

**WELCOMING REMARKS BY  
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Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,

Salam 1 Malaysia and Good Morning

H.E. Ambassador Pham Cao Phong  
Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam,

Excellencies, Ambassadors and High Commissioners,

Tan Sri-Tan Sri, Dato'-Dato',

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of IDFR and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia, I would like to welcome all of you to today's lecture. It is indeed an honour and privilege to welcome H.E. Pham Cao Phong to IDFR and to listen to his thoughts on "Vietnam's Economic Security".

For the information of all present, as part of the ASEAN Ambassador Lecture Series, we have invited Ambassadors from The Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore and will be inviting Ambassadors from other ASEAN countries to share their thoughts on important topics relating to their respective countries and ASEAN.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Malaysia and Vietnam has established diplomatic relations on 30 March 1973 and both countries celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of bilateral relations in 2013. Relations between the two countries have been strong and friendly all these years.

Relations are underscored by the rapid expansion of trade and economic cooperation, investments to and from both countries, frequent exchanges of visits between government leaders and officials, the business communities as well as people to people contact.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The trade volume between the two countries totaled USD1.4 billion in 2015. While the amount is already significant, I believe we have good potential for greater trade expansion. Prominent Malaysian companies operating in Vietnam include Petronas, Maybank, Public Bank, Gamuda Berhad, Parkson Corporation SB, Malaysian Flour Mills SB, Malaya Glass, Faber Labuan SB, Berjaya Land Berhad and Northern Eight SB.

Among ASEAN Members State, Vietnam have consistently been Malaysia's 4<sup>th</sup> largest trading partner, export destination and source of imports from 2012 to 2014.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In this regard, Malaysia seeks to work more closely with our ASEAN neighbours towards becoming a community, united, living in peace, prosperity and stability. I must add that, realizing the ASEAN community is an on-going task and it will not end. We thus hope for more support and cooperation from Vietnam in this regard.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am sure we can learn a lot from H.E. on how Malaysia and Vietnam can move forward together on bilateral, regional and international fronts.

Before I end, I would like to express my deepest thanks to H.E. Pham Cao Phong for his readiness to share his knowledge and perspective with us. Let me again thank everyone present for their attendance at this lecture. I wish all of us a very interesting and fruitful discourse.

Thank you.