

France and Viet Nam's partnership in the Indo-Pacific

The relationship between France and Viet Nam builds on a strategic partnership forged in 2013. This partnership made a significant step forward in October 2024, when Viet Nam declared France a Comprehensive Strategic Partner, the first in Europe to receive this status which symbolizes robust mutual political confidence. As such, France is a key partner of Viet Nam.

The cooperation between the two countries is built around four pillars: consolidation of our strategic autonomy through a sovereignty partnership, support for sustainable development, scientific and technological innovation, and strengthening of every dimension of people-to-people exchanges.

During the French President's state visit to Viet Nam in May 2025, a joint statement was published, enshrining ambitious cooperation in key sectors: defence, security, people-to-people exchanges, infrastructure, urban connectivity, railways, aeronautics and aerospace, mineral resources, decarbonized energy sources (renewables, civil nuclear power, hydrogen), innovation, cutting-edge technologies and training in strategic fields.

Shared commitment to the energy transition and environmental protection

Taking action for environmental protection, France and Viet Nam have reaffirmed their will to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including the "30x30" target of protecting 30% of land and seas by 2030. Both countries support swift entry into force of the BBNJ Agreement on the high seas.

In the energy field, France is working with Viet Nam on the latter's path to low-carbon development. The two countries have set themselves the goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, and Viet Nam has committed to abandoning coal in the 2040s. The Agence Française de Développement (AFD, French Development Agency) dedicated more than a billion euros between 2006 and 2020 to finance projects linked to energy, water and sustainable urban development. The aim is to foster development of renewable energy sources, improve energy efficiency and modernize grids to absorb new green capacities.

The French contribution to the December 2022 Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) stands at €500 million. In this context, a loan agreement was signed during the French President's visit in May 2025. It totals €67 million, dedicated to modernizing the electricity grid, and is the first JETP financing delivered in Viet Nam.

An agreement was also concluded for the construction of the first pumped energy storage facility, which will enjoy €160 million in support. In addition, a technical cooperation agreement was signed between the AFD and the Vietnamese Finance Ministry to support the creation of green finance instruments and a national carbon market, in response to a request from Viet Nam. A loan agreement for €27 million was also signed in May 2025 for climate adaptation projects in Ninh Thuận province.

Dynamic and diversified economic cooperation

Bilateral economic relations have strengthened in sectors including aeronautics, shipping and cutting-edge industries. France is also supporting infrastructure projects, including line 3 of the Hanoi metro, and wishes to work with Viet Nam in the field of intercity rail – including the North-South express railway project. Declarations of intent were also adopted concerning cooperation in the fields of transport and nuclear power.

In the health field, France-Viet Nam cooperation has helped train more than 3,000 doctors and is continuing to expand in training, research and application.

There is long-standing cooperation in the space sector, including as regards Earth observation, thanks to collaboration between Airbus and the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (VAST). This cooperation is set to continue, as Viet Nam asserts itself as an emerging space power.

An enhanced defence partnership fostering regional security

Defence cooperation is another shared priority. France and Viet Nam engage in intense dialogue on strategic and training issues, with the aim of enhancing their operational and equipment cooperation.

During their deployments and transits in the South China Sea, French Navy ships make regular stops in Viet Nam to build confidence and foster their partnership. Viet Nam has expressed the desire to make naval cooperation a key pillar of its bilateral relationship with France. The two countries regularly reaffirm their commitment to multilateralism and international law, including the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and of the law of the sea.