

## Vietnam - Korea Cultural and Educational Cooperation in the First Two Decades of the 21st Century

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**Abstract:** Vietnam - Korea relations were officially established on December 22, 1992. After 30 years of construction and development, overcoming historical changes, the Vietnam - Korea bilateral relationship has achieved many important achievements in many fields, including cultural and educational cooperation. In the first two decades of the 21st century, the two countries promoted cultural - social cooperation, education and training, tourism on both people-to-people exchange and state diplomacy channels. The article analyzes in depth the achievements in the fields of culture and education between Vietnam and Korea in the first two decades of the 21st century.

**Keywords:** Cultural and educational cooperation, Vietnam, Korea.

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### Introduction

Vietnam - Korea relations have gone through 30 years since the two countries established diplomatic relations (1992 - 2022) and have developed strongly and effectively, achieving many outstanding achievements in many fields, meeting the requirements and interests of the people of the two countries and contributing to peace, stability and development of the region and the world.

It can be said that after 30 years since 1992, the Vietnam - Korea cooperative relationship has been continuously expanded and deepened, even having rapid developments when compared to other pairs of relations with other countries in the world, especially since the two countries upgraded their relationship to the Vietnam - Korea Strategic Cooperation Partnership in 2009. Currently, the two countries have had extensive cooperation in all fields, including culture and education. The achievements of cooperation in this field between the two countries have been materialized through a series of cultural exchange and cooperation activities between art troupes as well as cooperation and exchange programs on education and human resource development. In particular, in the period of 2001 - 2021, culture and education are considered one of the strategic priorities for national development as well as in the cooperative relations of each country.

### Foundations and factors affecting cultural and educational cooperation between Vietnam and Korea

The basic premises that helped form the Vietnam - Korea relationship are geographical proximity, natural and climatic conditions, and closeness in religious life. Vietnam and Korea are both countries in East Asia, have many similarities in history and culture, and have long had a good relationship with each other. Both countries have long coastlines, and the sea element has created favorable conditions for economic and cultural exchange. Reality has also proven that the two countries have had exchanges and convergence between major cultures of the region and the world (Ly Xuan Trung, 2011, p.92).

Both located in the area influenced by Chinese culture, Vietnam and Korea both creatively absorbed this culture early on, turning it into an element of their national culture. Thus, accepting foreign cultures and creating new cultural identities is considered a common feature in the cultural development of Vietnam and Korea. On the other hand, both nations share the agricultural civilization of East Asian culture. On the basis of wet rice culture, the social structure, village organization, and family of the two countries also have many similarities. Also because of their agricultural residents, both countries pay attention to water resources, live in harmony with nature, like to eat vegetables, seafood, and use chopsticks to eat.

Throughout history, both nations have had to wage many resistance wars against foreign invaders many times stronger than themselves. These struggles against foreign invaders have fostered the patriotism and solidarity of the two countries. However, the Vietnam - Korea relationship has not always been good. During the period when the Vietnamese people waged the resistance war against the US to save the country (1954 - 1975), the relationship between the two countries became tense, even hostile. As an ally of the United States, Korea sent troops to fight in Vietnam (1964 - 1973) <sup>1</sup>and committed many crimes against Vietnam. After

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<sup>1</sup>As an ally of the United States, South Korea under the leadership of President Park Chung-hee played an active role in the Vietnam War. From 1964 to 1973, South Korea sent more than 325,000 soldiers to South Vietnam to

Vietnam reunified the country in 1975, the relationship between the two countries fell into a long period of freeze. With the desire to close the past and move towards the future and stemming from the country's development needs, on December 22, 1992, Vietnam - Korea signed an agreement to establish diplomatic relations.

From the perspective of national interests, it can be seen that Korea is a member of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), a "rising middle power" seeking a political role commensurate with its economic position. Therefore, Vietnam is considered an important partner for Korea to cooperate with in order to expand its path to the world, especially in the Asia-Pacific region. On the other hand, Vietnam is in great need of resources, both in terms of investment and science and technology, from Korea to enhance the country's development. If the two countries know how to take advantage of their advantages, Vietnam and Korea will have strong developments in cooperation, bringing great benefits to both sides.

For the Southeast Asian region, ASEAN countries have always focused on strengthening cultural and educational cooperation within and outside the Association since its establishment. In the context of ASEAN building and raising the level of the ASEAN Socio -Cultural Community (ASCC), the issue of promoting cultural and educational cooperation activities has become more urgent. While major powers such as China, the US, Japan, etc. have had many cooperation programs with the Southeast Asian region in general and Vietnam in particular, Korea cannot stand idly by <sup>2</sup>. On the other hand, the fact that Vietnam and Korea signed a number of agreements on cultural and educational cooperation in the 1990s has created extremely favorable conditions for cooperation in this field in the first two decades of the 21st century (Nguyen Van Lan, 2019, p.86).

In addition to the above factors, the achievements from the scientific and technological revolution in general, especially the industrial revolution 4.0 and the globalization process with strong developments, have also partly affected the cooperation between the two countries. The industrial revolution 4.0 has been creating achievements that have profoundly changed the economic and social life of people. For developed countries like Korea and developing countries like Vietnam, both are showing superiority in accessing advanced scientific and technological achievements. Therefore, both Vietnam and Korea need to have appropriate strategies to make good use of the achievements from this revolution to increase soft power, thereby increasing the total national strength, creating solid resources to consolidate and develop, gradually affirming their position in the international arena. Globalization is also an inevitable trend that directly affects all countries. This is also a process of strongly increasing connections, influences, and mutual impacts. It can be said that under the impact of the 4.0 industrial revolution and the globalization trend, countries are getting closer together.

Obviously, this meeting is the foundation for cooperation in many different fields, including culture and education. Cooperation in culture and education will create conditions to help Vietnam and Korea have a "*better understanding of each other, which will help promote each other's strengths, overcome limitations, avoid aggravation and minimize disagreements*" (Tran Thi Hoi, 2021, p.80). These are the factors that contribute to promoting the increasingly developing economic, trade, scientific and technological relations. On the other hand, under the impact of globalization, regionalization, as well as rapid changes in science and technology and the need for cultural and educational exchange, the two countries continue this bilateral cooperation relationship.

### **Achievements in cultural and educational cooperation between Vietnam and Korea**

#### **On cultural cooperation**

Since the beginning of the 21st century, cultural cooperation between Vietnam and Korea has achieved certain successes. Cultural exchange and cooperation activities between the two countries have taken place through many channels and thanks to this, Korean culture has reached the Vietnamese people. This is an active introduction according to the political, economic and cultural policies of the two countries. Overall, cooperation in the fields of culture, education and science has achieved the most success, second only to economics.

Regarding cultural exchange: In November 2006, Korea established the first Korean Cultural Center in Southeast Asia, headquartered in Hanoi. On this occasion, the two countries also approved the Cultural Exchange Program for the period 2005 - 2008. The main activities include cooperation and exchange between museums of the two sides, exchange of experiences, information, documents as well as experts in the field of culture and arts; promoting understanding of contemporary traditional literature of Vietnam and Korea, through

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fight. The number of South Korean soldiers was much larger than that of Australia. Thailand, the Philippines or New Zealand and second only to the United States among foreign military forces present in the Republic of Vietnam.

the exchange of cultural magazines, information on literary activities, translation and printing of famous contemporary literary works (Nguyen Van Lan, 2019, p.118-119).

From September 25 to 28, 2011, the Vietnam Culture and Tourism Week in Korea took place in Busan (Korea). This is a very important event to promote exchanges and cooperation in the fields of culture and tourism between the two countries. At the Vietnam Culture and Tourism Week in Korea in 2011, the two countries held many activities such as: Seminar to promote Vietnam tourism in Korea to introduce Vietnam tourism potential, launch the Vietnam tourism market in Korea; campaign to vote for Ha Long Bay of Vietnam and Jeju Island of Korea as new natural wonders of the world; exhibition of Vietnam Cultural Space, displaying handicraft products, costumes, photos, cuisine... to introduce the country and people of Vietnam. Also within the framework of this event, artists of the Central Light Music and Dance Theater also performed a number of acts to introduce and promote Vietnamese folk music to the public of the neighboring country. This is also an annual activity in the cultural exchange and cooperation program between the Vietnamese and Korean peoples, aiming to strengthen and further develop the good relationship between the two sides.

Towards the 27th anniversary of diplomatic relations and 10 years of strategic partnership, under the sponsorship of the Vietnamese Embassy in Korea and support from Seoul City, the Vietnamese Association in Korea organized the 9th Vietnam Cultural Festival on September 1, 2019, at Kwanghwamun Central Square, Seoul. The program "9th Vietnam Cultural Festival" includes the following contents: Parade of traditional Vietnamese costumes, contest to learn about the history and culture of the nation "Proud of Vietnam 2019", contest to find Vietnamese - Korean talent Got Talent 2019, painting contest for children of Korean - Vietnamese multicultural families, fashion show of Ao Dai, Hanbok, and many special performances. At the festival, overseas Vietnamese people can also enjoy dishes with rich flavors of their homeland at 20 booths of cuisine from three regions of Vietnam. It can be said that the 9th Vietnam Cultural Festival is not only a destination for the Vietnamese community in Korea but also creates exchanges between the people of the two countries, thereby strengthening the friendship between the two nations.

In March 2019, the Vietnam Fine Arts Association and the Korean Kiro Fine Arts Association jointly organized the first Korea-Vietnam International Fine Arts Exchange Exhibition in Hanoi. The two countries' international fine arts exchange exhibition introduced 116 works by 110 authors, including 76 works by 70 members of the Korean Kiro Fine Arts Association and 40 works by 40 members of the Vietnam Fine Arts Association. The works introduced at the exhibition were mostly created by artists from both countries recently with many different materials, schools, techniques, and styles, expressing the cultural characteristics and visual arts of each country. Through the exhibition, the public and Vietnamese visual artists have the opportunity to enjoy and understand more deeply the traditional and modern fine arts of Korea.

Also in 2019, FAHASA Company of Vietnam in collaboration with Kyobo Group of Korea organized a Book Exhibition and opened the first Vietnam Book Pavilion in Seoul with the aim of enhancing cultural exchange and development between Vietnam and Korea. Previously, in May 2019, FAHASA Company and Kyobo Group organized the Korean Book Week and opened the first Korean Book Pavilion in Ho Chi Minh City. Kyobo Group Chairman Park Young-gyu said that Kyobo cooperated to open the Vietnamese book pavilion in Seoul and the Korean book pavilion in Vietnam because there are currently many Korean citizens living in Vietnam, as well as many Vietnamese people living and working in Korea, as well as many Korean readers who want to understand more about Vietnamese culture (Huu Tuyen, 2019).

Next, the Vietnam - Korea Cultural Exchange Festival 2019, taking place on June 30 in Hanoi, is an event in a series of cultural exchange activities between the two countries to introduce traditional and modern Korean culture to the world and promote solidarity and friendship between Vietnam and Korea. At the festival, the audience also enjoyed many special performances with the participation of 80 artists from Vietnam and Korea.

From March to November 2020, at the National Museum of Korea in **Seoul**, the opening ceremony of an exhibition of some Vietnamese antiques took place to introduce to Korean and international friends the long-standing culture and history of Vietnam. The exhibition featured 50 valuable antiques from the Paleolithic, Neolithic, terracotta, bronze, and ceramic periods of Vietnam. Speaking at the opening ceremony, Vietnamese Ambassador to Korea Nguyen Vu Tu said that this was one of the substantial results in the friendly relations between the two countries, and expressed his belief that this exhibition would contribute to further developing the relationship between the two countries (Manh Hung & Tran Phuong, 2019).

In particular, during the visit to Korea by National Assembly Chairman Vuong Dinh Hue and the Vietnamese high-ranking delegation, on December 14, 2021, Vietnamese Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism Nguyen Van Hung and Korean Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism Hwang Hee signed the Cultural Exchange Program. Accordingly, the two sides agreed to organize cultural activities in 2022 and the following years. In addition, the Cultural Exchange Program between the two countries also aims to promote cultural cooperation and exchange through coordinating the organization of art exhibitions, exchanging cultural

and folk art troupes, performing arts; participating in international conferences on culture and arts and film festivals held in each country; cooperating in filmmaking, exchanging experiences in the field of protecting and promoting the value of cultural heritage and sharing practical experiences in protecting and preventing the illegal trafficking of cultural heritage; Cooperation, promoting the development of cultural industry.

About film cooperation: Vietnam and Korea encourage cooperation between film studios, enhance cooperation and exchanges in the field of radio and television. Accordingly, the Korean Broadcasting Commission and the Vietnamese Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism support mutual visits by high-ranking officials to promote the development of the radio and television industry in both countries.

On March 26, 2019, in Hanoi, authorized by the Prime Minister of Vietnam and the President of the Republic of Korea, Minister of Information and Communications Nguyen Manh Hung and Chairman of the Korea Communications Commission Lee Hyo-seong signed an Agreement between the Governments of Vietnam and the Republic of Korea on cooperation in co-production of television programs. According to the agreement, television program producers of Vietnam and the Republic of Korea can submit applications to the competent authorities of each side for approval to co-produce television programs.

Regarding cultural heritage cooperation: In order to promote exchange and cooperation in the field of cultural heritage between Vietnam and Korea, the Department of Cultural Heritage (Ministry of Culture and Information of Vietnam) and the General Department of Cultural Heritage of Korea signed the Agreement on "*Exchange and cooperation in the field of cultural heritage protection*" in Seoul (Korea) on May 9, 2006. To concretize the above agreement, on December 11, 2006, in Hanoi, the Department of Cultural Heritage and the General Department of Cultural Heritage of Korea signed the Action Plan 2006 - 2008, including 8 main contents: research delegations, experience exchange and cooperation in cultural heritage management; b Preserving world heritage and world intangible cultural heritage through visiting, learning about the status of conservation, management and exchanging information on laws and related mechanisms, especially the protection of intangible cultural heritage; exchanging traditional culture through performances of intangible cultural heritage in the "Vietnam - Korea Cultural Week"; preserving historical architecture. The two sides will discuss measures to develop policies to preserve and manage historical architectural relics through bilateral exchanges and cooperation; sharing technology and information on historical architectural relics; cooperating in developing effective methods and techniques for relic restoration; implementing a number of projects on the conservation and restoration of specific works; improving the capacity of cultural heritage conservation staff through training programs to promote exchanges, cooperation and technology in the field of conservation science in Asia; cooperating in research on relics of ancient capitals. The two sides will conduct mutual visits to carry out expert-level working sessions and sign agreements on cooperation in relic research in ancient capitals; cooperate in the field of investigation and research, to find out information related to the management and conservation of underwater cultural heritage through data exchange; Cooperation and exchange in the field of museum activities (Department of Cultural Heritage, 2006).

On May 29, 2020, the signing ceremony of the memorandum of understanding on cooperation and exchange between the Vietnam Women's Club with Cultural Heritage (WFH) and the Korean Cultural Resources Institute (CRI) took place at the headquarters of the Korean Cultural Resources Institute in Hanoi. According to the content of the memorandum of understanding, CRI can organize many educational events, training, seminars... to exchange experiences of women's groups and non-profit organizations (NPOs) in Korea in the process of preserving and exploiting cultural heritages; organize exchange and meeting programs in Korea between WFH and Korean NPOs that are implementing activities to preserve and exploit cultural heritages. It can be said that WFH plays the role of consulting, guaranteeing and promoting CRI's activities in Vietnam, aiming to preserve and exploit cultural resources in Vietnam.

Recently, on December 12, 2021, the Hue Monuments Conservation Center and the Graduate School of Cultural Technology, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology discussed and signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen cooperation and friendship, coordinate the implementation of joint research of project management services for the project "Building a cultural and smart tourism city of Hue in Vietnam" funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). Also within the framework of the project "Building a cultural and smart tourism city of Hue in Vietnam", the two sides also signed an additional cooperation program to conduct research on digital cultural heritages needed to plan a digital museum on March 23, 2022. Thus, with the support of KOICA, Hue's cultural heritage will continue to be restored and further developed.

Then, in April 2022, the Department of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Dak Lak province coordinated with the Jeollabuk-do International Cooperation Center (JBCIA) of Korea to sign a memorandum of understanding on implementing the project "Preserving and promoting the cultural values of gongs in Dak Lak province" online. The project will be implemented from April to December 2022 in Lak, Krong Ana, Buon Don and Cu M'gar districts. According to the plan, the Department of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Dak Lak

province will implement the project through the following forms: Organizing gong playing classes; providing gongs and traditional costumes; Restoring traditional rituals and collecting some gong pieces in traditional rituals and festivals to document as a basis for preservation and teaching... The JBCIA Center is responsible for monitoring all activities, expenditures and progress of the project to achieve project outputs; developing a plan to monitor and manage project results based on criteria for each activity and inspection reports of the Department of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Dak Lak province.

Regarding football cooperation: In addition to the cooperation mentioned above, the achievements between Vietnam and Korea in the cultural aspect that need to be mentioned are football. In 2018, the Vietnam Football Federation (VFF) and the Korea Football Federation (KFA) signed an agreement. Accordingly, the two sides committed to further promoting the cooperative relationship, supporting each other in football-related activities in the region and internationally; increasing the sharing and exchange of human resources, as well as management and operation experience to develop football; sending football experts to coach football for both countries. In addition, the two sides also agreed to send experienced coaches to teach or support; sharing knowledge about science and technology in sports medicine, information about rehabilitation methods through physical training;... In particular, Mr. Park Hang Seo is considered a symbol of success in cooperation between the two sides. He is also the Head Coach of the Vietnam national team and his assistants Lee Young Jin, Bae Ji Won... have made great contributions to the achievements of the Vietnam U23 team in international friendly matches and youth tournaments held regionally and internationally.

### **On Educational Cooperation**

Educational cooperation is one of the areas prioritized by both countries and has been gradually upgraded to a "Strategic Cooperative Partnership" as affirmed in the Joint Statement in October 2009. Previously, Vietnam and Korea signed an Educational Cooperation Agreement in March 2000 and May 2005.

Regarding training and exchange cooperation: The two sides have also continuously had discussions and talks on educational cooperation and human resource development. In the period of 2016 - 2020, education is also considered one of the priorities in the Development Partnership Strategy of Korea with Vietnam. According to statistics from the Foreign Investment Agency, Ministry of Planning and Investment, as of the end of October 2017, Korea's direct investment in Vietnam in the field of education and training reached nearly 66 million USD with 62 projects, accounting for nearly 9% of the total foreign investment in this field of Vietnam (Xuan Anh, 2017).

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations, within the framework of the State visit (March 22-24, 2018) of President Moon Jae-in of the Republic of Korea, Vietnam and the Republic of Korea adopted a Joint Statement to further promote the Strategic Cooperative Partnership. In particular, the two sides agreed to continue expanding the scope and scale of educational cooperation, promoting the establishment of a Vietnamese Studies department and the teaching of Vietnamese in Korea as well as a Korean Studies department and the teaching of Korean in Vietnam. In addition, the two countries' senior leaders agreed to create conditions for the stable and effective organization of the Vietnam - Korea Human Resources Forum and other cultural exchange activities (Vietnam - Korea Joint Statement, 2018).

In more than two decades of educational cooperation, the two countries have achieved many achievements in many fields such as: exchanging information documents, sending Vietnamese lecturers and professors to research in Korea; supporting vocational training, granting scholarships, and scientific cooperation. and related technology in education,... As of 2015, the total number of Vietnamese students in Korea was 4,451, in 2016 it was 8,293 and in 2017 it was 14,614 (Nguyen Van Lan, 2019, p.122). And this number continues to increase, according to statistics from the Korean Immigration Department, in 2019, Vietnam was the country with the second largest number of international students in Korea with 37,426 students, second only to China. Specifically, there are currently more than 160,165 foreign students studying in higher education programs in Korea, of which the number of Vietnamese students accounts for 23.4%, 14 times higher than in 2009 (Vietnam News Agency, 2019).

Regarding scholarships, education and training support: Currently, Korea is one of the countries actively supporting scholarship programs and education and training support for Vietnam. It can be said that the Korean Government's provision of scholarships for both Vietnamese lecturers and students has helped Vietnamese lecturers and students have the opportunity to access the world's advanced educational environment, contributing to the construction of a better Vietnamese education system. For Korea, promoting educational cooperation between Vietnam through scholarships, education support and Training will help this country promote its educational brand not only in Vietnam but also internationally. When it comes to training support, it is impossible not to mention the role of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the Korea Foundation (KF). In addition to sending experts to Vietnam to teach Korean, KOICA and KF have provided funding for about 2,300 Vietnamese officials in various fields to study and improve their qualifications in Korea

(Vietnam - Korea Joint Statement, 2018). In addition, every year, KOICA sends 6 - 10 volunteer experts to work at the request of Vietnamese educational institutions, notably experts in teaching Korean or Korean studies (Dang Hoang Linh & Vu Thi Kim Oanh, 2021). In Vietnam, the Korean language learning movement is also growing strongly. Among the 28 countries participating in the Test of Proficiency in Korean (TOPIK) in 2005, Vietnam ranked 3rd with 1,281 candidates, just behind Japan with 7,998 candidates and China with 6,003 candidates (Nguyen Van Lan, 2019, p.123).

In awarding scholarships, not only the Government, friendly organizations, but also large Korean corporations. Typically, Lotte Group awarded Lotte Foundation Scholarships to 78 students from 10 universities in Hanoi on October 23, 2018, with a total scholarship value of 23,400 USD, each scholarship worth 300 USD. Universities with students receiving scholarships include Hanoi University, Foreign Trade University, Hanoi University of Science and Technology, University of Civil Engineering, Construction, National Economics University, Thang Long University, Academy of Finance and three schools under Vietnam National University, Hanoi: University of Foreign Languages, University of Economics and University of Social Sciences and Humanities (Pham Mai, 2018).

In recent years, due to the fact that many Korean enterprises and companies are recruiting human resources from Vietnam, they have implemented many educational and training cooperation programs to develop highly qualified human resources and improve foreign language skills. VKBIA Association Joint Stock Company and VISANG Education Group in Vietnam are pioneers in promoting cooperation with Vietnam. Despite the complicated context of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Vietnam - Korea Business and Investment Association (VKBIA), VKBIA Association Joint Stock Company and VISANG Education Group in Vietnam signed a comprehensive cooperation memorandum online on September 29, 2021, with the implementation of educational and training cooperation programs to meet the human resources working at FDI enterprises, supporting industries and manufacturing enterprises. Also on this occasion, VKBIA and VISANG will promote the development of an education and training system related to Korean, online courses through the training platform "Master K," an online Korean education platform applying 4.0 technology; develop educational programs, improve the quality of training lecturers and teachers for Vietnam specializing in Korean culture and language and develop career orientation, including applying advanced Korean training and education models. In addition, the President of the VKBIA Association also announced the decision to establish "VKBIA ACADEMY," a new unit under the Association, which is responsible for coordinating education and training in Korean and other related fields.

In addition to human resource support, Korea also supports the construction and funding of facilities for Vietnam, thanks to which the quality and facilities of Vietnamese education in a number of universities, centers, research institutes and even high schools in Vietnam have been gradually upgraded. In July 2015, the Korean Ministry of Education signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Vietnamese Ministry of Education and Training on the construction and operation of electronic classrooms. According to these MOUs, Korea will provide necessary information technology equipment such as electronic boards, electronic podiums, and laptops for Vietnamese students to build these classrooms. Or the Vietnam - Korea Friendship Information Technology College was built with a non-refundable aid of 10 million USD from the Korean Government in 2007 in Da Nang city, the third largest city in Vietnam. During the four-year period (2012-2016), KOICA will invest 5.4 million USD to build an IT center and laboratory; support equipment and training programs (Bao Nhan Dan, 2012).

Regarding vocational education cooperation: In the first two decades of the 21st century, the field of vocational education cooperation has also achieved certain achievements. Many projects have been completed, such as: Project to establish 5 Vietnam - Korea Vocational Colleges funded by Korea, Project implementation period: 9/2008 - 12/2016; Project to develop Vietnam - Korea Vocational College in Nghe An, Project implementation period: 2007 - 2008; Project to establish Vietnam - Korea Vocational College in Bac Giang province, Implementation period: 2010 - 2014; Project to develop Vocational Secondary School in Quang Tri, Vietnam - Korea Vocational College in Quang Tri province, Implementation period: 2011 - 2013; Project to develop Vocational College for Ethnic Youth in the Central Highlands (Dak Lak province), Implementation period: 2013 - 2016; The project "Capacity building to establish a national vocational skills assessment and certification system in Vietnam" is funded by the Korean Government, implementation period: December 2011 - December 2013. Also in August 2020, the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs and the Korea International Cooperation Agency signed a Memorandum of Understanding in the field of vocational education. Accordingly, the two sides continue to strengthen vocational education cooperation in a practical spirit, at different levels such as government, locality, enterprise, training institution... through activities such as signing cooperation agreements between Vietnamese vocational education institutions and Korean enterprises in Vietnam, strengthening cooperation and training linkages between Vietnamese educational institutions and Korean vocational education institutions.

On scientific cooperation and technology related to education: Realizing that Korea is a country with a lot of experience after four decades of economic development with strategies and policies focusing on science and technology development, Vietnam has proactively and actively exchanged and cooperated with Korea in the field of science and technology, especially focusing on training high-quality human resources for the country. The main forms are staff exchange, long-term and short-term training, organizing specialized classes, conferences and scientific seminars. In October 2012, the Ministry of Science and Technology of Vietnam and the Minister of Education, Science and Technology of Korea signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two countries on cooperation in the field of science and technology in Seoul. According to the content of the Memorandum of Understanding, the Korean side will support joint research projects related to science and technology such as electronics technology, materials technology, information technology, biotechnology, etc. In 2009, with the support of the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology and the cooperation of scientists from Seoul National University, Korea, the Institute of Physics organized the "Vietnam - Korea Workshop on Advanced Photonics". It can be said that through forums on science and technology cooperation, the relationship between the two countries is increasingly developed, in the context that Vietnam is a bright spot in attracting investment and high-tech science resources.

In addition, Vietnam has cooperated with Naver - the largest technology corporation in Korea, within the framework of the national strategy to turn Vietnam into a global factor in AI by the beginning of the next decade. Specifically, Naver Group has cooperated with Hanoi University of Science and Technology (HUST) to deploy Vietnam's first artificial intelligence (AI) research center located in Hanoi and is expected to play an important role in Vietnam's high-tech development plan. In addition, Naver officially signed a cooperation agreement with the Posts and Telecommunications Institute of Technology in the fields of investment, development and training of AI in Vietnam. To concretize this agreement, Naver has sponsored the Academy with an AI Research Center at its Hanoi training facility. This will be an environment for lecturers, students, and academics to train, research and test AI products developed by PTIT with the support of experts from Korea.

### **Conclusion**

It can be seen that the Comprehensive Partnership and Strategic Cooperative Partnership between Vietnam and Korea over the past 30 years have achieved many achievements in many different fields. Along with other areas of cooperation, culture and education between Vietnam and Korea in the first two decades of the 21st century have contributed to strengthening the solidarity and friendship between the two countries. Through specific events and activities, the people of the two countries have more opportunities to exchange, learn from each other and explore the beauty of each country's long-standing traditional culture and art, deepening the bond between the people of the two sides.

Culture and education are great resources, indispensable bridges and channels for the Vietnam - Korea bilateral cooperation relationship. However, in addition to the achievements, the Vietnam - Korea cooperation relationship also revealed some limitations in all aspects, not really on par with the existing potential of the two countries. Therefore, in order to contribute to strengthening the Vietnam - Korea bilateral relationship in the coming years, the two sides need to focus on finding specific priority directions. Promoting cooperation in the field of culture and education between Vietnam and Korea needs to be further promoted through various channels, people's diplomacy becomes an important diplomatic channel contributing together with state diplomacy to promote the good development of the relationship between the two countries. In the coming time, the cultural and educational agencies of the two countries need to further promote programs and agreements signed through exchanges. More importantly, there needs to be close cooperation between the two countries to jointly resolve issues that may arise in the process of friendly cooperation between the two peoples of Vietnam and Korea. Despite many challenges in the context of unpredictable changes in the world and the region, the Vietnam - Korea relationship will continue to develop in a direction that is beneficial to both sides, in which cultural and educational cooperation is the most important foundation to help the relationship between the two countries become solid and trust each other in the process of moving towards prosperity together.

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