

# Press Clipping on Vietnam Energy Sector

## April 25, 2016

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April 25: VN-Index Up 2.49 Points or 0.42% to 594.97

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## **I. Front Page of Key Vietnamese Papers**

### **Vietnam Newly-elected President Reaffirms to Strengthen Bilateral Ties with Japan**

Vietnam treasures its relations with Japan and considers the country a high-priority partner in its foreign policy, reaffirmed President Tran Dai Quang who took office three weeks ago.

Speaking at a reception in Hanoi on April 21 given to Tsutomu Takebe, special advisor to the Japan-Vietnam Friendship Parliamentary Alliance, President Quang said Vietnam expects to receive more Japanese assistance in developing its agriculture, respond to climate change, and upgrade infrastructure to serve the country's sustainable development.

In turn, Mr. Takebe informed the host the progress of the Japan-Vietnam University project, saying that the university will begin operation with its first master's course in September this year.

President of the Japan-Vietnam Friendship Parliamentary Alliance Nikai Toshihiro had suggested establishing a climate change response center under the university after the first course opens, the guest announced.

President Quang confirmed that Vietnam is willing to coordinate with the Japanese side to facilitate the effective operation of the university and welcomes the establishment of the climate change response center.

Earlier this week, Quang, who is former minister of public security, also gave a reception for Japanese Ambassador to Vietnam Fukada Hiroshi. (Nhan Dan Apr 22, Thanh Nien Apr 22)

### **Vietnam Defense Minister to Visit Russia on Apr 23-29**

Vietnamese newly-appointed Defense Minister General Ngo Xuan Lich, who is also Politburo member of the ruling communist party, will visit Russia on April 23-29 in a bid to enhance bilateral military cooperation with the European country, one of the world's leading weapon exporters, state media has reported.

General Lich's trip, the first foreign visit since taking the defense minister post two weeks ago, will be made at the invitation of his Russian counterpart General Sergey Shoygu, the Quan Doi Nhan Dan newspaper reported Friday.

Along with holding talks with General Shoygu on measures to deepen the two countries' military cooperation in coming years, General Lich and his entourage will attend the 5<sup>th</sup> Moscow Conference on International Security which is expected to host 17 foreign defense ministers and three deputy defense ministers and other senior military officials from 80 countries.

Lich, who was former head of the General Department of Politics of the Vietnam People's Army, will also attend a meeting between Minister Shoygu and heads of the military delegations from the ten nations in the ASEAN.

Vietnam and Russia elevated their ties to comprehensive strategic partnership in 2013. The former is the biggest suppliers of weaponry for the latter, including six Kilo-class electric-diesel submarines, Su-30 jetfighters missile-equipped Molniya ships, modern Gepard 3.9 frigates, and Svetlyak patrolling ships, and S-300PMU1 missiles systems and other lethal weapons.

Vietnam is said to seek to purchase 12 modern Su-35 jet fighters from Russia in a bid to replace 100 Russian MIG-21, which was equipped for the army during the Vietnam War.

Russia is also assisting Vietnam in building its first submarine fleet in its Cam Ranh naval base in the central province of Khanh Hoa. Moscow has interest to return to the base after leaving it in 2002, in a bid to serve its operations in Pacific.

However, Russia has also sold modern jet fighters and submarines to China, the biggest threat of Vietnam and other Southeast Asian nations, according to foreign experts.

Recently, Moscow has publicly supported China's stance in settling territorial and maritime disputes in the East Sea (South China Sea), opposing the U.S.'s increasing military presence in the Asia-Pacific region.

Vietnam has officially opposed Russia's stance, saying all countries can contribute to peacefully settle the disputes between China, Vietnam, Taiwan, the Philippines and Malaysia in the East Sea to ensure peace, security and stability in the resource-rich sea which is very important for international navigation. (Quan Doi Nhan Dan April 22)

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