

SINGAPORE AND VIETNAM DEEPEN BILATERAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN EMERGING AREAS

Minister Tan meets Vietnamese counterparts and co-witness the signing of 12 agreements between Singapore and Vietnam entities in official visit.

1. Second Minister of Trade and Industry Dr Tan See Leng in his official visit to Vietnam met with counterparts and reaffirmed Singapore's position as an important trade and investment partner to Vietnam. Minister Tan met Chairman of the Central Economic Commission H.E. Tran Tuan Anh; Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Le Minh Khai; Minister of Planning and Investment H.E. Nguyen Chi Dung; Minister of Investment and Trade H.E. Nguyen Hong Dien and Minister of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs H.E. Dao Ngoc Dung; and Minister of Natural Resources and Environment H.E. Dang Kuoc Khanh.
2. The Ministers discussed cooperation in emerging areas, including renewable energy, sustainability and innovation, as well as expanding the scope of the 17th Singapore-Vietnam Connectivity Ministerial Meeting (CMM) to cover these areas when held later this year. The meetings also discussed potential collaboration opportunities in green finance, digital economy, talent exchanges and agri-trade flows.
3. During his visit, Minister Tan attended the 7th Singapore Regional Business Forum (SRBF), organised by the Singapore Business Federation (SBF) on 7 July. Over 420 companies and organisations attended the event in-person and virtually.
4. As the co-Guest-of-Honour, Minister Tan delivered the opening keynote address where he emphasised the growth potential of Southeast Asia in Digital Economy and Green Economy, and how Singapore and Vietnam can expand our partnerships in innovation, energy and sustainability. He also co-witnessed the signing of 12 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and the launch of the SBF-United Overseas Bank (UOB) Joint Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative¹ at the event. The newly inked partnerships in sustainability, digitalisation, financial services and human capital development highlight the mutual interest between the Singapore and Vietnam entities to deepen collaboration.

¹ Under the SBF-UOB Joint Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative, SBF and UOB will sponsor S\$50,000 to the University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City (UEH). The sponsorship will equip 1,000 students with skills and hands-on experience so that they can grow their expertise and be future-ready in the digital era.

5. Minister Tan also participated in a “In Conversation” segment at the forum together with Minister Dung, where he reiterated the importance of free trade and economic regional integration, cross border digital flows, and partnerships in the green and digital economy.

6. Minister Tan said, “Singapore and Vietnam’s economic relations are strong and substantive. This is evidenced by the strong turnout at the 7th Singapore Regional Business Forum, held for the first time outside of Singapore. As we commemorate 50 years of our diplomatic relations and 10th year of Strategic Partnership, we must continue to deepen our economic partnerships, both at the government-to-government and business-to-business levels, particularly in emerging areas of innovation, energy connectivity and sustainability. I look forward to strengthening Singapore-Vietnam relations and uncovering synergies in new areas of sustainability and innovation at the 17th Singapore-Vietnam Connectivity Ministerial Meeting later this year.”

7. Singapore companies have steadily expanded their investments in Vietnam, in diversified sectors including logistics, infrastructure, manufacturing and consumer goods and services. Looking ahead, the MoU on Green-Digital Economic Partnership signed between Singapore’s Ministry of Trade and Industry and Vietnam’s Ministry of Planning and Investment on the sidelines of Vietnam Prime Minister H.E. Pham Minh Chinh’s visit to Singapore in February 2023, will set the foundation for future collaborations between companies from both countries in the green and digital economies.

8. In 2022, bilateral trade between both countries reached S\$31.3 billion, a 16.4% increase y-o-y. Vietnam was also Singapore’s 11th largest trading partner in 2022. By flow, Singapore was Vietnam’s largest foreign investor in 2022 with US\$6.46 billion, accounting for 23.3% of Vietnam’s total foreign capital investments ². As of December 2022, Singapore’s cumulative investments into Vietnam stood at US\$70.8 billion³.

9. At the regional level, Singapore and Vietnam are like-minded partners and are members of multilateral Free Trade Agreements such as the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

² Source: Department of Statistics, April 2023.

³ Source: Vietnam’s Foreign Investment Agency, Ministry of Planning and Investment (Dec 2022)

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**ANNEX A: Summary of MoUs Signed
ANNEX B: Examples of Partnerships between Singapore and Vietnam
Companies**

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ANNEX A: Summary of MoUs Signed

S/N	Singapore Signatories	Vietnam Signatories	Scope of MOU
1	Singapore Business Federation (SBF)	Foreign Investment Agency (FIA) of Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI)	To strengthen co-operation in promoting investment and commercial collaboration between Singapore and Vietnam business communities.
2	SBF	Technological and Commercial Joint-Stock Bank (Techcombank)	To strengthen co-operation in promoting investment and commercial collaboration between Singapore and Vietnam business communities.
3	(i) Ngee Ann Polytechnic; (ii) Keppel Corporation	Vietnam National Innovation Centre (NIC)	To collaborate on talent development, innovation, entrepreneurship & start-up related programmes.
4	National University of Singapore (NUS)	NIC	To facilitate cooperation in growing innovation and enterprise ecosystems.
5	Kyriba Southeast Asia	(i) Techcombank; (ii) Deloitte Vietnam; (iii) PWC Vietnam	To establish a programme for raising the Treasury maturity of Vietnamese companies especially in the mid-market and upper SME segments.
6	PSA Vietnam Pte Ltd (wholly owned subsidiary of PSA International)	Saigon Newport Corporation	To promote and enhance supply chain connectivity within Vietnam and ASEAN.
7	(i) Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF) and (ii) Vietnam Singapore Industrial Park Joint Venture (Sembcorp and Vietnam's Becamex IDC)		To enhance support and facilitation to SMF member companies, particularly SMEs interested to explore and/or expand investments, operations and supply chains in Vietnam.
8	United Overseas Bank Limited (UOB)	Foreign Investment Agency (FIA) of	With these collaborations, UOB and its partners are targeting to engage over

		Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI)	5,000 businesses over three years to upskill and build up their digitalisation capabilities and to grow their business locally and regionally.
9	UOB	National Innovation Center (NIC)	
10	(i) UOB; and (ii) Ngee Ann Polytechnic		
11	UOB	Foreign Trade University (FTU)	
12	Forte Biotech Vietnam (subsidiary of Forte Biotech Pte Ltd)	College of Aquaculture and Fisheries of Can Tho University	To cooperate in their respective fields of expertise to work together for the advancement of aquaculture and biotechnology in Singapore and Vietnam.

ANNEX B: Examples of Partnerships between Singapore and Vietnam Companies

Singapore Company	Vietnam Company	Details on Partnership
Semcorp Industries	Becamex	First established in 1996, the Vietnam-Singapore Industrial Park (VSIP) is a joint venture between Semcorp Industries and Becamex. There are currently 14 VSIPs across 10 provinces in Vietnam, of which three were announced in the past year alone. Attracting US\$18.4 billion worth of investment capital, and creating around 300,000 jobs, the VSIPs have contributed substantially to Vietnam’s manufacturing and export sectors, created jobs and upskilled talent.
YCH Group	T&T Group	YCH Group and T&T Group have developed a smart logistics connectivity infrastructure project, “Vietnam SuperPort” in the Vinh Phuc Province. The SuperPort, with a cargo capacity of 850,000 TEUs, aims to transform cargo handling by air, sea, rail and road, and uplift the manufacturing supply chain in Northern Vietnam.