

## Socialist Republic of Vietnam



### About Vietnam

**Capital City:**

- Hanoi

**Largest City:**

- Ho Chi Minh

**Monetary Unit:**

- Dong (VND)

**Major Languages:**

- Vietnamese

**Main Exports:**

- Rice
- Clothing
- Petroleum
- Coffee

### Our Immigration Services in Vietnam

**Business Travel** – Guidance & assistance with entry visas for foreign nationals who require a visa to enter Vietnam for short-term business travel or to engage in investment activities

**Work Permits & Temporary Residence Certificates** – For foreign nationals who wish to work for companies in Vietnam & do not fall under an exemption

**Permanent Residence** – For foreign nationals who will transfer to Vietnam for extended assignments or permanent relocation

### The Vietnamese Economy

Home to over 90.5 million people, Vietnam is a densely populated area that over the past 30 years has recovered from the ravages of war to become one of south-east Asia's fastest growing economies. While Vietnam's economy remains dominated by state-owned enterprises (SOEs), which still produce about 40% of GDP, Vietnamese authorities have reaffirmed their commitment to economic liberalization and international integration. Structural reforms were implemented to modernize the economy and to produce more competitive export-driven industries. Vietnam joined the WTO in January 2007 and today, the U.S. is its main trading partner. It became an official negotiating partner in the developing Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement in 2010.

Vietnam has set a goal for becoming a developed nation by 2020 and in doing so it has shifted its economic output away from agriculture and towards industry. Foreign donors pledged nearly \$8 billion in new development assistance for 2011. Additionally, Vietnam is addressing the challenges of a labor force that is growing by more than one million people every year. As a direct result, deep poverty has declined significantly.

At present, Vietnam holds membership of 63 International Organizations and maintains relations with over 650 Non-Governmental Organizations worldwide. Through its activities, Vietnam has been playing an increasingly important role within the UN as a member of the UN Security Council, ECOSOC, UNDP, UNFPA and UPU Executive Councils, as well as in, among others, the Non-Aligned Movement, Francophonie and ASEAN.

Sources: <http://tinyurl.com/yqknfx>;  
<http://tinyurl.com/yngw8w>

For detailed information about Vietnam's Economic Outlook, visit the World Bank web site at: <http://tinyurl.com/59og9>

### Business Travel to Vietnam

Foreign nationals who wish to travel to Vietnam for business should ensure their passports are valid until at least six months beyond the stay. Vietnam participates in the APEC Business Travel Card scheme. Business travelers who are card holders are not required to obtain a visa prior to entry to Vietnam. Unless visa exempt, entry visa applications for business travel may be applied for as early as six months before the intended date of departure. Pre-approval for Vietnamese visas may be granted through the Vietnamese Immigration Department through the Vietnamese host.

Vietnam permits entry for business travelers who will perform limited, non-remunerative activities such as attending business meetings or discussions, attending seminars or conferences, certain sales or marketing activities, provided they benefit the employer abroad. Most remunerative activities are strictly prohibited without a work permit, unless an exemption is obtained in advance.

The Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs maintains an updated list of foreign entry requirements and missions abroad at the following web site: <http://www.mofa.gov.vn>

### Living in Vietnam

South of the People's Republic of China and east of Laos and Cambodia, Vietnam is shaped like an elongated S and stretches the length of

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the Indochinese Peninsula. It has three main areas that offer geographical and topographical diversity: the north, which includes the plains, Red River delta and Hanoi; the central plateau, Da Nang, and Hue; and the south, which includes the highlands, Mekong River delta and Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon).

Home to nearly 4 million people, Hanoi is the capital city of Vietnam and offers a more temperate climate than Ho Chi Minh. Many areas of present-day Hanoi were built during the French occupation, reflected in its broad boulevards and French-inspired architecture, which give the city a definite charm. Ho Chi Minh City is densely populated and regarded as offering the most modern amenities. As the

former capital and UNESCO World Heritage site, Hue offers much in the way of the history and culture of Vietnam whereas Da Nang is a major port city and transportation hub.

### Vietnamese Business Culture

Business dress in Vietnam is conservative and generally includes suit and tie for men and suit or dress for women. To the Vietnamese the sense of “face” is a very important concept. Face meaning a person’s reputation or sense of self. Never embarrass a business contact as one will lose the contact if embarrassed by your error. Business Cards printed in both English and Vietnamese should be presented with both hands.

With headquarters outside of Washington, DC in Reston, Virginia and operations in Pune, India, Goel & Anderson is an immigration firm that is international in scope and personal in nature. We are known as a firm that is highly professional and also highly human. We offer clients extensive experience and a comprehensive understanding of all areas of business, employment, and family-based immigration law worldwide.

For more information about our Global Immigration Practice and services, please contact Jill Marie Bussey at [jill.bussey@goellaw.com](mailto:jill.bussey@goellaw.com) or +1 703.796.9881.

\*Goel & Anderson, LLC does not engage in the practice of law within India. All services in India are provided by our affiliate, G&A Immigration Services Private Limited.

The information contained in this document is intended for informational purposes only, is general in nature, and does not constitute legal guidance.

## Vietnamese Work Permit Process

- 1 Foreign national’s application for business visa at consulate abroad
- 2 Upon arrival to Vietnam, foreign national applies for temporary residence certificate, “Blue Book”
- 3 Work permit application by sponsoring employer filed with labor department, unless exemption applies followed by Work Permit card issuance

## How Goel & Anderson can assist your organization in Vietnam

Organizations that wish to employ foreign workers abroad require an immigration service provider with a record of successfully coordinating and delivering global, business immigration services for multinational organizations. Goel & Anderson practices exclusively in the field of immigration to assist your company with the recruitment, hiring, and retention of foreign workers across the globe, including Vietnam. We understand that time and resources are valuable to your business and that staffing an international project can be critical to your business’ reputation and success. We are committed to efficiently delivering business immigration solutions that combine broad global coverage with a depth of local expertise.

We carefully select co-counsel who share our service and compliance-oriented approach to meet the needs of organizations doing business in the global marketplace. Our Global Immigration Practice group and local counsel work closely together to ensure comprehensive business coordination and seamless delivery of services. Our immigration services include end-to-end processing, including: Work Permit and Visa Application preparation and filing;

detailed guidance on the visa stamping and post-entry process; and tracking key expiration dates. Personal representation at the Vietnamese Consulate abroad and local police or immigration offices may be available.

Generally, only locally registered entities may sponsor foreign nationals for work permits in Vietnam. Individuals who work without valid work authorization may be expelled from Vietnam. Thus, if your company’s Vietnamese office anticipates engaging foreign talent, an early analysis of immigration options and strategies, as well as a thorough understanding of the sponsorship obligations, will better position your project for success. We also understand that despite careful planning, emergent issues can arise. We are well positioned to assist your business to address unexpected business requirements. Because global immigration matters do not occur within a vacuum and the law is infrequently static, we seek local experts who may also assist with a range of related legal services, including corporate formation, contracts, employment agreements, licensing, and transactions and who will advise of changes in policy and procedures.



Innovative Approaches to Immigration Law

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