
MINUTES OF THE
UNITED STATES – VIETNAM
MARITIME BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS

August 31, 2023

Washington, D.C.

On August 31, 2023, delegations from the United States Maritime Administration (MARAD) and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Maritime Administration (VINAMARINE) held bilateral maritime consultations at the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) in Washington, D.C. Maritime Administrator Ann Phillips led the U.S. delegation. VINAMARINE Administrator Mr. Le Do Muoi led the Vietnam delegation. U.S. attendees included representatives from DOT, the U.S. Department of State (DOS), the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), and the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC). Vietnam attendees included representatives from VINAMARINE, the Ministry of Transport, Maritime Administrations from various provinces, the Vietnam Maritime Search and Rescue Coordination Center, the Construction Consultation Joint Stock Company for Maritime Building, and the Cai Mep International Terminal.

Maritime Administrator Phillips extended a warm welcome to the Vietnam delegation. Administrator Phillips expressed her belief that the strength of the two countries' bilateral relationship and economic ties would lead to opportunities for the two countries to experience mutual growth and success in the maritime sector, advance and promote maritime decarbonization, and increase safety and security in the Indo-Pacific region. Administrator Le Do Muoi expressed his thanks for the invitation. FMC Chairman Daniel Maffei described FMC's role and their willingness to work with VINAMARINE in the future.

The Maritime Bilateral Discussions in Washington, D.C., focused on key maritime issues, including maritime strategy policy updates, port infrastructure development, opportunities for U.S. support and investment in Vietnam's maritime sector and ports, cooperation on safety and security, decarbonization, Green Shipping Challenge, International Maritime Organization (IMO) Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) 80, and Election of the IMO Council.

The meeting began with both delegations discussing their maritime policy updates. Administrator Phillips provided an overview and an update on MARAD policies, port infrastructure, and marine highway system. The Vietnamese representatives provided an update on their maritime policy, highlighting their Vietnam Seaport Development Master Plan during the period 2021-2030, with a vision extending to 2050, and their study of management models for local maritime administrations, aimed at aligning with practical conditions and complying with the provisions related to the Port Management and Operation Board as stipulated in the Vietnam Maritime Law 2015. They also emphasized the growing interest in green shipping at the highest level. The Vietnamese representatives expressed interest in more support from MARAD, specifically in:

- seaports development;
- search and rescue activities: capacity building in the search and rescue activities in Vietnam and international seaways, with a focus on cooperation in training, developing human resources, and supplying equipment and vehicles (used patrol boats) for the maritime search and rescue activities; and
- maritime safety and security: continue to organize delegations to exchange, inspect, and evaluate seaport security on a rotating basis; support for Vietnamese port state control officers (PSCO) to attend training courses in the United States; and continue to support Vietnam in deploying Search and Rescue Optimal Planning System (SAROPS) and SeaVision software.

Administrator Le Do Muoi suggested updating the 2007 Agreement on Maritime Transport between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Administrator Le Do Muoi suggested maritime decarbonization, green shipping corridors, and the Agreement timeframe in Article 11 could be included and updated. Admiral Phillips and Megan Walklet-Tighe, Director of the Office of Transportation Policy, Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs at U.S. Department of State said both MARAD and DOS are open to considering Vietnam's suggestions.

Both delegations then discussed maritime safety and security. MARAD discussed their support of the U.S. maritime transportation system, the U.S. Merchant Marine, and other elements of the U.S. maritime industry, including development and implementation of effective maritime security policies and MARAD'S participation in

the interagency-coordinated Maritime Security Communications with Industry (MSCI) Alerts and Advisories system. The Vietnamese delegation discussed their interest in continuing to learn from the United States to better understand and update their own policies and procedures. The Vietnamese delegation mentioned that they have been working with USCG since 2006. Ed Munoz, Head of International Port Security (IPS) Program at the USCG, highlighted the importance of collaborating on the implementation of the International Ship and Port Facility Security (ISPS) Code. This partnership contributes to the security of the global marine transportation system.

The discussion then moved to decarbonization and green shipping. MARAD presented on the Maritime Environmental and Technical Assistance (META) program, as well as their collaboration with other United States agencies in support of the IMO, International Organization for Standardization (ISO), Zero Emission Shipping Mission (ZESM), and green corridors. MARAD, on behalf of U.S. Secretary of Transportation Peter Buttigieg and the U.S. Department of Transportation as a whole, expressed commitment to the advancement of maritime decarbonization in the U.S. and with international partners. The Vietnamese expressed interest in announcing their participation in the Green Shipping Challenge at the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28). The Vietnamese delegation expressed their interest in creating a green shipping corridor from Vietnam to Long Beach. VINAMARINE will provide policy updates but will need investment, support, and references from other countries during the process. The Vietnamese delegation expressed interest in a feasibility study to understand how to best reach their goals. Daniel Hubbell, Senior Advisor at the Office of the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate (SPEC), U.S. Department of State, welcomed VINAMARINE's interest in being part of the Green Shipping Challenge at COP28 and expressed appreciation for Vietnam's support for higher ambition in the IMO's revised 2023 GHG strategy.

At the conclusion of the meeting, both countries thanked each other for the fruitful and positive meeting and expressed further interest in continuing discussions on mutually agreed upon maritime development priorities. Administrator Le Do Muoi extended an invitation to Admiral Phillips in Vietnam for the 2024 U.S.-Vietnam bilateral maritime meeting. The Vietnamese representatives stated their request for support in port infrastructure development and the Vietnam Maritime Search and Rescue Coordination Center, and their interest in updating the 2007 Agreement on Maritime

Transport between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The United States representatives expressed their interest in promoting U.S. investment opportunities in Vietnam and continuing cooperation in the maritime sector. Both countries agreed to endeavor to meet again in 2024.

Done in Washington, D.C., August 31, 2023.



Le Do Muoi

For the Vietnam Maritime Administration

Ministry of Transport

Socialist Republic of Vietnam



Ann C. Phillips

For the Maritime Administration

Department of Transportation

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