

## Vietnam & China forge stronger ties with 36 Agreement Documents

On 12<sup>th</sup> December, the Vietnamese Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong and Chinese Party General Secretary Xi Jinping presided over the signing of 36 cooperation agreements, further solidifying the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the two nations. The signing ceremony took place at the Headquarters of the Party Central Committee in Hanoi during Xi's state visit to Vietnam.

### Key Agreements Across Various Sectors:

The agreements cover a wide spectrum of fields, emphasizing the commitment of both nations to deepen collaboration. Notable areas include:

- **Political and Foreign Affairs:** Four agreements were inked, strengthening diplomatic ties between the two countries.
- **Security and Defense:** Four agreements focused on joint efforts in security, defense, crime prevention, maritime cooperation, and the judiciary.
- **Economic Cooperation:** Twenty-four documents outlined collaborations at government and ministry levels to enhance economic, trade, and investment cooperation.
- **Local Collaborations:** Four agreements between localities aimed at fostering regional development and cooperation.

### Strategic Milestones:

- **Defense Cooperation:** Both countries' defense ministries signed a crucial memorandum for joint patrol in the Gulf of Tonkin, enhancing maritime security.
- **Infrastructure Development:** An agreement was signed to build a bridge over the Red River at the Vietnam-China border area, emphasizing cross-border connectivity.
- **Railway Collaboration:** The Ministry of Transport and China's National Development and Reform Commission signed a memorandum to boost railway cooperation, demonstrating joint efforts in transportation development.



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## Leadership Acknowledgment:

Vietnamese Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong expressed gratitude for Xi Jinping's visit, occurring as both nations marked the 15th anniversary of their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Trong hailed this visit as a significant milestone, reflecting the scale and positive prospects of bilateral relations.

President Xi Jinping commended Vietnam's achievements during the Doi Moi era and expressed high regard for the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam. Both leaders pledged to further expand and deepen cooperation in political, economic, and security domains.

## Economic Significance:

China remains Vietnam's largest trade partner, with bilateral trade reaching US\$175.6 billion last year. Vietnam, in turn, is China's leading partner in ASEAN. The commitment to economic, trade, and investment cooperation signifies a sustained and sustainable partnership between the two nations.

## Regional Stability:

On maritime issues, leaders stressed the importance of better management and peaceful resolution of conflicts at sea. Both sides pledged to maintain peace and stability in the East Sea, contributing to regional harmony.

As China ranks sixth in FDI in Vietnam, with over \$26.5 billion in total registered capital, these agreements are poised to further boost economic collaborations and deepen the enduring friendship between Vietnam and China.



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