

# NEWS SUMMARY SERVICES

April 25-29, 2016

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## **I-POLICIES**

Vietnam, China Complete Joint Survey of Waters off Gulf of Tonkin  
Vietnam May Purchase 12 Swedish Gripen Warplanes from Sweden  
Vietnam Must Cut Spending, Help Local Firms to Slash Fiscal Deficit: Economist

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Vietnam Economic Growth Projected at 6.8%-6.9% in 2016-2017: ESCAP  
To Achieve GDP Growth of 6.5%-7.0%, Vietnam Needs New Drivers: Minister  
Vietnam Industrial Production +7.3% in Jan-Apr: GSO  
FDI Disbursement in Vietnam +12% y/y to \$4.7B in Jan-Apr: GSO  
FDI Inflows to HCM City Drop 52% y/y to \$387M Year-to-April 15: Statistics  
Vietnam April CPI Rises 0.33% m/m, 1.89% y/y  
Hanoi Industrial Output +10.7% on Month in April: Statistics

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Vietnam Privatizes 30 SOEs in Q1: MoF  
Vietnam Retail Sales, Services Revenue +8.8% to \$61.42B in Jan-Apr: GSO  
Vietnam's Jan-Apr Fiscal Deficit VND63.8 Trillion: Govt Data  
Vietnam Central Bank Issues Regulations on Depositing of Valuable Papers  
Vietnam Biggest City Posts \$1.47B Trade Gap in Jan-Apr  
HCM City Retail Sales, Services Revenue +11% y/y to \$10.26B in Jan-Apr  
Hanoi Retail Sales, Services Revenue +1.3% to \$7.62B in April: Statistics  
Vietnam Capital City Posts \$3.93B Trade Gap in Jan-Apr: Statistics  
Vietnam C.Bank Must Stabilize Interest Rates, Continue Banking Revamp: DPM

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Two Japanese Groups Seek to Open Rice Firm in Vietnam Northernmost Province  
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Vietnam Investigating Cause of Massive Fish Deaths in Central Coastal Areas  
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Vietnam Health Sector Strives to Curb Malaria  
Vietnam Reports 1,200 Cases of Ovarian Cancer Annually  
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Vietnam Supports Laos' Military Hospital with Telemedicine System  
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3,000 Join Run to Raise Awareness of Healthy Life

## **I-POLICIES**

### **Vietnam, China Complete Joint Survey of Waters off Gulf of Tonkin**

Vietnam and China have recently completed their joint survey of waters off the mouth of the Gulf of Tonkin as part of works which will serve for the delimitation of the boundary of the continental shelf and exclusive economic zone off the mouth of the gulf between the two neighbor countries.

The survey was conducted by the Department of Survey and Mapping under Vietnam's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, and the Geological Survey Department under China's Ministry of Land and Resource, the Vietnam News Agency said without informing the time of the survey.

Vietnam and China completed delineation of waters in the Tonkin Gulf in 2009. The two sides are working on waters off the gulf.

Recently, China has sent tens of thousands of fishing boats and giant HYSY-981 drilling platform to the waters off the gulf despite protest from Vietnam.

China and Vietnam have also overlapping claims in the East Sea (South China Sea). They are disputing of sovereignty over Hoang Sa (Paracels) and Truong Sa (Spratlys). The Philippines, Malaysia and Taiwan also claim the second archipelagos.

Vietnam has peacefully administered the two archipelagos before the 17<sup>th</sup> century. (Quan Doi Nhan Dan Apr 25, Vietnam News Apr 24)

### **Vietnam May Purchase 12 Swedish Gripen Warplanes from Sweden**

Vietnam was reported to seek to buy 12 JAS 39 Gripen jetfighters manufactured by the Swedish aerospace company Saab in a bid to enhance its defense capacity amid rising tension in the East Sea (South China Sea), state media reported, citing Reuters.

The move is part of Vietnam's plan to buy modern weapons and military equipment from Western countries to reduce its reliance on Russia, the current biggest supplier of weaponry for the communist nation.

Vietnam is said to negotiate with Dassault to buy its Rafale aircrafts.

The Saab JAS 39 Gripen is a light single-engine multirole fighter aircraft manufactured by the Swedish aerospace company Saab. It was designed to replace the Saab 35 Draken and 37 Viggen in the Swedish Air Force. The warplanes can land on civil roads.

So far, Thailand is only the country in Southeast Asian to equip its army with Gripen jetfighters. Bangkok received 12 jetfighters from the Swedish producer in 2013.

Vietnam was said to negotiate with Russian producers to buy 12 Su-35 jet fighters to replace its 100 Mig-21 which were famous in the Vietnam War.

China's aggressiveness in the East Sea has driven Southeast Asian nations to purchase modern weapons to enhance their defense capacity, according to foreign experts.  
(viettimes.vn Apr 25)

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