

Dear AmCham Members,

In the 25 years since the United States and Vietnam established diplomatic relations, the bilateral trade relationship has grown to more than \$77 billion. Vietnam is now the United States' 13th largest trading partner, ahead of Brazil and Ireland, and within striking distance of Italy and the Netherlands.

Every day, American and Vietnamese business leaders are developing the strong trade ties that enable our commercial partnership to prosper, U.S. firms have invested billions in Vietnam's key sectors like manufacturing and tourism, as well as in its infrastructure, and we expect U.S. investment in energy and other infrastructure to continue and even accelerate under our Indo-Pacific Economic Vision. Together, executives from our two countries continue to innovate and thrive. Our collaborative work to ensure the free and fair flow of goods and investment between our two countries will continue to contribute to our mutual prosperity.

As we mark the 25-year milestone, we have much to celebrate. Yet, at the same time, we face unprecedented economic disruption caused by a global pandemic. Supply chains are shifting, companies are reconsidering investments, and governments are trying to prevent economic collapse. Vietnam, squarely in the middle of this economic upheaval in Southeast Asia, is simultaneously creating incentives to keep the economy on track, while preparing for a surge of potential new investment from abroad.

The U.S. private sector plays a leading role in our bilateral relationship and has the resources, technology, and expertise to help accelerate Vietnam's economic development. With the United States as a partner, Vietnam has the potential to leapfrog into a modern, digitally enabled economy, advancing beyond other countries in the region. The U.S. Mission is at your service to support, connect, and advocate. In fact, there are more resources at your disposal now than ever before, including our legacy programs offered by the Commercial Service, Foreign Agricultural Service, USAID, and USTDA, as well as capabilities offered by our newly revived Development Finance Corporation and Ex-Im Bank.

So, I urge you to think and act boldly and with courage. This watershed moment is an opportunity for U.S. businesses to drive new partnerships, expand new business opportunities, and engage in all critical sectors in Vietnam.

Looking at all we have achieved together, the progress of the U.S.-Vietnam bilateral relationship over the past 25 years has been nothing less than extraordinary. I commend the many members of AmCham who have made this accomplishment possible. I look forward to working with you to advance our bilateral relationship in 2020, as we work toward even greater success in the next 25 years of our partnership.

Sincerely,



Daniel J. Kritenbrink  
Ambassador