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Vietnam accelerates carbon market launch to mobilise green investment

Viet Nam moved closer to launching its long-awaited domestic carbon market this week, laying the institutional groundwork for what could become a new pillar of the country's sustainable finance ecosystem.

Government agencies, market operators and financial institutions signed a series of cooperation agreements in Ha Noi to support the operation of the national carbon exchange, marking a significant step in implementing the country's emissions trading framework under Decree 29/2026.

The initiative brings together environmental regulators and capital market infrastructure providers in a model that mirrors mature carbon trading systems globally. Under the framework, the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment will oversee the national registry of emission allowances and carbon credits, while market infrastructure will be operated through Vietnam's securities ecosystem, including the Hanoi Stock Exchange, Vietnam Stock Exchange and Vietnam Securities Depository and Clearing Corporation. BIDV will serve as a settlement bank.

For policymakers, the carbon market is more than an environmental instrument. It is increasingly viewed as a mechanism to channel capital toward low-carbon growth while helping businesses manage the rising costs of climate compliance.

As export-oriented manufacturers face mounting pressure from carbon-related trade measures in key markets such as Europe, the ability to trade emissions allowances and carbon credits could offer companies a more flexible and cost-effective path to decarbonisation. Firms that invest early in energy efficiency and clean technologies may also gain new revenue opportunities through the generation of carbon credits.

The market is expected to play a central role in supporting Viet Nam's commitment to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. Beyond environmental goals, analysts see the platform as a catalyst for the development of green finance products, carbon-linked investments and broader climate-related capital markets.

With regulatory structures taking shape and trading infrastructure nearing readiness, Viet Nam is positioning itself to join a growing group of Asian economies using market-based mechanisms to balance industrial growth with climate ambitions. VNA

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Hateco–Maersk deepen logistics alliance as Vietnam seeks larger role in global supply chains

Vietnam's ambitions to become a regional logistics hub received a boost as Hateco Group and Danish shipping giant A.P. Moller–Maersk agreed to deepen cooperation in port operations, logistics infrastructure and supply chain development.

The partnership builds on the success of Hateco Haiphong International Container Terminal (HHIT) at Lach Huyen Port, which handled more than 800,000 TEUs in its first year of operation. Hateco expects throughput to rise to 1.4 million TEUs in 2026 and approach 2 million TEUs by 2027, reflecting growing trade flows through northern Vietnam.

Both companies are exploring infrastructure upgrades to accommodate larger vessels and increasing cargo volumes. A proposed expansion of the turning basin at Lach Huyen would enhance the port's ability to handle next-generation mega container ships, supporting Vietnam's integration into major global shipping routes.

Maersk Chairman Robert Maersk Uggle highlighted the complementary strengths of the two partners, combining the Danish group's global logistics expertise with Hateco's local execution capabilities. Their collaboration already extends beyond Hai Phong to projects such as Lien Chieu Port in Da Nang and the Giang Bien inland waterway port in Ha Noi.

The arrival of the 18,270-TEU MATZ MAERSK vessel at HHIT underscored the terminal's growing capacity to serve ultra-large container ships, a key benchmark for deep-water ports competing for international cargo.

As manufacturers diversify supply chains across Asia, investments in modern ports and logistics networks are becoming increasingly critical to strengthening Vietnam's position in global trade and attracting long-term industrial investment. VNA

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Vietnam streamlines E-Commerce rules as digital retail boom accelerates

Vietnam has consolidated key regulations governing e-commerce websites and mobile shopping applications, a move aimed at simplifying compliance and supporting the continued expansion of the country's fast-growing digital retail sector.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade recently issued two legal documents that integrate multiple amendments introduced over the past decade into unified regulatory frameworks. The new documents cover operations of e-commerce websites and mobile commerce applications, eliminating the need for businesses and regulators to navigate a patchwork of separate circulars.

The regulatory overhaul comes as e-commerce plays an increasingly important role in Vietnam's digital economy. By providing a single reference point for compliance requirements, authorities aim to improve enforcement, enhance market transparency and reduce administrative complexity for businesses.

The streamlined framework is expected to benefit both domestic merchants and platform operators as competition intensifies across the sector. Clearer regulations could also strengthen investor confidence by creating a more predictable business environment and supporting sustainable market development.

Vietnam's online retail market continues to expand at one of the fastest rates in Southeast Asia. According to analytics firm Metric, gross merchandise value across the country's four largest e-commerce platforms — Shopee, TikTok Shop, Lazada and Tiki — reached approximately US\$5.6 billion in the first quarter of 2026, a 47% increase from a year earlier.

Transaction volumes rose 20% year-on-year to 1.14 billion items, highlighting robust consumer demand and the continued shift toward digital purchasing channels.

As e-commerce continues to expand, the consolidated regulations are expected to provide a stronger foundation for governance while helping businesses adapt to an increasingly competitive and regulated digital marketplace.



Vietnam mobilizes energy giants to power ambitious growth agenda

Vietnam is turning to its state-owned energy champions to sustain economic momentum as the government pursues an ambitious target of double-digit growth over the coming years.

The Ministry of Finance this week convened executives from three of the country's largest energy groups – Vietnam Electricity (EVN), Vietnam National Industry–Energy Group (Petrovietnam) and Vietnam National Coal and Mineral Industries Group (TKV) – to accelerate investment, expand production capacity and strengthen national energy security amid rising global uncertainties.

The meeting underscored the increasingly central role of energy in Vietnam's growth strategy. Together, the three state-owned groups generate more than 6% of the nation's GDP, with every 1% increase in their output contributing an estimated 0.05 percentage points to overall economic growth.

The push comes as geopolitical tensions, particularly disruptions to global energy supply chains linked to the Middle East conflict, raise concerns over fuel security and energy affordability across Asia.

EVN, the country's sole power transmission operator, supplied 163.9 billion kWh of electricity during the first half of the year and is now expected to significantly increase output to support industrial expansion. Achieving the government's high-growth scenario would require electricity generation to rise nearly 17% in the second half, highlighting the scale of the challenge facing the utility.

Meanwhile, TKV is being tasked with boosting domestic coal production while securing imported supplies to meet growing demand from power plants. The miner is also expanding production of strategic minerals such as bauxite, copper and zinc, reflecting Vietnam's broader ambition to strengthen industrial supply chains.

The three groups jointly submitted proposals seeking regulatory reforms, greater financial flexibility and faster approval processes for major energy projects. Their requests highlight a broader policy shift as Vietnam seeks to unlock capital and accelerate infrastructure development to support long-term economic growth and energy resilience.

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Tourism fuels Vietnam's consumer spending growth as retail sales rise 11.2%

Vietnam's consumer economy maintained strong momentum in the first five months of 2026, supported by resilient retail spending and a tourism sector benefiting from improved visa policies and stronger visitor demand.

Total retail sales and consumer service revenue reached US\$121.5 billion during the January-May period, an increase of 11.2% from a year earlier. However, inflation-adjusted growth slowed to 6.1%, suggesting consumers remain cautious despite improving economic conditions.

Retail sales of goods continued to dominate the market, accounting for nearly 76% of total revenue. Demand remained strong across a range of categories, with petroleum, apparel and food products recording solid double-digit or near double-digit growth. Other consumer goods also posted robust gains, reflecting gradual improvements in household spending. Tourism-related sectors emerged as key growth drivers. Revenue from accommodation and food services rose 13.3% year-on-year to US\$15.3 billion, while travel and tourism services expanded 12.2% to US\$1.55 billion, despite representing only a small share of the overall market.

The performance highlights the growing contribution of tourism to domestic consumption. Industry observers attribute the growth to more favorable visa policies, aggressive destination marketing campaigns and ongoing improvements in service quality, which have helped attract both international and domestic travelers.

Regional data showed broad-based expansion across the country. Quang Ninh led retail sales growth among major localities, while An Giang recorded the strongest increase in accommodation and catering revenue. Meanwhile, Khanh Hoa strengthened its position as one of Vietnam's leading tourism destinations, with travel revenue surging nearly 34%. The figures suggest that tourism is becoming an increasingly important catalyst for consumer spending, supporting the government's efforts to strengthen domestic demand as a pillar of economic growth.

In May alone, total retail sales of goods and consumer service revenue reached approximately US\$24.6 billion, up 11.8% from the same month a year earlier.

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US development finance agency eyes bigger role in Vietnam's strategic industries

The United States International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) is preparing to expand its presence in Viet Nam, identifying the country as a priority market amid growing demand for investment in strategic industries and critical infrastructure.

During a visit to Ha Noi, DFC officials highlighted opportunities across energy, artificial intelligence, data centres and financial technology, reflecting increasing US interest in supporting Viet Nam's next phase of economic development.

The agency is also evaluating investments in subsea fibre networks and digital infrastructure, sectors seen as essential to strengthening the country's role as a regional technology and manufacturing hub.

Beyond digital industries, DFC views Viet Nam as an important link in efforts to build more resilient global supply chains. Areas attracting attention include critical minerals, pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, batteries, telecommunications equipment and industrial magnets, industries that have become increasingly important as companies seek alternatives to concentrated production networks.

Infrastructure remains another priority. The US development financier is monitoring major government-led projects, including ports, airports, railways and strategic transport corridors, which are expected to support trade growth and improve regional connectivity.

DFC officials noted that future investments will focus on commercially viable projects aligned with Viet Nam's development priorities while delivering sustainable returns. The approach reflects a broader effort to combine economic development objectives with private-sector capital mobilisation.

The agency's interest comes as Viet Nam continues to implement reforms aimed at improving the investment climate. Strong economic growth prospects, expanding manufacturing capabilities and deepening ties under the Viet Nam-US Comprehensive Strategic Partnership are reinforcing the country's appeal to international investors.

For Washington, increased DFC engagement represents another step in strengthening economic cooperation with Viet Nam while supporting the diversification of global supply chains across Southeast Asia. VNA



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