum has been unleashed more effectively by central agencies and businesses. Many new markets have been tapped like the Middle East, Halal markets and South America.

International development is expected to become increasingly complicated, offering both opportunities and challenges, in which the challenges remain outstanding, he said. Therefore, it is necessary to have high determination,



Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Heads of delegations at the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit, Melbourne, Australia, March 2024



Chairman of the National Assembly Tran Thanh Man meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Hanoi, June 2024

great effort, drastic and focused actions to make breakthroughs in economic diplomacy.

In particular, the year 2025 marks a period of acceleration to achieve all development goals set for 2021-2025. It will also focus on streamlining organizational structures, commemorating important national anniversaries, and effectively conducting Party Congresses at all levels, paving the way for the 14th National Party Congress - a milestone ushering in a new era of national development.

To realize the goal of attaining upper middle income status by 2030 and high income by 2045, Vietnam's economic growth must reach 8% in 2025 and secure double-digit growth in the

upcoming development period.

He requested that economic diplomacy must contribute more to achieving this goal; central and local agencies must all make efforts to work harder for more significant outcomes. "With the Party's direction, the Government's consensus, the National Assembly's approval, the people's support, and the Fatherland's expectations, our focus is solely on advancing and delivering results, not retreating".

The Prime Minister requested that economic diplomacy focus on pushing up the signing of legal frameworks such as FTAs, IPAs and CEPAs. He emphasized the need to assess potential gaps, unique opportunities, and competitive advantages of Vietnam and its partners to identify areas for

cooperation, mutual supplementation, and competition. Economic diplomacy must also boost the connection between Vietnamese companies and foreign partners.

Pointing out that economic diplomacy is a new important driving force, he called for renewing traditional growth drivers such as exports, investment, and consumption, while fostering new drivers like the green, digital, circular, knowledge, sharing, and night economies, focusing on building brands for Vietnamese products and services, enhancing trade and investment, developing sustainable competitive markets, and diversifying products, markets, and supply chains. ■

NEW GROWTH DRIVERS FOR GREATER SUCCESS IN 2025

The Government, central agencies, and localities have worked diligently to achieve economic growth targets while placing a strong emphasis on planning for 2025.

DUY ANH

Accelerating public investment disbursement

In 2024, Vietnam experienced many economic breakthroughs, starting with the radical leadership of the Party, State, and Government, particularly in addressing challenges related to public investment disbursement. Export growth also saw strong momentum, surpassing 2023 levels.

Second, investment capital flows, particularly foreign direct investment (FDI), showed promising signs of recovery. FDI disbursement reached over US\$21 billion in the past 11 months.

The biggest nuisance remained investment capital disbursement. The disbursement rate of State-invested fund in the January-November period reached only 73.5% of the 2024 plan. A range of solutions are being executed by central and local agencies to accelerate towards the finish line. Achieving the yearly target is challenging, but localities, particularly areas like Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, pledged to speed up the progress to fulfill the disbursement plan.

In Resolution 233/NQ-CP of its recent regular meeting, the Government requested continued priority to accelerate growth alongside maintaining macroeconomic stability, curbing inflation and ensuring major economic balances so as to achieve the best possible socioeconomic development plan of 2024 and create momentum for acceleration and breakthrough development in 2025 when its target growth is 8%.

Regarding the work to be implemented till early 2025, Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh said that we must tackle three major tasks simultaneously, including several challenging, complex, and sensitive ones: rapidly advancing toward the target; streamlining the organizational structure for greater effectiveness, and efficiency while restructuring and enhancing the quality of public employees; and reviewing the achievements of 2024 while developing an action plan for 2025.

He clearly reiterated the goal of completing all the 15 targets. He emphasized the need to sustain the acceleration and momentum to achieve an 8% growth rate in 2025, laying the foundation, strength, and positioning for double-digit growth during the 2026-2030 period.

He requested the State Bank of Vietnam (SBV) to work with central agencies and localities to actively track global and local economic developments to have adaptive and accommodative monetary policies.

The SBV was told to direct credit institutions to proactively mobilize and balance capital sources to meet year-end credit demand of companies and consumers and channel credit into manufacturing and business sectors, prioritized industries and economic growth drivers, and strictly control credit for risk-on sectors.

8% GDP growth for 2025

Regarding the 2025 target, the National Assembly (NA) approved a resolution on the socioeconomic development plan, setting an economic growth target of 6.5-7%. Central agencies and localities aim for 7-7.5%, while the Prime Minister has set a more ambitious target of 8% growth for 2025.

With respect to the 8% GDP growth target, NA member Nguyen Thi Viet Nga (Hai Duong delegation) said that Vietnam has a lot of opportunities to achieve it. Exports are expected to extend growth, driven by free trade agreements (FTAs), especially new-generation ones. The government is also focusing on high-quality FDI flows into new industries (e.g. semiconductors and artificial intelligence). Digital transformation and artificial intelligence (AI) will be important growth drivers.

Regarding this growth target, Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment Tran Quoc Phuong said that many new factors with fundamental changes, especially institutional changes, were adopted by the National Assembly at the 8th plenary session where many laws were passed.

"These laws will take effect from the beginning of 2025 and they are expected to stimulate growth by unleashing longstanding stagnant resources to spur growth in 2025," he added. ■



Vietnam's total import-export turnover in 2024 has reached a record high of about US\$800 billion - a milestone in the country's economic achievements

Shaping Sustainable and Growing Future for Vietnam-U.S. Cooperation



Vietnam-U.S. relations reached a milestone in 2023 with the official elevation of their bilateral ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership for peace, cooperation, and sustainable development. In 2025, the two countries will mark the 30th anniversary of their diplomatic relations. To learn more about new business cooperation opportunities, Business Forum Magazine conducted an interview with U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam Marc E. Knapper.

CAM ANH

What do you think about the current state of U.S.-Vietnam relations, particularly following the upgrade to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership? How do you envision this relationship in the future?

The bilateral relationship is developing at its best ever. When our leaders met in September 2023, the two countries

upgraded the relationship to the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Over the past 15 months, this partnership has ushered in a new era of cooperation, marked by many achievements.

Looking at the activities and efforts that they have undertaken in many different areas, irrespective of health cooperation, energy cooperation or security cooperation, these are all fundamental strategic issues reflecting a well-coordinated approach, with both countries planning, collaborating, and advancing together.

The Vietnam-U.S. trade relationship has kept growing. The two countries have promoted cooperation in semiconductor and high technology and expanded cooperation with U.S. and Vietnamese partners. In addition, we have advanced cooperation in semiconductor training, leveraging educational and teaching programs to help Vietnam cultivate a highly skilled workforce of engineers, computer scientists and IT professionals.

In the defense sector, the U.S. has also transferred T6 training aircraft to Vietnam and joined the 2nd Vietnam International

Defense Expo.

Obviously, the two nations are currently carrying out cooperation in many fields. This is a testament to good and strong bilateral ties since they became comprehensive strategic partners.

Many cooperation initiatives are set to unfold in the coming time, particularly in 2025, as the two countries celebrate the 30th anniversary of Vietnam-U.S. diplomatic relations. We are also looking forward to new achievements in bilateral cooperation ties in the future.

It seems that trade and economy are key to bilateral relations. In which areas do you think the two countries will strengthen cooperation in the coming time?

I think education is a great example. Vietnam-U.S. education cooperation is growing, specifically through cooperation programs such as Peace Corps which have supported Americans to teach English in Hanoi.

We witnessed the swearing-in ceremony of the third course of volunteers of the Peace Corps Program in Vietnam. This is also the newest and largest course of volunteers to Vietnam, with 20 volunteers, 12 of whom will work in Ho Chi Minh City and eight will teach in schools in Hanoi.

This not only demonstrates the U.S. commitment to cooperation with Vietnam in education and training but also constitutes a crucial element in Vietnam-U.S. cooperation in this field. I expect that this event will provide an opportunity to bring U.S. educational programs and English teaching





September 25, 2024 - Vietnamese General Secretary and President To Lam and U.S. President Joe Biden hold talks in New York in September 2024 during his visit to the United States for the UN Summit of the Future and the high-level week of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly

experiences to Vietnam.

Peace Corps volunteers will stay in Vietnam for two years. In addition to teaching English, they will build bridges to connect and further enhance mutual understanding between the two countries while promoting relationships with local communities and people in Vietnam.

I fully expect that as the U.S. continues to beef up its efforts to cooperate with Vietnam to build an innovative high-tech economy, we will see more U.S. universities and research institutions coming to Vietnam. That will be a very interesting story in the coming years.

What activities will the U.S. Embassy hold to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Vietnam-U.S. diplomatic relations?

I am very proud of 30-year achievements and development in Vietnam-U.S. bilateral relationship. It seems that everything has just begun, and 2025 will provide an opportunity for both countries to reflect on their accomplishments and chart a promising course for the future.

We are preparing many activities for 2025 and are actively planning initiatives for the year. Many high-level official U.S. delegations and business delegations are expected to visit Vietnam and vice versa.



VinFast, a member of Vingroup, officially debuted on the Nasdaq Stock Market, the U.S., August 2023

Additionally, the U.S. Embassy is collaborating with the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations, and we will have some activities in Hanoi, Da Nang, Ho Chi Minh City, Can Tho and other cities. The U.S. Embassy in Vietnam expects to have friendship festivals similar to the program organized at the Thang Long Imperial Citadel, and a wide variety of other activities. We will also coordinate with some



Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh (third from left) and U.S. President Joe Biden (second from left) attend the Vietnam-U.S. high-level conference on innovation and investment in Hanoi, September 2023

universities to organize seminars and conferences next year as well as some new investment promotion activities.

In the period ahead, we look forward to cooperating with Vietnam across many sectors, including trade, investment,

health, security and education. We look forward to being a long-term partner of Vietnam.

Thank you very much!

Trade:

- The U.S. is currently Vietnam's second-largest trading partner and its largest export market, accounting for nearly 30% of Vietnam's total exports. Conversely, Vietnam ranks as the 8th largest trading partner of the U.S., the largest partner within the ASEAN region, and the 6th largest merchandise import market for the U.S.

- Bilateral trade value has risen by an average of 16% a year. The two-way trade value hit a record of US\$110.8 billion in 2023 and continued to grow strongly in 2024, with US\$112 billion in the first 10 months.

- For the first time, the U.S. has become the largest export market for Vietnamese agricultural, forest and aquatic products, with US\$12.3 billion in 11 months of 2024.

Investment:

- The U.S. is the 11th largest foreign investor out of 108 countries investing in Vietnam. As of October 2024, the country had 1,400 valid FDI projects in Vietnam with a total registered capital of nearly US\$12 billion

- Vietnam has invested in 230 projects in the United

States, with nearly US\$1.3 billion in registered capital. The U.S. ranks 7th among the 80 countries and territories where Vietnam has made investments.

- Vietnam is an important link in the U.S. global supply chain while U.S. businesses and investors have made great contributions to Vietnam's economic development and transformation.

- In 2023 and 2024, many major U.S. companies, including Boeing, Nike, ExxonMobil, Amazon, Marriott, Coca-Cola, Google, Facebook, and Netflix, visited Vietnam and committed to expanding their operations and increasing investments in the country.

- Many Vietnamese companies such as FPT and Vinfest are also expanding their investments in the U.S. and yielding mutual benefits for both sides.

In 2024, high-level contacts and delegation exchanges continued to be actively promoted. Both sides maintained regular dialogues to strengthen cooperation and explore opportunities for expanding collaboration into new areas, all aimed at fostering prosperity for their people.

VIETNAM-ARGENTINA TOWARD STRONGER TRADE TIES



Argentine Ambassador Marcos A. Bednarski at the press briefing highlighting the initial activities of his tenure

At a press briefing highlighting the initial activities of his tenure, Argentine Ambassador Marcos A. Bednarski emphasized the strong Vietnam-Argentina bilateral relationship and future cooperation opportunities. Vietnam Business Forum presents excerpts from Ambassador Bednarski's remarks during the meeting.

“We are very pleased with Vietnam-Argentina bilateral relationship. Last year, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations and, in 2010, the two countries also established a comprehensive partnership that we hope will soon be upgraded to a strategic partnership,” he said.

During the 50th celebratory anniversary, Argentina was honored to welcome the Chairman of the National Assembly of Vietnam, and our Foreign Minister paid a working visit to Vietnam in March.

In 2024, Argentina also received many high-level delegations of Hanoi City and the Communist Party of Vietnam. We hope that bilateral contacts will continue to be beefed up in the coming time and that 2025 will be a very intense year in bilateral exchanges.

Regarding bilateral trade, 2023 was unfortunately not a favorable year because we had to face a historic drought, which seriously affected our production.

In 2023, Argentina's exports to Vietnam declined by 35% year-on-year to US\$ 2.093 billion, while Vietnam's exports to Argentina increased by 12% to approximately US\$1.4 billion. Consequently, Argentina recorded a trade surplus of nearly US\$700 million with Vietnam.

From January to October 2024, Argentina exported US\$2.766



HAPPY NEW YEAR  2025

Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Bui Thanh Son meets with Argentina's Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade, and Worship Diana Elena Mondino to discuss strengthening the bilateral partnership

billion to Vietnam, up 47% year on year, while the country, in return, imported US\$596 million from Vietnam, down nearly 50%, mainly due to slowing Argentine economic growth.

From January to October 2024, the two-way trade balance tilted toward Argentina with a surplus of US\$2.17 billion. On this point, I have always said that the larger the bilateral trade surplus for Argentina is, the greater the benefit for the Vietnamese economy is. Our economies are complementary, and Argentina basically exports inputs needed for Vietnam's industries. For example, an Argentine company recently opened a tannery near Ho Chi Minh City, which is a significant investment. This company imports leather from Argentina for processing at its factory in Vietnam and hires Vietnamese workers. Its products are inputs for Vietnamese footwear manufacturers whose footwear is exported abroad.

Obviously, our bilateral trade benefits both countries. Argentina mainly exports two products to Vietnam: animal feed and corn, accounting for 93% of its shipments to Vietnam. Other products are leather, seafood, pharmaceuticals, wine and beef. We import phones, electronic equipment, footwear and textile products from Vietnam. Argentina's shipments to Vietnam are mainly raw materials or semi-processed products, while Vietnam ships products with high added value to Argentina.

The two-way trade potential is crucial, and this is a focus that we are also working hard on. Vietnam is Argentina's third largest trading partner in the Asia-Pacific region, after China and India, and our eighth largest trading partner globally.

I am confident that the trade cooperation between the two countries will be very successful. For example, October trade data showed that Vietnam's imports from Argentina soared 185% from the corresponding period of 2023, while in the opposite direction, Vietnam's October exports to Argentina also jumped 7.4%, also a very positive result.

In my opinion, we are currently negotiating an extension of the investment agreement that will allow both countries' businesses to invest with greater

incentives.

We are also discussing a double taxation avoidance agreement, which will also allow businesses of both countries to pay taxes in only one country.

We are also negotiating an aviation services agreement to connect Vietnam and Argentina directly in the coming time.

As I said, Argentina's bilateral trade focuses mainly on some products. We are discussing market access to diversify a range of Argentine products allowed to be exported to Vietnam.

For quite some time now, the two countries have debated opening the Vietnamese market to Argentine pork and citrus fruits. We hope that these negotiations will soon yield a good outcome.

Which areas do I think we should focus on in the coming time and diversify our bilateral agenda?

I believe that biotechnology is an area where Argentina has a lot of potential, and we can cooperate with Vietnam in this area.

We also apply high technology to agriculture in which Argentina has made many achievements, and we are ready to share our experiences.

Energy provides vast room for cooperation, especially since Argentina has significant oil and gas reserves and lithium ores, enabling energy transition towards building a green economy.

The Argentine mining industry has received important investments in Argentina to extract copper, nickel, silver and gold, and we expect significant growth in Argentine mineral exports to Vietnam.

Our Embassy's 2025 agenda will also be very active. On April 17, 2025, we will celebrate the Malbec World Day. Malbec is a famous wine of Argentina. And we will have promotional activities in major cities such as Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and possibly Da Nang.

We also have many plans to sponsor Tango dance. In our meetings with local authorities, I asked their leaders to support the initiative to include the Tango dance in cultural exchanges in these cities.

And we will also promote many bilateral trade delegations. We recently had a delegation of eight Argentine companies to participate in Vietnam FoodExpo in Ho Chi Minh City and we hoped that more companies will attend next year.

Also in this trade activity, there was an important connection between Viettel and an Argentine company. Consequently, the Argentine company will start buying fiber optic cables for Internet in Argentina. This is another example that shows us the value of diversifying commercial products and the added value of Vietnamese industry that is good for our country." ■

Turning ESG Challenges into Opportunities

Amid global sustainable development and ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) standards, Vietnamese businesses face challenges and opportunities. Mr. Nguyen Quang Vinh, Vice President of Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) and Chairman of the Vietnam Business Council for Sustainable Development (VBCSD), shared insights on overcoming barriers and seizing opportunities in ESG implementation.

HUONG LY



Why is ESG now a mandatory trend for businesses, and what opportunities can Vietnamese businesses capitalize on by advancing ESG initiatives?

Looking at global trends, it becomes clear why ESG has become essential for businesses. The European Union is leading the way with regulations like the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), which expands ESG reporting requirements to over 50,000 companies, along with frameworks such as the EU Taxonomy and Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD) that shape sustainable economies and ensure accountability across global supply chains. In the United States, ESG has been strongly driven by investor demand, with the proportion of large listed companies publishing ESG reports reaching 100% by 2022. Despite ongoing debates, regulations from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and laws in states like California are reinforcing transparency and sustainable management.

Asian countries like Japan and China, and ASEAN are rapidly adopting ESG standards, creating pressure and opening up opportunities for Vietnamese businesses. ESG practices help build credibility, attract green investments, optimize costs, and meet the growing demand for sustainable products. ESG supports risk management, fosters an inclusive and cohesive work environment, and promotes community development, ensuring sustainable and long-term growth. This is the key for Vietnamese businesses to achieve deeper integration and assert their position in the international market.

How do you assess the current state of ESG practices among Vietnamese businesses?

Vietnam has made significant progress in ESG with strong commitments from the government. At COP26 in 2021, Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh pledged to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, laying the foundation for the country's sustainable development strategy. Policies, such as Circular

96/2020/TT-BTC, Decision 167/QĐ-TTg, Circular 13/2023/TT-BKHĐT, and Resolution 136/NQ-CP promote transparency and support sustainable business practices.

Resolution 136/NQ-CP and other legal documents emphasize the Corporate Sustainability Index (CSI), developed by VCCI, as an effective governance tool integrating ESG criteria. Regulations in the Securities Law, Decree 155/2020/ND-CP, the Environmental Protection Law, and the Labor Law mandate the disclosure of ESG-related indicators, creating a supportive and enabling environment for effective ESG implementation.

ESG awareness in Vietnam's business community has improved, but significant challenges remain. The 2024 "Assessment of Sustainable Business Practices Based on the ESG Framework" report by the Ministry of Planning and Investment and USAID shows 39% of businesses are unaware of ESG, and 62% lack clarity on related policies. Large enterprises lead in ESG adoption, while 26-30% of SMEs have started implementing ESG practices but need significant support to improve effectiveness.

Among the three ESG pillars, businesses perform best in the Social pillar (68%), followed by Governance (63%) and Environment (52%). Implementation levels generally increase with company size, as larger enterprises leverage their stronger resources to comply with and adopt ESG standards effectively, whereas smaller businesses face limitations in resources and capabilities.

I believe these figures accurately reflect the state of ESG adoption in Vietnamese businesses, even though progress remains slower compared to the global level. ESG investments are concentrated among multinational corporations, listed companies and consumer goods enterprises, driven by international pressures and market demand. However, with government support, green financing and the rising trend of sustainable consumption, ESG in Vietnam presents significant opportunities for growth.



VCCI has implemented many initiatives to support businesses in integrating ESG principles into their operations
In the photo: Most sustainable companies are honored with the CSI Awards 2024, a program initiated and developed by VBCSD-VCCI

What are the primary challenges that Vietnamese businesses face in implementing ESG practices, and what key recommendations have they proposed to enhance their effectiveness?

Surveys show Vietnamese businesses face key ESG challenges: lack of information, limited training programs, and no specific government support. They also struggle with securing investment, hiring specialized staff, and meeting ESG disclosure requirements.

To overcome these difficulties, businesses have proposed several priority recommendations to improve ESG practices. The top three concerns include having clear guidelines for ESG application, access to green loans from the government or other organizations, and tax reductions or exemptions for those committed to clear ESG objectives. These suggestions highlight the pressing need for transparent information and financial support to enable businesses to fully adopt ESG practices. These are both practical and essential recommendations.

What factors should businesses prioritize when implementing ESG practices?

ESG priorities should be tailored flexibly to the industry, scale, resources, and expectations of stakeholders. Businesses must focus on transparent and accountable governance, compliance with laws and international standards, and effective risk management with clear response plans. In terms of the environment, emphasis should be placed on reducing emissions, utilizing renewable energy, managing waste, and ensuring sustainable resource management. In the social pillar, developing human resources, promoting diversity and inclusion, maintaining community relations and supporting local economic growth are essential.

More importantly, businesses should adopt the principle of

"double materiality" when setting goals, ensuring benefits both for the organization (business efficiency, risk management) and society (addressing urgent environmental and social issues). This approach not only optimizes resources but also creates long-term and sustainable value.

What initiatives has VCCI implemented to help businesses integrate ESG into their operations?

VCCI has consistently taken the lead in promoting sustainable production and business practices. To achieve green transformation and the Net Zero target, VCCI has been actively driving comprehensive change through policy recommendations, facilitating domestic and international trade connections, and developing and disseminating key indices such as the Provincial Green Index (PGI), the Sustainable Industrial Park Index (SIP Index), and especially the Corporate Sustainability Index (CSI).

Launched in 2016, the CSI serves as an effective governance tool, enabling Vietnamese businesses to incorporate ESG into their sustainable development strategies. Annually updated to align with legal changes and international standards, the CSI helps businesses self-assess, optimize operations, and develop effective action plans. VCCI also organizes the annual Sustainable Business Evaluation and Announcement Program, recognizing outstanding businesses in fields like circular economy, emission reduction, and promoting diversity and inclusion.

These efforts have been recognized by the Government, with the CSI being integrated into key policies such as Directive 13/CT-TTg, Decision 1362/QĐ-TTg and Resolution 136/NQ-CP. On an international scale, the CSI has become a legacy project of the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN BAC), elevating the global standing of Vietnamese enterprises.

Thank you very much!

Vietnam Business Council for Sustainable Development (VBCSD)



Sustainable Business, Prosperous Societies

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EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR POSITIVE SOCIAL IMPACT

As ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) practices become essential for sustainable development, businesses are increasingly recognizing the importance of Social and Governance factors, alongside the traditional focus on Environmental issues.

HUONG GIANG

Addressing the Social factor, Mr. Nguyen Tien Huy, Director of the Vietnam Business Council for Sustainable Development (VBCSD) under the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI), emphasized that integrating Social factors into ESG strategies offers both financial and non-financial benefits to businesses. VBCSD-VCCI has actively encouraged Vietnamese companies to focus on Social considerations through various initiatives. A key example is the inclusion of diversity, equity and inclusion (DE&I) in the Corporate Sustainability Index (CSI). This index helps Vietnamese businesses adopt sustainable governance practices and assess their performance in the Program on Benchmarking and Announcing Sustainable Companies in Vietnam, led by VCCI since 2016.

According to Mr. Huy, VBCSD has created a category in the CSI Program to recognize companies that consistently support DE&I values. Training, workshops and the Vietnam Corporate Sustainability Forum (VCSF) organized by VCCI regularly focus on women's empowerment, social capital and DE&I.

He also commended the efforts of Nestlé and the Vietnam Women's Union through the "Nestlé Accompanies Women" Program, empowering women in rural areas, promoting gender equality, improving quality of life, and realizing the nation's sustainable development goals.

Ms. Truong Thi Thu Thuy, Head of the Family and Social Affairs Department of the Vietnam Women's Union, emphasized the role of the Vietnam Women's Union in promoting gender equality and empowering women. She highlighted the collaboration with Nestlé Vietnam through the "Nestlé Accompanies Women" program, which aims to enhance women's knowledge, skills in accessing and applying digital technology, and

earning additional income to improve their family's quality of life.

Soc Trang province, one of 18 provinces and cities participating in the "Nestlé Accompanies Women" program, has achieved impressive results. Ms. Tran Thi Kim Phuong, Vice Chairwoman of the Women's Union in Soc Trang province, stated: "Through the activities under the 'Nestlé Accompanies Women' program, many 'Nest Sisters' have gained valuable knowledge about nutrition, the application of information technology and opportunities to start entrepreneurial ventures, leading to a stable source of income. On average, each 'Nest Sister' earns between VND1,000,000 and VND2,500,000 per month, contributing to improving the quality of life for members, women and local residents in the area."

As a pioneer in ESG practices with consistent commitments to sustainable development, Nestlé has implemented many programs to fulfill these commitments. Mr. Khuat Quang Hung, Director of External Affairs and Communications at Nestlé Vietnam, stated: "With a shared value approach, Nestlé Vietnam consistently aligns its business development goals with the growth and prosperity of the community. Over nearly three decades of operation in Vietnam, we have continuously strived to empower women, especially by enhancing their capabilities across the entire value chain. Through our collaboration with the Vietnam Women's Union, we aim to create positive impacts on the lives and status of Vietnamese women while contributing to the overarching goals of gender equality and promoting diversity, equity and inclusion in Vietnam."

Mr. Pham Hoang Hai, Head of Partnerships at the Secretariat of VBCSD, clarified the distinctions between CSV (Creating Shared Value), CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility), and ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance). CSR focuses on philanthropy and compliance, ESG on governance and risk management, while CSV integrates social benefits into core business operations.

Mr. Hai also highlighted that the CSV model encompasses fundamental principles such as redefining products and markets, restructuring the value chain, and fostering local industry clusters. However, in Vietnam, the implementation of CSV faces several challenges, including limited awareness, inadequate infrastructure, insufficient resources, and a lack of clear and robust policy frameworks. To address these issues, he proposed strengthening communication to raise awareness of CSV within the business community, developing practical government support policies, and promoting public-private partnerships as well as collaborations between businesses and social organizations to scale the CSV model in the future. ■

VIETNAM'S EXPORTS

Bright Spot of 2024

In 2024, despite global uncertainties, Vietnam's exports remain a bright spot thanks to measures addressing challenges, supporting production, promoting trade and expanding markets. Recognized as one of the fastest-growing exporters from 2019-2023, Vietnam ranks 23rd among the world's top 30 exporting economies, according to the WTO. The Sputnik has also hailed Vietnam as the "economic star" of the Asia-Pacific region.

HUONG LY

Export milestone

As of December 14, Vietnam's total trade turnover reached US\$745.38 billion, up 15.3% from 2023. Exports were US\$384.4 billion (up 14.46%), imports totaled US\$360.98 billion (up 16.32%), resulting in a trade surplus of US\$23.42 billion.

According to the General Department of Vietnam Customs, the robust recovery and growth in goods trade are expected to push total trade turnover for 2024 beyond US\$782 billion, with a projected trade surplus of US\$23.53 billion.

By the end of November 2024, export turnover from the agriculture, forestry and fishery sectors was estimated at US\$35.5 billion, up 20.6% year-on-year. This remarkable growth was largely driven by high global prices, with several commodities recording significant increases. Pepper exports surged by 46.2%, coffee by 35.4%, and fruits and vegetables by 27.4%, solidifying Vietnam's strong position in the global agricultural market.

The manufacturing sector continues to be the pillar of Vietnam's exports, accounting for nearly 85% of total export turnover with a growth rate of 14.3%. Key products such as computers, electronic components, and machinery not only achieved high growth but also reinforced Vietnam's role in the global supply chain, showcasing its competitiveness and critical position in the manufacturing industry. Meanwhile, the mineral fuel group experienced a 4.9% decline, a rare downside in the export outlook.

Domestic enterprises recorded an impressive growth rate of 20%, surpassing the 12.4% growth of foreign direct investment (FDI) enterprises. The share of export turnover by domestic firms also increased from 26.8% to 28%, signaling improved production capacity and market access for local businesses.

Vietnam's export turnover in 2024 showed strong recovery across most major markets. As of November 30, the United States remained the largest export market, with turnover reaching US\$98.4 billion, representing nearly 30% of total exports and a 24.2% increase from the previous year. The European Union recorded US\$47.3 billion, up 18.1%, while South Korea and Japan saw growth of 8.7% and 4.8%, respectively. In contrast, exports to China declined slightly by

0.9%, reflecting stagnation in domestic demand.

Vietnam has signed and implemented 17 Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) with major global partners. Next-generation FTAs like the EVFTA and CPTPP have boosted export growth, sustained a trade surplus, and reinforced Vietnam's key role in the global supply chain.

New momentum

While Vietnam's export sector has achieved remarkable milestones, the disparity between the domestic economy and FDI enterprises remains significant. FDI enterprises currently account for 71.9% of total export turnover, maintaining a dominant role, while the domestic sector contributes only 28.1%.

Vietnam's exports mainly consist of low-value raw materials with weak branding, limiting competitiveness and sustainable growth. To thrive, businesses must invest in technology, build strong brands, and focus on high-value products. Digital transformation, process optimization and workforce development are essential for enhancing competitiveness in a more integrated market.

To boost exports, businesses should explore untapped markets like the Middle East, South America and Africa, which offer significant growth potential. The halal market is also emerging as a promising opportunity due to rising global demand. Additionally, leveraging major distribution channels such as Saigon Coop, AEON, and Central Retail can help Vietnamese products reach international consumers more effectively.

To support exporters, authorities should focus on building a national brand, diversifying products, improving the investment environment, enhancing infrastructure and promoting a green economy. Maximizing FTAs, expanding markets, strengthening official trade channels and fostering sustainable branding are essential for driving export growth. The Ministry of Industry and Trade aims to leverage existing FTAs, pursue new ones, diversify import-export products, strengthen supply chains, and tap into untapped markets while building strong national brands to ensure sustainable export growth.

In parallel, the ministry plans to innovate trade promotion activities and refine trade defense regulations to protect domestic businesses from international barriers. These measures aim to provide effective support for export industries in tackling global challenges. Together, these initiatives promise to lay a solid foundation for the continued growth of Vietnam's export sector. ■



Vietnam's textile and garment export turnover is expected to reach nearly US\$44 billion, securing the second position globally, just behind India

Successful Year of FDI Attraction

In 2024, foreign direct investment (FDI) in Vietnam experienced sustained growth, with significant contributions from the technology, electronics and semiconductor manufacturing sectors. This capital flow is forecast to extend its positive pace in 2025 and beyond. Given challenging externalities, this showed the resilience and attractiveness of the Vietnamese economy.

THU HA

Success in FDI attraction

Vietnam is considered a successful example of FDI attraction thanks to its increasingly improved investment institutions and environment, stable political foundation and relatively high economic growth foundation.

According to the Foreign Investment Agency (FIA) under the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), in November 2024, pledged FDI fund was nearly US\$4.12 billion, much higher than other months of the year, totaling nearly US\$31.38 billion in the first 11 months, up 1% year on year. Disbursed FDI value in Vietnam was estimated at US\$21.68 billion in the first 11 months, representing a year-on-year growth of 7.1%.

Alongside more licensed FDI projects in Vietnam, the quality of investment projects and investment structure continued to improve. Most of the projects, both fresh and expanded, are involved in processing and manufacturing industries (accounting for 63%), featuring many giant projects engaged in semiconductor, energy (manufacturing batteries, photovoltaic cells and silicon bars), electronics and high value-added products. This not only creates jobs for local people but also helps transfer technology and enhance production capacity for domestic firms.

Remarking on FDI attraction in Vietnam, FIA said that FDI funding has largely flowed into provinces and cities with many proven advantages to foreign investors such as good infrastructure, stable human resources, streamlined administrative procedures and dynamic investment promotion like Bac Ninh, Quang Ninh, Ho Chi Minh City, Hai Phong, Hanoi, Binh Duong, Ba Ria-Vung Tau, Dong Nai, Nghe An and Bac Giang. These Top 10 localities alone accounted for 79.6% of new projects and 69.4% of the country's FDI inflows in 11 months.

According to experts, given slowing global

investment flows, Vietnam is still one of the favorite choices of foreign investors, showing the resilience and attractiveness of the Vietnamese economy.

Furthermore, according to many domestic and foreign financial institutions, Vietnam's prospects for FDI flows will continue to go at a steady pace thanks to core factors like the country's more important and stronger role in the supply chain diversification strategy of multinational manufacturers, positive economic growth recovery and stable macro economy.

Opportunity to become a key link

In recent years, Vietnam has attracted significant interest from global tech giants seeking high-tech investment opportunities. US-based Apple Inc. completed transferring 11 audio-visual equipment manufacturing factories to Vietnam. Besides, its three popular partners in Vietnam, namely Foxconn, Luxshare and Goertek, have increased capital and expanded factories in the country.

Besides, after the Chairman of the US Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA) and leaders of top US semiconductor firms like Intel, Ampere, Marvell, Cirrus Logic, Infineon and Skyworks came to explore the local investment environment in December 2024, Vietnam embraced more opportunities to become an important link in the global technology chain.

Currently, Vietnam has specialized working groups to directly negotiate with and support large corporations. The Government also made commitments on advocating green growth and reducing greenhouse gas emissions towards net zero emissions by 2050. On this path, the



Vietnam is considered a successful model for foreign direct investment attraction

shift to prioritizing new, clean and renewable energy sources is taken into account.

The Ministry of Planning and Investment also submitted the semiconductor human resource development project, aiming to train and develop 50,000 workers for the semiconductor industry by 2030. Vietnam aimed to reaffirm its role as a reliable partner and become a key link in the global technology value chain. In particular, the "green lane" investment policy, expected to be approved soon, is hoped to boost foreign investment inflows.

According to the Business Confidence Index (BCI) Report for the third quarter of 2024 by the European Chamber of Commerce in Vietnam (EuroCham), more than 69% of European businesses remain optimistic about long-term investment prospects in Vietnam. Despite obstacles in the way, business expansion plans remain promising, with nearly 80% of respondents saying to have 1-3 offices or production facilities in Vietnam.

Additionally, the AHK World Business Outlook Fall 2024 survey showed that German businesses remain optimistic about the Vietnamese market. 81% of respondents are satisfied with current operations, 50% expect business growth, and 35% plan to increase investment. Vietnam's focused renewable energy and sustainable development strategy is in line with Germany's strengths in green technology, thus opening up great opportunities for innovation and cooperation.

To embrace these opportunities, Vietnam will continue to apply policies and mechanisms to facilitate business operations, including foreign direct investment firms to take part in research and development (R&D), expand connections with the domestic business sector and increase contributions to the economy.

The country will review, resolutely remove and immediately handle difficulties and obstacles in institutions, laws and administrative procedures to create momentum for breakthroughs.

Last but not least, it will actively overcome bottlenecks in skilled human resources, especially in semiconductor and electronics, and address blackouts in some localities with many electronics projects. ■

Leveraging its many advantages, Vietnam is poised to integrate more deeply into the global technology value chain. In 2025 and beyond, the Vietnamese government is committed to creating optimal conditions to attract high-tech investors and foster sustainable growth.

STRONG GDP GROWTH, YET VN-INDEX STRUGGLES

Despite Vietnam's impressive GDP growth of nearly 7% in 2024, the VN-Index remains stagnant at 1,200-1,300 points, showing no significant breakthroughs. This raises a question: Why does the stock market, often seen as the barometer of economic health, lack momentum despite strong economic performance?

HUONG LY

Pressures facing stock market

Reflecting on Vietnam's stock market in 2024, Mr. Vu Huu Dien, Chairman and CEO of VPBank Securities (VPBankS), described it as a year of significant volatility.

First, foreign investors recorded net sales of over US\$3.1 billion since the beginning of the year - the highest figure in the 24-year history of Vietnam's stock market, raising serious concerns.

Second, the VN-Index, the market's largest representative, failed to break through key levels. Throughout the year, it remained stuck in a narrow range of 1,200 to 1,300 points, creating challenges for investors. Notably, the VN-Index first reached 1,200 points in 2007 before plunging due to the global financial crisis. By late 2021, it surpassed 1,500 points for the first time, fueled by a post-COVID investment frenzy. However, this excitement was short-lived, as the market nosedived a year later amid widespread sell-offs.

Third, in 2024, Vietnam's stock market faced intense competition from alternative investment channels. Gold prices rose nearly 20% year-to-date, emerging as one of 2023's top-performing assets. Bitcoin surpassed the US\$100,000 mark, marking a significant milestone for the cryptocurrency market. Meanwhile, the strengthening US dollar following the U.S. presidential election put pressure on exchange rates, diverting investor capital and diminishing the stock market's appeal.

Fourth, geopolitical and trade conflicts have significantly impacted Vietnam's stock market. The re-election of Donald Trump as U.S. President has heightened fears of a potential "Trade War 2.0" between the U.S. and China, negatively affecting the global economy and Vietnam's financial markets.

Fifth, the stock market's failure to secure an upgrade from frontier to emerging market status continues to limit its ability to attract foreign capital. The KRX system, a project signed between HoSE and the Korea Exchange in 2012, was expected to modernize settlement clearing and transaction management. However, over 12 years later, it remains unfinished. The final testing phase in March 2024, originally scheduled for deployment in May 2024, was postponed again. This persistent delay has eroded investor confidence and raised concerns about the system's reliability, creating a major obstacle to Vietnam's market upgrade.

(continued on P.29)

INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS COOPERATION

DEEPENING GROWTH, STRENGTHENING INTEGRATION



Director General of the General Department of Vietnam Customs Nguyen Van Tho and his Cambodian counterpart Kun Nhem sign the cooperation agreement for 2025

comprehensively carrying out key solutions to improve effective participation and increase contributions to customs cooperation and integration mechanisms in ASEAN, WTO, APEC, ASEM, WCO and other frameworks; and cooperate closely with partners to research, learn and evaluate models, measures, methods and development trends of modern customs management in the new context of the world and the region in terms of economy and trade.

Vietnam Customs will advance various forms of cooperation like connecting in information exchange, coordinating C/O confirmation and verifying

2024 marks 30 years of Vietnam Customs advancing international cooperation and integration, obtaining many achievements in customs modernization and streamlining the import-export process and cross-border vehicle movement. Vietnam has also bolstered law enforcement, safeguarded national security and sovereignty, and protected economic interests through active participation in many bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements (FTAs), with projected import-export turnover reaching up to US\$800 billion.

HIEN PHUC

From bilateral cooperation

Mr. Dao Duc Hai, Director of the International Cooperation Department, said: From now to 2030, Vietnam Customs will concentrate on synchronously and

customs law violations; strengthen coordination in controlling prohibited items and illegal transportation of goods; and promote technical and professional cooperation with partner countries. Vietnam Customs will develop strategies to negotiate and finalize mutual recognition arrangements for authorized economic operators with key partner countries, particularly those with bilateral or multilateral agreements with Vietnam. It will also ensure the effective implementation of international commitments on customs and trade facilitation, aligning these obligations with domestic laws to maintain coherence within the legal framework. In the past, cooperation between Vietnam Customs and customs authorities in neighboring countries, major countries and important partners has continued to be implemented and become more substantial, as seen through the increased exchange of high-level delegations, information exchange and cooperation on professional expertise, and capacity building support.

A series of important agreements and documents on customs cooperation have been signed or are nearing completion with key trade partners, including the Declaration of Intent with the US Customs on seeking cooperation opportunities in establishing the Foreign Electronic Cargo Data Exchange Program (FECDEP) in May; the Investigation Cooperation Plan with Australian Customs (May), the Action Plan with China Customs on mutual recognition arrangements on authorized economic operators (October), the Joint Action Plan with the Russian Federation Customs on combating customs violations for the



The General Department of Vietnam Customs successfully hosted the 33rd ASEAN Directors - General of Customs Meeting in Phu Quoc, showcasing its important role in promoting Green Customs, technological innovation, and regional integration

2024-2026 period (June), and the mutual recognition arrangements on authorized economic operators with South Korean Customs. In addition, the progress of negotiations on agreements and mutual assistance agreements on customs with partners such as China, the UK, Germany, Chile, Sri Lanka and Middle Eastern countries like the UAE and Qatar is also being accelerated, expected to be completed in 2025.

To support carrying out Digital Customs and Smart Customs goals, Vietnam Customs has actively sought opportunities and expanded cooperation to exchange expertise and techniques with large, experienced partner countries. Notable results include cooperation and research on the possibility of connecting and exchanging electronic data with US Customs to improve customs management, research and assessment of the possibility of exchanging cargo data between a pair of seaports of Vietnam and the Netherlands, and the construction of a “Smart Border Gate” Project with China Customs. Especially, according to necessary and urgent requirements of the customs sector, the International Cooperation Department led discussions with Japan, advised on working plans, prepared documents for meetings and high-level official trips of the Ministry of Finance and the General Department of Customs on requests for support related to the maintenance and upgrading of the VNACCS/VCIS System, as well as proposals on potential support and participation of the other side in building and redesigning the overall information technology system for Digital Customs initiated by Vietnam Customs.

In addition to strategic partners, Vietnam Customs has continued to maintain and deepen cooperative relations with customs authorities of neighboring countries. With China, besides the traditional cooperation in customs control, the two sides have promoted research to expand cooperation in customs digitalization, authorized economic operators and single-window according to the Vietnam-China Joint Statement announced by the two countries' senior leaders in December 2023. With Laos and Cambodia, the continued organization of annual Vietnam-Laos Customs Directors General Conferences (November) and Vietnam-Cambodia Customs Directors General Conferences (December), held in

Vietnam, are of great significance, facilitating the quick updating of information and enhancing the coordination of customs agencies. In addition, collaboration among customs clusters along Vietnam's land borders has been reinforced through regular engagements, including periodic talks.

To multilateral cooperation

2024 is considered a milestone in Vietnam Customs' participation in regional and global multilateral customs forums. In Southeast Asia, according to the rotation mechanism, Vietnam Customs assumed the chairmanship of the ASEAN Customs Cooperation Forum from June 2024 to May 2025. Accordingly, the General Department of Vietnam Customs successfully chaired and conducted the 33rd Meeting of ASEAN Directors General of Customs in Phu Quoc. This was the most important annual meeting in the ASEAN Customs Cooperation Forum, aiming to review and promote the progress of ongoing ASEAN Customs integration cooperation and setting out directions for the



The bilateral meeting between the General Department of Vietnam Customs and the General Department of Customs and Excise of Cambodia, December 9, 2024



next stage. As the chair, Vietnam showed an active role in meeting management and participation, demonstrated it with the introduction of orientations and proposals for regional integration cooperation initiatives on Green Customs as well as research on new tech applications, and strengthened connectivity and information sharing for customs control. These important areas created the foundation for the research and development of the ASEAN Customs Development Strategy for the 2026-2030 period. Moreover, Vietnam's careful planning and execution of the meeting showcased professionalism and respect, leaving a positive impression that earned high praise from international counterparts.

At the World Customs Organization (WCO), Vietnam Customs was unanimously supported by members to be selected as the Chair of the Permanent Technical Committee for the period from April 2024 to April 2025, demonstrating the WCO's trust and appreciation for the past contributions of Vietnam Customs at the world's largest customs forum. In the Asia-Pacific region, based on the advice and proposals of the International Cooperation Department, Vietnam Customs actively put forth many initiatives as a member of the Development Group responsible for making the WCO's Asia-Pacific Regional Strategic Plan for the 2024-2026 period and directly coordinated one of the four priority contents of this Plan with Australian Customs. Moreover, Vietnam Customs hosted two workshops within the framework of the WCO, namely the Regional Workshop on Capacity Building on Intellectual Property Rights (May) and the National Workshop on the WCO Data Model (November).

Vietnam Customs has further promoted its strengths and likely become one of the active members in customs control of the region in general. Vietnam has made many contributions recognized as a member of WCO's operations such as Operation Demeter, Operation TIN CAN, Operation Thunder and Border Management Project to control and combat illegal trade/transportation of plastic scrap and especially as the host/co-host of Operation Mekong Dragon and Operation Joint Customs Control (JCC) within the ASEAN framework.

To date, Vietnam Customs has gradually integrated more deeply, becoming an important and responsible member of many regional and global economic forums and organizations. Vietnam Customs' participation in international organizations is gradually transforming from exercising membership rights and obligations to actively participating in shaping cooperation mechanisms and institutions in these organizations with increasingly assertive roles and positions. ■

Net Zero Journey of Vietnamese Businesses

Around 145 countries have declared their support for the common goal of Net Zero. Being no exception, Vietnam is committed to joining and aiming for the Net Zero goal by 2050. Vietnamese businesses are also making efforts to join hands for a sustainable green planet.

ANH MAI

Major risks ahead

Vietnam is one of the top five countries likely to be most affected by climate change. According to the report "Charting a path for Vietnam to achieve its Net-zero goals" by McKinsey, a US strategy consultant, Vietnam faces two major threats. The first are physical risks posed by climate change, which is likely to have a huge impact on urban areas. For example, a 1.8-meter sea level rise scenario may submerge 66% of Ho Chi Minh City, posing the risk of blackouts and road and transit closures.

In addition, Vietnam derives a high proportion of its GDP from high-carbon sectors and much of its capital stock is tied up in fossil fuel-based power. As a result, Vietnam has struggled to attract financing for planned coal-fired thermal power plants. Emissions reduction is thus essential for Vietnam to mitigate physical and economic risks.

Vietnam's emissions could nearly quadruple by 2050 if the country's industries continue to grow at planned rates without technological change, industrial-base changes, and successful implementation of policy changes. As with other countries in ASEAN, Vietnam's emissions come from energy and land-use systems. About 30% of total greenhouse gas emissions are from the power sector, a further 30% are from industry, and about 10% come from transport.

At the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in 2021, Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh announced the country's commitment to phase out coal power generation by the 2040s and achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

Most recently, in its National Strategy on Climate Change, Vietnam announced a 43.5% emissions-reduction target by 2030 with practical international support and effect, sector-specific emissions targets for 2030 and 2050, and qualitative suggestions for achieving these goals.

With the approval of the National Strategy on Climate Change and the National Green Growth Strategy for the 2021-2030 period, with a vision to 2050, the Vietnamese government has demonstrated its determination and aspiration to develop a strong, prosperous and sustainable country. As a developing



Vinamilk Green Farm, an eco-friendly farming model

nation, Vietnam has boldly made strong commitments to sustainable development with the consistent view of “not accepting growth at all costs.”

Over the past year, Vietnam has focused on perfecting policy mechanisms - one of the most important first steps in implementing commitments, issuing decrees and decisions of the Prime Minister on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and protecting the ozone layer among others. In general, in terms of policy mechanisms, Vietnam has gradually perfected the legal corridor to help achieve its commitments smoothly.

In the past five years, the state budget for these issues has always exceeded VND21 trillion a year. This large investment has demonstrated the Government's determination to protect natural resources and respond to climate change.

In the business sector, up to now, more than 50 Vietnamese businesses in many industries have committed to Net Zero, including giant firms like Vingroup, Hoa Phat Group, FPT Corporation and Masan Group, aiming for sustainable community development with specific solutions like investing in new energy sources, reducing fuels, transforming technology, reusing packaging and using renewable energy.

These actions require great efforts and time to change. However, Vietnam also has advantages that can be implemented to get closer to the Net Zero goal, e.g. protecting forests, restoring resources and developing sustainable forestry. Many businesses, including ABBANK, Vinamilk, Sungroup, and Novaland, are actively investing in this direction.

Government and businesses join hands to achieve common goals

Despite investment from the Government and large corporations, in the face of mounting challenges, State and corporate financing remains insufficient to meet the demand. To tackle this intricacy, in addition to prioritizing public resources, the Government is actively mobilizing private resources and international organizations. In particular, developing green financial markets and carbon markets are

key solutions. Developing these two markets will provide opportunities for businesses and investors to join environmental protection and contribute to promoting green growth and responding to climate change.

According to Dr. Ha Quang Anh, Director of the Low Carbon Development Center, the Department of Climate Change under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, to realize the Net Zero goals, businesses need to convert awareness into specific actions and follow examples from big companies in Vietnam that have already built emissions reduction and carbon neutralization strategies. At the same time, they need to plan resources to

inventory greenhouse gases, propose and manage mitigation activities.

They need to quickly learn about the impact of emissions generated by their business activities. After knowing the degree of impact, they can quickly develop action strategies, thereby creating competitive advantages and leaving good impressions on investors, shareholders, customers and stakeholders.

In the energy sector alone, according to McKinsey, Vietnam has many potential pathways to achieve Net Zero emissions by 2050, such as high technical potential for wind and solar power, maximum pumped storage hydropower potential, consumer willingness to switch to alternative modes of transport, and available land for reforestation.

To accelerate the energy transition and achieve Net Zero commitments, McKinsey believed that businesses need to invest much and increase cooperation for segments that help reduce emissions quickly. For example, construction and real-estate companies can use their expertise in developing large local capital projects to build renewable energy installations. Fecon, a local construction company, has partnered with Corio, an offshore wind portfolio company of Macquarie Green Investment Group, to develop offshore wind power. Local oil and gas companies could pivot to developing renewables as many overseas players have done - for example, Equinor recently partnered with PetroVietnam to develop renewable power.

In the future, a large renewable base could position Vietnam to become a leader in the growing green hydrogen economy and to serve as a net exporter of green electrons. This is a time-sensitive activity as developers are already competing for the most economical sites.

Although the commitment to reach Net Zero by 2050 is extremely difficult, Vietnam has a roadmap in place. By harnessing opportunities across the economy to capture new value pools, Vietnam can meet its pledge, grow its GDP, and improve life for its residents. ■

DYNAMIC, CREATIVE AND CONNECTED NEW RURAL AREAS

Over the years, the nationwide movement to develop new-style rural areas has transitioned from prioritizing quantity to emphasizing quality. Localities are now not only working to meet new rural area standards but are also focusing on enhancing the quality of achieved criteria, particularly in critical areas such as the environment, education and healthcare. This ensures the sustainability of past achievements while laying a strong foundation for building exemplary rural communities. Vietnam Business Forum interviewed Mr. Phuong Dinh Anh, Deputy Chief of the Central Coordination Office for New Rural Area Development, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), on this issue.

MINH NGOC

Could you share the results of the National Targeted Programs for New Rural Development for the 2021-2025 period?

By the end of 2024, it is expected that approximately 79 - 79.5% of communes nationwide will achieve recognition for meeting new rural standards. Among these, around 38% are expected to meet advanced standards, while 10% will attain model standards. At the district level, about 305 units (47%) are expected to be recognized for meeting or fulfilling the criteria for new-style rural development, with approximately 18 districts (5.9%) achieving advanced standards. However, no district has yet reached model standards. Additionally, one or two provinces or centrally-governed cities are expected to be recognized by the Prime Minister as having completed the task of building new-style rural areas, reaching approximately 53% of the target set for 2025.

To achieve the good outcomes, provinces and cities have formulated comprehensive plans to implement the National Targeted Programs for New Rural Development in 2024. The plans focus on enhancing the quality of new rural criteria, prioritizing rural economic growth, improving infrastructure, promoting cultural and social activities, and expanding the application of information technology. Localities have intensified efforts to enhance key criteria, particularly in essential areas such as transportation



infrastructure, education, healthcare, and environmental sanitation. They are advancing the development of exemplary new rural areas, selecting model communes that exemplify innovation and sustainability. These model areas focus on stricter standards, including the integration of renewable energy, the promotion of sustainable craft villages, and the growth of rural tourism. By elevating the quality of these criteria, the initiative not only reinforces past achievements but also drives strong development, equipping localities to address the evolving needs of their communities and adapt to new challenges in the current period.

The OCOP program is considered a solid foundation in the process of building new rural areas. What are the highlights of the program?

After more than five years of implementing the One Commune One Product (OCOP) program, OCOP products have increasingly tapped into and showcased the cultural and traditional values of localities. Each OCOP product acts as an "ambassador" for its region, narrating compelling production stories imbued with human values. Over time, these products have steadily established their value and quality in the market, earning the trust and confidence of consumers.

As of now, Vietnam boasts 14,208 OCOP products rated 3 stars or higher, with 72.3% classified as 3-star products, 25.6% as 4-star products, and 2.1% as 5-star or potential 5-star products. There are 7,894 OCOP entities nationwide, comprising 32.9% cooperatives, 23.2% small businesses, 38.2% production facilities, and the remainder as other types of cooperatives. Developing OCOP products has contributed to increasing value, helping entities expand production scale and revenue. The rate of OCOP entities increasing production volume after being recognized as OCOP is 46.0%, with average sales revenue increasing by 29.7%; the rate of OCOP products with increased selling prices is 50.43%, with an average price increase of 17.5%.

Notably, the program has created significant changes in commerce, with OCOP products being stably distributed in



The nationwide movement to develop new-style rural areas has shifted its focus from quantity to quality

supermarket systems, widely promoted and consumed through online sales (interactive) on social networks, especially TikTok. As a result, many OCOP products have reached international markets.

With growing demand for OCOP products domestically and internationally, what steps should be taken to strengthen the brand and drive future development?

In reality, OCOP products meet food safety standards and technical standards of Vietnam, such as ISO, HACCP, GAP, and some products, especially 5-star and potential 5-star OCOP products, also meet international market standards.

OCOP products are distinctive specialties, each telling its own "story" and embodying the unique cultural values of the locality, region or area they represent. This is a special strength of OCOP products compared to mass-produced industrial products. Additionally, since the production volume of each OCOP product is limited, if it has established a market position and is accepted by the market, demand will always exceed supply, especially as socio-economic life improves.

Recent surveys reveal strong international demand for OCOP products, especially among overseas Vietnamese in Europe and the U.S.

However, for OCOP products, it is necessary to focus on organizing production to meet quality requirements, technical barriers and especially the perspective of participating in the market responsibly, transparently and sustainably.

Additionally, many localities, including Hanoi, Quang Ninh, Lang Son, Thanh Hoa and others, have been boosting product consumption through cultural and tourism activities. By combining with tourism, localities have promoted production and procurement activities, forming a modern and sustainable supply and consumption chain. This has



Efforts are ongoing to build exemplary rural communities

encouraged localities to actively participate in producing strong products and developing the economy.

The OCOP program has successfully spotlighted the unique specialty agricultural products of each locality. From this program, trade promotion and product promotion activities for OCOP products have been actively promoted by departments, sectors, and localities, exploiting the potential and strengths of each locality. Building a brand for OCOP products is one of the top solutions for local agricultural products to continue to stand firm in domestic markets and aim for export. Recognizing this important role, many localities have focused on developing raw material areas that are local advantages, promoting linkages to build production chains, opening up opportunities for sustainable agricultural and rural economic development.

Thank you very much!

VINH PHUC'S ECONOMIC GROWTH PROJECTED AT 7.5-7.8% IN 2024



Vinh Phuc Provincial authorities congratulate businesses participating in the cooperation agreement signing ceremony at the "Forum on Comprehensive Green Solutions for Industrial Parks and Investment Promotion in Vinh Phuc Province"

Despite many challenges, Vinh Phuc's economy rebounded strongly in 2024, achieving consistent quarter-on-quarter growth and an estimated annual GRDP increase of 7.5-7.8%.

HIEN NHUNG

Vinh Phuc's GRDP growth exceeded Vietnam's national average of 6.8-7%, reaching the targeted range of 7.5-8.5%. Key sectors showed strong performance, with industry and construction expanding by 10.4-10.7%, agriculture, forestry and fishery growing by 1.5-1.6%, and services increasing by 7.5-7.8%. The province's current GRDP was estimated at VND172-173 trillion, an increase of VND14 trillion or 8.8-9.3% from 2023. Per capita GRDP was forecast at VND140-141 million in the year, rising 7.5-8% or VND9.8 million from 2023. The economic structure of Vinh Phuc continued to evolve positively, with industry and construction comprising 62.39-62.49%, services accounting for 30.88-31%, and agriculture, forestry, and fishery contributing 6.61-6.63%.

Industrial highlights

Although industrial production was rough in the first

quarter, it started to pick up from the second quarter when some businesses had new orders on increased consumer demand, especially in electronics manufacturing. This progressive move helped elevate its industrial performance in the whole year. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) in 2024 was projected to grow 11.3%, driven by the processing and manufacturing industry that expanded 11.4%. The production output of some major industrial products in Vinh Phuc all increased. Notably, laptop output surged 1.5 times, while Wi-Fi transmitters skyrocketed nearly 3 times. Animal feed production expanded by 21.6%, ceramic tile production rose nearly 17%, and motorbike output

increased by 7.5%.

Industry continued to be the key in Vinh Phuc's economic development. In 2021-2024, industrial production accounted for about 70% of the province's total output value. Its economic growth reached more than 7% a year in the 2020-2024 period, making Vinh Phuc one of the 10 best performers in Vietnam. In 2024, the province's GRDP growth was expected to exceed 7.5%. To make transformational changes in socioeconomic development, in recent years, Vinh Phuc province has issued many documents, resolutions, action programs and projects with mechanisms and policies to promote breakthrough industrial development. Hence, Vinh Phuc is now getting closer to the goal of becoming a modern industrial province. The industry has truly been a driving force and a major factor in socioeconomic development and budget revenue growth and become a key high-growing exporter.

Major contributors to Vinh Phuc's industrial production value are automobile and motorbike manufacturers like Toyota Motor Vietnam, Honda Vietnam, Piaggio Vietnam and Daewoo Vietnam with an average yearly output of 57,780 automobiles and over 2 million motorbikes.

By promoting automobile and motorbike manufacturing and exporting, the province has become an attractive investment environment and driven the development of many other industries like chemical, plastic, rubber and electrical equipment production.

The accelerating development of industries, especially automobile and motorbike processing and manufacturing and electronic manufacturing industries, has generated jobs

for hundreds of thousands of workers in Vinh Phuc and other provinces.

Given opened opportunities in FDI attraction in Vietnam in recent years, the industry of Vinh Phuc province was forecast to embrace many development opportunities, make important contributions to the overall economic growth, and shift to reduce farming workers and increase industrial and service workers in the coming time.

Increasingly improved investment environment

The pledged foreign direct investment (FDI) fund exceeded the set target. This is an important driving force for economic development for the time being when the economy is challenging. The total pledged FDI fund was estimated at nearly US\$600 million, 50% higher than the plan and as much as in 2023. The committed domestic direct investment (DDI) fund was projected at VND5,500 billion as expected. New corporate licenses reached 1,550, slightly 1.8% higher than in 2023, with a combined registered capital of VND13,000 billion.

The province focused on enhancing investment promotion and attraction as well as business support and development. The Provincial People's Committee executed cooperation contents with Chungcheongbuk Province (South Korea), Pernik Town (Bulgaria) and Tuscany Region (Italy) and signed a memorandum of understanding on investment cooperation with Signetics Company Limited. Provincial

leaders received and worked with many corporations seeking to study investment policies and investment procedures in the province such as Young Poong Group, META Investment Fund and Grandway Singapore Company. Some strategic investors proposed support and cooperation with the province like Samsung Vietnam Complex, Signetics (South Korea), T&Y SuperPort Joint Stock Company and Hoan My Medical Corporation. Notably, Signetics Company has signed an agreement with CNCTech Group to develop a semiconductor factory project in Vinh Phuc, valued at over US\$100 million. Additionally, Polaris Vietnam Company has inaugurated a motorcycle parts manufacturing facility with investment exceeding US\$40 million.

Vinh Phuc leaders aim for 8-9% GRDP growth in 2025, targeting the highest annual growth of the 2021-2025 plan and setting a foundation for 2026-2030 goals. The province will implement policies to unlock resources, drive production, bolster growth, and maintain economic stability.

The province will focus on land compensation and site clearance to woo investors into its industrial zones; launch business support solutions to boost exports, especially key products interested by large and potential markets. Vinh Phuc will fully exploit revenue sources, prevent budget loss, promptly and effectively enforce policies on tax, fee and land rent exemption, reduction and extension to support people and enterprises to quickly recover their business activities, strengthen momentum for economic development and grow revenue sources. ■



A corner of Vinh Yen city, Vinh Phuc province



Many businesses show strong interest in investing in Vinh Phuc province

DETERMINED TO RECLAIM TOP POSITIONS IN PCI RANKINGS

As localities strive to implement fundamental solutions to enhance their investment climate and improve their Provincial Competitiveness Index (PCI), reclaiming one of the top positions in the PCI rankings in 2024 is not easy for Vinh Phuc province, and it still has much work to do to achieve this goal.

HUONG HAU

Delving into reasons for PCI drop

Over the past 18 years of the Provincial Competitiveness Index (PCI), Vinh Phuc has ranked in the Top 10 for nine years, the Top 10-20 for six years, and the Top 20-50 for three years, according to the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI). However, in 2023, the province experienced a decline in both score and ranking, falling short of its announced goal to re-enter the Top 10, as revealed at VCCI's PCI announcement ceremony in Hanoi last May.

Specifically, Vinh Phuc scored 68.81 PCI points, ranking 15th out of 63 provinces and cities, dropping 0.1 points and seven ranks compared to 2022. Notably, among 10 component indices, only four advanced in score and standing, one lost score but gained in standing, and five dipped in both score and ranking. In 2023, the province not only dropped seven positions in the PCI rankings but also saw its Provincial Green Index (PGI) fall by 17 places compared to 2022.

The disappointing PCI performance was due to the inadequate quality of proposed solutions to address business obstacles. Administrative procedures at public service centers and single-window divisions were slow, with businesses spending excessive time on registration, revisions, and other formalities. Authorities lacked innovation in resolving bottlenecks,

and government-business dialogues were ineffective. Many businesses reported needing 'relationships' to access information and faced challenges in accessing business support services. Improving service quality at the Vinh Phuc Public Administration Center is therefore an urgent priority.

Determined to upgrade PCI ranking

Determining that PCI is the most important and objective measure of the quality of socioeconomic governance, in recent years, Vinh Phuc has implemented many resolutions, plans and initiatives to enhance its investment environment, notably including Decision 1774 on improving investment conditions and competitiveness for 2021-2025, the strategic investor attraction project to 2030, and a cooperation agreement with VCCI, underscoring its commitment to facilitating business growth. The province has assigned responsibility to each department, agency and locality in monitoring, urging and checking each component index, accelerating administrative reform and easing business activities toward building a fair, friendly and open business environment.

Looking directly at the weaknesses that led to its falling PCI ranking, following VCCI's PCI Announcement Conference, Vinh Phuc convened a meeting with relevant agencies tasked with monitoring and addressing each PCI subindex to analyze the causes of its underperformance. Among the five subindices that declined in both score and ranking, the Market Entry Index scored 7.32 points, ranking 32nd out of 63 provinces and cities. The Transparency Index dropped 18 places, scoring 5.76 points and ranking 46th. The Proactivity Index ranked 20th, while the Business Support Index fell 46 places to 50th. The Policy Bias Index and the Law and Order Index ranked 8th, falling short of the targeted 5th position. Vinh Phuc's leadership remains committed to addressing these challenges and fostering a more business-friendly environment.

The province will prioritize enhancing information technology and offering Level 3 and Level 4 online public services for certain administrative procedures. It will also continue to reform both domestic and international investment promotion efforts, regularly updating information and expanding the investment promotion database. Particularly for the Market Entry Index, the Department of Planning and Investment will enhance business support by streamlining processes such as reducing the time required for new and revised business registrations and providing clear guidance to help businesses efficiently complete administrative procedures. Efforts will also focus on promoting the use of information technology, encouraging online business registration, and improving the qualifications, professionalism and attitudes of public employees at one-stop service centers. The department will strengthen the transparency and accessibility of administrative procedures related to business registration.

Regarding the Business Support Policy Index, which



**Chairman of the Vinh Phuc Provincial People's Committee
Tran Duy Dong regularly conducts on-site inspections
and encourages businesses**

slumped 46 places, a representative from the Department of Industry and Trade said that the department will continue to review, advise and propose the Provincial People's Committee reduce administrative procedures for businesses, list and publicize administrative procedures on the Provincial Electronic Information Portal, on websites of relevant agencies and localities and at the Vinh Phuc Public Administration Service Center. At the same time, the department will widely disseminate policies and guidelines, support businesses that need to build e-commerce websites, and help businesses, especially SMEs, access bank loans. The department will push investors to accelerate infrastructure development in industrial zones and foster a conducive business environment to attract further investment. It will also intensify trade promotion activities, develop e-commerce platforms, and facilitate access to information, policies and mechanisms for businesses. Regular monitoring and updates on local business performance will be prioritized to promptly address challenges and resolve issues faced by businesses and manufacturers.

To improve the ranking and return to Top 10 PCI performance amid existing difficulties, at the working session with related agencies and localities to evaluate and find solutions for better PCI and PGI performance, Standing Vice Chairman of the Provincial People's Committee Vu Viet Van emphasized the need for continued innovation and administrative improvements, urging the development of strategic plans and solutions aimed at enhancing all 10 PCI component indices. The Vinh Phuc Business Association will actively coordinate with relevant units to conduct surveys and synthesize reports on the earlier annual assessment of the District and Department Competitiveness Index (DDCI) to have a basis for launching solutions for better-performed PCI component indices; make quarterly reports on local business difficulties as well as corresponding solutions to the Provincial People's Committee. ■



At the "Forum on Comprehensive Green Solutions for Industrial Parks and Investment Promotion in Vinh Phuc Province", many businesses are committed to accompanying local development

VINH PHUC

Innovating Investment Promotion to Attract New FDI Inflow

The investment and expansion of famous global brands such as Honda, Toyota, Piaggio, Sojitz, Sumitomo and Amanta serve as the most convincing evidence of Vinh Phuc's potential. However, as all localities work to improve their investment environments and enhance competitiveness, and with FDI investors increasingly seeking new locations, Vinh Phuc province must focus on substantial innovation in its investment promotion efforts to stay competitive.

LE HIEN

Significant figures

Despite facing "unprecedented" subjective and objective challenges, Vinh Phuc has still achieved highly promising results in attracting FDI. The province licensed 70 FDI projects with over US\$462 million in 2022, nearly 2.7% higher than the target, and 78 new and existing FDI projects with US\$604.2 million in 2023, up 30.76% year on year. In the first 11 months of 2024, Vinh Phuc permitted 32 new FDI projects to invest US\$190 million and 42 existing projects to add US\$400 million, totaling US\$590 million, as much as in 2023 and 50% higher than the full-year plan.

As of November 15, 2024, the province had 1,326 projects, including 481 FDI projects with over US\$8.4 billion and 845 DDI projects with about VND145,151 trillion from 20 countries and territories. Many giant projects are invested by gigantic multinational corporations from Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, China, Thailand, Singapore, Europe and the United States. Up to now, Vinh Phuc has completed the 5-year investment attraction period (2020-2025) with US\$2.5 billion of FDI funds.

According to Vinh Phuc leaders, the FDI sector has always importantly fostered economic growth, economic restructuring, employment, budget revenue growth and people's livelihoods. Every year, this sector contributes over 65% to the province's total state budget revenue and 56 - 70% of industrial production value.

Vinh Phuc's achievements stem from its shift in investment attraction strategies, adopting policies and executing specific projects over the years. These include the projects to improve the investment environment and competitiveness (2013-2015 and 2016-2020), support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), foster connections between local businesses and FDI firms for integration into global supply chains, and attract strategic investors to the

province by 2030. Besides, the province has accelerated administrative reforms, expanded investment flows, developed synchronous modern industrial park infrastructure, raised the quality of human resources to meet the recruitment demand of investors.

Promotion reforms

Defining that reforming investment promotion is the key to attracting large investment projects, Vinh Phuc province decided to establish the Vinh Phuc Investment Promotion and Business Support Center from the reorganization of the Site Clearance and Land Fund Development Board under the Vinh Phuc Provincial People's Committee, the Investment Promotion Research and Business Support Center under the Department of Planning and Investment, the Tourism Promotion Information Center under the Department of Culture, Sports and Tourism, and the Center for Foreign Affairs and Aid Promotion under the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Mr. Bui Hong Do, Director of the Center, said: The consolidation of previous investment, tourism consulting, and support agencies will enhance the efficiency and speed of promotion efforts, providing investors with better opportunities to explore investment prospects in the locality.

With the philosophy "Investors in Vinh Phuc are citizens of the province, the success of businesses is the success of the province", the province has upheld on-site promotion and provided maximum support for enterprises which are expected to entice other investors to Vinh Phuc. As a leading agency to carry out this task, we have made fundamental changes in investment promotion methods by approaching target domestic and foreign investors to provide information and induce their investment. "We advocated not carrying out large-scale overseas investment promotion but targeting specific industries, fields or projects in target countries with proven strengths that the province needs. Vinh Phuc always gives priority to selective investment projects, limiting land-intensive projects with low added value while resolutely turning down energy-intensive projects and environmentally polluting projects. We link investment promotion with trade promotion and tourism promotion to optimize the State budget spending," he added.

Moreover, Vinh Phuc has developed investment project lists for specific phases and actively promoted its investment and business environment through various channels, including the internet and both central and local media. The province has published investment promotion materials in five languages namely Vietnamese, English, Japanese, Korean and Chinese, and has adopted a comprehensive approach to promoting Vinh Phuc's investment opportunities at domestic and international events. Investment promotion programs have expanded beyond traditional markets like Japan and South Korea to target emerging markets in Europe, the US and Australia. The province is also capitalizing on redirected investments from China and Taiwan, as well as opportunities from supply chains and partner countries within the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the Vietnam-EU Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA).

According to its strategic investment attraction program, Vinh Phuc aims to attract an additional US\$2-2.5 billion in FDI capital by 2030 and secure partnerships with 1-5 of the world's Top 500 multinational corporations.■

(from P.17)

Sixth, the most critical issue is the lack of new financial products and high-quality supply, making it difficult for the market to achieve sustainable growth. Furthermore, with individual investors accounting for over 80% of trading value on HoSE, the market is highly susceptible to herd mentality, leading to significant volatility.

Mr. Nguyen Hoang Giang, Chairman of DNSE Securities, highlighted that financial and real estate stocks make up more than 57% of the market capitalization, creating imbalance and over-reliance on cyclical sectors. In contrast, markets like the U.S. benefit from diversification, with a strong presence of technology stocks driving stable growth. The absence of FDI companies and high-tech industries on Vietnam's stock market reduces its appeal to investors.

Additionally, the decline of major companies such as Hoang Anh Gia Lai, FLC and Novaland underscores the uneven quality of listed firms, negatively impacting overall market performance.

How can capital flow be revived?

Between 2017 and 2019, foreign investors were net buyers in Vietnam's stock market, peaking at over US\$2 billion in 2017. However, since 2020, this trend has reversed, with net foreign outflows totaling approximately US\$6 billion over the past 3-4 years.

A senior executive at a Ho Chi Minh City-based securities firm noted that recent market "waves" have largely been speculative, driven by record-low deposit interest rates and the U.S. Federal Reserve's monetary easing policies. However, these factors have already been priced into the market, leaving a need for new growth drivers.

In recent years, Vietnam's state-owned enterprise (SOE) privatization process has slowed significantly, with very few private companies newly listed on the market. Major SOEs such as Agribank, MobiFone, the Vietnam National Coal and Mineral Industries Group, and VNPT were expected to undergo privatization by 2020, yet progress remains sluggish.

To address current challenges, Vietnam needs to accelerate the privatization of SOEs, encourage private companies to list, and enhance corporate governance and information transparency. Additionally, businesses listed on the UPCoM exchange should be incentivized to transition to main listing boards, with higher listing standards implemented to improve governance and transparency.

Fiigroup reported that banking, securities and real estate stocks are the most traded due to high liquidity and short-term volatility. However, Mr. Bui Van Huy warned that the banking sector may face pressure after Circular 02 expires, potentially leading to lower profits and higher non-performing loans in Q4 2024 and 2025. Meanwhile, the real estate sector shows no signs of recovery, making a breakthrough unlikely.

Individual investors currently account for 80% of trading volume on Vietnam's stock market, making it highly susceptible to herd mentality. To mitigate this, greater institutional investor participation is needed, along with the development of new financial instruments. At present, the market only offers VN30 futures contracts, with tools like short selling still unavailable.

On market upgrade prospects, Vietnam has met seven out of nine criteria for reclassification from frontier to emerging market status. However, delays in addressing issues such as the removal of the pre-trade margin requirement (non-prefunding), failed trade management, and the operationalization of the KRX clearing system persist. At the current pace, Vietnam's stock market may not achieve an upgrade until at least September 2025.■

Accelerating Digital Transformation to Attract Investment



FPT Corporation partners with the Vinh Phuc Provincial People's Committee to develop policies that promote digital transformation in the province

Vinh Phuc province is determined to advance digital government, economy, and society to attract investors and support businesses and citizens. As part of this effort, the local digital transformation is being implemented strongly, with an investment budget exceeding VND1,283 billion for 2014-2024.

HIEN HUNG

Consistent mechanisms and policies

Mr. Bui Hong Do, Director of the Vinh Phuc Investment Promotion and Business Support Center, said: In the past time, the province has issued several key directives on IT development and e-government construction towards a digital government, including Directive 23 from the Standing Board of the Provincial Party Committee on strengthening Party leadership in digital transformation, Directive 05 from the Chairman of the Provincial People's Committee on advancing IT application in government agencies, and Directive 04 from the Chairman on promoting digital transformation.

Vinh Phuc is the first locality to assign targets and tasks to agency leaders while seriously adopting processes, standards, regulations and assessment criteria according to central regulations and instructions. The province launched the Vinh Phuc E-government Architecture, the Vinh Phuc Smart City ICT Architecture, criteria for assessing and ranking information technology application and e-government construction in operations of governmental agencies, and indicators for

assessing digital transformation in Vinh Phuc province.

Moreover, Vinh Phuc has issued legal documents on IT application and digital transformation, developed regulations on network security, and implemented document management software, official emails, and digital signatures. The province also manages the Provincial Public Service Portal, establishing guidelines for information safety, security, and software usage responsibilities. Additionally, electronic identification codes have been applied to Party and government agencies to guide technical activities, enhance IT integration, streamline administrative procedures, and improve data sharing and electronic document exchanges within the province.

Concurrently developing three pillars: digital government, digital economy and digital society

Vinh Phuc has seriously developed the three pillars of digital government, digital economy and digital society, which are considered the driving force to promote local socioeconomic development, improve government operations, add value to the economy and serve people and businesses

On digital government, the province's administrative procedure settlement information system currently provides 1,865 public services, including 954 full online public services, 645 partial online public services and 266 public information services. All qualified administrative procedures are provided fully online. 1,217 online public services have been integrated onto the National Public Service Portal, including 701 full online administrative procedures and 516 partially online administrative procedures. Furthermore, 479 administrative procedures currently require financial obligations, including 419 procedures integrated with the online payment utility on the National Public Service Portal. In the first six months of 2024, the Vinh Phuc Administrative Procedure Settlement Information System reported to receive 53% of records submitted partially and fully online while the rest were handled in person. As many as 371 official accounts at single-window divisions were regularly used to access the national population database, with 54,503 accesses to citizen information from the national population database for settling administrative procedures and performing professional tasks.

The document management and administration software is currently installed at all administrative agencies at all levels, connected with the Government Office and central agencies through the so-called national document interconnection axis; and integrated with specialized Government digital signatures to send and receive electronic documents. In the first six months of 2024, it served 493,356 incoming documents, 150,811 outgoing documents and 150,360 outgoing documents with digital signatures. 99.7% of documents on the software were digitally signed. The province

issued 2,562 specialized Government digital certificates to 515 agencies and units and registered to issue 104 PKI SIMs to leaders of 22 agencies and units.

To boost the province's economic development in line with Technology 4.0 development trends, government agencies at all levels, people and businesses have endeavored to join and synchronize digital transformation solutions to increase the added value to some sectors in connection with the digital economy, estimated at 21% of its total GRDP. Over 10,000 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are using digital platforms in their management, operation, production and business.

All local companies have registered and submitted tax declarations online; all active companies have registered to pay taxes electronically and over 99% of payment slips and tax value have been settled electronically; and all companies have completed registering to use electronic invoices.

Being clearly aware that digital transformation brings conveniences to the daily life and activities of each citizen, the province is eagerly investing in developing the pillar of digital society. The network infrastructure and telecommunications services in the province are invested synchronously and modernly. Vinh Phuc has five telephone service providers and five internet service providers. They have focused on investing in service quality with 3,000 base transceiver stations (BTS) to ensure 3G and 4G mobile coverage in the entire province and operated two Viettel 5G stations. The province currently has 1.35 million mobile phone subscribers, 286,000 landline broadband internet subscribers and 1.05 million mobile broadband internet subscribers. 90% of households have subscribed to broadband internet services.

In the coming time, Vinh Phuc will continue to develop digital transformation to bring practical benefits associated with local socioeconomic development by attracting giant tech firms to develop the digital industry and manufacture electronic products, internet of things (IOT) products and artificial intelligence (IA).

At the working session with FPT Corporation in early November, Chairman of the Provincial People's Committee Tran Duy Dong emphasized that Vinh Phuc aims to become an industrial hub by 2030, focusing on leveraging its high-quality human resources to develop the high-tech and semiconductor industries. He hoped FPT Corporation will accelerate the progress of the Data Center Project at Thanh Long Vinh Phuc Industrial Park and assist in training skilled human resources for the region's development.

Agreeing on the education complex investment plan in the province, Chairman Dong assigned relevant agencies and localities to coordinate with FPT Corporation to promptly advise the provincial government to complete legal procedures and project procedures to start the FPT Education Complex Project in Vinh Phuc as soon as possible, early enough to welcome the 18th Provincial Party Congress. He also delegated the Vinh Phuc Investment Promotion and Business Support Center to work with FPT Corporation to this effect. ■



Vinh Phuc province is home to many green and attractive industrial parks

Vinh Phuc IPs Poised for High-Quality Investment

At the “Forum on Comprehensive Green Solutions for Industrial Parks and Investment Promotion in Vinh Phuc Province,” held on December 8-9 by the Vietnam Industrial Park Finance Association (VIPFA) in collaboration with the Vinh Phuc Provincial People's Committee, Mr. Tran Duy Dong, Chairman of the Committee, highlighted the achievements and future directions for green development in Vinh Phuc's industrial parks.

NAM HUNG

Clean infrastructure for investors

Vinh Phuc province's economic scale was VND158.1 trillion in 2023, ranking 14th nationwide, and its budget revenue ranked 10th out of 63 provinces and cities, he said. The GRDP per capita was US\$5,400, ranking 9th nationwide. The economic structure shifted towards a positive pattern where industrialization and modernization play a leading role and are a driving force for economic development.

With its favorable location, Vinh Phuc offers comprehensive road, rail and riverway connectivity. Adjacent to Noi Bai International Airport and positioned along the Kunming-Lao Cai-Hanoi-Quang Ninh Economic Corridor and Northern Industrial Development Belt, it provides ideal conditions for manufacturing and business investment projects.

Advocating the policy that planning must be one step ahead to attract investment for sustainable development, Vinh Phuc has made and submitted plans to competent authorities for ratifying the Provincial Development Planning for the 2021-2030 period, with a vision to 2050, and related sectoral plans. In particular, the province has planned and developed industrial parks associated with land-use plans and general urban plans to form a well-distributed industrial park system in the province and use land resources economically and effectively to ensure sustainable development and truly become a driving force for overall development.





By the end of August 2024, Vinh Phuc province established 17 industrial parks with a total area of 3,142.96 ha, including nine in operation (Kim Hoa, Khai Quang, Binh Xuyen, Ba Thien, Binh Xuyen II - Phase 1, Ba Thien II, Tam Duong II - Section A, Thai Hoa - Lien Son - Lien Hoa - Section II - Phase 1, and Thang Long Vinh Phuc) and three under construction. All IPs aim for green and sustainable development.

According to the industrial park development plan in the Provincial Planning for the 2021-2030 period, with a vision to 2050, approved by the Prime Minister, Vinh Phuc will have 28 IPs with an area of about 4,800 ha by 2030 and 29 IPs with over 5,500 ha by 2050. Particularly, priority is given to developing new IPs along key traffic routes such as Hanoi-Lao Cai Expressway, Ring Road 4 and Ring Road 5.

With the innovation, dynamism and creativity of authorities at all levels, Vinh Phuc province has achieved positive investment attraction results. By November 15, 2024, the province was home to 1,326 projects, including 481 foreign direct investment (FDI) projects with more than US\$8.4 billion of registered capital and 845 domestic direct investment (DDI) projects with about VND145,151 trillion, from 20 countries and territories. Many large-scale projects are invested by giant multinational corporations from Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, China, Thailand, Singapore, Europe and the United States. Industrial parks account for 75-80% of total projects and investment fund in the province and create over 120,000 jobs for workers.

Which industries should be prioritized?

According to Chairman Dong, Vinh Phuc province aims to become a first-class urban area, a core in the northern economic region of Vietnam by 2030. The province is one of the major economic centers of the Hanoi region and the whole country, driven by key industries: Industry, services, trade, training - science, tourism - resort and culture. This is an important traffic and exchange hub of the Hanoi region, the northern key economic region, the country and the world.

"We are all aware that businesses are an important driving force for development with their success reflecting the province's progress, as they become an integral part of the local community. For that reason, the Party and authorities at all levels will facilitate businesses to invest in local production and business. Vinh Phuc province is committed to providing available land, electricity, water, telecommunications and human resources and offering the fastest and most convenient administrative procedures for investors. In addition, sustainable development and green growth are an overarching trend in the world, stemmed from practical requirements. Developing highly effective and sustainable IPs is one of today's urgent requirements," he emphasized.

Industrially, the province encourages and attracts companies to invest in industrial chains, develop automobile, motorbike, mechanical engineering, high-tech, electronics, telecommunications, food processing and supporting industries.

Agriculturally, Vinh Phuc prioritizes developing high-tech agriculture, clean vegetable and fruit production, high-tech livestock and poultry farming and agricultural processing according to the value chain.

Regarding tourism and services, the province prioritizes high-quality healthcare, education, vocational training, tourism, hotel, restaurant, and high-end resort projects.

With respect to infrastructure, Vinh Phuc gives precedence to infrastructure investment projects in industrial zones, especially specialized infrastructure, to create the interconnectivity of industrial clusters, and industrial and domestic waste treatment projects.

Many big investors in Vinh Phuc-based IPs like Honda, Toyota (Japan), Piaggio (Italy), Compal (Taiwan) and Daewoo (South Korea), have contributed to forming key industries in Vinh Phuc province such as manufacturing and assembling automobiles, motorbikes, laptops, mobile phones, electronic products and mechanical products and actively propped up socioeconomic development, labor restructuring and social security. ■

Quickly Addressing Obstacles to Businesses

Vinh Phuc ranks among the Top 10 fastest-growing localities in the country, with its budget revenue placing 10th out of 63 provinces and cities. This achievement is largely credited to the province's proactive support for local businesses in overcoming challenges, fostering growth, and creating a more open and attractive investment environment.

BUI LIEN

To overcome their existing difficulties, businesses need consistent support solutions to survive and stand firm, including solutions to easing access to capital, cost reduction, preferential loan, and a better business climate to easily access the market. A series of government-business exchanges and meetings are always of special concern to provincial authorities.

According to the Department of Planning and Investment, in the first seven months of 2024, Vinh Phuc recorded 839 new businesses with a total registered capital of VND7,818 billion, reflecting a 3.3% decrease in the number of businesses but an 11.3% increase in capital year-on-year. 248 companies resumed operations, bringing the total to 1,087 active businesses.

Despite clear signs of strong recovery and active support from the government, many businesses continued to confront hardships. In particular, slowly recovered industries,

narrowing import and export and stagnant property market forced them to scale down production or temporarily suspend their operations. In the past seven months, the province witnessed 851 companies leaving the market, including 745 suspensions, up 26.7%, and 106 bankruptcies, up 35.9%. In addition to common hardships, many companies and investors met challenges due to obstacles in investment procedures, mechanisms and policies, especially those in connection with land and construction. These gave rise to prolonged project progress and increased cost.

To unlock capital channels for businesses, Vinh Phuc organized a business-bank dialogue in early November. According to a report from the State Bank of Vietnam (SBV) - Vinh Phuc Branch, the banking sector has implemented many measures to support business operations and stimulate credit growth. These include reducing interest rates, publicizing lending rates and achieving credit growth targets set by the SBV. Additionally, efforts have been made to strengthen bank-business connections, introduce preferential credit packages tailored to different customer segments, simplify borrowing procedures and apply digital transformation to the credit granting process.

By September 30, credit institutions had lent VND56,438 billion to 3,208 businesses, accounting for over 41% of total outstanding loans, including 1,137 loans worth VND19,300 billion for corporate customers through the bank-corporate connection program.

Particularly, the Joint Stock Commercial Bank for Investment and Development of Vietnam (BIDV), through its Vinh Phuc Branch and Phuc Yen Branch, slashed corporate lending rates by 1.5-2.5%, depending on the loan term, since the beginning of the year.

The lender credited VND11,463 billion to corporate customers as of the end of September 2024, including over VND1,700 billion of preferential loans for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), VND2,230 billion of short-term preferential loans for big companies, and VND524 billion for importers and exporters.

The province has facilitated access to bank loans for individuals and businesses, particularly those with strong business plans. The Vinh Phuc Provincial People's Committee has urged commercial banks to actively review and assess credit quality, address non-performing loans, and ensure the use of objective and accurate data.

Consistent with the philosophy "All investors in Vinh



Vinh Phuc province has implemented many measures to promote investment, attract businesses, and address business difficulties

Phuc are citizens of Vinh Phuc", the Provincial People's Committee has directed relevant agencies and localities to take resolute action, strengthen business dialogues, establish a working group to remove difficulties for businesses, improve the investment and business environment, and speed up administrative procedure reforms to motivate business development.

Since the beginning of the year, the province has issued many directive documents such as Action Program 66 of the Provincial Party Committee on execution of Resolution 41 of the Politburo on building and promoting the role of Vietnamese entrepreneurs in the new period, Action Plan for implementation of the Vinh Phuc SME Support Project in 2024, Document 1921 of the Provincial People's Committee on implementation of several tasks regarding investment promotion and attraction, business support and business troubleshooting.

Vinh Phuc leaders said that maintaining and creating a truly open investment environment is important. In the year to date, the Provincial People's Committee has organized dozens of working sessions and dialogues to remove difficulties for businesses, and applied flexible support forms, business support teams on Zalo groups of the Department of Planning and Investment and relevant agencies.

Vinh Phuc will continue its efforts to reform and enhance the quality and effectiveness of business support while strengthening connections with enterprises. The province aims to promptly identify and address business challenges by expanding the "Business Coffee Talk" Program and leveraging the Working Group of the Chairperson of the Provincial People's Committee, along with the Japan Desk and business associations from South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand, and other economies. ■

BAC GIANG

Efforts to Become Industrial and Modern Province



Mr. Mai Son, Acting Chairman of Bac Giang's People's Committee, at the regular meeting in November 2024

Bac Giang is emerging as a locality with rapid and sustainable economic growth. These are important foundations and drivers for the province to realize its goal of becoming an industrial province by 2030, and one of the top 15 provinces and cities in terms of GRDP in the whole country.

THIEN THANH

Bright spot in national economic development

Located in the northeast of Vietnam, with favorable geographical conditions, abundant and skilled labor, along with appropriate development orientations and strategies, and the determination of the entire Party committee, government and people, Bac Giang is on the path to becoming a major economic center in the northern region and the whole country.

In recent years, the province has focused its resources, maximizing its potential and advantages, alongside gradually innovating its growth model, enhancing

competitiveness, and integrating for comprehensive and sustainable economic-social development linked with environmental protection and maintaining national defense and security.

Accordingly, the province has promoted the transformation of its economic structure, focusing on restructuring agriculture towards large-scale commodity production linked with new rural development; developing advantageous industries, enhancing industrial value and expanding markets to boost exports. It has prioritized investment and resource attraction to develop the economic-social infrastructure system comprehensively, especially rural infrastructure and regional connectivity; developing cultural and ecological tourism potential; improving human resource quality, and ensuring quality education and healthcare. Particularly, it has strengthened the management and effective use of resources, focused on environmental protection, and improved the material and spiritual life of the people.

Thanks to these efforts, despite many challenges, Bac Giang has continued to maintain a strong economic growth rate. In 2023, it achieved a growth rate of 13.45%, nearly 2.5 times the national average, ranking first in the country. In 2024, it is estimated to reach 13.85%, continuing to lead the country for the third consecutive year. Along with maintaining high growth rates, the scale of the economy has also continued to expand, becoming a bright spot and making a strong impression on other provinces nationwide.

In 2024, the industrial and construction sectors are expected to grow significantly, with an estimated annual increase of 17.75%, contributing 12.79 percentage points to overall growth. The industrial sector alone is estimated to grow by 19.87%, remaining the main economic sector and contributing 13.06 percentage points to overall growth. Major industrial enterprises such as Hosiden Vietnam Co., Ltd., Fuyu Precision Technology Co., Ltd., and Hana Micron Vina Co., Ltd. contribute significantly to this growth.

Agriculture has affirmed its important position, with large-scale fruit-growing areas and livestock farming among the national leaders. Sustainable agricultural development and high-income farmers are becoming models for many localities.

Additionally, the commercial and service sectors continue to maintain stable growth. Investment attraction, especially FDI, has achieved high results, making Bac Giang an ideal destination for a series of leading global technology corporations. The quality of



Van Trung Industrial Park is a favored destination, drawing significant interest from both domestic and international investors

projects has steadily improved, with many large-scale projects. Since the beginning of the year, the province has attracted over US\$1.9 billion in investment, ranking ninth nationwide for investment attraction. FDI projects are mainly concentrated in the fields of manufacturing, electronics component processing, textiles and logistics.

Along with economic development, the fields of culture, social affairs, education, and healthcare have also increasingly developed, while national defense and security are ensured.

Continuing to step firmly on the new path

Mai Son, Acting Chairman of the Provincial People's Committee, said that Bac Giang is focusing on leveraging all its potential, advantages, resources and regional connections toward rapid, comprehensive and sustainable development. Among these, industry is the primary driver of growth, linked to the development of new spaces. The province strives to become an industrial province by 2030 with its GRDP among the top 15 provinces and cities in the country.

In 2025, the province aims for a GRDP growth rate of 14.0%, with industrial construction increasing by 17.0% (industry up 17.7%, construction up 8.5%), services growing by 7.5%, and agriculture, forestry and fisheries increasing by 1.0%. The product tax will grow by 9.5%. The economic structure is projected to consist of 70.0% for industry and construction, 19.7% for services (including product taxes), and 10.3% for agriculture, forestry, and fisheries.

To achieve these goals, the province will continue to focus on breakthrough solutions that spread economic development across regions. It will concentrate on restructuring the economy, renewing the growth model, enhancing competitiveness, and accelerating the development of the digital economy, green economy, circular economy and e-commerce to create new growth drivers.

In this context, the province will speed up the

establishment and infrastructure investment in industrial zones to attract investment, integrating these zones with urban and service areas that have modern technical and social infrastructure. The province will continue to shift the industrial structure by attracting investment in processing and manufacturing industries while reducing the proportion of outsourcing and assembly.

The province will focus on effectively implementing Resolution 147-NQ/TU dated July 15, 2021, by the Provincial Party Committee on industrial development in Bac Giang for the 2021-2030 period. It will restructure industrial production, prioritizing sustainable FDI attraction to move toward an "industrial

ecosystem" model.

The province will continue to focus on removing obstacles and promoting production development, improving the business and investment environment, and creating conditions for economic sectors to grow. It will boost budget revenue and invest in essential infrastructure, with a focus on transportation, industrial, and urban infrastructure.

Moreover, the province will enhance land management, mineral resources and environmental protection, focusing on healthcare and improving the quality of education and training. It will develop human resources, strengthen labor management, and ensure effective social security. Administrative reforms and digital transformation will be promoted. National defense, security and social order will also be ensured.

"With the solid foundation, creativity, the entire Party, government and people of Bac Giang will continue to harness the power of unity, self-reliance, and self-strength, overcoming all difficulties and challenges to successfully implement the 13th Party Congress Resolution and the Provincial Party Congress Resolution for the 2020-2025 term, laying the foundation for Bac Giang to continue developing comprehensively and sustainably as a national industrial center, with a high standard of living for the people," affirmed Mr. Mai Son. ■



Despite challenges, Bac Giang has still sustained strong economic growth

SUSTAINABLE DESTINATION FOR HIGH-QUALITY INVESTMENT CAPITAL



Investment certificates granted to the developers of Phuc Son and expanded Viet Han Industrial Parks

Bac Giang's favorable location, strong economic growth, and open investment policies have made it a top choice for both domestic and foreign investors. The province will continue to focus on improving infrastructure, human resources and industrial zones to attract high-quality capital. It will also speed up public investment disbursement to boost local socio-economic development.

GIANG DUONG

Top choice for investors

Bac Giang offers strong investment appeal with its prime location, large land reserves for industry, and abundant workforce. Its transportation network is a key strength, featuring major routes like National Highways 1A and 31, Nhu Nguyet and Dong Viet Bridges, and the road linking Highways 37, 17 and Vo Nhai (Thai Nguyen).

In recent years, Bac Giang has ranked among the top 10 provinces for FDI, with notable growth in both the quantity and quality of projects. Global tech giants like Hana Micron, Foxconn, Luxshare-ICT and JA Solar have invested heavily, boosting the province's economy and budget contributions.

In 2024, despite significant challenges, Bac Giang attracted over US\$2.04 billion in investment, reaching 75% of the previous year's level. The province ranked 10th in FDI attraction among Vietnam's 63 provinces and cities.

Explaining Bac Giang's appeal to major investors, Ms. Bui Thi Thu Thuy, Director of the Provincial Department of Planning and Investment, said: "Bac Giang stands out for its commitment to supporting businesses, embracing the motto: 'The investor's business is the province's business.' The province ensures smooth facilitation from project research to implementation and addresses emerging issues through direct dialogues with provincial leaders."

Bac Giang benefits from its strategic location and improving transportation links to the Northern Delta region. With well-developed infrastructure, ample land and skilled human resources, the province is a stronghold for attracting domestic and foreign investors.

Bac Giang currently hosts 10 industrial parks spanning over 2,464 hectares and 38 industrial clusters covering 1,208 hectares. By 2030, the province plans to expand to 29



Individuals honored with certificates of merit from VCCI for their contributions to Bac Giang's socio-economic development and business community

industrial parks totaling 7,000 hectares. These parks feature modern infrastructure and integrated services, positioning Bac Giang as an attractive destination for investors.

Bac Giang will pursue selective investment policies,



The new inter-agency office project in Bac Giang, managed by the Provincial Civil and Industrial Construction Investment Project Management Unit

prioritizing high-tech FDI, supporting industries, advanced agriculture and high-value projects that emphasize technology, sustainability and global supply chain integration. By 2030, the province aims to rank among the top 15 nationwide in GRDP scale and lead the Northern Midlands and Mountainous region as a modern industrial hub.

Improving infrastructure, enhancing competitiveness

Bac Giang is accelerating public investment disbursement to boost socio-economic development. In 2024, the province manages a total state budget of VND10,447.8 billion, including VND9,902.6 billion in allocated funds and VND545.2

billion in extended capital.

By October 2024, Bac Giang had disbursed VND5,083.2 billion, achieving 54.6% of its plan, surpassing the national average.

The Bac Giang Provincial Civil and Industrial Construction Investment Project Management Unit (Bac Giang PMU) is overseeing key projects from 2021 to 2025. Construction and equipment installation for the new provincial inter-agency building are progressing quickly for timely completion. The Provincial Cultural and Exhibition Center and Sports Hall, once finished, will become architectural landmarks in the southern urban area of Bac Giang city, enhancing urban development.

A representative of Bac Giang PMU said: "To speed up public investment disbursement, the investor consistently urges contractors to accelerate construction, quickly accept and pay for completed work, ensuring timely project completion. Focus is also placed on investment preparation, document completion and contractor support. The Board regularly updates management methods and processes, setting standard criteria for personnel and technology, which is key to addressing future challenges."

In the coming years, Bac Giang will focus on building and enhancing socio-economic infrastructure to attract investment. The province will prioritize infrastructure for industrial zones, social amenities (housing, healthcare, education), and skilled labor to attract high-quality, technology-driven capital. It will also strengthen project monitoring, support investors in overcoming challenges, and create an open, transparent investment environment. These efforts aim to foster rapid, sustainable development and position Bac Giang as a top destination for high-quality investment in the future. ■

Toward More Professional, Service-Oriented Administration

Bac Giang considers administrative reform a key solution to building a service-oriented government and fostering a favorable business environment. As a result, the province's Public Administration Reform Index (PAR Index) has remained high in recent years, driving strong socioeconomic development. To learn more, our reporter has an interview with Mr. Nguyen Van Phuong, Deputy Director of the Department of Home Affairs, Bac Giang province.

NGOC TUNG



In 2023, Bac Giang's PAR Index scored 91.16/100, ranking 4th nationwide and 1st in the northern midland and mountainous region. What key tasks will you focus on to improve the PAR Index?

The PAR Index proved the strong effort and determination of all levels and sectors of Bac Giang province to raise component indicators and basic indicators in recent years, aiming to improve the investment and business environment and enhance service quality for people and businesses.

To maintain and improve these results, we will continue to closely follow the goals and tasks in Plan 402/KH-UBND dated August 21, 2021 of the Provincial People's Committee on Bac Giang Public Administrative Reform Plan in the 2021-2030 period. We will implement, apply and replicate good initiatives and models in administrative reform to raise service quality for people and businesses.

The sector will effectively carry out the Administrative Procedure Control Plan and the single-window mechanism; review, simplify and restructure administrative procedures; enhance the responsibility of agency leaders; and resolutely handle officers harassing and hindering people and businesses.

The sector will continue to implement the "Friendly Government" model in all communes, wards and towns; and research and develop this model at the district level; advance innovations and improve quality; rotate positions of public employees; promptly review and advise on adjusting the project on job positions, ranks and professional titles of public employees to match new regulations of the central government and the province as well as actual situations of concerned agencies and localities.

The "Office Smile" emulation and "Friendly Government" model have improved public employees' manners, behaviors, and sense of responsibility in their duties. Could you share more about the results?

On April 28, 2021, the Chairman of the Provincial People's

Committee issued Plan 125/KH-UBND on launching the office culture emulation movement in the 2019-2025 period and "Office Smile" emulation movement in the 2021-2025 period for all public employees, to which all agencies responded. As a result, the quality of public employees has been raised and their moral qualities have been cultivated. Their administrative discipline, responsibility, spirit and attitude at work have been clearly enhanced.

In 2022, the Chairman of the Provincial People's Committee awarded the certificates of merit to 49 collectives and 42 individuals with outstanding achievements in implementing the preliminary review of the office culture emulation movement in the 2019-2025 period and the "Office Smile" movement in the 2021-2025 period (Plan 1360/KH-UBND dated March 31, 2022 of the Provincial People's Committee). Up to now, the emulation movements have been implemented by agencies, helping boost the image of Bac Giang and its friendly people in the integration trend.

Moreover, after piloting the "Friendly Government" model in three units, the Provincial Party Committee and the Provincial People's Committee requested applying in 100% of communes, wards and towns across the province. In 2023, through appraisal and assessment, 76 communes, wards and towns (or 36% of the total) were recognized to have a friendly government, including 11 3-star units, 30 2-star units and 35 1-star units).

"Friendly Government" certified units have actively contributed to building and consolidating national great unity, creating public trust in the leadership of the Party and authorities at all levels. In building and implementing the criteria, many good models and creative ways have been formed and applied, such as "No appointment on Friday" in Vinh An commune, Son Dong district; "five administrative procedures without waiting" in Yen Dinh, Son Dong; the "Receiving public opinions in building friendly government and civilized urban areas" model in Tho Xuong ward; and

Many Effective Solutions for Better Healthcare Quality

With consistent solutions, Bac Giang's health sector has improved patient satisfaction through a stronger grassroots network and advanced techniques at upper-level hospitals.

NGOC TUNG

Improving grassroots health, specialized health

The completed sick bed expansion in Tan Yen, Lang Giang, Hiep Hoa, Luc Ngan, Yen Dung, Viet Yen and other medical centers has enabled the strong development of the grassroots health network of Bac Giang.

Ms. Nguyen Thi Thu Huong, Director of the Bac Giang Department of Health, said: Currently, the province has 233 public health units (12 provincial units, 11 district units and 209 commune clinics). The Provincial



The health sector has improved patient satisfaction with better local services and advanced hospital techniques



The office culture emulation movement has enhanced the quality of public employees and fostered the development of their moral values

“Fast Friday” in Le Loi ward.

The Provincial Party Committee and Provincial People's Committee continued to direct specialized agencies to amend and supplement the criteria, scoring scale and scoring methods to match actual situations and develop a pilot “Friendly Government” model at the district level for implementation in the following years.

On September 18, 2024, the Bac Giang Department of Home Affairs issued Plan 57/KH-SNV to determine the PAR Index and Satisfaction Index of Public Administrative Services (SIPAS) for agencies under the Provincial and District People's Committees. Could you highlight the plan?

To improve the PAR performance, the Chairperson of the Provincial People's Committee issued Decision 1370/QĐ-UBND dated August 22, 2024 on determining the PAR Index for agencies under the Provincial People's Committee and District People's Committees, with the introduction of PAR Index assessment criteria; assigned the District People's Committees to promulgate PAR Index and SIPAS Index assessment criteria for the Commune People's Committees. The Department of Home Affairs launched Plan 57/KH-SNV dated September 18, 2024 to carry out this decision in 2024.

Specifically, these indices are assessed with sociological appraisals and investigations. PAR Index respondents are public employees. SIPAS Index respondents are residents in the district and people and organizations using public services at departments and agencies in the index year.

These activities have been ongoing for years, with information technology and software-assisted assessments introduced in 2019 to ensure objective, transparent evaluations while reducing time and costs. In 2024, the province incorporated the District and Department Competitiveness Index (DDCI) and Digital Transformation Index into the PAR Index assessment for a more comprehensive evaluation. We also partnered with the Bac Giang Post Office to conduct a sociological survey for the PAR and SIPAS indices and worked with a third party to ensure the accuracy and objectivity of the results.

Thank you very much!

👉 People's Committee, districts, towns and cities have spent more than VND1.4 trillion on renovating, upgrading and building new district-level public health facilities since 2020. In addition to bed expansion projects for medical centers in Tan Yen, Lang Giang, Hiep Hoa, Luc Ngan and Yen Dung districts and Viet Yen town. The province is also urgently completing medical center projects in Luc Nam, Yen The and Son Dong districts. At the same time, more than VND76 billion has been spent for medical centers to purchase equipment and more than VND42 billion has been used for renovating and repairing facilities. Most of medical centers are fully furnished with medical equipment, capable of serving local people. In particular, high-quality medical services such as hemodialysis and endoscopic surgery have been deployed.

Not only investing in infrastructure, the province is also always interested in developing policies for recruiting, training and arranging reasonable staff; supports training and attracts high-quality human resources. Thus, the quality of examination and treatment at medical facilities has been improved. The province aims that each commune-level medical station will have at least one full-time doctor, and each village will have one professionally trained medical staff by 2030.

In addition, the strong socialization of medical services has contributed to reducing the burden on the public health system and facilitating people's access to a variety of medical services. The province has 675 non-public medical and traditional medicine facilities and 1,916 pharmaceutical businesses. As of September 2024, the ratio of doctors to 10,000 residents was 12.5 and the ratio of university pharmacists to 10,000 residents was 2.5. All communes, wards and towns have medical stations staffed with full-time doctors.

In particular, Bac Giang province continues to focus on developing modern advanced technologies and becomes one of the leaders in the country to apply advanced and specialized techniques to serve public healthcare. The Department of Health approved and added 8,512 new techniques to units. Many specialized techniques have been deployed like Continuous Veno-Venous Hemodiafiltration (CVVHDF) for patients with multiple organ failures and for patients with acute pancreatitis, and Continuous Veno-Venous Hemofiltration (CVVH) for ARDS patients.

In the first nine months of 2024, medical examinations totaled 2,077,531, equal to 84% of the full-year plan and up 8.5% year on year. The hospital bed occupancy was 105.9% of the capacity, equal to 118.6% of the yearly plan and up 4.4% year on year.

Administrative reform, service quality improvement

In addition to developing primary healthcare and specialized healthcare, the Bac Giang health sector has always focused on renovating management and operation and enhancing competitiveness, especially administrative reform together with service quality improvement. The

Department of Health issued many plans and directive documents on implementation of tasks and solutions to raise the quality of administrative procedure reform. Currently, the department has 115 public administrative procedures at the Public Administration Service Center, including 55 Level 3 procedures and 60 Level 4 procedures.

The sector has also accelerated digital transformation and information technology application in medical examinations and treatment. The Department of Health built the Operation Center to direct and operate the health sector and continued to direct relevant units to purchase equipment, build a pilot electronic medical record to move towards smart hospital practices and adopt cashless payments.

Currently, these units have maintained and operated deployed platforms to serve medical examination and treatment as well as administration like vaccination management platform, electronic health record platform, remote medical examination and treatment consultation support platform, and commune health station platform (grassroots healthcare). All 24 units have promoted cashless payment. All of them use QR codes, one uses mobile money, 12 use POS, eight install QR code to collect money paid for hospital fees, medical services and other transactions.

In the first nine months of 2024, the Department of Health received a total of 3,058 records, including 2,919 new records and 139 records rolled over from the previous period. The department returned 2,961 completed records, including 2,873 record results delivered before the deadline (97%) and 88 record results returned on time (3%). 1,933 out of 3,058 records were delivered via public postal services (70.3%). 97 records were not due yet.

In particular, carrying out the "Reforming the service manner and attitude of health workers for patient satisfaction", every year, the Department of Health launches a plan for implementation of the Grassroots Democracy Regulations and Code of Conduct, and reform of the service manner and attitude of health workers for patient satisfaction for relevant units to follow. According to the District and Department Competitiveness Index (DDCI) in 2023, the department ranked 4th among 20 provincial agencies, climbing up 10 places from 2022. Its Satisfaction Index of Public Administrative Services (SIPAS) Index reached 99.61% in 2023, ranked top among 17 agencies, up 10 places from a year earlier.

Nguyen Thi Thu Huong said: To promote its achievements, the health sector will continue to focus on carrying out consistent solutions to raise the quality of medical examination and treatment, develop specialized medicine and grassroots medicine. It will strengthen training, improve the qualifications of health workers and uphold medical ethics towards patient satisfaction, thus providing better healthcare service for people in particular and contributing to the sustainable development of Bac Giang province in general. ■

BAC GIANG TAX SECTOR

Strengthening Management, Effectively Seeking Revenue Sources



**Mr. Nguyen Van Sy,
Deputy Director of the Bac Giang Tax Department**

To successfully collect State budget revenue, the Bac Giang Tax Department has implemented consistent solutions to strengthen tax management, identify revenue sources, prevent tax losses, and accelerate administrative reform while supporting taxpayers.

NGUYEN MAI

Effective revenue management

Carrying out the decision of the Minister of Finance, in 2019-2020, the Bac Giang Tax Department arranged 10 district-level tax branches into five regional tax branches (including five branches and 12 teams). Up to now, the department has 12 divisions, five regional tax branches and 43 tax teams. The Party committee of the department has 12 affiliated Party cells, five affiliated Party committees and 367 Party members. The department has 489 employees.

With support from the Ministry of Finance, the General Department of Taxation, and local authorities, the branches stabilized after the merger. Tax management became routine, and employees successfully completed their assigned tasks under the guidance of the Department's leaders.

In 2024, total state budget revenue is estimated at VND19,134.5 billion, surpassing both the central government's target by 22.2% and the provincial target by 19.1%, reaching 110.7% of the 2023 performance. Domestic revenue is projected at VND16,939 billion, exceeding the central government's target by 21.3%, marking an 8.5% increase from last year. Import-export tax revenue stands at approximately VND2,195.5 billion, achieving 129.1% of the target, a 29.9% increase compared to the previous year. Notably, 15 out of 16 domestic revenue items met or exceeded their targets.

Local budget revenue also performed well, with 9 out of 10 districts and cities surpassing their annual targets. Hiep Hoa exceeded by 77.9%, Lang Giang by 53.0%, and Yen Dung by 46.8%. Excluding land use fees, all 10 districts, towns, and cities are expected to exceed their targets.

To achieve these targets, Mr. Nguyen Van Sy, Deputy Director of the Bac Giang Tax Department, said: The tax sector has benefited from strong, timely leadership and direction from the Ministry of Finance, the General Department of Taxation, the Provincial Party Committee, and the Provincial People's Committee, along with close coordination from relevant agencies and support from the business community. Additionally, consistent tax management solutions, including enhanced tax inspections, loss prevention and overdue tax collection, have been implemented.

In 2024, the tax sector conducted 601 inspections and audits, including 35 carried over from 2023 and 566 planned for the year.

The total results included tax arrears, refunds, administrative fines, and late payment penalties amounting to VND233.59 billion. Specifically, this included VND169.55 billion in tax arrears, VND 6.64 billion in refunds, VND39.24 billion in administrative fines, VND 18.15 billion in late payment penalties, a reduction of deductible taxes by VND30.48 billion, and a loss reduction of VND623.47 billion. The total tax paid to the state budget was VND212.51 billion.

Promoting its achievements, the department will continue to strictly manage revenue sources and increase revenue to offset the reduced tax as a result of tax exemption and reduction policies. It will disseminate legal regulations on debt management and tax debt enforcement to limit the occurrence of additional outstanding debts.

In addition, the department will focus on reviewing and classifying tax debts, closely monitoring them, and strengthening measures to manage and recover outstanding taxes. It will also enforce strict control over the application of measures against tax-delinquent taxpayers, publicize information on related entities, and track cases where debt has been cleared or frozen to prevent revenue loss to the State Budget.

Strengthening taxpayer support, improving competitiveness

In 2023, the Bac Giang Tax Department ranked 12th out of 20 agencies in the District and Department Competitiveness Index (DDCI) with a score of 60.62 points, an increase of 21.69 points from 2022, moving up one position into the group of good performers.

In the past time, the tax sector has constantly accelerated reforms, publicized administrative procedures and tax policies at tax offices, the Bac Giang Public Administration Service Center and on the website of the Bac Giang Tax Department; applied information technology to reduce the time to handle administrative procedures; and reviewed and proposed measures to eradicate unnecessary procedures. It has striven to have 100% of administrative procedures resolved ahead of schedule or on time.

In addition, the sector has strengthened communications on taxpayer support, organized taxpayer dialogues, disseminated instructions on new tax policies, and supported



Creating Healthy Business Environment and Supporting Business Recovery

Reforming administrative procedures, modernizing customs, and facilitating trade are key tasks for the Bac Giang Industrial Parks Customs Branch, aiming to create a healthy business environment, support business recovery, drive breakthrough development and contribute to local economic growth.

DUY ANH

In 2024, the Bac Giang Industrial Parks Customs Branch was assigned to collect VND1,700 billion for the State Budget. In the year to October 3, its budget revenue reached VND1,743.14 billion, up 43.9% from the same period of 2023 (VND1,211.3 billion) and equal to 102.5% of the assigned plan. The branch received a total of 459,552 declarations and served a total trade turnover of US\$39.46 billion, including US\$19.97 billion of imports and US\$19.49 billion of exports.

To achieve this result, Mr. Luong Tien Dung, Deputy Director of the Bac Giang Industrial Parks Customs Branch, said that, in addition to customs administration, the branch focuses on fostering customs-business partnerships, ensuring effective communication, and providing support to enterprises.

Accordingly, the branch regularly engages with enterprises to understand their production, import and export plans, develops budget collection strategies and actively addresses challenges they face. To support businesses, it uses various communication channels, including written materials, in-person meetings, conferences, training, consultations, leaflets, publications, phone, email and Zalo groups. Additionally, the branch views digital transformation as both a goal and a solution, prioritizing the application of information technology in all operations and enhancing employee training to ensure compliance with customs technology standards.

To date, the Bac Giang Industrial Parks Customs Branch has

provided 215 out of 237 online public services of Level 3 and Level 4, accounting for nearly 91% of all administrative procedures performed by the General Department of Vietnam Customs, of which 209 administrative procedures of Level 4 have been provided online, reaching 88%. Support solutions for declarants to perform electronic customs procedures have also been boosted, including e-Declaration (electronic customs procedures), e-Manifest (electronic goods declaration), e-Payment (electronic tax and fee payment), e-C/O (electronic certificate of origin of goods) and e-Permit (licenses granted by ministries and branches), thus reducing the time for customs clearance of goods and slashing costs for businesses.

In addition, the Bac Giang Industrial Parks Customs Branch strengthens coordination with the State Treasury, tax authorities and commercial banks in Bac Giang province to facilitate and encourage businesses to adopt electronic tax payment and 24/7 customs clearance. The branch regularly educates political ideology, enhances the sense of responsibility of employees, tightens administrative discipline in performing public duties, effectively carries out the Customer Service Declaration according to the regulations and instructions of the General Department of Vietnam Customs.

Mr. Luong Tien Dung said: In recent years, investment in Bac Giang industrial parks has surged, leading to a significant increase in import and export turnover. To create a healthy business environment and successfully complete assigned tasks, in addition to solutions to protect sustainable revenue sources and develop new revenue sources in the long term, the branch will strengthen risk management in customs management, inspection and supervision; and coordinate with relevant agencies to prevent smuggling, trade fraudulence, counterfeiting and knockoffs.

The branch boosts communications on taxpayer support, digital transformation and information technology application in tax management to facilitate businesses; popularize customs laws, provide maximum support, reduce customs clearance time, establish consulting teams, promptly answer businesses; and regularly listen to their thoughts and aspirations.

"The branch regularly provides training to improve the skills and political ideology of civil servants. This helps strengthen trust and satisfaction among local businesses, boosts the Provincial Competitiveness Index (PCI), and contributes to the region's socioeconomic development," he emphasized. ■

👉 removing difficulties and obstacles for taxpayers. It has carried out the plan on reviewing and standardizing personal tax code data in the second phase according to the direction of the General Department of Taxation on strengthening measures to review and standardize personal tax codes.

The Bac Giang Tax Department has boosted information technology applications to modernize the tax system and maintain electronic tax declaration, payment and refund services, and adopted electronic invoices for businesses and taxpayers according to the roadmap of the General Department of Taxation. It has expanded the eTax mobile app and

electronic invoices from cash registers, ensured 24/7 IT system operation to support taxpayers, reduced tax procedure times, and made it easier for taxpayers to meet their obligations.

The department has regularly rectified and thoroughly improved the awareness and responsibility of civil servants.

In particular, to support taxpayers, the department regularly updates tax policies and laws, organizes dialogues, provides guidance on new tax policies, and supports taxpayers in overcoming challenges through direct interactions, phone, written communication, and the e-Tax Mobile app. ■

FOSTERING ETHNIC DEVELOPMENT FOR PROSPEROUS BAC GIANG PROVINCE



The 4th Bac Giang Provincial Ethnic Minority Congress in 2024

The Committee for Ethnic Affairs of Bac Giang Province has effectively implemented ethnic policies and projects, fulfilling its responsibilities and driving local socioeconomic development. These efforts have improved quality of life and contributed to Bac Giang's continued progress.

HUONG GIANG

Effective ethnic work

Over 14% of the population in the northern mountainous province of Bac Giang are ethnic minorities, or about 260,000 people, mainly living in Son Dong, Luc Ngan, Luc Nam and Yen The districts.

In 2024, despite various difficulties and challenges, with the timely and close leadership of the Provincial Party Committee, the Provincial People's Council and the Provincial People's Committee, and the effort of all levels of authority, sectors and people, Bac Giang province continued to see good progress in socioeconomic performance, national defense and security in ethnic minority areas and mountainous areas. The material and spiritual life of ethnic minorities has been improved; infrastructure has been reinforced; and education and healthcare have made much progress.

To achieve these results, the Committee for Ethnic Affairs of Bac Giang Province always closely coordinates with relevant agencies and localities to effectively perform State administration of ethnic affairs, said Mr. Vi Thanh Quyen, Director of the Committee for Ethnic Affairs of Bac Giang Province. Notably, it coordinated in removing difficulties and obstacles and guiding the implementation of the National Target Program on Socioeconomic Development in ethnic

minority and mountainous areas (Program 1719). Each year, the committee works closely with relevant bodies to propose project plans and policies, issue guidance promptly, and oversee implementation through regular inspection and supervision. Efforts in communication, digital transformation and legal education are diversified, raising public awareness, promoting development and ensuring security in ethnic minority areas. The committee also stays proactive, tailoring plans to local needs, enhancing employee responsibility, and maintaining close monitoring of security and order.

Helping economic development and sustainable poverty reduction

In 2022-2024, the central, provincial and district budgets for implementing the National Target Program on Socio-Economic Development in Ethnic Minority and Mountainous Areas according to Decision 1719/QĐ-TTg in Bac Giang province was VND1,334.87 billion. The program invested in building 224 projects, implemented 142 transitional projects, maintained and repaired 225 projects, upgraded eight markets and implemented nine traffic upgrading projects.

To date, 100% of households have access to electricity, 100% of communes in ethnic minority and mountainous areas have roads for automobiles to reach their administrative centers; 98.31% of commune roads, 98% of village and inter-village roads and 92.76% of alley and hamlet roads are asphalted or concreted. 100% of communes and villages in ethnic minority areas have cultural houses.

The province has 42 out of 73 communes in ethnic minority and mountainous areas meet new rural development standards, accounting for 57.5%. The average income of ethnic minorities is VND45 million a year. The life of the poor and ethnic minorities has improved and there are no more hungry households. The poverty rate in extremely poor communes decreased from 21.9% in 2021 to 13.57% in 2023. The rate of



At the 4th Congress of Ethnic Minorities in Bac Giang, six teams and individuals received Certificates of Merit from the Minister and the Chairman of the Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs, while 22 teams and individuals were honored with Certificates of Merit from the Chairman of the Provincial People's Committee. The Committee for Ethnic Affairs also recognized groups and individuals with outstanding contributions to ethnic work. Previously, the committee was awarded the Third Class Labor Order in 2011 and the Second Class Labor Order in 2016 by the President of Vietnam. It has also received many emulation flags and certificates of merit from the Government, Ministers, Chairpersons of the Ethnic Minorities Committee, Chairpersons of the Provincial People's Committee, and other agencies in recognition of its achievements in ethnic work.

☞ poor ethnic minorities households declined from 11.93% in 2021 to 6.5% in 2023.

In 2019-2024, over 200 ethnic minority households escaped poverty and actively adopted new economic models. Many ethnic minority people performed well in production and business movements.

Cultural values and spiritual life of ethnic minorities are preserved and promoted. Education, healthcare and training are continuously improved. The grassroots political system is strengthened, ensuring political security, social order and unity among the people.

On November 29, 2024, the 4th Congress of Ethnic Minorities in Bac Giang set the following goals: increase the average income of ethnic minorities to 75-80% of the national average, reduce the poverty rate to below 6.5%, cut the number of communes and villages with special difficulties by 50%, certify 70% of communes in ethnic minority and mountainous areas with new rural development standards, and ensure over 90% of communes and villages in these areas have sufficient infrastructure for socioeconomic development.

Mr. Vi Thanh Quyen said: To achieve this goal, the committee will further strengthen the direction, inspection, supervision and effective implementation of ethnic projects, programs and policies; and prioritize investment resources for socioeconomic infrastructure development and urgent needs in ethnic minority areas. In particular, priority is given to poor villages and communes. All policies, programs, projects and investment capital are carried out transparently and publicly.

This approach not only helps poor, near-poor, and ethnic minority households access social services, but also supports economic growth, strengthens social security, reduces regional disparities, and contributes to a more sustainable and prosperous Bac Giang province. ■

Endeavor to Develop Modern and Integrated IZs to Attract Investment

In recent years, Bac Giang province has been promoting the development of industrial zones (IZs) to attract investment and create a solid foundation for its goal of becoming a key industrial province by 2030, with a focus on modern and sustainable growth, and one of the industrial development hubs in the region. To learn more, our reporter interviewed Mr. Dao Xuan Cuong, Director of Bac Giang Industrial Zones Authority.



BINH MINH

Can you provide information on the development of IZs in Bac Giang province, their production and business outcomes, investment attraction, and contributions to the province's socio-economic development?

Currently, Bac Giang province has 10 industrial zones (IZs) that are operational or under development, with a total planned land area of over 2,464 hectares, of which over 1,680 hectares are leased for industrial use. The total area of leased industrial and administrative service land has reached 1,105 hectares, accounting for about 64%. Three IZs have been fully occupied (Dinh Tram, Song Khe-Noi Hoang, Van Trung); three IZs have reached 95% occupancy (Quang Chau, Hoa Phu, Viet Han Phase 1); the Tan Hung IZ has reached 83%; and three IZs are in the process of completing infrastructure and calling for investment.

The IZs have attracted 513 investment projects (397 FDI projects and 116 domestic investment projects) with a total registered capital of nearly US\$11.2 billion and VND25.1 trillion. The actual capital implementation is estimated at approximately US\$7.9 billion and nearly VND12.4 trillion. A total of 460 projects have been put into operation, creating jobs for about 222,000 workers (of which about 60% are local), with an average income of over VND8 million per person per month.

In the first 10 months of 2024, we attracted and granted investment registration certificates for 37 new projects (including 28 FDI projects and 9 domestic investment projects) with total registered capital of US\$349.55 million and VND6,669.9 billion. Additionally, capital increases were approved for 55 investment projects, with additional capital totaling US\$736.2 million and VND818.86 billion. The total investment attraction for the year is estimated to reach US\$1.391 billion. By the end of 2024, the total investment attraction is expected to reach about US\$1.5 billion, exceeding the plan by 125%.

In 2024, the total revenue from the production and business activities of enterprises in the IZs is estimated to reach about VND539.4 trillion, with export turnover expected to exceed US\$26.4 billion. The industrial sector of the IZs

accounts for approximately 82.7% of the province's total industrial production value. Enterprises in the IZs have made significant contributions to the economic and social development of the province.

How is Bac Giang province promoting the development of green, ecological and innovative IZs to achieve its goal of becoming a modern, sustainable industrial province by 2030, with a vision to 2050?

According to the approved plan for Bac Giang Province for the 2021-2030 period, with a vision toward 2050, the province is striving to become a modern industrial province, with comprehensive and sustainable development, focusing on green and ecological industry growth. The Prime Minister has approved the plan, which aims for Bac Giang to be a modern, sustainable industrial province with green, ecological industrial development.

Resolution 147-NQ/TU, issued by the Provincial Party Committee on July 15, 2021, regarding industrial development for the 2021-2030 period, also outlines the objective of renewing the industrial development mindset towards modernity, efficiency and sustainability. It emphasizes the need for synchronized industrial growth alongside urban and service sector development to create an "industrial ecosystem." By 2030, Bac Giang aims to become a key industrial province, modernized and sustainable, and one of the regional industrial development hubs.

To achieve this, the province plans to establish 29 IZs by 2030, covering a total area of approximately 7,000 ha. Currently, most of the 10 operational and under-construction IZs have modern, green, and synchronized technical infrastructure, with one zone specifically designed to meet ecological industrial park standards.

These IZs are diversified across sectors but prioritize receiving projects that utilize high automation technology, have a high investment capital per hectare, contribute significantly to the national budget, and at the same time focus on energy efficiency, land conservation, low labor use and minimal environmental impact.

Moving forward, Bac Giang will continue to focus on developing IZs across multiple sectors, particularly those using advanced, high-tech industries that are environmentally friendly and optimize land use. The IZ planning will also emphasize green spaces, ensuring that at least 12% of each zone's area is dedicated to green space. The main transportation routes within the IZs will feature wide road sections with at least four lanes, and the electrical systems supplying factories will be underground to ensure aesthetic value.

Furthermore, the development of IZs in the province is aligned with the goal of creating an industrial-urban-service ecosystem. This approach supports the overarching strategy of promoting green and sustainable economic growth.

What solutions will be implemented to support businesses, enhance investment attraction and



Industrial zones have greatly contributed to the province's economic and social development

promote industrial development?

In recent years, Bac Giang has consistently focused on improving the investment and business environment in its IZs. As a result, its investment promotion and attraction efforts have been successful, placing it among the top 10 provinces and cities in Vietnam for foreign direct investment (FDI) attraction.

To maintain and enhance the effectiveness of investment attraction, we will focus on the following solutions in the coming period:

Accelerating the development of industrial park infrastructure to ensure land and facilities are synchronized, effectively meeting investor demands.

Enhancing the investment and business environment to be favorable, equitable, open, transparent, and welcoming. This includes strengthening leadership and operational capacities, fostering innovative thinking and implementing meaningful administrative reforms.

Elevating the quality of investment promotion activities by targeting major corporations and enterprises. We will adopt appropriate support policies for key investors, prioritize projects that significantly contribute to the budget, employ advanced technologies, and minimize labor use and environmental impacts.

Bolstering support and oversight for post-licensing investment activities. We will consistently monitor progress, address challenges, and expedite project timelines while ensuring thorough inspection and supervision to maintain a fair business environment. Additionally, we will actively disseminate legal regulations, swiftly detect and address violations, and collaborate with relevant agencies to enforce compliance in investment, construction and environmental protection.

Thank you so much!

BAC GIANG CITY

NEW IMAGE, NEW POTENTIAL AND NEW HEIGHTS



The merger of Yen Dung district with Bac Giang city will create additional momentum and opportunities for the city's breakthrough development

Bac Giang city is gradually realizing its goal of becoming a green, clean, beautiful and smart urban area; a modern "dual gateway" connecting the Hanoi Capital Region and the Northern Midland and Mountain Area. In this context, the merger of Yen Dung district into the city not only aligns with development conditions and trends, but also contributes to creating new space and growth drivers, fitting its role as the political, cultural and economic center of the province.

PHUONG HIEN

New image, new vitality

As the core urban area of the province, Bac Giang city is located 50 km north of Hanoi, within the Hanoi Capital Region, on the economic corridor of Nanning-Lang Son-Hanoi-Hai Phong-Quang Ninh, and near large industrial zones in the province. With a convenient transportation system, the city has leveraged its potential and strengths in recent years. The local authorities, government and people have made significant efforts and achieved important results in all fields: economy, politics, culture, society, defense and security.

So far, the city has achieved and surpassed 17 out of 18 targets set in the Resolution of the 22nd Party Congress of the city's Party Committee (2020-2025). In the first 9 months of 2024, the total retail sales and consumer services revenue were estimated at VND44,045 billion, up 16.7% compared to the same period. The industrial and construction production value was estimated at VND49,609 billion, a 19.2% increase year-on-year. The total state budget revenue was estimated at

VND1,790.8 billion. The average income per capita in 2023 was VND65.6 million, 1.1 times higher than the national average.

Cultural and social fields have been given attention, and there have been positive changes. In education and training, the city maintains its leading position in the province with a 100% solidification rate for public schools (the highest in the province), and all public schools meet national standards. Cultural institutions have been prioritized, and the poverty rate is the lowest in the province.

Notably, on September 28, 2024, the Standing Committee of the National Assembly issued Resolution 1191 on the arrangement of administrative units at the district and commune levels in Bac Giang province for the 2023-2025 period. Accordingly, Yen Dung district will be merged with Bac Giang city, and new wards will be established, increasing the city's natural area by four times and its population by 1.8 times compared to the present (with an area of 258.3 km² and a population of approximately 371,000 people).

Mr. Dang Dinh Hoan, Chairman of the People's Committee of Bac Giang city, said that this merger will create new space and development momentum for the city in the future. Specifically, it will facilitate the distribution of space for industrial, urban, tourism, service and high-quality agricultural development, forming service centers that support production in industrial zones, which are well-integrated with the infrastructure system, and forming satellite urban areas at the southern gateway of Bac Giang city. This will help exploit advantages, attract investment and boost socio-economic development.

In the immediate future, from now until January 1, 2025 (when the new Bac Giang city officially operates), the entire political system will continue to stabilize the machinery while focusing on developing essential functional areas and dynamic zones such as the city center, new urban areas, service infrastructure linked with the central urban area, and developing synchronized industrial-service-urban zones.

Building a green, smart and livable city

The Resolution of the 22nd Party Congress of Bac Giang city (2020-2025) set the goal of striving to build a rapidly developing and sustainable city, with a focus on being a green and smart urban area.

In recent years, the city has implemented many solutions to attract investment for urban development. Many large projects have been built, completed and put into operation, contributing to improving the quality of life and highlighting the urban landscape, such as: the Hanoi-Bac Giang Expressway, the headquarters of the City Party Committee, People's Council, People's Committee, Bach Viet Lake Garden New Urban Area, the provincial sports hall, high-rise apartments and hotels.

The city is also investing in the construction and renovation of greenery along six out of 10 major streets and around 40 parks and public areas as planned. Notably, green spaces are being enhanced in the central areas, new urban areas, and along waterway green corridors in the southern urban area and inner-city wards.

The city is focusing on building a civilized urban area in parallel with the development of e-government, aiming to improve the quality of life for residents. The local government has invested in and activated an Intelligent Urban Operations Center (IOC) and

implemented the Smart city ICT Architecture 1.0 for Bac Giang city. The city's electronic portal has been upgraded, along with the 16 wards and communes. Additionally, QR code systems have been introduced for meeting materials.

Furthermore, the merger of Yen Dung district into Bac Giang city will significantly increase the city's size and population, expand the urban space, and create vital opportunities for the rapid, comprehensive, and sustainable development of a green and smart city, with a focus on making it a livable city for the people.

Following the merger, the city aims to achieve the classification of Type I Urban Area before 2030. The city will prioritize investments in the construction of technical infrastructure, aligned with social infrastructure, ensuring smooth connectivity between the existing urban area and the newly expanded sections in a modern, synchronized manner.

In the future, Bac Giang will prioritize attracting high-tech, environmentally friendly projects that contribute significantly to socio-economic development and can participate in global value chains. Additionally, projects in the fields of electronics, telecommunications, mechanical engineering, construction materials, new materials and supporting industries will be encouraged. The city will also focus on attracting investments for financial centers, banks, hotels, supermarkets and commercial centers as per the urban planning.

To support businesses and investors, the city will accelerate administrative reforms and improve the investment and business environment. This includes reviewing and recommending ways to shorten the processing time for documents for organizations, citizens, businesses and household enterprises. Furthermore, the city will strengthen discipline and professionalism among officials and staff.

Each year, the People's Committee of the city issues a detailed plan to direct the support of businesses, maintain citizen engagement, improve planning and create favorable conditions for businesses and organizations in accessing land, creating a legal environment for sustainable investment attraction.

Notably, the city will focus on expediting compensation, site clearance and creating clean land for investors. As of this year, the city has successfully cleared land for nine projects, with seven projects having already been allocated land and two projects in the process of land allocation procedures.

"For the difficulties in business operations, the city will focus on providing swift and operative solutions. This will help create new spaces and growth momentum for the city, helping it fulfill its role as the political, cultural, and economic center of the province," emphasized Mr. Dang Dinh Hoan. ■

On July 31, 2024, Deputy Prime Minister Tran Hong Ha signed Decision 728/QĐ-TTg, recognizing Bac Giang as a Grade II urban area directly under Bac Giang province. This is a recognition and a well-deserved achievement for the efforts of Bac Giang city in urban development in recent years.

LANG GIANG

Harnessing All Resources for Rapid and Sustainable Socioeconomic Growth

As one of the four key economic development pillars of Bac Giang province, Lang Giang district is resolutely improving the investment and business environment. It actively supports enterprises by addressing challenges, particularly in site clearance and investment attraction. These efforts have unlocked resources for rapid, sustainable economic growth, positioning the district as the northern growth hub of Bac Giang province.

NGOC VU

Promoting advantages, boosting investment attraction

Lang Giang has a favorable location: 10km from the center of Bac Giang city, 60km from Noi Bai Airport and Hanoi City, 100km from Huu Nghi International Border Gate (Lang Son) and 130km from Hai Phong Seaport and Cai Lan-Quang Ninh deep-water seaport. Many strategic traffic routes run across the district like Bac Giang-Lang Son Expressway, National Highway 1A, National Highway 31, National Highway 37, Hanoi-Lang Son Railway and Kep-Quang Ninh Railway along with many intertwining provincial and district roads to form a complete traffic network.

In addition, the district has a quite large area of flat land, and the labor force accounts for a high proportion. Besides Tan Hung Industrial Park, Lang Giang established 10 industrial complexes with a combined area of 349 ha. At the same time, the district is accelerating the progress of licensing two new industrial parks, namely Gilimex and My Thai, expected to take place in the first quarter of 2025.

Unlocking its potential advantages, Lang Giang has focused on attracting investment capital for socioeconomic development, driven by industry, urbanization and service, and achieved many positive results.

In the first 10 months of 2024, the district attracted eight investment projects, an increase of 33% year on year. Notably, the foreign direct investment (FDI) reached VND837.5 billion, eight folds higher than the value in 2023. To date, Lang Giang has 266 manufacturing, trading and service investment projects with about VND12,000 billion of registered capital. In addition, the locality is carrying out 20 urban and residential investment





Infrastructure and urban appearance of Lang Giang are increasingly enhanced



projects with a total registered value of VND6,077 billion. Up to now, two out of 20 projects have completed technical infrastructure construction while the remainder are being implemented and guaranteed to be completed on schedule.

Mr. Nguyen Van Bang, Chairman of the Lang Giang People's Committee, said: According to the Bac Giang Provincial Planning for the 2021-2030 period, with a vision to 2050, Lang Giang is planned to become a green urban area with unique culture, a regional logistics center and an important economic growth pole in the north of Bac Giang province.

In the coming time, the district will further focus on attracting and mobilizing investment resources for infrastructure development in industrial parks and complexes, with priority given to environmentally friendly high-tech projects. Moreover, the district will draw investment capital for logistics, high-value trade service, high-valued supporting industries, which have strong ripple effects and entice domestic and foreign high-quality labor resources.

Enhancing investment support

To accompany and support businesses, in recent years, Lang Giang has focused on land compensation and site clearance for investment projects. Accordingly, the Lang Giang People's Committee regularly oversees and accelerates land acquisition and clearance for each project. When there are emerging challenges, the province will promptly meet relevant sectors and units to discuss and agree on solutions.

Furthermore, to remove difficulties for businesses, Lang Giang has launched guidance on development direction, investment attraction and business climate improvement, including Resolution 32-NQ/HU dated March 18, 2021 of the Lang Giang Party Committee, and Plan 29/KH-UBND dated March 31, 2021 on investment environment improvement, investment attraction and industrial development in 2021-2025. All guidance contents are disseminated to all agencies for effective implementation.

The district also built an investment promotion website, <https://www.xtdtlanggiang.gov.vn>, which is connected to the electronic information portal of the Lang Giang People's

Committee. This website provides organizations and individuals with essential information on the investment environment, legal procedures, opportunities, and administrative processes. Notably, planning and project information is visually displayed on the Digitized Map of Lang Giang district (GIS application).

Periodically, the district coordinates with the Lang Giang Business Association to organize government-business dialogues to grasp and promptly resolve difficulties faced by local companies. It regularly provides information on training programs organized by the Department of Planning and Investment to raise awareness and skills of businesses and connect cooperation opportunities for investors.

"At the same time, Lang Giang continues to promote digital transformation and improve the quality of public employees. The district strives to fully complete the given targets and plans to become an important contributor to the development of Bac Giang province," Bang emphasized. ■

According to the Lang Giang Land Fund Development Center, 2024 is a challenging year for land compensation, support and site clearance. In particular, site clearance faces a lot of difficulties because the Law on Land 2024 still lacks specific instructions for enforcement and Bac Giang province has not yet issued a new land price list, making people reluctant to agree on the compensation method. To solve this, along with the participation of all levels of authority and sectors, the center has prioritized communications on raising public consensus. The center always ensures the criteria of harmonized interests for individuals, collectives and society in accordance with the current law and creates consensus among related parties. On the other hand, the district coordinates with the government of communes and towns where the project is implemented to boost effective, public and transparent communications to enhance public understanding of project significance and local development, thus strengthening public consensus.

30 Years of Efforts in Developing Local Infrastructure



Over the past 30 years, the Lang Giang PMU has significantly contributed to the development and completion of local infrastructure in Lang Giang district

Lang Giang, once a largely agricultural region with limited infrastructure, has experienced remarkable transformation in recent years. Significant improvements, particularly in transportation, have played a key role in driving the district's socio-economic development. These achievements are largely thanks to the efforts of the Lang Giang District Construction Investment Project Management Unit (Lang Giang PMU).

NGUYEN NGOC

The Lang Giang PMU was established on August 8, 1994. As both investor and project manager, over the past three decades, the Lang Giang PMU has overseen more than 2,130 projects spanning civil construction, transportation, irrigation and technical infrastructure. These completed projects have not only been highly successful but have also become key landmarks, significantly contributing to the district's socio-economic development.

In recent years, Lang Giang district has prioritized the development of transportation infrastructure to enhance regional connectivity and drive progress in areas such as urbanization, industrial infrastructure and overall socio-economic growth. The Lang Giang PMU has been entrusted with the implementation of several key projects, which not only address transportation and trade needs but also contribute to the expansion of urban spaces and the development of new residential and commercial areas.

Some notable projects that have effectively attracted investment capital include the renovation and upgrading of

Road 295B, the renovation and upgrading of Road 292 (under the BT contract), and the National Highway 37-National Highway 17 (covering sections in Viet Yen, Tan Yen and Lang Giang). Other significant projects include the expansion of the road from Kep Town to Highway 37, the road from Voi town to Gio-My Thai, the axis road connecting Huong Son Industrial Park to Route 1A, the Dai Lam-An Ha district road (from Xuong Lam commune to Road 295), and the axis road linking Voi town to Nghia Hung, Tien Luc and Duong Duc.

Throughout the implementation process, the Lang Giang PMU has successfully employed a range of strategies to boost the disbursement rate of investment capital for its projects. Key measures include prioritizing the acceleration of construction progress, ensuring that contractors complete work promptly and initiate acceptance and settlement procedures without delay. For projects experiencing slow disbursement, the PMU takes a proactive approach by reviewing, assessing and categorizing each project to implement targeted solutions and improve progress.

For newly allocated capital projects, the Lang Giang PMU rapidly completes the necessary investment procedures and initiates construction. A strong emphasis is placed on improving the quality of the bidding process to select competent contractors. During project implementation, the PMU enhances monitoring and supervision, regularly reviewing progress and making adjustments. Funds from projects with low disbursement rates are decisively reallocated to those with higher completion potential, better disbursement prospects and greater capital needs.

Supporting businesses is a priority for the Lang Giang PMU. This includes close coordination with local authorities in areas where projects are being implemented and fostering effective communication between contractors working on many aspects of the projects.

According to Lang Giang PMU's Director Tran Cong Tuong, the primary challenge currently impacting the progress of project investments, particularly in transportation infrastructure, is compensation and site clearance. To address this, the Lang Giang PMU has gone beyond its assigned tasks by actively collaborating with relevant agencies, local authorities and construction units in the site clearance process. This includes deploying PMU staff to work closely with the District Land Fund Development Center to monitor the status and progress of site clearance. The PMU also participates in inventory assessments, measurements and site clearance planning, while encouraging contractors to assist residents with asset relocation and infrastructure rebuilding during the clearance phase.

Additionally, the Lang Giang PMU works closely with local governments to facilitate public communication and mobilization, fostering consensus and unity among the community. This approach is grounded in the principle of mutual benefit, with the guiding motto of "People know, people discuss, people do, people check" at the forefront.

"In the coming time, the Lang Giang PMU will prioritize the training and development of its staff, focusing on enhancing professional skills, responsibility, dynamism and transparency in their work. The PMU will also ensure the regular updating and dissemination of legal documents and regulations related to basic construction investment, compensation and site clearance, aiming to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of task execution," said Mr. Tran Cong Tuong. ■

VIET YEN MEDICAL CENTER

IMPROVING CAPACITY OF PUBLIC HEALTH CARE

In recent years, Viet Yen Town has experienced strong and comprehensive growth and development. Contributing to this progress, Viet Yen Medical Center has made efforts to successfully fulfill its responsibilities, achieving all assigned goals and meeting the town's public health care, protection and improvement needs.

NGUYEN NGOC



In September 2023, Viet Yen Medical Center completed a 7-storey building to improve medical care quality

Improving the capacity of medical examination and treatment

Viet Yen Medical Center is affiliated with the Bac Giang Department of Health. The center consists of 16 specialized departments, six functional departments, and 17 commune/ward clinics.

Doctor Chu Ba Tam, Deputy Director of Viet Yen Medical Center, said: To improve the quality of medical examination and treatment, the center has developed many new technical services in recent years. Currently, it deploys 4,288 techniques, including 4,279 techniques of its level and nine techniques of its higher level.

The center has provided many specialized services and techniques for treatment such as endoscopic surgery in obstetrics and gynecology, wound treatment with plasma, gastrointestinal endoscopy with anesthesia, ureteral stone endoscopy/laser lithotripsy, gas pulse, Phaco surgery, and upcoming artificial kidney technique. In particular, from the second quarter of 2024, the center has deployed many new techniques in urinary endoscopy, obstetrics endoscopy and hemodialysis.

In addition, Viet Yen Medical Center takes advantage of support from all agencies and sectors while allocating investment resources for material development. Notably, the commissioning and operation of a 7-storey building in September 2023 is a highlight for medical development of Viet Yen town. The project is designed to meet the demand of patients and medical staff, aiming to improve the quality of medical services.

"In addition to providing a spacious and professional working space for medical staff, the operation and use of the new 7-storey building also brings a better service experience to

patients and customers. This is an important step forward in providing medical services for local residents," said Tam.

In particular, seeing human resources as a core factor, Viet Yen Medical Center consistently supports its employees by facilitating their participation in long-term training programs and professional development courses organized by the Ministry of Health and the Bac Giang Department of Health. The center provides access to specialized training from central and provincial agencies under Project 1816, with a focus on specialties and departments aligned with the local health needs and pathology.

Therefore, most of the center's professional indicators have increased from a year earlier. In 2024, medical examinations totaled 147,828, equal to 105.6% of the plan and an increase of 7,577 cases from 2023. It performed 1,369 surgeries in the year, equal to 119% of the plan and an increase of 463 cases from 2023. An average inpatient treatment took 5.39 days and the bed occupancy was 100.6%. The center had 4,836 referred outpatients, equal to 3.3% of the total and received 269 referred inpatients, or 1.65%. Referred patients totaled 5,105, or 2.5%.

In addition to medical examination and treatment, the center achieved positive outcomes in epidemic prevention and health programs, including reproductive healthcare, nutrition improvement for mothers and children, and family planning. Regular supervision, support, and technical guidance are provided to lower-level healthcare facilities.

Continuing public healthcare mission

Deputy Director Chu Ba Tam said, January 2024 marked a strong transformation of Viet Yen when the National Assembly's Standing Committee approved the



The doctors have mastered many sophisticated techniques, including ovarian cancer surgery

resolution on establishment of Viet Yen town. Once a predominantly agricultural region, Viet Yen has undergone transformation, becoming a key driver of Bac Giang's economic development.

Notably, Viet Yen also has many industrial zones and a lot of workers, so the healthcare demand is increasing. This places requirements on the development of medical infrastructure and public health care.

In the coming time, Viet Yen Medical Center will continue to make efforts to effectively promote available resources, and improve the quality of public health care, consolidate and raise the quality of grassroots health care to reduce patient overloads at higher medical facilities. The center will ensure that all people receive affordable basic healthcare, thus contributing to social justice.

In addition to professional work, Viet Yen Medical Center will also pay special attention to building medical ethics and implementing the project: "Reforming service manner and attitude of medical staff towards patient satisfaction". Each year, the center provides training to all its employees to enhance their communication skills. It also conducts regular inspections and oversight to promptly address any errors and improve service quality. Additionally, the center recognizes and rewards teams and employees who demonstrate exceptional service and a positive attitude. In addition, the customer care team works effectively to promptly resolve questions and difficulties and enhance patient satisfaction. Patients are admitted promptly to alleviate the workload in the center's specialized departments, minimizing wait times and reducing queues for patients.

To facilitate people, Viet Yen Medical Center adopted synchronous information technology applications to make sure that output data are connected and communicated



Viet Yen Medical Center has effectively maintained and implemented healthcare services, preventive medicine, food safety, and population programs

with social insurance agencies to enable health insurance management and payment. Network connection between the examination department, clinical and paraclinical departments, pharmacy department, fee collection department, other departments and leaders helps reduce waiting time.

Accelerating digital transformation, the center has also accepted noncash payment methods (such as bank transfer and QR code) to settle payment for hospital fees, medical services and other transactions. Furthermore, the center has also promoted administrative reform, strengthened management, reduced errors and confusion, and improved the quality of medical examination and treatment.

This approach not only enhances comprehensive healthcare for the community in the current context but also plays a proactive role in the local socioeconomic development, making Viet Yen town a truly happy destination for residents and businesses.■

BAC GIANG OBSTETRIC AND PEDIATRIC HOSPITAL

Efforts for Enhancing Public Health and Wellbeing



Meritorious Physician, Specialist Level 2 Doctor Le Cong Tuoc, Director of Bac Giang Obstetric and Pediatric Hospital, is honored with Certificate of Merit from the Vietnam Fatherland Front Committee of Bac Giang province

Bac Giang Obstetric and Pediatric Hospital not only instills confidence in patients through its dedicated spirit, professionalism and service but also solidifies its reputation as a leader in high-quality obstetric, gynecological and pediatric care.

NGOC TUNG

Best address for obstetrics and pediatrics

Established in 2010, Bac Giang Obstetric and Pediatric Hospital is currently the province's highest hospital for obstetrics, gynecology and pediatrics, offering 650 beds across 29 specialized departments. Since 2014, it has operated as an official extension of the National Hospital of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Vietnam National Children's Hospital.

In recent years, supported by the Provincial Party Committee and the Provincial People's Committee, especially the direct direction of the Department of Health, Bac Giang Obstetric and Pediatric Hospital has been furnished with modern medical equipment of the first-class hospital such as heart surgery systems, endoscopic surgical systems, 3D - 4D Doppler ultrasound machines, high-frequency ventilators and neonatal incubators to best meet the demand for high-quality medical services from the people.

The period from 2021 to 2023 posed a lot of difficulties for the healthcare sector, and Bac Giang Obstetric and Pediatric Hospital was no exception. The COVID-19 pandemic led to a sharp decline in patient numbers, while competition from hospitals at all levels, including private hospitals, intensified. Additionally, the procurement of medications, medical equipment and consumables became increasingly difficult due to new regulations.

Specialist Level 2 Doctor Le Cong Tuoc, Director of Bac Giang Obstetric and Pediatric Hospital, said: To overcome these difficulties, the hospital utilized equivalent medications and materials for diagnostics, treatment and reproductive support. It also focused on continuously enhancing its professional expertise, specialized techniques and service quality to attract and retain patients. By addressing policy-related obstacles and stabilizing its operations, the hospital has reinforced its position as a leading center for obstetric, gynecological and pediatric care in the region and neighboring provinces.

Currently, the hospital provides most endoscopic techniques, with many difficult and complicated cases that require sophisticated techniques. In particular, in 2023, the moment the first in-vitro fertilization (IVF) baby was born or a premature 600-gram baby was successfully nurtured marked a breakthrough in the hospital's reproductive support and pediatrics.

With the transfer of techniques from experts at the National Center for IVF Production Support (National Hospital of Obstetrics and Gynecology), the Department of Reproductive Support of Bac Giang Obstetric and Pediatric Hospital performed 106 egg retrievals and transferred IVF embryos to 94 infertile couples, of which 55 embryo transfer cases resulted in pregnancy, and 26 babies were born healthy (with two pairs of twins). The pregnancy rate of IVF cases was equivalent to that of major IVF centers nationwide.

Since 2023, the hospital has accepted dozens of highly applicable scientific research projects that have brought practical benefits in surgery and treatment and helped protect and improve the health of mothers and newborns. The Pediatric Surgery Department has made significant strides by successfully introducing endoscopic techniques for performing breast lift surgeries to treat sternal depression in children. This advancement has enhanced treatment outcomes and significantly reduced the need for patient referrals to central hospitals.

Improving public satisfaction and trust

Director Tuoc said: Since its inception, Bac Giang Obstetric and Pediatric Hospital has upheld the motto "Patient satisfaction is fundamental to the Hospital's existence and development".

Accordingly, while improving the quality of medical examination and treatment, the hospital is also actively applying information technology to quality management, reforming administrative procedures and streamlining medical processes. Applications on digital platforms such as remote consultation and smart tech applications help



Staff members of Bac Giang Obstetric and Pediatric Hospital

As of December 20, 2024, Bac Giang Obstetric and Pediatric Hospital provided care for 151,560 outpatient visits and 49,375 inpatient admissions. The hospital successfully facilitated 49,375 normal births and 5,066 safe cesarean sections, with no maternal fatalities. Patient and family satisfaction with the hospital continues to rise, currently exceeding 95%.

improve the effectiveness of diagnosis and treatment.

The hospital has also upgraded equipment and software for medical examination and treatment management, patient reception and a stay management model powered by ASM software connected to the National Population Database System. Additionally, the hospital has actively built a “green - clean - beautiful” medical facility to help control infections.

Besides, the successful implementation of the Project “Reforming the service manner and attitude of medical staff towards patient satisfaction” has clearly changed awareness, attitude and service and trained communication and behavioral skills of medical staff, helping strengthen public confidence. The hospital’s quality assessment score is always higher year after year.

Notably, the hospital has developed a demand-based medical examination and treatment project and high-quality services, approved by the Bac Giang Department of Health and allowed for implementation. This move has brought practical effects, not only helping people enjoy high-quality medical services in the locality, saving costs and reducing overload at higher levels but also contributing to local socioeconomic development.

In the future, in addition to maintaining advanced and specialized techniques, Bac Giang Obstetric and Pediatric Hospital will promote research and application of new techniques in diagnosis, emergency care and treatment. In particular, the hospital will focus on carrying out techniques, screening tests, prenatal and postnatal diagnosis; and detecting rare diseases and congenital diseases for timely intervention to further improve population quality.

Regarding pediatrics, the hospital will continue developing techniques in newborns, mastering all techniques of infertility, pediatric endocrine diseases, congenital metabolic disorders and rehabilitation techniques for children with developmental delays.

“On the new development path, all the staff of Bac Giang Obstetric and Pediatric Hospital will continue to make efforts to



The surgical team happily welcomes the first IVF baby girl at Bac Giang Obstetric and Pediatric Hospital



Bac Giang Obstetric and Pediatric Hospital features a 1.5 Tesla Magnetom Essenza Siemens MRI machine from Germany

protect the health and wellbeing of people in Bac Giang and other provinces, hence further recording new milestones on the 15-year journey of development while aiming to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Vietnamese Doctors' Day (February 27, 1955 - February 27, 2025),” he emphasized. ■

The list of demand-based medical services at Bac Giang Obstetric and Pediatric Hospital for the 2024-2030 period includes cesarean sections, cervical polypectomy, vaginal hysterectomy, laparoscopic adnexal surgery and cesarean sections for patients with systemic diseases.

BAC GIANG LGG GARMENT CORPORATION

Focus on Sustainable Development

Currently, green transformation is vital for textile and garment producers to enhance their competitiveness and international integration. In line with this trend, Bac Giang LGG Garment Corporation has introduced practical solutions and actions, not only to meet strict environmental standard requirements of partners but also to realize sustainable development goals, aiming to bring values to employees and the community.

NGOC TUNG

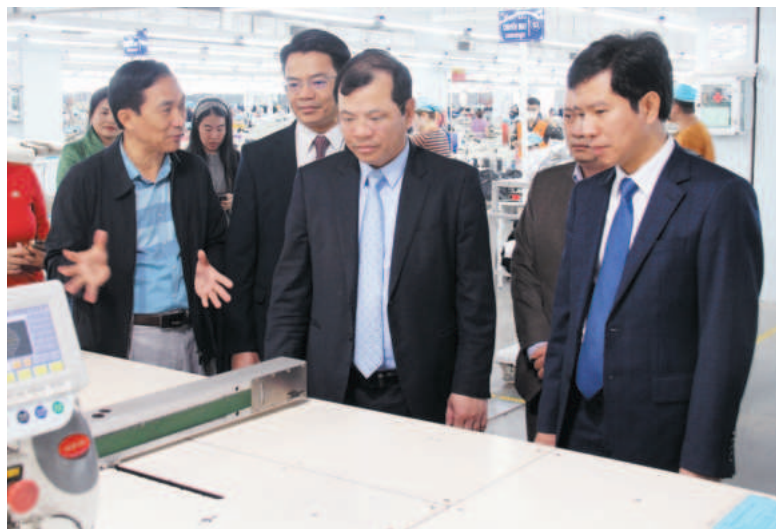
Bac Giang LGG Garment Corporation, formerly known as Ha Bac Garment Enterprise, was established in 1972. After more than 50 years of development, the corporation has become a leading garment producer with six factories in Bac Giang, Tuyen Quang and Ha Tinh provinces, employed nearly 8,000 workers, and earned a yearly export value of about US\$150 million. The firm has recently commenced operations at its newly constructed 3-storey, air-conditioned Garment Factory 5 and Garment Factory 6, designed and built to meet modern European standards.

Furthermore, the factories are engineered to support an annual production capacity of 10 million units. The modern manufacturing system is carefully organized, with a seamless, continuous flow from input warehousing to cutting, sewing, packaging and output warehousing. This streamlined process is further enhanced by the implementation of LEAN methodology, alongside the ongoing application of 5S and KAIZEN principles. As a result, Bac Giang LGG Garment Corporation has strengthened its reputation and solidified the trust of leading global partners and customers.

Furthermore, as the shift to green textile and garment is becoming more popular, as a big garment exporter to large demanding markets like Europe, the US and Japan, Bac Giang LGG Garment Corporation has also pioneered green transformation and met market requirements. The firm established criteria early and obtained the “Green Factory” certificate.

Accordingly, the firm has invested more than VND12 billion to install a rooftop solar power system with a total capacity of 1MW since 2020. Since its operation, the corporation has reduced electricity bills by 15%. During hot weather, the factory's roof, equipped with solar panels, ensures a comfortable working environment for employees. Currently, the solar power system meets approximately 40% of the factory's energy demand during peak months.

Additionally, the firm replaced the fluorescent lighting



Mr. Phan The Tuan, Vice Chairman of the Bac Giang Provincial People's Committee (middle), visits the Bac Giang LGG Garment Corporation factory, February 2024

system with the LED lighting system and replaced coal-fired boilers with fossil fuel-powered boilers. Biomass-fired boilers use more environmentally friendly chemicals. The wastewater treatment system of its factories is also guaranteed, and the treated output can be reused for planting trees or raising fish.

In particular, its factories also focus on meeting global recycling certificates, using recycled materials or responsible feather certificates and launching a series of activities to raise awareness of employees.

Mr. Luu Tien Chung, General Director of Bac Giang LGG Garment Corporation, said, for many years, the Board of Directors has committed to leading the way in sustainable development. This presents an opportunity to enhance transparency in the production chain, foster stronger partnerships within green production networks, adopt



Bac Giang LGG Garment Corporation not only prioritizes employee well-being but also organizes many programs to enhance their quality of life

advanced manufacturing methods, utilize clean energy sources, and secure long-term sustainability for the company's future.

Bac Giang LGG Garment Corporation embraces the vision of becoming a large-scale, modern and prestigious international textile and garment corporation in the global textile and garment supply chain. With its efforts to join green supply chains and carry out green development and sustainable development activities, in the coming time, the corporation will elevate its position, strengthen competitiveness and gain a high appreciation of customers. Furthermore, carrying out green activities and protecting the environment, the firm has created trust from its employees and the surrounding local community, thus contributing to building good values for the community and protecting the ecological environment.

"In doing so, focus on realizing our goals and core values: creating more job opportunities, boosting income for the community, contributing to local tax revenues,



At Bac Giang LGG Garment Corporation, green transformation is not only about meeting partner standards but also demonstrating its commitment to sustainable development, aiming to deliver value to employees

generating foreign currency for the country, promoting social security, and delivering high-quality products that contribute to world fashion," he stated. ■

THAO LAM TL

Promoting Local Forest Product Processing

By investing in a large-scale, modern agricultural and forest product processing factory, Thao Lam TL Development and Business Company Limited has enhanced the value of agricultural and forest products, created many jobs for local workers, boosted industrial production and significantly contributed to local budget revenue.

THANH LAM



In addition to focusing on business operations, Thao Lam TL regularly contributes and supports social security programs

Thao Lam TL, headquartered in Bac Giang City, Bac Giang Province, processes forest products, with the main output including pressed wood and plywood. Since its inception in 2021, the company swiftly developed an investment plan for a project focused on processing local wood, agricultural and forest products for export. The plan prioritized proximity to raw material sources, convenient transportation networks, abundant labor resources and easy access to border gates with China.

After completing investment procedures, in late 2022, the company started to carry out the "Agricultural and Forest Product Processing Factory" project in Lai village, Dai Lam commune, Lang Giang district. The project is located in the center of the province's commercial forest areas such as Luc Ngan, Son Dong, Luc Nam and Yen The districts. At the same time, it is convenient for the company to transport raw materials from neighboring provinces like Thai Nguyen, Lang Son, Yen Bai and Phu Tho.

The factory is also conveniently connected to the border gates with China in Lang Son, via National Highway 1A and Bac Giang-Lang Son Expressway, thus facilitating the import of machinery and equipment for the project and exporting products to partners.

To date, the project has completed construction and put seven factories into operation to manufacture and process wooden bars, pressed wood, plywood and foams. The project employs about 200 workers, each of whom is paid VND8 million a month on average.

As its products are flammable, Thao Lam TL pays special attention to fire prevention and fighting standards.

Not only building an automatic fire prevention and fighting system, the company also meets the highest criteria for this work and always propagates and trains its employees on fire prevention and fighting.

In addition, aiming for sustainable development, Thao Lam TL always focuses on improving the working environment, arranging the spacious campus and easy internal traffic and planting trees. In particular, its factories use boilers (for wood drying) powered by biomass energy to reduce electricity bills. At the same time, the company is investing about VND18 billion in a rooftop solar power system to meet 80% of factories' daytime power needs.

A representative of Thao Lam TL said: To complete the construction of the company's "Agricultural and Forest Product Processing Factory" project ahead of schedule, competent authorities of Bac Giang province have accompanied and guided related administrative procedures and accelerated their settlement time. In addition, authorities at all levels, especially the Lang Giang District People's Committee and the Dai Lam Commune People's Committee, have provided maximum support in site clearance and early handover of the site for investment implementation.

The company hopes to receive more support from all levels and sectors to further promote project performance to help raise the value of agricultural and forest products and promote local industrial production. At the same time, the company will create more jobs for workers and actively contribute to the development of Lang Giang district and Bac Giang province. ■



Upon completion, Huong Son 2 Industrial Complex will drive local economic growth

VINH PHAT BAC GIANG JSC

PARTNERING WITH LOCALITIES TO DRIVE INVESTMENT GROWTH

In recent years, to realize its industrial development goals, Lang Giang district (Bac Giang province) has prioritized attracting investment and developing industrial infrastructure, particularly eco-friendly industrial zones with integrated, modern facilities. The Huong Son 2 Industrial Complex, invested and developed by Vinh Phat Bac Giang Joint Stock Company, is a prime example of this approach.

DUY ANH

With a convenient transportation system, Lang Giang district, the “gateway” in the north of Bac Giang province, is defined as a key point for socioeconomic development, especially services and industry of the province. Located along the Nanning (China)-Lang Son-Hanoi-Hai Phong Economic Corridor, the district has played an important role in boosting commodity production and facilitating economic exchange, benefiting Bac Giang province and Lang Giang district.

In recent years, the district has focused on industrial development, especially modern and synchronous

infrastructure in industrial zones to attract investors. The locality has striven to have industrial and construction production value to account for 60% of the economic structure by 2025.

Located in Huong Son commune, Lang Giang district, Huong Son 2 Industrial Complex, invested by Vinh Phat Bac Giang Joint Stock Company, has an area of 65 ha and a total investment of VND688.015 billion. The strategically located industrial complex is adjacent to National Highway 37 to the north, the Hanoi-Lang Son Expressway to the east, and planned roads to the west, providing favorable conditions to attract investors.

Once completed and operated, Huong Son Industrial Complex will create a driving force to promote the economic development of Lang Giang district and Bac Giang province. At the same time, it will increase the industrial share and foster the development of an environmentally sustainable green ecosystem with advanced technological integration.

Decision 1027/QĐ-UBND dated November 28, 2024, by the Bac Giang Provincial People's Committee revising the construction timeline for the Huong Son 2 Industrial Complex, outlines the project as follows: From the second quarter of 2023 to the second quarter of 2025, the investment project will cover approximately 50 ha of land (excluding 15 ha for soil leveling), with activities including legal procedures, detailed planning, feasibility studies, construction drawings, and environmental impact assessments. From the third quarter of 2025 to the end of the fourth quarter of 2026, the focus will be on site clearance and compensation, completing technical infrastructure, and attracting secondary investors to lease at least 60% of the industrial land area.





In the second phase (from January 2026 to the end of November 2027): Carrying out investment, environmental, construction and other related procedures for 15 ha (the above overlapped area), completing land compensation and site clearance, technical infrastructure and attracting secondary investors to fill 100% of the rentable industrial land area.

Huong Son 2 Industrial Complex aims to become a green industrial hub, attracting industries such as agricultural and forest product processing, food manufacturing, electrical, electronic and mechanical components production, garment manufacturing, medical and pharmaceutical equipment production, packaging manufacturing and other supporting industries. Notably, forest product processors will advantageously source local raw materials in Luc Ngan, Yen The, Son Dong and Luc Nam districts (Bac Giang) and neighboring provinces such as Thai Nguyen, Lang Son and Yen Bai. At the same time, it is convenient to export products to the Chinese market through border gates in Lang Son province.

To achieve sustainable development goals, in addition to investing in synchronous modern infrastructure with wastewater treatment systems and planting trees, the complex will entice investors supporting environmental protection, green economy, circular economy, new energy and renewable energy, thus contributing to fostering the development of a new industrial ecosystem in the district.

In addition to industrial infrastructure development, Vinh Phat Bac Giang Joint Stock Company takes care of the life of its employees. Currently, the company is carrying out the Nham Bien Social Housing Project in Yen Dung district (now Bac Giang City). Covering 5.1 ha and costing nearly VND1,800 billion, the project consists of high-rise social housing, low-rise commercial housing, technical infrastructure, yards, roads, landscape trees and kindergartens and medical services for the resident community.

Currently, the project has started construction and is set to deliver apartment units to the market in 2025, addressing the housing needs of workers in industrial zones and low-income individuals, thus enabling the successful implementation of the Bac Giang Housing Development Program till 2030 and the Bac Giang Social Housing Development Project for workers.

Remarking on the investment environment in Lang Giang district, Ms. Tran Thi Phuong, Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of Vinh Phat Bac Giang Company, said: In the past time, the company has received strong support and facilitation from all relevant authorities, particularly the Lang Giang People's Committee, in handling related procedures, with a focus on accelerating the site clearance process.

To complete and put the project into service on schedule and achieve high performance, the company hoped that the Party, authorities and people in the project area will continue to support site clearance in the coming time, assist the company in executing relevant legal procedures and boost investment promotion.

"The company is committed to ensuring the progress and quality of the project, hence contributing to the sustainable development of Lang Giang in particular and increasing the appeal of Bac Giang investment environment in general," she emphasized. ■

Tourism Sector Targets 20Mln Int'l Visitors in 2025

2024 marks a strong leap for Vietnam's tourism, achieving impressive growth in visitors and a record VND840 trillion in revenue. Building on this success, the sector is carrying out many innovative policies and plans, targeting 20 million international arrivals in 2025.

THU HUYEN

Renewed recovery, development promotion

International visitor arrivals to Vietnam in 2024 were estimated to rise 38.9% year on year to 17.5 million and domestic visitors looked up 1.6% to 110 million. Total tourism revenue was up 23.8% to about VND840 trillion. These results affirmed the important role of tourism in the economy in line with the goal of developing it into a spearhead economic sector according to Resolution 08-NQ/TW of the Politburo.

Reporting on the implementation results in 2024, Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism Nguyen Van Hung said, in 2024, authorities issued a series of important policies such as Official Dispatch 06/CD-TTg on improving the effect of tourism statistics, Directive 08/CT-TTg on comprehensive tourism development and the Tourism System Planning for the 2021-2030 period, with a vision to 2045. Moreover, the industry has developed many projects like the tourism promotion offices in Laos and other countries, the tourism database system, and assessment criteria for the national digital platform.

Institutional improvements have eased business difficulties, enhanced regional linkages, and fostered conditions for sustainable tourism growth. Notably, the designation of Con Dao and Moc Chau as national tourist areas has elevated their appeal, drawing increased visitor interest.

According to the report of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, the quality of tourism services and infrastructure in 2024 has been improved. Accommodation facilities continued to be improved, with 148 decisions on 4- and 5-star recognitions. Currently, Vietnam has 274 5-star facilities and 380 4-star facilities to meet the growing demand of domestic and foreign tourists.

In tourism, business assessment and licensing have also been stepped up, ensuring compliance with legal



Vietnam is increasingly becoming an attractive destination for international tourists.

regulations and service quality. Inspections in major localities like Ho Chi Minh City, Da Nang, Kien Giang and Can Tho have helped improve the tourism business environment and boost tourist satisfaction.

Promotional and advertising efforts in international markets have been expanded. The tourism sector has launched innovative campaigns and organized roadshows in key markets, including Germany, France, the US, China and South Korea. The UN International Conference on Rural Tourism, the National Food Festival and other events not only foster culture but also create opportunities for international tourism cooperation.

Digital application in management and promotion, such as upgrading the Vietnam Travel platform and the electronic ticket system, has brought more convenient and modern experiences to tourists.

Toward sustainable development in 2025

Despite many achievements, the tourism industry has still faced challenges in human resources, infrastructure and international competition. To overcome these challenges, according to tourism experts, Vietnam needs to focus on training high-quality human resources, investing in infrastructure and developing competitive pricing policies.

Speaking at the review conference on culture-sports-tourism sector, Minister Nguyen Van Hung said that the ministry will focus on arranging and streamlining the organizational apparatus and stabilizing post-rearranged operations; continue

advising on the comprehensive and timely policy institutionalization regarding culture, sports and tourism and Constitution 2013; continue to focus on preserving and promoting traditional cultural values, core values and unique identities of Vietnamese people. The sector will strive to welcome and serve 22-23 million international tourists and 120-130 million domestic visitors in 2025 and make total tourism revenue of VND980-1,050 trillion.

To achieve this goal, support policies will focus on developing high-quality tourism products, boosting regional connectivity and promoting local cultural advantages.

Sustainable tourism development continues to be the core with enhanced resource conservation, community tourism development and green tourism ecosystem. Such projects as community tourism development and technology application in tourism management will help improve sectoral performance and mitigate environmental impacts.

Vietnam will strengthen cooperation with international organizations and expand potential markets in Europe, America and the Middle East. Organizing international events such as the 2024 APEC Ministerial Meeting or ASEAN Tourism Forum and Travel Expo (TRAVEX) will contribute to enhancing the country's image.

In addition, the coordination between localities, businesses and authorities will facilitate the development of unique products such as spiritual tourism in Ninh Binh, maritime tourism in Da Nang and Con Dao, or eco-tourism in Moc Chau.

2024 laid a strong foundation for Vietnamese tourism, and with the right direction, 2025 is expected to be a breakout year, positioning Vietnam as a leading destination in the region. ■



Vietnam is home to many stunning attractions

Experiential Tourism - New Appeal of Bac Giang

Bac Giang, a midland and mountainous province just 50km from Hanoi, Vietnam's capital, has long held historical significance as a key defense line and one of the nation's four major fortresses. Today, it is celebrated not only for its rapid economic growth but also for its serene and picturesque countryside.

BICH HANH



Renowned for its stunning landscapes, historical relics, and rich folk cultural heritage, Bac Giang offers visitors a unique blend of natural beauty and cultural treasures. These invaluable cultural and natural assets present immense potential for tourism, making Bac Giang an increasingly attractive destination for travelers from near and far.

Yen The Festival - Commemorating the uprising against French colonialists by Yen The farmers led by hero Hoang Hoa Tham



Tay Yen Tu Tourist Area (Son Dong district), a famous scenic spot in Bac Giang



Truc Lam Phuong Hoang Zen Monastery, a sacred site atop Yen Tu Mountain in Yen Dung district (now Bac Giang city)



Yen The district is also famous for Ban Ven Xanh Eco-tourism Area (Xuan Luong commune)



Luc Ngan lychee season



Cam Son Lake (Luc Ngan district) has great tourism potential



Every lychee season, tourists from all over come to experience this fragrant fruit



Growing custard apples in Nghia Phuong commune, Luc Nam district



Luc Ngan is also famous for its endless gardens of oranges, grapefruits and other fruits



Vinh Nghiem Pagoda - National intangible cultural heritage, special national historical and architectural relic, a stock of 3,000 Buddhist woodblocks recognized by UNESCO as a memory documentary heritage of the world

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CẢNG CẠM TÂN CẢNG - MỘC BÀI

Ngày 25 Tháng 12 Năm 2024
Tỉnh Tây Ninh

Dịch Vụ

- Cung cấp container rỗng cho Khách hàng
- Dịch vụ thông quan và vận tải hàng quá cảnh tại cửa khẩu Mộc Bài
- Dịch vụ logistics

Tổng diện tích: 16,52 ha

- Cảng cạn: 5,0 ha
- Trung tâm Logistics: 11,52 ha

Công suất khai thác bãi thiết kế là 247.000 Teu/năm

- Công suất bãi Container hàng là 96.500 Teu/năm
- Công Suất bãi Container rỗng là 123.000 Teu/năm

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