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## Vietnam and Singapore strengthen cooperation on digital asset regulation

Vietnam's State Securities Commission (SSC) and the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) have signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) to enhance regulatory capacity in digital asset management. The agreement, signed during Vietnam's Party General Secretary To Lam's visit to Singapore (March 11-13), underscores both nations' commitment to improving financial oversight and fostering cross-border market integration.

The LOI facilitates information exchange on capital market regulations, digital asset governance, and best practices in anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing. MAS Assistant Managing Director Lim Tuang Lee emphasized that this partnership supports Vietnam's efforts to maintain capital market stability while advancing financial connectivity.

In parallel, Vietnam is accelerating regulatory efforts on digital assets. The Ministry of Finance, under the Prime Minister's directive, is working with the State Bank of Vietnam to finalize a pilot management framework for digital currency. Plans include launching a state-licensed digital asset exchange to ensure oversight and investor protection.

Despite the absence of a clear legal definition for digital assets, Vietnam ranks second globally in digital currency adoption, according to Triple-A. Current regulations only cover electronic money linked to fiat currencies, such as e-wallets and prepaid cards, highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive digital asset policies.

This collaboration with Singapore marks a significant step in Vietnam's journey toward a well-regulated digital financial ecosystem. The Saigon times



## Chu Lai International Port in Quang Nam Province has become a critical logistics hub for Vietnam's central

Chu Lai International Port in Quang Nam Province has become a critical logistics hub for Vietnam's central and Central Highlands regions, as well as neighboring Laos and Cambodia. Operated by Truong Hai International Logistics (THILOGI), the port plays a vital role in regional trade connectivity.

Since its official launch in 2012, the port has expanded with two specialized docks accommodating vessels up to 50,000DWT, capable of hosting four ships simultaneously. Equipped with modern cranes handling over 100 containers per hour, the port significantly enhances cargo throughput. Its 300,000 square meters of international-standard warehouses provide storage for 500,000 tonnes of goods, ensuring efficient logistics operations.

Continuous infrastructure development remains a priority. The upcoming completion of the Ky Ha channel in June and the future Cua Lo channel in 2028 will enable the port to handle larger vessels, lowering logistics costs and improving shipping rates. Furthermore, upgraded highways in the East-West Economic Corridor No. 2 strengthen trade flows between Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand.

Chu Lai Port aims to become a multifunctional container logistics center by 2027. Investments in new container ships and partnerships with major global shipping lines will expand international routes to China, South Korea, Japan, India, and beyond. Additionally, THILOGI's Indochina Cross Border Trucking service enhances land-based cargo transport. With strategic infrastructure investments, multimodal transport integration, and a growing international network, Chu Lai International Port is set to emerge as a major logistics hub, driving trade and economic growth in the region. VNS

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## Challenges and Path to Sustainability of Green E-commerce

Vietnam's policies on environmental protection and sustainable development create favorable conditions for green e-commerce. However, the industry still faces major challenges in implementing sustainable practices.

A key obstacle is the lack of integrated policies linking e-commerce with environmental protection. Existing regulations mainly control prohibited or restricted goods but fail to address broader sustainability concerns. Additionally, weak coordination among government agencies, logistics providers, businesses, and consumers hinders progress. Many online businesses remain disengaged due to low awareness, high costs, and unclear regulations, making sustainability efforts fragmented and insufficient.

To address these challenges, the Vietnam E-commerce Association (VECOM) and WWF Vietnam introduced the E-commerce Green Index (ECGI). This framework guides businesses in adopting sustainable practices through six key criteria:

1. Commitment to Green E-Commerce – Clear adoption of sustainable business models.
2. Goods Compliance – Avoiding environmentally harmful products.
3. Sustainable Order Fulfillment – Using eco-friendly packaging and promoting low-carbon delivery.
4. Internal Green Policies – Integrating energy-saving measures and renewable energy.
5. Green Business Models – Encouraging circular economy practices and sustainability standards.

Vietnam's e-commerce market is projected to grow over 20% annually, reaching \$90 billion by 2030. However, this expansion also intensifies environmental concerns, particularly waste and emissions from logistics. Businesses, consumers, and regulators must collaborate to ensure the industry's sustainable future. VNS





## Vietnam allow foreign investors to own up to 95% of offshore wind projects

Vietnam has issued Decree 58/2025/ND-CP, allowing foreign investors to own up to 95% of offshore wind projects. This move aims to attract international expertise and accelerate the country's clean energy transition.

Under the decree, foreign investors can participate in offshore wind projects if they have completed at least one similar project. Investment can be made directly or through capital contributions, with a minimum equity stake of 20%. For non-investing entities, eligibility requires experience in project management, design, or construction. Investors may also form consortiums, where collective expertise is considered.

Vietnam mandates that foreign investors partner with at least one domestic company, which must hold at least 5% equity and be fully or majority state-owned with proven energy project experience. Additionally, investors must prioritize local labor, goods, and services, ensuring competitive pricing and quality.

To boost offshore wind development, Vietnam offers key incentives for projects approved before 2031, including:

- Three-year exemption from sea area usage fees, followed by a 50% reduction for 12 years.
- Land-use and lease fee waivers for the first three years.
- Guaranteed electricity output of at least 80% during debt repayment (up to 15 years), provided external factors do not affect supply.

Projects approved after 2030 will receive incentives applicable at the time of approval. After the incentive period, projects will be subject to prevailing regulations.

By opening offshore wind investments, Vietnam aims to accelerate clean energy development while ensuring local participation and long-term economic benefits.



## Challenges with convenience stores of Vietnam market

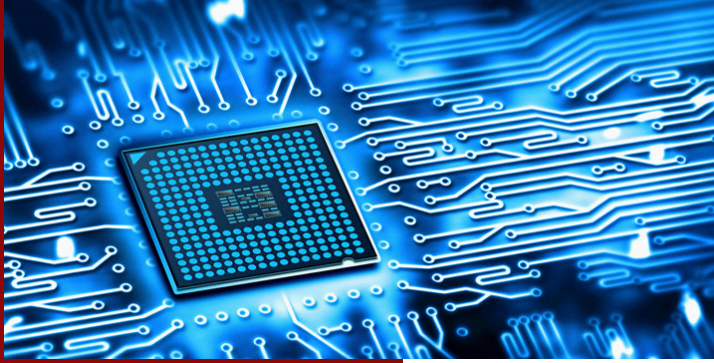
Vietnam's convenience store market has expanded rapidly, driven by urbanization and shifting consumer habits. As of early 2023, there were 3,720 stores, with over 2,600 in Ho Chi Minh City, while Hanoi remains less saturated. Foreign brands dominate, with Circle K leading at 464 stores and 48% market share, followed by GS25, 7-Eleven, FamilyMart, and Ministop. Domestic brands like Co.op Smile struggle to compete.

Despite growth, profitability remains a challenge. Most chains operate at a loss in their early years, prioritizing expansion. Only Circle K and K-Market have managed to turn a profit, while GS25 lost nearly 120 billion VND in 2023 despite aggressive expansion. High rental costs, 24/7 operations, and discount-driven marketing further strain margins.

Consumer habits also pose challenges. Many Vietnamese still prefer traditional retail, such as wet markets and street vendors, which offer lower prices and personalized service. Even younger, urban shoppers remain price-sensitive, limiting convenience stores' ability to drive high sales volume.

In early 2025, 7-Eleven and GS25 announced expansion into Hanoi, intensifying competition. 7-Eleven sees Hanoi as a growth opportunity, while GS25 targets prime locations to strengthen brand recognition.

Vietnam's convenience store sector is set for continued expansion, but intense competition, high costs, and consumer preferences make profitability uncertain. Success will depend on adapting to local needs, optimizing costs, and differentiating offerings. B-company



## Semiconductor industry of Vietnam lure substantial foreign investment

Vietnam is rapidly emerging as a key player in the semiconductor industry, attracting substantial foreign investment. Leading global corporations are expanding their operations, leveraging Vietnam's strategic location, skilled workforce, and strong government support.

Amkor Technology is increasing the capacity of its \$1.6 billion semiconductor plant in Bac Ninh Province, from 1.2 billion to 3.6 billion units annually. Currently operating at 420 million units per year, the plant is set for full-scale production by October 2025. Utilizing advanced semiconductor packaging technology, this facility will be one of the most advanced in the region.

Similarly, Hana Micron Group has committed \$930 million to expand its chip packaging operations in Vietnam by 2026, in response to global clients shifting manufacturing away from China. The company cites Vietnam's strong investment climate, cost-effective skilled workforce, and robust government incentives as key factors in its expansion.

By the end of 2024, Vietnam had attracted 174 FDI projects in the semiconductor sector, totaling \$11.6 billion. The country is building a comprehensive semiconductor ecosystem, covering chip design, packaging, assembly, and testing.

With continuous investments and supportive policies, Vietnam is strengthening its position as a strategic hub for semiconductor manufacturing in Southeast Asia. The government's commitment to industry development, coupled with increasing international cooperation, will further drive the country's role in the global semiconductor supply chain. NDO

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