

THE UN ROLE IN THE WORLD TODAY AND VIETNAM'S CONTRIBUTION

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The UN important role has been not only legally defined but also actively played for the last 60 years since its establishment in all fields of the international life, including international peace and security, economic development, environmental protection, etc. In spite of shortcomings and difficulties, as a full member, Vietnam since 1977 has made increasingly active contribution to the UN work. Member countries have elected Vietnam to many important positions in the UN's organs with the non-permanent seat in the UN Security Council being the latest case in point. Becoming a non-permanent member of the Security Council, Vietnam is further determined to cooperate with other UN member countries and UN partners to promote the role of the UN for the benefit of the world.

SINGAPORE'S INDEPENDENT, SELF-RELIANT AND DYNAMIC FOREIGN POLICY

Duong Van Quang

Small states suffer from constraints in terms of power capabilities. However, in the years following its separation from Malaysia, Singapore has risen to become one of the leading economic powers in Southeast Asia. It has also gained a remarkable position in the region and the world at large due to a wise foreign and defense policy. Singapore's experience is, therefore, of a great relevance to other countries in the present context.

VIET-LAO SPECIAL RELATIONS IN REVIEW

Vu Duong Huan

Viet-Lao relations traced their roots back to thousand years ago. The bilateral diplomatic relations established in 1962 marked a new step in the special relations between the two countries. Recently, the signing of friendly and cooperative agreement has provided the relationship with a new dynamism for further development. The special relationship has therefore continuously been consolidated and strengthened in all fields. This article attempts to provide some characteristics of the relationship from historical and contemporary perspectives.

VIETNAM'S DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL INTEGRATION PROCESS

Bui Thanh Son

Peace, cooperation and development, globalization, information revolution, great power politics, and democratization of international affairs are forming major trends in contemporary international relations. Under this circumstance, Vietnam diplomacy should make substantial changes in terms of contents, forms, activities as well as organization to enhance its effectiveness and raise its stature by taking advantage of new opportunities and meeting new challenges.

THE 30-YEAR COOPERATION BETWEEN VIETNAM AND UN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Bui Dinh Viem

Based on the historical background of cooperation between Vietnam and UN organizations as well as achievements and shortcomings in this cooperative relations, this article reviews the records of 30 years of Vietnam-UN cooperation, highlights some opportunities, and provides some suggestions and measures to further promote the relationship between Vietnam and the UN.

FRENCH FOREIGN POLICY UNDER SARKOZY: CONTINUING THE TRADITIONAL PATH OR REACHING A NEW TURNING-POINT

Nguyen Quang Chien

In both foreign and domestic issues, French president Nicolas Sarkozy has exerted his personal influence. The new president has introduced a major change of course on a number of key issues. Firstly, he forges closer ties with the U.S and NATO. Secondly, he introduces some new approaches to the Middle East and Africa, China and Russia. Thirdly, he exercises a somehow new diplomatic style. In the author's view, however, it is still early to say that these changes are fundamental. To a certain degree, French foreign policy under President Sarkozy will also be a continuation of the country's traditional path.

ON TERRORISM IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Hoang Xuan Hai

Terrorism has become a major threat to peace, stability and development in Southeast Asia. This article provides an account of terrorism in Southeast Asia and

discusses the general trend of terrorist activities in the region, especially after September 11th. The internal and external causes of terrorism are also analyzed.

THE ROLE AND POSITION OF NON-PERMANENT MEMBERS IN THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL

Pham Lan Dung

The Security Council is the United Nations' most powerful body. It has been tasked with the maintenance of international peace and security. Being a UN Security Council member is a great honour and also a heavy responsibility for every nation. Member states' role in the Security Council is, however, constrained by many existing rules and practices. Those are matters that Vietnam should consider in order to effectively serve as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the 2008-2009 term./.