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Press Release

on

Sixth Sapru House Lecture

by

H.E. Mr. Pham Binh Minh

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Socialist Republic of Vietnam

H.E. Mr. Pham Binh Minh, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, delivered the Sixth Sapru House Lecture on “Strengthening Vietnam-India Bonds for Peace and Prosperity in the Indo-Pacific” at the ICWA on 12 July 2013. The meeting was chaired by former India’s Ambassador to Vietnam, Shri Aftab Seth. The lecture was attended by a number of dignitaries including H.E. Mr. Nguyen Thanh Tan, Ambassador of Socialist Republic of Vietnam to India, and Shri Ranjit Rae, Ambassador of India to Vietnam, among other dignitaries.

Ambassador Rajiv K. Bhatia, Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs, while welcoming the distinguished speaker, revealed that H.E. Mr. Pham Binh Minh’s personal links to India were rather special and abiding. Although this was Mr. Minh’s first visit to India in many decades, he was born on Indian soil. His father, Mr. Nguyen Co Thach, was the Consul General of Democratic Republic of Vietnam in India during 1950-60. It was during Mr. Co Thach’s assignment that Vietnam’s greatest leader, President Ho Chi Minh, paid a visit to India. And the Indian Council of World Affairs had the honour of hosting him at the Sapru House on 7 February 1958. Mr. Co Thach went on to become the Foreign Minister of Vietnam.



Ambassador Rajiv Bhatia, DG, ICWA welcoming H.E. Mr. Pham Binh Minh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

During his lecture, the Hon'ble Foreign Minister, Mr. Pham Binh Minh, focussed on three issues: a) contemporary global and regional scenarios; b) regional architecture, the role of India and the ASEAN in the changing regional landscape and Vietnam-India Strategic Partnership; and c) the joint contribution that Vietnam and India can make in the changing landscape. The visiting



The Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Vietnam delivering the lecture

dignitary asserted that the global financial crisis had propelled structural changes in the global economy, which, in turn, had affected global dynamics of power.

Ambassador Aftab Seth, chairing the session, talked about various facets of bilateral relations, based on his reminiscences of notable historical developments, and shared anecdotes highlighting the warmth that characterised the personal relationship enjoyed by the leaders of the two countries. In the Q & A session, the queries raised centred on issues like South China Sea, US, China, ASEAN, etc.
