

Việt Nam embraces La Francophonie

The Socialist Republic of Việt Nam joined Francophonie in 1979, taking the place of the former Sài Gòn regime which had been a member of the organisation since its establishment.

Việt Nam has been elected a Vice Chairman of the General Council of the Organisation for many years, and has participated in summits of the community from the first conference

Việt Nam has participated in many other organisations under Francophonie including the Committee for International Surveillance; the Permanent Francophone Council (where Việt Nam served as Vice Chairman since 1966 and President since 1997); and the Annual Conference of Foreign Ministers (where Việt Nam served as president of the 1996 Marakeh Conference).

Việt Nam has participated in conferences for ministries in the community including the Culture, Environment, Education, Child Issues, Justice and Information Ministers' conferences.

Việt Nam has also sent participants to the Supreme Council of Francophonie, an agency of the French administration, set up by the late President Mitterand.

Việt Nam has also joined various organisations under the community like the Associations of the Universities Partly

or Wholly using the French Language (AUUP-WPFL), the Alliance of French-speaking Parliamentarians (AFSP), the International Council of French Radio and Television, the International Association of Mayors of French-Speaking Cities, the Forum of Francophone Businesses, the International Union of Journalists and French Newspapers and other programme committees established by the PFC.

Việt Nam's active participation in Francophonie, its subsidiary organisations, and its conferences of different ministries, carries out the country's general foreign policy of independence, sovereignty, openness, multi-lateralisation and diversification of foreign relations for peace, independence and development.

Việt Nam has formed an important bilateral network with almost all the countries in the world and has joined global multilateral organisations (United Nations), regional organisations (ASEAN) and the inter-regional organisations (the Non-Alignment Movement, Francophonie).

The combination and addition of bilateral and multilateral foreign relations have helped create a firm and balanced position for Việt Nam in implementing its independent and sovereign foreign relations line.

(Turn to P.4)

Members of the Francophone Community and their relationships with Việt Nam

<p>ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT</p> <p>Capital: Cairo Area: 997,738sq.m Population: 58 million inhabitants Official language: Arabic Principal religions: Muslim (94 per cent); Catholicism</p> <p>GDP per capita: US\$750 Date of establishment of diplomatic relations with Việt Nam: 1 Sept. 1963</p>	<p>Main religion: Catholicism (89 per cent) GDP/capita: \$26,051</p>	<p>Population: 13,200,000 inhabitants Official languages: French and English Main religions: Christianity (52.2 per cent); Muslim (26 per cent)</p> <p>GDP/capita: \$360 Date of establishment of diplomatic relations with Việt Nam: 30-8-1972 Cameron has no economic relations with Việt Nam.</p>
<p>REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA</p> <p>Capital: Sofia Area: 110,994sq.km Population: 8.726 million inhabitants (1996 census) Official language: Bulgarian Main religions: Orthodox Christianity (87 per cent); Muslim (12.7 per cent)</p> <p>GDP/capita: \$3,136 Date of establishment of diplomatic relations with Việt Nam: 8-2-1950</p>		<p>KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA</p> <p>Capital: Phnom Penh Area: 181,035sq.km Population: 10,200,000 inhabitants (1997 census) Official language: Khmer Main religion: Buddhism (95 per cent)</p> <p>GDP/capita: \$215 (January 1997) Date of establishment of diplomatic relations with Việt Nam: 24-6-1967</p>
<p>REPUBLIC OF BENIN</p> <p>Capital: Porto Novo Area: 110,620sq.km Population: 5,400,000 inhabitants Official language: French Main religions: Christianity (23.3 per cent); traditional beliefs (62 per cent)</p> <p>GDP/capita: \$370 Date of establishment of diplomatic relations with Việt Nam: 14/3/1973 Economic relations with Việt Nam:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreement on cultural and scientific co-operation: (17-10-1970) - Co-operation and exchange program between the Foreign Ministry of the SRV and the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Benin (7-10-1980) - Public health co-operation protocol (1-12-1980) - Agreement on economic, commercial, cultural, scientific and technical co-operation (25-11-1996) 		<p>REPUBLIC OF BURKINA FASO</p> <p>Capital: Ouagadougou Area: 273,800 inhabitants Population: 10,300,000 inhabitants Official language: French Main religions: Traditional beliefs (44.8 per cent); Islam (43 per cent)</p> <p>GDP/capita: \$300 Date of establishment of diplomatic relations with Việt Nam: 16-11-1973 Economic relations with Việt Nam:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agreement on economic, commercial, cultural, scientific and technical co-operation: (22-11-1996)
<p>REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI</p> <p>Capital: Bujumbura Area: 27,834 inhabitants Population: 6,400,000 inhabitants (1995 census) Official languages: French, Kiyundi Main religion: Christianity (78.9 per cent)</p>		<p>CANADA</p> <p>Capital: Ottawa Area: 9,978,139sq.km Population: 29.6 million inhabitants (1996 census) Official languages: English and French Main religion: Catholicism (46 per cent)</p> <p>GDP/capita: \$19,970 Date of establishment of diplomatic relations with Việt Nam: 21-8-1973</p>
<p>KINGDOM OF BELGIUM</p> <p>Capital: Brussels Area: 30,518sq.km Population: 10 million inhabitants Official language: French (43 per cent), Dutch, German</p>		<p>REPUBLIC OF CAPE VERDE</p> <p>Capital: Praia Area: 4,030sq.km Population: 400,000 inhabitants</p>