

REVIEW OF INTERNATIONAL SITUATIONS AND DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES OF VIETNAM IN 2007

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Vietnamese diplomacy continues to gain important achievements, thus making considerable contributions to the country's course of socio-economic development and international integration. The prominence in the field of multilateral diplomatic activities is Vietnam's non-permanent member of the U.N. Security Council. Bilaterally, the friendly and cooperative relations between Vietnam and its neighbouring countries as well as other countries, especially its important partners, were also promoted in depth while opportunities for cooperation with potential partners opened up. In addition, economic and cultural diplomacy was further stepped up... In this connection, the author points out 8 basic directions on which Vietnam should focus to grasp opportunities, overcome challenges and consistently implement the policy of multilateralization and diversification of international relations as well as proactively take part in regional and international cooperation and integration.

SOME THOUGHTS ON CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

Vu Duong Huan, Asso. Prof

Cultural diplomacy has been one of the directions of diplomatic activities of such countries as Japan, Korea...As for Vietnam, it is fairly a new field. The article makes an initial effort to understand the concept of cultural diplomacy as well as its importance and contents. Against this background, the author examines Vietnam cultural diplomacy over the past years and proposes steps to further promote its diplomacy.

ON DEMOCRATIZING INTERNATIONAL LIFE

Duong Van Quang, Asso. Prof

During the past decade, democratization was an essential part of the contemporary international life. This paper is an attempt to deal with the questions of what democratization is and, what the actual situation of the international life is at present in this regard. The author argues that although democratization has become a major trend in international relations, the process of democratizing the world remains time-consuming.

RELATIONS BETWEEN VIETNAM AND THE FRANCOPHONIE SINCE 1986

Pham Sanh Chau-Vu Doan Ket

Francophone is an actor in international relations with an increasingly important role. The authors exam relations between Vietnam and Francophonie from 1986 up to now and argue that Francophone serves Vietnam in the country's foreign policy aimed at the basic objectives of economic development, national security and international status.

ASEAN COMMUNITY BUILDING PROCESS AND THE ROLE OF VIETNAM

Ha Anh Tuan, MA

ASEAN cooperation and integration has gained notable achievements in all fields. Now ASEAN is determined to move toward ASEAN Community. In the article, the author pointes out reasons for such a development include the “ASEAN way”, regionalism and globalism combined in the “ASEAN formula”. The approach is, according to the author, suitable for the association is still in the early integration and confidence-building phrase. In the process, Vietnam has opportunities to contribute to the regional cooperation process.

ENHANCED RELATIONS AMONG EU, CHINA AND INDIA: THE EMERGENCE OF NEW POWER CENTERS

Nguyen Phuong Binh, Asso. Prof

In the 21st century, EU, China and India have proved that their civilizations have risen to become major players in the contemporary world. Moreover, interactions among the three countries have developed in all fields. The author argues that they in fact can be considered as new power centers in the world nowadays.

ASEAN CHARTER BUILDING PROCESS

Pham Quang Vinh

The 13rd ASEAN summit in Singapore (18-21 October, 2007) officially approved the ASEAN Charter. It is of important significance in the Association's 40-year existence

and development. It also reveals strong determination to make ASEAN become a regional intergovernmental organization with coherent legal framework and more established institution. The author further stresses that the Charter would have both positive and negative implications for ASEAN future development as well as member-countries, including Vietnam.

CHANGES IN THE SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SINCE THE RUSSIAN OCTOBER REVOLUTION

Ho Tan Sang, Asso. Prof

The Russian October Revolution has caused profound impacts on the world modern history in general and international life in particular. In the author's opinion, since the Revolution, the rise and fall of the power entities in international relations have manifested in the three following phrases, that is the period after the October Revolution to the 2nd world war, the one after the 2nd world war to the end of the cold war and finally, the period in the aftermath of the dissolution of the U.S.S.R. and Eastern European countries. The author then discusses the matter related to trends in human history, the world order, power competition among nations, and the danger of terrorism.

REVIEW OF HOW DEVELOPING COUNTRIES USE DISPUTE SETTLEMENT MECHANISM WITHIN WTO

Trinh Hai Yen, MA

Based on collections of statistics, the author contends that most of the developing countries, especially low income and lower middle income ones, haven't made use of the WTO dispute settlement mechanism. The reasons, according to the author, include the lack of litigation capacity in these countries. Another reason is that the WTO mechanism has been intended to work not in favor of these nations.

THE RISE OF INDIA: ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE IN 2007

Nguyen Van Lich, Dr

In this article, the author provides his analyses of Indian foreign economy in the year of 2007 to produce further evidence concerning its rise. In 2007, the energy problem and its promotion of free trade area (FTA) with other countries were prominent points in the Indian economy. Furthermore, relations between India and its trade partners as well as the international monetary and financial organizations recorded significant achievements. India has achieved a high and rapid economic growth and is believed to become one of the locomotives of the world economy.