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## VN embraces ...

(From P.1)

With its participation in the Francophone Community, Viet Nam is able to expand its relationship with many African countries — a region where Viet Nam has received much solidarity and mutual support in the course of its struggle for national liberation and independence.

Its economic relations and co-operation remain modest, while at the same time it could be able to make use of technical co-operation and support and human resource training, and enjoy part of the aid of the developed countries and organisations in the community, beneficial to national construction.

Together with the English, the French language is one of six official languages and one of two working languages used in the UN system.

Viet Nam lies in a region where English is the most used language, so the use of the English language is an inevitable requirement of the process of national industrialisation and modernisation.

The use of French apart from English and other foreign languages has made a contribution to expanding the chance of Viet Nam taking an opportunity to expand economic, scientific and technical co-operation and cultural exchange with the outside world, to help further develop the Vietnamese people's intellectual standards.

Participation in Francophonie has brought some practical benefits to Viet Nam in regard to international prestige, material benefits and experience gained from undertaking activities in a multilateral arena.

All Francophonie member countries, particularly African countries, have highly appreciated contributions made by Viet Nam, especially its experiences in national defence, construction and development.

Every year, the organisations in the community extend their considerable material, technical and experience assistance to Viet Nam in many fields. Each year alone, ACCT provides Viet Nam with tens of millions of French francs through co-operation projects in different areas.

## Viet Nam's preparations for the 7th Summit

Viet Nam was appointed the 7th Francophonie Summit in Hà Nội in November 1997 at the 6th Summit in Benin in December 1995.

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