



सत्यमेव जयते

**CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA
HO CHI MINH CITY, VIETNAM**

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

JAN – MAR 2019

Consulate was engaged with a number of cultural, community and trade events in the fourth quarter of 2018-2019. The Important Days such as Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, Republic Day, ITEC Day and World Hindi Day and Indian festivals such as Pongal and Holi were celebrated. Trade delegations, exhibitions and B2B during the period included PHARMEXCIL-led delegation; Business Networking International (BNI), Mumbai (Exponential chapter) and Saigon Automechanika Exhibition; the International Exhibition & Conference for Horticultural & Floricultural Production and Processing Technology in Vietnam (HOTEX VIETNAM 2019); PROPAK Vietnam 2019 and a visit of NIFT delegation. Besides, a seminar on “India-Vietnam Economic Cooperation: Reality and Prospects” and “Visit Incredible India 2019” were organized. Tata Coffee launched their first off-shore coffee production unit in Vietnam on 6 March 2019. The outreach and engagement activities in Southern provinces included Ambassador’s visits to Kien Giang, Soc Trang, Can Tho, Ben Tre and Dak Lak Provinces and meetings with Provincial dignitaries and leadership. Other events and activities included participation of 58 Indian Chess players in the 9th International Chess Tournament, a special fitness event and a plastic clean-up day in Ho Chi Minh City.

Villa Orchid 14, An Phu Superior Compound
36 Thao Dien St., Thao Dien ward, District 2
Website: www.cgihcmc.gov.in

Phone: +84 28 3744 2400
Fax: +84 28 3744 2405
Facebook.com/cgihcmc Twitter: @cgihcmc

INDEX

ENGAGEMENT WITH SOUTHERN PROVINCES OF VIETNAM

- Ambassador's visit to Ha Tien city, Kien Giang Province (19 February, 2019)Page 2
- Inauguration of Chua Moi Bridge and Meeting with Chairman of People's Committee of Soc Trang Province (21 February, 2019)Page 2
- Meeting with Chairman of the People's Committee of Can Tho City (21 February, 2019)Page 3
- Ambassador's visit to Ben Tre Province (07 March, 2019)Page 3
- Ambassador attended the 7th Buon Ma Thuot Coffee Festival in Dak Lak Province (09 March 2019)Page 3
- ITEC Day in Cuu Long Rice Research Institute (CLRRI) (22 February, 2019)Page 4

ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL

- Seminar on "India-Vietnam Economic Cooperation: Reality and Prospects" held at Southern Institute of Social Sciences (11 January, 2019)Page 5
- India Pharma Exhibition-cum-B2B meeting in Ho Chi Minh City (21-22 January, 2019).....Page 5
- Visit of Business Networking International (BNI) (26-30 January, 2019)Page 6
- Saigon Automechanika Exhibition (28 Feb-2 March, 2019)Page 6
- Launch of TATA Coffee's Production Plant in Binh Duong Province (6 March, 2019)Page 7
- Visit of NIFT (15-16 March, 2019).....Page 7
- PROPAK VIETNAM 2019 (19-21 March, 2019)Page 7
- Visit Incredible India 2019 (20 March, 2019).....Page 8

CULTURAL OUTREACH

- Celebration of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) (9 January, 2019) Page 9
- Celebration of Pongal Festival in Saigon (13 January, 2019)..... Page 9
- Special Event organized by VIFA to mark the 70th Republic Day of India in Ho Chi Minh City (15 January, 2019)Page 10
- World Hindi Day (14 March, 2019).....Page 10
- Celebration of 70th Republic Day in Ho Chi Minh City (26 January, 2019)Page 11
- Celebration of Holi 2019 (24 March, 2019).....Page 12

MISCELLANEOUS

- Plastic Clean Up Day in HCMC (9 March, 2019)Page 13
- Chess Tournament (7-13 March, 2019).....Page 13
- Fitness Event at the Chancery (17 March, 2019)Page 14
- Farewell to Mr. Chairman of Ho Chi Minh City Union of Friendship Organizations (27 March, 2019)Page 14

CONSULATE IN NEWS

ENGAGEMENT WITH SOUTHERN PROVINCES OF VIETNAM



Ambassador Shri P. Harish had a meeting with Chairman of the People's Committee of Kien Giang Province in Ha Tien city on 19 February 2019 and discussed means to improve economic, cultural and people-to-people relations between the province and India.



Inaugurate Chua Moi Bridge at Ho Dac Kien commune

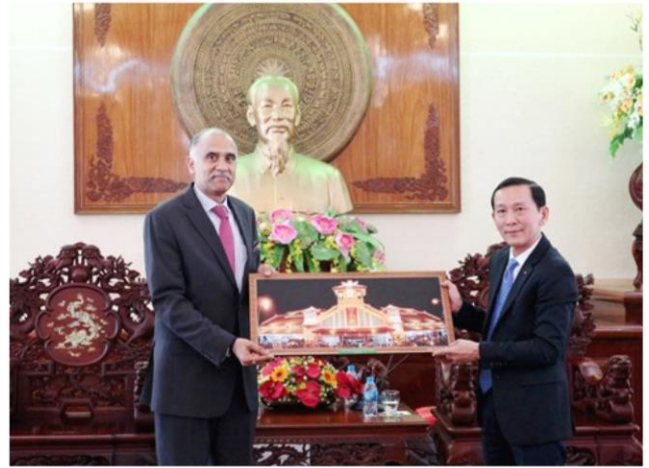
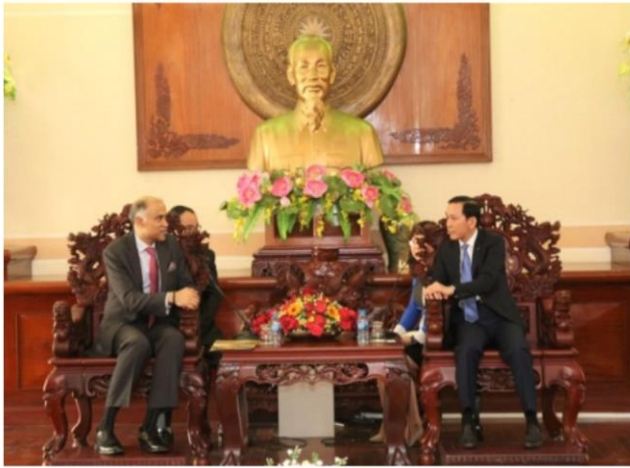


Indian Ambassador to Vietnam H.E. Mr. P. Harish and Chairman of People's Committee of Soc Trang Province Mr. Tran Van Chuyen

Ambassador Shri P. Harish accompanied by Consul General Dr. K. Srikar Reddy, visited the Mekong Delta province of Soc Trang on 21 February 2019 to inaugurate the Chua Moi Bridge at Ho Dac Kien Commune, Chau Thanh District, Soc Trang Province that was constructed under the Quick Impact Project framework of Mekong Ganga Cooperation with India's grant assistance of USD 50,000. The bridge with a length of 33 meters and a width of 3.4 meters connects two remote rural hamlets of Ho Dac Kien Commune with a population of 14,500 people. The leaders and people of the Chau Thanh district appreciated India's assistance in the construction of the bridge, which will be of great help to the residents in the Commune, especially by improving access to schools and hospitals. After the inauguration of the Chua Moi Bridge, Ambassador visited Soc Trang city and called on Chairman of the People's Committee of Soc Trang Province H.E. Tran Van Chuyen.

ENGAGEMENT WITH SOUTHERN PROVINCES OF VIETNAM

Ambassador Shri P. Harish accompanied by Consul General Dr. K. Srikar Reddy called on Chairman of the People's Committee of Can Tho City H.E. Mr. Vo Thanh Thong on 21 February 2019 and discussed means to enhance economic engagement and people-to-people cooperation between India and Can Tho City.



Indian Ambassador to Vietnam Mr. Parvathaneni Harish and Chairman of the Can Tho People's Committee Mr. Vo Thanh



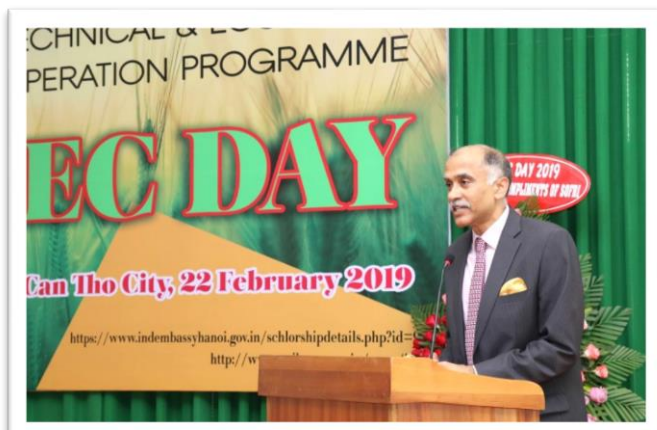
Ambassador Shri P. Harish met Chairman of People's Committee of Ben Tre province HE Mr. Cao Van Trong on 7 March 2019 and discussed means of strengthening relations between India and the province.

Ambassador Shri P. Harish and Mrs. P. Nandita attended the 7th Buon Ma Thuot Coffee Festival 2019 in Vietnam's coffee capital of Buon Ma Thuot in Dak Lak Province on 09th March 2019. He held meetings with Mr. Nguyen Tuan Ha, Vice Chairman of the People's Committee of the Province and Mr. Pham Minh Tanh, Standing Deputy Provincial Party Secretary. The investment conference at the festival was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Truong Hoa Binh, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Trần Hồng Hà and Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Nguyen Xuan Cuong.



ITEC DAY IN CUU LONG RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The ITEC Day was celebrated at the Cuu Long Delta Rice Research Institute (CLRRI), Can Tho city on 22 February 2019 with the theme Agricultural Cooperation between India and Vietnam. Approximately 150 people attended the event, including ITEC and ICCR alumni, faculty and staff members from various universities and institutions in the Mekong Delta region of Southern Vietnam. Ambassador Shri P. Harish and the Chairman of the Provincial Peoples Committee of Can Tho City H.E. Mr. Vo Thanh Thong (VTT) were the guests of honour for the event.



ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL

The Vietnam India Friendship Association (VIFA) in coordination with the Southern Institute of Social Sciences (SISS) organized a seminar on "Vietnam - India Economic Cooperation: Status and Prospects" on 11 Jan 2019 at SISS, Ho Chi Minh City. The seminar was chaired by Mr. Le Thanh Sang, Director, SISS and Dr. Huynh Thanh Lap, Chairman, VIFA. About 40 persons, including delegates from SISS, VIFA, HCMC University of Social Sciences and Humanities (USSH), HCMC Open University, Ho Chi Minh City Union of Friendship Organizations (HUFO) and Indian Business Chamber in Vietnam participated in the seminar.



The Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India (PHARMEXCIL) with the support of the Consulate, Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) and Indian Business Chamber (INCHAM) organized a 2-day 'India Pharma exhibition cum B2B meetings' at Rex Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City from 21-22 January 2019. 23 Indian companies supported by PHARMEXCIL showcased pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, herbal products, veterinary formulations, medical devices, surgical and lab equipment. More than 100 persons, including representatives from the Vietnamese Pharma and Healthcare sectors participated in the opening ceremony of the 2-day expo-cum B2B interaction that was held on 21st January morning.

Fifteen members of BNI, Mumbai (Exponential chapter) – one of the 60 chapters in Mumbai and part of larger BNI international community visited HCMC from 26-30 January 2019. This was a diverse group of Entrepreneurs owning MSMEs in Advertising, Fintech, HR consultancy, Marketing Consultants (brand building) and Textiles etc., who were on a mission to expand their understanding of Vietnam; explore the business opportunities and establish ties with local businesses. On 29th January 2019, a business interaction was organized at the Consulate for the visiting BNI delegates with INCHAM members.



The 3rd edition of Automechanika Ho Chi Minh City was organized at Saigon Exhibition and Convention Center in HCM City from 28 February – 2nd March 2019. More than 380 exhibitors including India, China, Germany, Malaysia, Taiwan and Thailand showcased their latest products and technologies in various groups: parts and components, electronics and systems, accessories and customising, repair and maintenance, dealer & workshop management, car wash, care & reconditioning, alternative drive systems and digital solutions, and tyres etc. Eight Indian companies participated in the exhibition. Consul General Dr. K Srikar Reddy visited the fair and interacted with the Indian exhibitors.

ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL

Tata Coffee Vietnam Company Ltd, a 100% subsidiary of Tata Coffee, unveiled its state-of-the-art freeze-dried coffee production plant in Binh Duong Province of Vietnam on 6 March 2019. This is the first off-shore production unit of Tata Coffee. The opening ceremony was attended by the Party Secretary of Binh Duong Province, Chairman of Binh Duong People's Committee, Ambassador Shri P. Harish and Consul General Dr. K. Srikar Reddy. The 5000MTPA plant has been set up within 19 months from its Ground-breaking ceremony on August 16, 2017.



A two member NIFT delegation, Prof. Raghuram Jayaraman and Mr. Amit Kumar Anjanee from the Industry & Alumni Affairs of the National Institute of Fashion Technology visited HCMC from 15-16 March 2019 to create strong relations with the fashion & lifestyle industries in Vietnam and explore the possibilities of cooperation for entrepreneurial development, setting up incubators and research chairs etc. They visited University of Education and Technology of Ho Chi Minh City and Vietnam National Textile and Garment Group (VINATEX) and held discussion with the officials on bilateral cooperation.

The 14th International Processing and Packaging Exhibition and Conference for Vietnam (PROPACK VIETNAM 2019) was organized on 19 - 21 March, 2019 at Saigon Exhibition and Convention Center (SECC), Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Eight Indian companies participated in the exhibition. Consul General visited the exhibition and interacted with the Indian exhibitors.



VISIT INCREDIBLE INDIA 2019

The Consulate in coordination with Indian Tourism Office in Singapore organized a tourism promotion event 'Visit Incredible India 2019' on 20 March 2019 at Sofitel hotel, Ho Chi Minh City. Local dignitaries such as Ms. Nguyen Thi Anh Hoa, Deputy Director, Department of Tourism Ho Chi Minh City; Most Venerable Dr. Thich Thien Tam, Vice President of the Executive Council, Central Vietnam Buddhist Sangha and Mr. Tran Hung Viet, Chairman, Ho Chi Minh City Tourism Association attended the event. Overall, approximately 100 people including representatives from the travel and tourism industry, airlines, tourism departments of several provinces of Southern Vietnam and media, participated in the event. 43 Vietnamese and 15 Indian companies from the travel trade participated in the event. The numbers of Vietnamese visitors to India was growing consistently and reached over 31,400 in 2018. The number of Indian visitors to Vietnam had grown from 33,000 in 2010 to 110,000 in 2017, an average increase of 19% per year. In 2018, 103,023 Indians visited Ho Chi Minh City, which was 80.9% more than the 56,954 Indian visitors to HCM city in 2017.



CULTURAL OUTREACH

Consulate celebrated the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) at its premises on 9 January 2019. Over 60 members of the Indian community attended the event.



The Indian Business Chamber in Vietnam and members of Indian community in Ho Chi Minh City celebrated Pongal Festival in Saigon on 13 January 2019. More than 150 members of Indian community participated in the traditional ceremony of Pongal festival held in Thendayuthapani Hindu Temple of Ho Chi Minh City.



CULTURAL OUTREACH

The Vietnam-India Friendship Association (VIFA), organized a special event to mark the 70th Republic Day of India in Ho Chi Minh City on 15 January 2019. Dignitaries from VIFA, Ho Chi Minh City Union of Friendship Organizations (HUFO), Vietnam Fatherland Front and Vietnam Buddhist Sangha attended the event.



Consulate commemorated the 14th World Hindi Day on 14 March 2019 at the University of Social Sciences and Humanities (USSH) where Hindi is taught as a subject in graduation course in the Department of Indian Studies under the Faculty of Oriental Studies. On this occasion, Consul General Dr. Srikar Reddy read the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's message on the occasion of World Hindi Day.



CELEBRATION OF 70TH REPUBLIC DAY

Consulate celebrated the 70th Republic Day by organizing the flag-hoisting ceremony at the Chancery in the morning and Reception at Hotel Rex in the evening of 26th January 2019. Mr. Le Thanh Liem, the First Vice Chairman of the People's Committee of Ho Chi Minh City was the Chief Guest at the Republic Day Reception. Other important dignitaries included Dr. Huynh Thanh Lap, Chairman, Vietnam India Friendship Association; Ms. Tran Hoang Khanh Van, Vice President, Ho Chi Minh City Union of Friendship Organizations; Venerable Thich Thien Tam, Deputy Head of Executive Council of Vietnam Buddhist Sangha; Mr. Tran Phuoc Anh, Deputy Director, Department of External Relations of HCMC; Mr. Tran Hai Dang, Deputy Director General, General Department of Foreign Security, Ministry of Public Security; Mr. Le Van Thu, Head of People's External Relations – Overseas Vietnamese, Vietnam Fatherland Front; Ms. Le Thi Mong Chau, Vice Chairwoman, Can Tho Union of Friendship Organizations; senior officials from Departments of External Relations of many Southern provinces i.e. Ca Mau, Kien Giang, Ba Ria Vung Tau, Can Tho, Gia Lai, Binh Phuoc and Binh Duong; and institutions/universities such as HCMC University of Technology and Education; University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam Buddhist University and Southern Institute of Social Sciences. Besides, members of diplomatic corps (notably from Australia, Canada, Cambodia, Cuba, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Netherlands, Russia, Singapore, Switzerland, Thailand, USA, United Kingdom, Russia & Thailand) and some prominent members of Indian community & business associations also attended the Reception. Approximately, 250 people attended the flag hoisting ceremony and 180 people attended the Reception.



CELEBRATION OF HOLI 2019



The Indian Business Chamber in Vietnam (INCHAM) with the support of this Consulate organized Holi festival on Sunday, 24 March 2019 at Van Thanh Park, Binh Thanh District, Ho Chi Minh City. More than 450 members of Indian community turned out to celebrate Holi along with their Vietnamese partners and friends. Local dignitaries from HUFO and VIFA also attended Holi celebration.

MISCELLANEOUS

Consul General Dr. K. Srikar Reddy attended the Plastic Clean-Up Day held at the September 23 Park in Ho Chi Minh City on 9 March 2019. The launching ceremony of the Plastic Clean-up Day was organized by Canadian Consulate with the support of the Ho Chi Minh City People's Committee and other Consulates resident in Ho Chi Minh City. On World Environment Day on 5th June, 2018, CG had participated in the launching event of the "Campaign on Plastic Pollution Advocacy" organized by the Consulate General of Canada in its premises in Ho Chi Minh City. The participants of the event recognized that the plastic pollution is a pressing global issue with devastating ecological consequences and Vietnam is among the top 5 source countries for the eight million tons of plastic dumped into the world's oceans every year. 14 Consuls General signed a "Code of Conduct on Combating Plastic Pollution". The Code of Conduct acknowledged the collective responsibility of the international partners in Vietnam to work with some urgency as change agents to reduce plastic pollution and raise awareness about its negative effects on humans, animals, and the environment.



Consul General Dr. K. Srikar Reddy attended the opening and closing ceremonies of the 9th International Chess Tournament which was organised from 7 -13 March 2019 in Ho Chi Minh City by the Vietnam Chess Federation and HD Bank of Vietnam. More than 300 players from 28 countries participated in the Tournament, out of whom 58 players were from India alone. The 12-year old Gukesh D (Rtg: 2529), who became the 2nd youngest Chess Grand Master in the world at the age of 12 years and 7 months in January this year, finished joint second along with Chinese Grand Master Mr. Wen Yang (Rtg: 2599) and Ukrainian player in the master's category with 7 points. Gukesh was also given a special award for topping the under-16 category. The No. one seed, Grandmaster Wang Hao (Rtg: 2718) of China, won the 9th HDBank International Chess Open Tournament 2019 with 7.5 points.

MISCELLANEOUS



The Indian business Chamber in Vietnam and Indian Consulate jointly organized a fitness event at the Consulate on 17 March 2019. The one-hour long event was full of cardiovascular and other fitness exercises. 30 members of Indian community participated in the event.

Consul General gave a farewell dinner to Mr. Huynh Minh Thien the outgoing Chairman of Ho Chi Minh City Union of Friendship Organizations (HUFO) on 27 March 2019. Mr. Thien was officially appointed as Chairman of HUFO on 15 December 2016 and retired on 31st March 2019. Mr. Thien joined the Communist Party of Vietnam in 1985. He first won the National Assembly election in 2011 and served as the member of the National Assembly's Committee for Science, Technology and Environment till 2016.



India-funded bridge connects remote rural hamlets in Soc Trang



PHOTO: COURTESY OF EMBASSY OF INDIA

Indian and Vietnamese officials pose for a group photo on the newly built Chua Moi Bridge in Soc Trang Province

Chua Moi Bridge, which was built with the funding of US\$50,000 from India's Quick Impact Projects Fund under the Mekong Ganga Cooperation, was inaugurated in Chau Thanh District of the Mekong Delta Province of Soc Trang on February 21.

The bridge connects the district's two remote rural hamlets with a population of 14,500 people and has been widely appreciated by the people and leaders of Soc Trang

Province, according to the Embassy of India.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Indian Ambassador to Vietnam Parvathaneni Harish, Consul General of India in HCMC K. Srikar Reddy, and chairman of Chau Thanh District Tran Quoc Thang.

The Indian delegation also took the occasion to sound out investment opportunities in the province. Some

Indian firms such as Tata Power, Suzlon Energy, and Adani have sought to invest in the Long Phu 2 thermal power plant in Soc Trang.

Ambassador Parvathaneni Harish said he will do his utmost to promote the cooperation between Indian Government and investors, and local partners in multiple sectors such as technology, energy, human resources, health care, and telecommunications.

Việt Nam News

THE NATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY

A Founding member of
ANN
ASIA NEWS NETWORK

Thursday, March 21, 2019 • Volume 005 • Number 9839 • 25 pages VND6,000

vietnamnews.vn

India, Việt Nam looking to tap two-way tourism potential

HCM CITY Fifteen major tour operators from India and 35 Vietnamese tour operators held meetings at a tourism promotion event in HCM City yesterday.

The event, titled 'Visit Incredible India in 2019', invited Vietnamese to experience Indian culture, cuisine, bountiful nature, and religious places.

Dr K Srikar Reddy, the Indian consul general in the city, said: "Leaders of both countries have focused on strong tourism co-operation and people-to-people relations as a key element of our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership."

India's Minister for Tourism K. J. Alphons attended the Seventh Meeting of Tourism Ministers of ASEAN and India held in Hà Long City this January.

At the meeting, the ministers designated 2019 as the ASEAN-India Tourism Co-operation Year, and looked forward to enhancing co-operation with a view to increasing two-way tourism and promoting greater people-to-people exchanges between ASEAN and India.

Last year more than 31,400 Vietnamese visited India, a 32 per cent rise from 2017.



HAPPY TRAVELS: Tourism officials from Việt Nam and India attended a tourism promotion event in HCM City yesterday. "Visit Incredible India in 2019" invited Vietnamese to experience Indian culture, cuisine, nature, and religious places. VNS Photo Thu Hien

Though the number of visitors for tourism purpose between both countries has seen considerable increase in recent years, it is still well below potential, Consul General Reddy said.

More than 23.9 million Indian tourists travelled abroad in 2017 and around two million visited ASEAN member countries.

According to the UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), there will be 50 million outbound Indian tourists by 2020.

An Euromonitor report put the number of Vietnamese travelling abroad at 7.5 million in 2017.

This significant number of outbound tourists from both India and Việt Nam is an indicator of the untapped market, he added.

Nguyễn Thị Anh Hoa, deputy director of the HCM City Tourism Department, said India was the 11th largest tourism source market for the city.

Last year some 103,000 came, an 80 per cent increase from 2017 and

Leaders of both countries have focussed on strong tourism co-operation and people-to-people relations as a key element of our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership."

Dr K Srikar Reddy, Indian consul general

accounting for 50 per cent of all Indian visitors to Việt Nam.

India is one of the favourite destinations for Vietnamese going on pilgrimage and medical tours.

Sudeshna Ramkumar, assistant director, Indian Tourism Office in Singapore, said India's Buddhist heritage is of great interest to followers of Buddhism all over the world.

India is also the land of yoga and ayurveda and a sought-after destination for wellness and healthcare travel, she said.

Vietnamese tourists are increasingly using the e-visa facility to travel to India, and this would ensure the momentum is sustained, she added. VNS

Vietnamese visitors to India in 2018
31,400

Vietnamese tourists who travelled abroad in 2017
7.5m

Tuesday January 22, 2019

BUSINESS

vietnamnews.vn Việt Nam News 15

India, VN step up pharma ties

HCM CITY — Significant potential for growth in trading pharmaceutical and healthcare products exists between India and Việt Nam, experts at the Indian Pharmaceutical Exhibition and B2B Interaction said yesterday in HCM City.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Võ Tân Thành, deputy chairman of the Việt Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI), said that Việt Nam's pharmaceutical industry in recent years had seen a two-digit growth rate and that growth momentum would continue until 2022.

"Although the domestic pharmaceutical industry has made strong progress, it only meets 52.5 per cent of domestic pharmaceutical demand," he said.

The country has about 180 domestic and foreign pharmaceutical manufacturing firms, with about 194 factories of 158 enterprises meeting GMP-WHO standards.

Domestic production consists of mostly generic drugs directly produced for domestic consumption and outsourcing for foreign enterprises.

"On average, each year, about 60,000 tonnes of pharmaceutical materials are consumed, of which 80-90 per cent are imported mainly from China and India," he said.

The country's pharmaceutical import turnover reached US\$2.8 billion in 2017, up 10 per cent from 2016, and hit \$3 billion last year, he said.

"Việt Nam is currently an important trading partner of India in this area, as Việt Nam accounts for a fifth of India's pharmaceutical products exports.

"In addition to finished products, India also provides raw pharmaceutical materials, and generic medicine materials for the Vietnamese market. The medicines and raw materials imported from India are reason-



Although the domestic pharmaceutical industry has made strong progress, it only meets 52.5 per cent of domestic pharmaceutical demand."

VÕ TÂN THÀNH, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE VIỆT NAM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

ably priced and meet the diverse needs of Vietnamese, especially those living in remote areas."

K Srikar Reddy, the Indian consul general in the city, said that India now ranks third globally in terms of volume of production of pharmaceutical products and 14th worldwide in terms of value.

It accounts for around 10 per cent of the world's production by volume and 1.5 per cent by value.

"India is the only country in the world that has the highest number of USFDA-approved plants for generic drug manufacturing outside the US. Some of the leading Indian pharma companies derive about 50 per cent of their turnover from exporting generic medicines to developed markets like the US and Europe," Reddy said.

The Indian pharmaceutical industry has emerged as a world-class, cost-effective generic drug manufacturer for drugs used for life-threatening diseases for AIDS, tuberculosis, cancer and others, he said.

"The demand for quality healthcare is growing every year with rising incomes in Việt Nam. Moreover, the changing disease pattern with the continuous rise of the elderly population over the age of 60 years will also contribute to greater healthcare spending in Việt Nam," he said. "There will be a higher demand for affordable medicines as well as sophisticated medical de-

vices and equipment in Việt Nam."

In addition, Indian herbal and traditional medicine products in Việt Nam have great potential because the number of wellness centres, catering to an increase in the number of foreign tourists, is growing in the country.

Medical devices, surgical equipment and pharmaceutical machinery have emerged as the "sunrise sector" of India, which is currently valued at \$5 billion and is expected to reach \$11 billion by 2022.

Indian medical devices are now exported to over 150 countries, including Việt Nam, Reddy said.

Organised by VCCI and the Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India, the event offers opportunities for businesses of the two countries to exchange ideas, network and take advantage of opportunities for co-operation.

At the two-day event, 30 Indian pharmaceutical companies are showcasing many products. Among them are active pharmaceutical ingredients, bulk drugs and excipients, intermediates, finished formulations, liquid orals, oral dosages, tablets and capsules, injectables, medical devices, surgical and wound care products, pellets, nutraceuticals and food supplements, cosmeceuticals and skin care, vitamins and probiotics, herbal products and veterinary formulations. — VNS