

## **Large-scale Economic Mission Visits Vietnam, Led by Prime Minister Abe**

On November 19, the annual summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference (APEC) was held in the Vietnamese capital of Hanoi. Taking advantage of that opportunity, an economic mission from Japan also visited the country, with a meeting held between Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, and Japanese corporate representatives led by Chairman Fujio Mitarai of the Nippon Keidanren (Federation of Economic Organizations). Also participating from Japan were Seiji Suzuki, deputy cabinet secretary, Norio Hattori, the Japanese ambassador to Vietnam, and Hiroshige Seko, Special Adviser to the Prime Minister, along with two Vietnamese cabinet ministers, Planning and Investment Minister Vo Hong Phuc, and Trade Minister Truong Dinh Tuyen.

Prime Minister Abe opened the meeting with the following greeting: "Bringing along such a large-scale economic mission, with more than 130 members, is a first-ever experiment in the strengthening of Vietnam-Japanese economic relations, and is a demonstration of the high level of interest that Japan's economic circles has in Vietnam." He went on to refer to the promotion of public and private sector cooperation in several areas: the fostering of IT personnel, cooperation in the field of energy and nuclear energy, and the development of infrastructure.

Chairman Yoshihisa Akiyama of the Kansai Economic Federation (who also serves as advisor to the Kansai Electric Power Co.), commented that energy, particularly the stable supply of electricity, was important for the future economic development of Vietnam, and that he would like to promote cooperation among companies, including that in the field of nuclear energy.

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