



CALL FOR PAPERS

2ND VIETNAM FORUM ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE (VFIT 2) New Drivers for Trade Growth in Vietnam's Era of National Rising

Since the inception of the Đổi Mới (Renovation) policy in 1986, international trade has been a primary engine of Vietnam's economic growth—fueled by advantages such as low-cost labor, abundant natural resources, strategic geographic location, and effective market-opening policies. However, in the current phase of development, such static advantages are reaching structural limits. Competitive labor costs are declining amidst regional pressures, global industrial development is transitioning into a technology-centric phase, and natural resource reserves are increasingly constrained. Simultaneously, growing imperatives for sustainability, climate adaptation, and evolving global consumer expectations have rendered traditional “static advantage” growth models obsolete. To secure its position in strategic global supply chains, Vietnam must be able to comprehensively recognize and harness growth drivers—including both the emergence of new drivers and the renewing of the country's traditional trade advantages.

Amidst the current wave of overlapping global crises—often referred to as a poly-crisis—international trade must undergo a process of adaptation and structural transformation. Emerging trends—such as next-generation Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), digital trade, sustainable trade, and restructuring of global supply chains—are rising as new drivers. Next-generation FTAs serve as launchpads for deeper linkages with leading multinational corporations in global supply chains, thereby improving technological absorption, innovation capacity, and resilience. Digital trade—encompassing both digital goods and emerging business models based on digital platforms and artificial intelligence—offers opportunities to optimize trade performance and logistics systems. Sustainable trade—anchored in commitments related to institutions, labor standards, environmental protection, and intellectual property—necessitates the reform of domestic frameworks to transform such obligations into substantial competitive advantages. Unlike earlier phases, these new forces are not merely passive enablers; they are dynamic and must be “policy-activated” by the Government to generate strategic advantage and shape future trade landscapes. Enterprises, in parallel, must adopt proactive investment and restructuring strategies to align with this evolving environment.

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In an increasingly volatile and fast-paced world, those who can identify and leverage the “new drivers” of trade are best positioned to shape the future. The current global trade dynamics no longer offer strategic flexibility—they impose a strategic necessity that Vietnam and its business community must evolve to remain competitive. Enterprises must fundamentally reconsider their business models, make strategic investments in technology, human capital, and governance, and embrace a forward-looking market mindset. Only those businesses capable of internalizing external shifts as new sources of competitiveness can assume a meaningful and value-added role in global value chains.

Following the success of the inaugural forum, the 2nd Vietnam Forum on International Trade (VFIT 2) will be held under the WTO Chairs Programme at the Foreign Trade University (FTU), themed: “New Drivers for Trade Growth in Vietnam's Era of National Rising.” The VFIT 2 will serve as a multi-stakeholder dialogue platform, bringing together policymakers, academic experts, business representatives, and international organizations to collectively identify, discuss, and co-create transformative growth drivers amid a rapidly evolving global landscape. The Forum aims not only to share knowledge and best practices but also to build a meaningful academic-policy voice, contributing to the vision of a fairer, more resilient, and sustainable international trade environment for Vietnam.

AGENDA OF THE 2ND VIETNAM FORUM ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE

A. DISCUSSION TOPICS:

1. Assessing traditional growth drivers for Vietnam's international trade;
2. International experiences in identifying and promoting new growth drivers of international trade;
3. Analysis of the current global context and emerging demands on trade development;
4. The role of stakeholders (international organizations, governments, regions, businesses) in fostering new growth models for international trade;
5. Regional FTAs and their implications for Vietnam;
6. The current status of sustainable trade development globally and in Vietnam;
7. The current status of digital trade development globally and in Vietnam;
8. Current status of global value chain development;
9. Assessment and solutions for global supply chain management;
10. Recommendations for new growth drivers of Vietnam's international trade, focusing on: i) Sustainable trade; ii) Digital trade and digital transformation in trade; iii) Supply chains; iv) Other potential new drivers.

B. TIME, VENUE, AND LANGUAGE:

Time

Friday, October 10th, 2025

Venue

Foreign Trade University,
91 Chùa Láng Street, Láng Ward, Hanoi, Viet Nam

Format

On-site at FTU and
online via Zoom

Language

Vietnamese and
English (with interpretation provided)

AGENDA OF THE 2ND VIETNAM FORUM ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE

C. IMPORTANT DEADLINES:

Submission of abstracts

By 4th August 2025. Abstracts should not exceed 500 words and must include a short academic biography of the author(s). Please send to:



ftu_wtochair@ftu.edu.vn



cc: nguyenminhphuong@ftu.edu.vn



Notification of abstract acceptance: **by 11th August 2025**



Submission of full papers: **15th September 2025**



Date of the Forum: **10th October 2025**