



**Indian Council of World Affairs**  
Sapru House, Barakhamba Road  
New Delhi

**18 July 2012**

**Press Release**

on

**“India-Vietnam: Strengthening Ties”**

**ICWA Delegation Calls on the President of Vietnam**

In a rare gesture of friendship towards India, H.E. Truong Tan Sang, the President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam received the Indian delegation led by Ambassador Rajiv Bhatia, Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi. The President expressed satisfaction over the strengthening relationship with India. He referred to Vietnam’s gratitude for economic and technical assistance provided by India over a long period. Bhatia took the opportunity to brief him about the purpose and outcome of an important bilateral seminar on India –Vietnam relations held in Hanoi earlier.

The seminar was co-hosted by the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam and the ICWA on 17th July.

Delivering the keynote address at the seminar, Deputy Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Nguyen Thien Nhan called for setting up an Asia Forum to deliberate on capacity building in education, health, human development. He recalled fondly the warm relationship between the two countries, existing since the time of President Ho Chi Minh and Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru.

Ambassador Bhatia emphasized the need for closer cooperation between the two countries in political, security, economic, and energy security domains. The participants at the conference stressed that bilateral relations are warm and substantial, but there is huge untapped potential to develop more robust economic and commercial ties.

Ranjit Rae, Indian Ambassador to Vietnam stated that the historical and cultural relations between the Vietnamese people and India can be traced back to the Champa Kingdom. Similar sentiments were articulated by Ambassador Dang Dinh Quy, President of the Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam who reiterated the need for strengthening and diversifying India-Vietnam ties.

During the deliberations, scholars, diplomats, practitioners highlighted the challenges inherent in the relationship and how to overcome them. The two sides recommended greater cooperation within a strengthened ASEAN and highlighted the need to improve connectivity between the two countries for increased business opportunities and tourism.

The delegation also called on H.E. Phuong Nga, Vice Foreign Minister of Vietnam. Besides, it held extensive discussions with Institute for Southeast Asian Studies and Institute of Indian and Southwest Asian Studies under the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences.

\*\*\*\*