Horasis Asia Meeting
3–4 December 2023, Binh Duong, Vietnam

a Horasis leadership event

Co-hosts:
Binh Duong Province
Becamex IDC Corp.

Report
Inspiring our future

Upcoming Horasis events:
Horasis China Meeting     Binh Duong, Vietnam, 14-15 April 2024

Horasis is a global visions community dedicated to inspire our future. (www.horasis.org)
Horasis Asia Meeting
3–4 December 2023, Bình Dương Convention and Exhibition Center, Hoa Phu, Thu Dau Mot, Bình Dương, Vietnam
a Horasis leadership event

- Co-hosts:
  Binh Duong Province
  Becamex IDC Corp.

- Co-chairs:
  Mai An Co-founder and President, IMT Solutions, Vietnam
  Claude Béglé Chairman, SymbioSwiss, Switzerland
  Lisa Botos Founding Partner, MMBP Private Partners, Singapore
  Can Van Luc President, BIDV Training and Research Institute, Vietnam
  Van Dang Chief Executive Officer, Savvycom, Vietnam
  Vinh Quang Dang Senior Private Sector Specialist, The World Bank, Vietnam
  Agnes VST Devanadera President and CEO, Clark Development Corporation, The Philippines
  Harry Hui Founder and Managing Partner, ClearVue Partners, China
  Yoshito Hori President & Chief Executive Officer, Digitimes, Taiwan, China
  Colley Hwang Chairman and Co-founder, Intelligent Community Forum, Canada
  Tadahiro Kawada President, Kawada Technologies, Japan
  Roger King Founder and Managing Partner, ODS Holdings Inc., Hong Kong
  Don Lam Chief Executive Officer and Founding Partner, VinaCapital, Vietnam
  Nguyen Quang Huan Chairman, Halcom, Vietnam
  Nguyen Van Hung Group Executive Chairman, Becamex IDC, Vietnam
  Ben Nelson Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Minerva Project, USA
  Johan Nyvene Chairman, Ho Chi Minh City Securities Corporation, Vietnam
  Xiaoyin Qu Chief Executive Officer, Run The World, USA
  Quynh Anh Managing Director, SwissEP, Vietnam
  Murat Seitnespov Chairman, Integral Group, Switzerland
  Yip Thy-Diep Ta Founder, J3d.ai Labs, Germany
  Charles Tang President, Brazil China Chamber of Commerce, Brazil
  Eddie Thai General Partner, Ascend Vietnam Ventures, Vietnam
  Wang Dong Executive Director, Institute for Global Cooperation and Understanding (iGCU), Peking University, China
  Wang Huiyao Founder, Center for China and Globalization; Former Counselor, China State Council, China
  Marjorie Yang Chairman, Esquel Group, Hong Kong SAR
  Michael Yeoh President, KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific, Malaysia
# Programme

Schedule 3-4 December 2023 (Vietnam Time)

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<tr>
<th>Sunday, 3 December  Day one</th>
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| **8.00 – 13.30 Optional Workshop**  
Agenda Setting using AI | **09.00 – 09.45 Grand Opening**  
ASEAN driving Asia forward | **09.00 – 13.00 Sightseeing**  
Meet in Hotel |
| **07.30 – 08.45 Breakfast Sessions**  
– Asian Impact Investing  
– Asian expectations of AI  
– Asian effects of single disruptions  
– Asian family-owned Businesses  
– Blockchains are developing | **09.45 – 10.45 Plenary**  
Asian economic outlook | |
| **10.45 – 11.00 Break** | **11.00 – 12.30 Dialogue Sessions**  
– Developing organizational culture  
– Nurturing Asia’s tech talent  
– Supporting start-ups  
– Asian industrial policy  
– United in Diversity  
– Binh Duong: Intelligent Communities | |
| **From 13.00 Registration** | **12.30 – 13.30 Lunch**  
Networking Lunch | |
| **14.00 – 15.30 Update Sessions**  
– Promoting development success  
– Nurturing Digitalization  
– Asian supply chain consolidation  
– Roadmaps for Asia’s energy transition  
– Empowerment of Asian women and girls  
– Asian Art | **14.30 – 16.00 Dialogue Sessions**  
– Managing Smart city development  
– Developing Asian infrastructures  
– Need for youth employment  
– Innovation clusters  
– Reality of robotization  
– Binh Duong: Innovation Forum | |
| **15.30 – 16.30 Plenary**  
Leading the Asian Renascence | **16.00 – 16.30 Break** | |
| **16.30 – 17.30 Plenary**  
Addressing the climate emergency | **16.30 – 18.00 Dialogue Sessions**  
– Asian multi-national management  
– Asian entrepreneurs  
– Investment in ASEAN  
– Asian benefits of net-zero  
– ESG as a business game-changer | |
| **17.30 – 18.30 Plenary**  
Supporting Asian entrepreneurs | **18.00 – 19.00 Plenary**  
Revitalizing Asian growth | |
| **18.30 – 19.20 Welcome Reception** | **18.00 – 19.00 Plenary**  
Revitalizing Asian growth | |
| **19.30 – 21.30 Dinner**  
Vietnam’s development success | **19.15 – 22.00 Closing Dinner**  
Integrating Asia-wide policy decisions | |
Binh Duong Convention & Exhibition Center – venue of the Horasis Asia Meeting

Horasis – ASEAN driving Asia forward
Meeting Summary

By Frank-Jürgen Richter,
Chairman, Horasis, Switzerland

The eighth Horasis Asia Meeting took place over 3-4th December in Bình Duong, Vietnam co-hosted by Bình Duong Province and Becamex IDC. The Horasis Asia Meeting has become the foremost annual meeting for Asia Pacific business leaders and their global counterparts. The event offers businesses and government officials a platform to discuss a wide range of issues related to the economy. The meeting assembled over 600 delegates from government, businesses and civil society world-wide.

The COVID pandemic has not ended and new variants are seen to evolve creating new outbreaks across the world, for instance, Pirola: but vaccine delivery is now well managed and pharmaceutical firms are searching for a cure. The pandemic’s other legacy is unresolved as yet – how to pay for its disruption in direct costs and indirect costs which generally have resulted in much higher national debts. Further geopolitical failts has also led to sharply increasing costs on many nations, changes in resources distribution like food and fuels and logistics chains; and an increase in global uncertainty and stock-market volatility.

While the COVID epidemic forced a digital delivery mode in 2020 and 2021, the location of the meetings has rotated annually and has been held in Bangkok, Thailand (2016), Kolkata, India (2017) and Bình DuongNew City, Vietnam (2018, 2019) and Kitakyushu, Japan (2022). Its focus remains upon Asia presenting a systemic view of activities affecting the drivers of Asia’s economic success and how Asian businesses interact regionally and globally.

Looking ahead, delegates considered how Asian nations could work more closely with each other, to support developing nations.
and to promote regional cooperations through APEC, ASEAN and so on. There was discussion about combating climate change and to better resist its dire effects.

Welcoming the delegates Huynh Thanh Dat, Minister of Science and Technology, Vietnam briefed the guests on the socio-economic situation of the province, particularly its gross regional domestic product (GRDP) that increased by 8.29% in the first 10 months of this year compared to the same period last year. Based on the fact that Bình Dương is one of Vietnam’s leading localities in terms of attracting foreign direct investment (FDI). As of December 2023, it had 4,076 investment projects from 65 countries and territories around the world with a total capital of over US$ 39.6 billion. Japan had run 339 validated projects, valued at nearly US$ 6 billion. Administratively we have found it is better to review, to quickly respond, and clearly instruct businesses how to process their applications, to limit processing time.

Vo Van Minh, Chairman, Bình Dương Province, highlighted the significance of this event, saying it will be an important international event in Bình Dương as the province has been recognized by the Intelligent Community Forum (ICF) as the Intelligent Community of the Year. John Jung, Chairman and Co-founder, Intelligent Community Forum, Canada said that the initial results in the implementation of the smart city project have created a highlight and foundation for Bình Dương province to continue to make breakthroughs in the next period. In particular, building a smart city and participating in international organizations such as ICF have contributed to extensively promoting Bình Dương’s image in the international arena.

Charles Tang, President, Brazil China Chamber of Commerce, Brazil reminded the meeting that smart cities and how they are managed is not just top-down data collection and new policies, but a recognition people can really be at the center of this.
Then, while discussing the Who and the How of the Asian Renascence, Roger King, Founder and Chairman, ODS Holdings Inc., Hong Kong said ‘Time is short’ it will be worrying if global leaders procrastinate – there is too much to do. But there are no shortcuts – we must work hard. Short time to the clarity of execution was emphasized by China said Ben Nelson, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Minerva Project, USA. ‘It was because of cooperation and an era of globalization that 800 million people in China were lifted out of poverty.’

Yet the capital of the region must be mobilized said Vo Xuan Vinh, Professor, Ho Chi Minh City University of Economics, Vietnam. Capital structure decisions are an important corporate behavior that draws strong interest from different stakeholders who must be convinced to invest. This is more important in emerging markets due to their unique legal, cultural and institutional characteristics. Mai An, Co-founder and President, IMT Solutions, Vietnam agreed – the first criterion given by investors is whether they have confidence when deciding to invest in that locality or not? Does that place and time help them do business sustainably? A factor also agreed by Mitesh Shah, Executive Director, MitKat Global Consulting, Singapore ‘there are risks of financial problems such as companies losing revenue, losing market share, not meeting customers’ needs, losing reputation, leading to bankruptcy, eventually affecting the global economy.’ According to Mitesh Shah, when this situation occurs, businesses need to aim at the local market. Thus, summarized Wang Huiyao, Founder, Center for China and Globalization; Former Counselor, China State Council, China ‘Asia will be the next economic powerhouse in terms of growth.’ Despite the complex web of industrial policies, subsidies and commitments, particularly those by developed nations to their developing counterparts, the necessity for a collaborative approach to “de-risk” our planet is undeniable. It is incumbent on all nations to foster an environment conducive to finding
solutions to this universal menace. The plenary chair, Richard David Hames, Founding Director, The Asian Foresight Institute, Thailand stated there must be a coherent view. There must be strategically relevant yet viable ‘whole system’ solutions for business and government in today’s society.

Many countries in Asia have accumulated large foreign reserves which destabilizes the interchangeability of the Euro, USD; and GDPs becomes heavily affected by Asian central banks. For western economies their state managers worry of the effects of China (2013) becoming the world’s #1 in terms of purchasing power, India is now third.

China and India kept their traditional specializations local, looking to their large domestic markets, but have developed export-oriented sectors linked to new technology. Although facing considerable regularity resistance, foreign firms, through offshoring and outsourcing, have played a critical part in turning China into a global export platform for electronic products, and India into a global center for ICT services.

Vietnam followed quickly. Foreign direct investment into Vietnam increased 2.2 percent year-on-year to US$ 15.91 billion in the first nine months of 2023 as data from the Foreign Investment Agency (Ministry of Planning and Investment) showed. Furthermore, FDI pledges, which indicate the size of future FDI disbursements, advanced 7.7 percent from a year earlier to US$ 20.21 billion. Over the last 15 years Vietnam has seen tremendous growth in its industrial development through attracting FDI to its designated Economic Zones and Industrial Parks managed by State Owned Becamex Corp. It has attracted globalized firms to locate their regional manufacturing base in its Industrial Park complex: Lego, one of the first to fully automated production lines in Vietnam utilizes AI technology in the process, and has created up to 4,000 jobs. Recently, on the sidelines of COP28 in the UAE, Abu Dhabi Ports Group a subsidiary of
the conglomerate IHC, which has invested in Vietnam through the TTEK Company in the fields of customs technologies, and digital payment solutions stated in a high-level meeting with Vietnam’s PM, that IHC wants to expand investment in the country in seaports, logistics, digital transformation, smart urban areas and non-tariff zones.

Bình Dương’s industrial production index in 2023 expanded by 6.5% compared to the previous year. Its export earnings reached 31.8 billion USD, while its investment attraction was estimated at US$ 1.4 billion by the end of November.

However, when discussing the effect of Asia driving the world’s economic transformation, the panelists were careful to widen the discussion away from Vietnam. For instance, Lisa Botos, Founding Partner, MMBP Private Partners, Singapore who is a cultural strategist specializing in media and art stated she is adept at viewing any challenge through a multiplicity of lenses and believes that culture is an underutilized tool that when skillfully employed to tangible value to any organization. She affirms their successful clients seek cultural impact and relevance – both public and private – and want to participate meaningfully in creative endeavor, and to contribute to the collective good.

Murat Seitnepesov, Chairman, Integral Group, Switzerland also agreed – the world of business, commerce and leisure is built on mutually-beneficial relationships, leveraging new technologies in order to enhance logistics, marketing, ecological health and prosperity.

It is important for Asian nations to discuss their respective strengths, weaknesses and needs as there is increasing tension between the US and China. Wang Dong, Executive Director, Institute for Global Cooperation and Understanding (iGCU), Peking University, China explained that as the relationship between China and the United States becomes increasingly complex and interdependent, leaders in Beijing and Washington are struggling to establish a solid common foundation on which to
expand and deepen bilateral relations. Such discussions are not aided by the heightened and increasing numbers of tariffs, especially in high tech.

Colley Hwang, President & Chief Executive Officer, Digitimes, Taiwan, China believes the focus of semiconductor industry operations in particular is changing. From 2023-2024, the tech industry will be driven by three key factors: semiconductors, the ICT supply chain, and AI-driven IoT (AIoT). Specifically, Michael Yeoh, President, KSI Strategic Institute for Asia Pacific, Malaysia acknowledged AI is ‘very disruptive’. Asking further ‘how can we improve our skills and our technology together in order to weather the storm?’ I don’t think any one country can do that. We don’t have enough resources – building trust, transparency and co-creation are key to ‘people-centered collaboration.’ On a practical note, Yip Thy-Diep Ta, Co-Founder, J3d.ai Labs, Germany explained, ‘AI is changing nearly every industry and will impact society in ways we are just beginning to understand.’ Van Dang, Chief Executive Officer, Savvycom, Vietnam noted that the pace of change has overwhelmed national, state and provincial governments around the world, he said. But at the community level, where government most closely touches people’s lives, there is hope. Digital services make it possible for communities everywhere to build dynamic economies, strong societies and affirming cultures – and to pass these assets on to the next generation. ‘And Binh Duong is one of the world’s intelligent smart cities,’ concluded Cuong Dang, Partner and Chief Executive Officer, Forbes Vietnam, Vietnam.

Johan Nyvene, Chairman, Ho Chi Minh City Securities Corporation, Vietnam noted there is a huge infrastructure difference between Asian countries – Singapore and Japan are ranked in the top-10; China (48th), India((85th), and, for instance Bangladesh is 132nd. Overall, the region asks for $20 trillion for development by 2030 vs the world’s demand for up to $50 trillion.
This financial demand is a big ask when considering the many other requests for funding when nations face large budget deficits. Singapore has a large public debt of 105.5% of GDP, somewhat below that of Japan having a 226% public debt against GDP: in comparison, China (22%) and India (52%) public debt vs GDP.

On the other hand, in terms of GDP/capita the US leads by a large margin at $70k, China ($62k) and India ($11k) with Japan ($45k). Such large disparities make regional cooperation meetings fraught, even when considering that Public/Private financing is gaining in popularity across the region, concluded Alejandro Reyes, Senior Fellow, Centre for Contemporary China and the World, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong.

Climate change and its effects was the focus of one Plenary panel chaired by Mohamed Irshad, Head of Corporate Affairs for ASEAN, TCS, Singapore who noted he started volunteering at grassroots organizations, which exposed him to residents from underprivileged backgrounds. ‘That had a deep impact on me,’ says Irshad. ‘I wanted to play a part in building bridges between different communities and helping those in difficult circumstances.’ To do this, I learned it was very important to have capable people leading an organization. Climate change is owned by everyone, it is a complex phenomenon and needed competent players. Such as Claude Béglé, Chairman, SymbioSwiss, Switzerland. His company’s first mission was to design a Cleantech strategy for the city of Geneva, now its mission statement has widened to include public affairs at large, and in particular sustainability dealing with both private and public activities in the fields of infrastructure and smart cities, cleantech and academia. Tadahiro Kawada, President, Kawada Technologies, Japan agreed with the chair, and finds the Smart Cities a good approach to addressing climate change coupled with prosperity increase.

Marjorie Yang, Chairman, Esquel Group, Hong Kong SAR agreed, ‘Sustainability is a fundamental problem of a consumer...
product-led company.’ She considers the basis for change is education and has addressed the needs of upwards of rural households in China, essentially improving the standards of teaching, encouraging education and learning, and enhancing health and public hygiene in areas outside the regional capital.

And thus, says Vinh Quang Dang, Senior Private Sector Specialist, The World Bank, Vietnam, education is a field with great potential for development. Vietnam has built many subjects related to supply chains, distance education programs, network administration, logistics – as ‘hot’ fields of study. Herbert Chen Wu, Managing Director, The Economist Global Business Review, China noted the connection between schools and businesses that will create many initiatives and build skills to develop human resources with the capacity of wide and deep participation. ‘As are the needs of sustainability,’ as Xiaoyin Qu, Founder, Run The World, USA, underlined. Eddie Thai, General Partner, Ascend Vietnam Ventures, Vietnam. ‘At the end of the day we need to nurture entrepreneurs,’ concluded Harry Hui, Founder and Managing Partner, ClearVue Partners, China.

Skills development, especially with respect to digitization, was the subject of a panel chaired by Pietro Borsano, Deputy Executive Director, Chulalongkorn School of Integrated Innovation, Thailand who said that human resources training should not only focus on providing short-term knowledge and skills but also aim to develop creative thinking, problem-solving ability and strategic vision. This helps workforces not only to adapt to current technologies but stay prepared to face the challenges of the future. He affirmed that digital transformation is an inevitable trend today. Smartphone use is increasing rapidly, enabling governments to promote digitalization as a strategic goal for sustainable development in the future. He noted how, along with Fintech, ERP solutions have also promoted digitalization.
and development; and integrating solutions, scanning QR codes for payment and using API software have promoted digital development. Again, on scholarship, Tim Nguyen, Deputy Rector of 3AI, Institute of Applied Research & Innovation for Enterprise, Vietnam noted they have research projects to integrate into the content of the curriculum of digital technology subjects, with the goal of helping students become responsible digital citizens. As for digital currency... we must synchronize the entire system for implementation. And in the field of digitization, Hidetoshi Uchiyama, Chief Executive Officer, Unerry, Japan illustrated how companies need to collect data based on each user’s consent while not storing personal information, given Unerry’s customers are mainly retail companies that use user location information to open stores. On top of all this, Krishna Rajagopal, Group Chief Executive Officer, AKATI Security, Malaysia described how tech-leaders at all levels are tasked with more responsibilities in organizations than ever before, including overseeing new projects, maintaining the company’s own tech stack, enabling and managing remote work arrangements, and more. On top of those significant tech-specific responsibilities, new tech leaders also have to master leadership skills ranging from delegation to cross-level communication through to big-picture thinking and planning. Overall, said Tran Hoang, Chairman, Vietnam Marcom, Vietnam, implementing digital transforma-
tion is inevitable and extremely important because it helps optimize the values of the entire economic, cultural and social law system. Over the past years, Binh Duong was very successful in pioneering many solutions. So far, Binh Duong has strongly reformed administrative procedures, initially it brought efficiency, creating favorable conditions for businesses and people; helping save time, building trust in the government’s policy of building up a smart city as well as upholding responsibility through specific solutions, so convincing the community to join hands in implementation. Therefore, provinces and cities must have smart ways to coordinate with experts at home and abroad to solve the problem of digital transformation. Convincing people and the community to respond is a matter that requires transparent policies, showing people about the benefits of this process. A matter emphasized by Sailesh Purswani, President, Thai Martin Group, Thailand, ‘if the government leaders and young entrepreneurs align, the country can take off.’

The closing plenary reviewed Asian growth and the need for co-ordination, though with an emphasis on Vietnam. Nguyen Quang Huan, Chairman, Halcom, Vietnam said climate change is bringing many disruptions and for a partially low-lying nation like Vietnam water management is important as its demand is rising rapidly as the population slowly increases and commercial ventures demand more water. Agnes VST Devanadera, President and CEO, Clark Development Corporation, The Philippines stressed the need for good public services based on her wide experiences which included time in Energy Regulation matters in the Philippines. A point well taken by Yoshito Hori, Founder and Chairman, Globis, Japan who stressed that most of Southeast Asia is currently becoming a Silicon Valley for startups. Don Lam, Chief Executive Officer and Founding Partner, VinaCapital, Vietnam agreed — noting, one of the key infrastructures that people aren’t talking about is renewable energy capacity.
And at the moment, Vietnam is already planning to be triple our energy capacity by 2030 with solar and wind. And all the while, as Nguyen Quang Huan, Chairman, Halcom, Vietnam reminded us, a collaborative stakeholder economy would better allow people to transact and benefit.

Finally, closing the meeting, Vo Van Minh, Chairman, Binh Duong Province, Vietnam reminded all that the average median age in Vietnam is 32.8 years in 2023, which bodes well for the country’s future economic growth through 2050 and beyond. If the Government can successfully execute some of the major infrastructure requirements in the coming 5–7 years, Vietnam’s future is bright indeed. And as Chairman of the Binh Duong Provincial People’s Committee, Vo Van Minh pledged to bring all his abilities, wisdom, and enthusiasm to build a stronger and stronger government system from the province to the grassroots, operating effectively and efficiently.

I personally believe in a promising future for Asia. The continent has all the ingredients to become the world’s economic powerhouse. And it is my hope that the Horasis Asia Meeting will continue to serve as an important platform for stimulating thought and creative solutions. As you read the key points and recommendations presented in this report, we welcome your thoughts and suggestions as we prepare the programme for the next Horasis Asia Meeting.
A dialogue session

Martyn Anstey, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, REIMAGINEx, United Kingdom

Marko Kasic, Founder, FundLife International, The Philippines

Trang Nguyen, Senior Manager, act renewable, Vietnam

Panellists gather on the stage

Plenary – Co-ordinating and Revitalizing Asian Growth
Summary of the Agenda Setting Workshop

By Yip Thy-Diep Ta, Founder, J3d.ai Labs, Germany

At a time when rapid technological advancements and the emergence of artificial intelligence are reshaping our world, we stand at a critical juncture. This period, a metaphorical crossroads, demands thoughtful consideration of the impact and trajectory of our technological progress. The Horasis Asia Meeting, held on December 3 and 4, 2023, in Bình Dương, Vietnam, embraced this need for introspection and forward-looking action. This gathering emerged as a pivotal forum for interdisciplinary collaboration, casting light on pathways towards a more connected and sustainable future.

Horasis, renowned for nurturing global business communities, offered a vital platform at this meeting. The goal was to explore the complex challenges and opportunities that arise in our increasingly tech-driven era. The meeting was designed to merge thought leadership with practical insights, sparking dialogues on how nations and communities, particularly within the vibrant ASEAN region, can adeptly navigate and capitalize on this era of rapid technological change for both economic and social enhancement.

In partnership with J3D.AI and Horasis, the overarching ambition of this initiative was to propel economic development in Vietnam and the region. This collaborative effort aimed to strategically utilize AI and technological innovations for sustainable growth. Moving beyond mere economic indicators, the focus was on a comprehensive view of societal advancement, ethical integration.

Yuichiro Sato, Chief Operations Officer, iPay88, Malaysia

Rajiv Raghunath, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Wellversed Media, India

Megan Jing Li, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Shanghai iMega Industry Co., China

Yip Thy-Diep Ta, Founder, J3d.ai Labs, Germany

Yuichiro Sato, Chief Operations Officer, iPay88, Malaysia
of technology, and nurturing young talent – all key components for a resilient and dynamic future in the region.

This report presents the key insights, discussions, and strategic directions formulated during the Horasis Asia Meeting Agenda Setting Workshop.

How can Vietnam leverage its young talent, sustainability & ESG practices and AI for success?

As Vietnam’s population approaches a significant milestone of 100 million, becoming the 15th largest globally, it stands at a crossroads of unprecedented opportunity and challenge. With 21.1% of its population between the ages of 10-24, Vietnam is positioned to harness this youthful energy for transformative economic growth and innovation (UNFPA Vietnam). The Agenda Setting Workshop, therefore, centered on leveraging these demographic advantages along with sustainability practices and advancements in Artificial Intelligence (AI) to carve a path towards a successful and resilient future.

The Horasis Asia Meeting featured a notable 4-hour Agenda Setting workshop. This session, involving 28 participants from 11 countries, including 10 Vietnamese representatives, served as a concise teaser to the more extensive 3-day interventions following the Malik Syntegration® methodology. The agenda setting workshop’s theme focused on the pivotal question: ‘How can Vietnam leverage its young talent, sustainability & ESG practices, and AI for success?’

Across these three key areas – Youth & Education, AI, and Sustainability & ESG Practices – a common thread emerges: the importance of collaboration, education, and a systematic approach. Vietnam’s path to success hinges on empowering its youth with the values and skills needed for future success.
sustainability, staying at the forefront of AI development through collaboration, and adopting a systematic approach to drive social change and sustainability.

Collaboration, education, and systematic thinking were identified as the golden thread that weave these elements together, forming the foundation for Vietnam’s journey towards success and prosperity in the age of rapid AI and sustainability.

Key Insights

The workshop on Vietnam’s AI development and sustainability provided comprehensive insights, highlighting the potential path Vietnam could take to emulate the technological and economic successes of Japan and Taiwan, referred to by the participants as the ‘Taipan’ model.

Educational Transformation for a Future-Ready Workforce

A primary focus was the transformation of Vietnam’s education system. Recognizing the current gaps, the workshop emphasized the need to revamp educational methodologies to align with the rapid advancements in technology. The envisioned state includes an education system that integrates AI and sustainability, emphasizing not only theoretical knowledge but also practical skills, critical thinking, and innovation.

Strategic Technological Advancement with AI and Smart Manufacturing

Discussions highlighted Vietnam’s potential to emerge as a global leader in technology, drawing parallels to ‘Taipan’ economies. The next five to seven years are critical for Vietnam to make significant progress in areas such as IoT, software development, and AI-driven smart manufacturing. The goal is to transition from being primarily a manufacturing hub to becoming a center for AI and technological innovation. This
transformation involves substantial investments and strategic policy development, focusing on creating a competitive yet equitable tech ecosystem.

**Data Management and Sharing for AI Development**

The workshop identified Vietnam’s approach to data management and sharing as a pivotal area. Developing policies that balance open data access with privacy concerns is essential for nurturing a conducive environment for AI research and investment, positioning Vietnam as an attractive destination for global tech companies.

**Sustainability and ESG Integration in Education & Business Practices**

Sustainability emerged as a key focus area, with discussions around setting clear benchmarks and government-led actions in sustainability. Emphasizing ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) principles in education and business operations aligns Vietnam with global sustainability trends, enhancing its appeal as a responsible and forward-thinking market.

**Opportunities and Focus Areas for Vietnam’s Growth**

Mindset Shift and Development Model: A significant mindset shift is needed among stakeholders, moving from traditional models to a unique vision based on Vietnam’s strengths and values.

- Enhanced Diversity in Higher Education: Expanding the reach of higher education in AI and technology, especially beyond major cities, is seen as vital for broad-based economic and social development.
- AI-Driven Curriculum and Workforce Development: Prioritizing the transformation of education with AI-driven curricula adapts to individual learning needs, preparing students for the challenges of the 21st century.
Workshop Methodology and Characteristics

J3D.AI deployed an intervention combining a cybernetics-based methodology, AI tools, key stakeholders with relevant expertise, and various metrics for enhanced decision-making. Below are some cybernetic principles. Metrics in the end.

- Cybernetics-Based Feedback: Utilizing principles of cybernetics, the workshop emphasized feedback loops and dynamic interaction among participants.
- Critic Role: A unique aspect was the inclusion of ‘critic’ roles, enabling an outside-in perspective that ensures a stream of continuous feedback.
- Iterative Discussion: Discussions followed a cyclical, iterative process, facilitating the evolution of thoughts and solutions.
- Self-Organization: Participants were encouraged to self-organize, fostering a collaborative and participatory environment.
- Rapid Collaboration and Networking: The format promoted quick collaboration on complex questions and accelerated networking among participants.
- Extraction Through Meditation: Meditation was used as a tool for rapidly distilling insights and synthesizing collective wisdom.

Deep Dives

Current State and Key Issues

Vietnam’s educational landscape is currently grappling with adapting to the rapid technological advancements. The system faces challenges in integrating critical 21st-century skills, particularly in AI and sustainability. There is an evident gap between traditional educational approaches and the evolving needs of a tech-driven economy. The curriculum lacks a strong emphasis on practical, problem-solving skills that are essential in today’s digital world.
Desirable Future State

Ideally, Vietnam’s education sector will evolve into a more dynamic and responsive system, deeply integrated with AI and sustainability. This future state envisages an educational framework that not only imparts theoretical knowledge but also emphasizes practical skills and innovative thinking. The goal is to align educational outcomes with the technological and economic landscape, preparing students for future challenges.

Fields of Opportunities

Mindset Shift
There was a consensus on the need for a significant shift in mindset at various levels, including among decision-makers, educators, and the youth. This shift involves moving away from traditional models and defining a unique vision for Vietnam based on its strengths and values. Participants emphasized the importance of not merely replicating other countries’ models (like China or India) but instead creating a unique identity and approach for Vietnam.

Diversity in Higher Education
The discussion pointed out the current limitations in Vietnam’s higher education system, particularly the need for more diversity and inclusivity. Expanding the reach and accessibility of quality higher education to more areas, beyond major cities, was seen as vital. This expansion could involve developing university towns and leveraging educational infrastructure as a tool for broader economic and social development.

Youth Engagement in Education
The engagement of youth in the design and implementation of education programs was identified as crucial. Including young people in these processes ensures that their needs and perspectives are adequately addressed.

Education Transformation with AI
Vietnam should prioritize the transformation of its education system using AI. This involves implementing AI-driven
curricula that adapt to individual students’ needs and preferences. By adopting this approach, Vietnam can prepare its youth for the dynamic challenges of the 21st century, equipping them with the skills necessary for success in a rapidly changing world.

Current State and Key Issues
Based on the discussions, the current state of AI in Vietnam is characterized by a dynamic transition towards integrating more advanced technologies in various sectors, especially in manufacturing. Key issues identified include the need for a robust regulatory framework that navigates the balance between fostering AI innovation and ensuring ethical usage. There’s a recognized gap in education and workforce development, specifically in AI literacy and adaptability to technological changes. Furthermore, discussions highlighted the challenges in developing sufficient technological infrastructure to support AI advancements. Data privacy and ethical use of AI also emerged as significant concerns, with Vietnam’s data laws being less stringent than in some Western countries.

Desirable Future State
Participants envisioned an ideal state where Vietnam emerges as a technological and development hub, akin to Japan or Taiwan, ‘Taipan’. This vision hinges on Vietnam successfully navigating a critical period of approximately five to seven years, a window of opportunity seen as crucial for the country’s technological leap. Central to this vision is the idea of Vietnam not just as a manufacturing hub, but as a global center for AI and technological development. The participants emphasized that this would require substantial investment in various sectors, including the Internet of Things (IoT), software industry, and smart manufacturing. Moreover, there’s a recognition that Vietnam’s AI strategy must be comprehensive, integrating policies on data sharing and open data while ensuring fair competition and adhering to international trade agreements. This vision positions Vietnam
not only as a manufacturing powerhouse but as a leader in AI and technological innovation.

Fields of Opportunities

From the participants’ discussions, it emerges that Vietnam’s pathway to achieving a developmental status akin to Japan or Taiwan centers around three key opportunity areas:

Education and Workforce Development

The participants noted that Vietnam’s investment in education, particularly in AI and technology, is not just about creating a skilled workforce; it’s about laying the foundational bedrock for sustained technological growth. This focus on education translates into a more innovative, tech-savvy population capable of driving and supporting advanced industries, crucial for keeping pace with global technological advancements.

Data Management and Sharing Policies

The conversation highlighted that Vietnam’s approach to data management and sharing is less about the current state of its data laws and more about the potential these laws hold in shaping the country as an attractive destination for AI investment. By crafting policies that strike a balance between open data access and privacy protection, Vietnam positions itself as a conducive environment for AI research and development, thereby attracting global tech companies and investors.

Sustainability Through AI-Driven Smart Manufacturing

The discussion around integrating AI into manufacturing is not merely about technological adoption; it’s about redefining Vietnam’s industrial landscape to be more resource-efficient and environmentally sustainable. This shift has implications beyond immediate economic benefits; it aligns Vietnam with global trends towards sustainable development, enhancing its international standing and appeal as a forward-thinking, responsible manufacturing hub.
Current State and Key Issues
Vietnam currently faces sustainability challenges, notably in areas like greenwashing, lack of clear legislation, and inefficient sustainable practices in businesses. The discussions highlighted the need for better standards and guidance in sustainable operations. There’s also a pressing issue of balancing economic growth with environmental protection, especially in rapidly urbanizing areas.

Desirable Future State
The envisioned future for sustainability in Vietnam includes a robust framework where businesses operate with clear sustainability benchmarks and green initiatives. This vision also sees widespread public and corporate education on ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) principles, fostering a culture of sustainability that extends beyond mere compliance.

Fields of Opportunities
Establish Sustainability Education on all levels and in all fields. Sustainability education is not only necessary on the business level but it has to start already for children. Awareness and understanding of environmental issues need to be integrated into all levels of education. The aim is to develop a well-informed population that values and actively participates in sustainable practices. Platforms can be developed that will serve various stakeholders – from students to business leaders, ensuring that the principles of sustainability are widely understood and implemented.
Sustainability & ESG

Collaboration among stakeholders across society. To achieve progress in matters of sustainability and ESG it is crucial for stakeholders to come together and collaborate. Individual, non-coordinated efforts do not work. The most important aspect here is to assume a systems view and leverage already existing ecosystems in the country. Introduce and adopt best practice examples to trigger social change in mindset.

Vietnam can learn from other countries in the world including Japan which is seen as an example of how to tackle sustainability issues such as waste management. So far, people’s mindset is not yet geared towards sustainability and ESG. This is needed, however, if progress in this area is to be achieved. The introduction of best practices from around the world can help shape such a mindset and build people’s awareness for matters of sustainability.

Advocate for Government-Led Systemic Actions

Government needs to lead when it comes to taking systemic action. It is important to understand that all pieces of society need to work together interconnectedly for success to be achieved. The government’s involvement is crucial in setting the tone for such systemic sustainable practices.
Plenary ‘Asia Driving the World’s Economic Transformation’

Jin Yuxian, Chairman, CIE International Education Group, China
Ho Thi Thu Hoa, Director, Vietnam Research and Development Institute, Vietnam
Nara Lee, Managing Partner, Brainchild Partners, Korea
Zhou Yi, Co-founder, MarvelTe, Singapore
Greg Crichton, Managing Director, Greater Asian Advisors Limited, Hong Kong SAR

Sharing a light moment

Natasha Dukach, Executive Director & Co-Founder, Cash For Refugees, Ukraine

Nobumitsu Akai, Director, JFR Group, Japan
Plenary on Asian Economic Outlook

Gricha Safarian, Co-Founder, Sustainable Cacao Institute, Vietnam
Kyle J Hong, Founder, Alcove Investment Management, Korea
Cao Dai Thang, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Intech Group, Vietnam
Chris Tay, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Drink NOD International, China
Mark Paul I. Ramos, Partner, PCMD and Co., The Philippines

Zoe Yuan, Founder, Shanghai Zoe Wellness Edu & Tech Co., Singapore
Duncan J. McCampbell, Associate Professor, Metropolitan State University, USA

Nguyen Van Hung, Group Executive Chairman, Becamex IDC and Frank-Jürgen Richter, Chairman, Horasis

A meeting of minds
Welcome Reception

Yean Lee Chong, Head of Strategic Partnerships, Lexasure Financial Group, Singapore speaking to the media

Session ‘Investing in ASEAN’

Listening to a Plenary Panel

During the coffee break
Traditional Music during the Closing Dinner

Performance during the Closing Dinner

Visiting an artists village

Excursion on the last day

Horasis is all blue – showing perspectives, inspiring the future