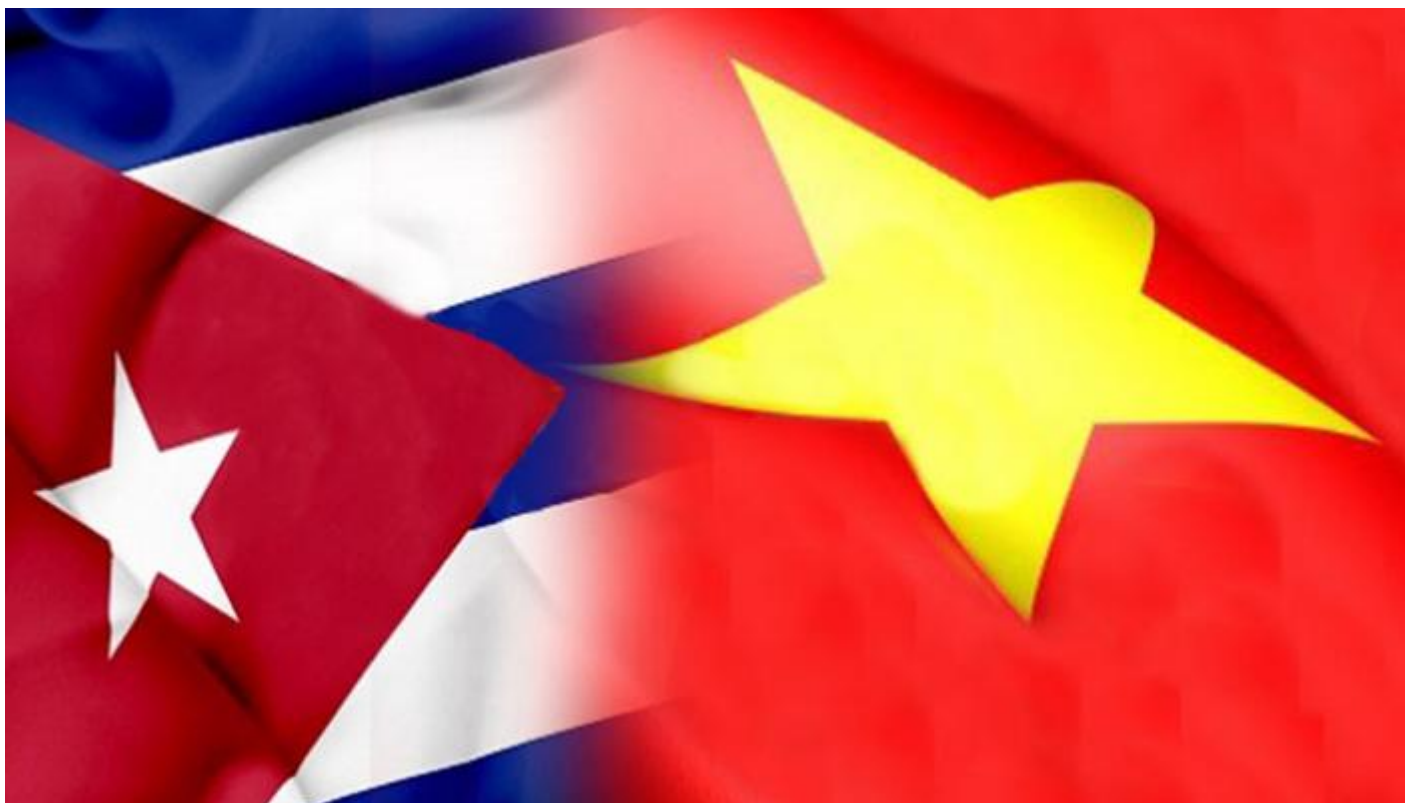


Cuba and Vietnam explore new areas for investment and trade exchange



Havana, May 16 (RHC)-- A Business Forum between Cuba and Vietnam was held at the Nacional Hotel on Wednesday, with the presence of the Vice President of Vietnam's Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Vo Tan Thanh.

The purpose of the event was to explore new areas of interest for investment, and to boost commercial exchange between the two countries. Representatives from 22 Vietnamese companies attended the event.

Speaking during the opening of the gathering, the president of the Cuban Chamber of Commerce, Orlando Hernandez, stresses that "there is plenty of unexplored potential for commercial exchange between Cuba and Vietnam in the agribusiness, ITs and communications sectors," and expressed appreciation for the trust their Cuban counterparts showed by the Vietnamese business executives, amid the current difficulties the region is facing.

The vice president of Vietnam's Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that his country's exports are growing 20% every year, and he describe as "modest" the bilateral trade with Cuba, which currently

stands at some 300 million dollars.

He stated Vietnam's expect to bring that figure to 500 million in the mid and short term.

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