

60 YEARS' journey of Bandung spirit

By Ambassador Hyun Van Nguyen

The first conference of leaders from 28 newly independent countries of Asia and Africa used to be the colony, semi colony was held from 18 to 24/4 in 1955 in the city of Bandung, Indonesia and its final "Declaration of strengthening peace and cooperation", with ten principles, "DalaSila" in the Indonesian language is an important milestone in the evolution of the world and of contemporary international relation. It gave birth to a spirit called Bandung spirit which has a journey for the last 60 years and will continue

The countries attending the Conference at that time represented more than half of the population and a quarter of the area of the world. The conference marked the emergence of a new force-the 3rd world in 2 polar world order and the Cold War after the 2ndWorld War. The conference also aims to strengthen the struggle against colonialism, imperialism for peace, development and prosperity of peoples, and to strengthen friendship and cooperation between countries in Asia, Africa on the economic, cultural, political fields.

The Conference and its Declaration based on the principles of the United Nations the Bandung spirit contains two main points. The first is the peaceful coexistence between the different political regimes, the peaceful resolution of conflicts, protect the sovereignty and independence of all countries on the principles of the United Nations and international laws. Second is the solidarity and cooperation between the countries on political, economic and cultural fields for peace development prosperity and justice.

The holding of the conference is the change in quality of the long and constant struggle over the centuries of the peoples of Asia and Africa against the aggressive colonialism for their national independence especially since the Second World War. It also shows the rising of the awakening of national consciousness and international solidarity of the Asia and Africa countries

60years' journey of the Bandung spirit have brought into great victories of the developing countries –the 3rd world. Old colonialism is basically removed Non-Aligned Movement was born and developed. The G77 Group has been formed and have an important voice

in the UN. The fight to defend the independence of the country's sovereignty is enhanced and the struggle for a healthy world economic order have developed. It is also the engine for the North-South dialogue and South-South cooperation and solidarity. In recent years the Bandung spirit is in some extent one of the factors to prompt the formation of the group of emerging economies (BRICS). Many countries of the South can be able to place role in the G20. Their role on the world stage as well as at the United Nations have been promoted.

At the present time, the Bandung spirit with its principles of peace coexistence and peaceful dialogue to resolve disputes and conflicts are more highlighted as the world situation is very complicated, the threat of another world war has been repelled but local armed conflicts, hot spots have still been broken out at any time and on any place. Peaceful dialogue and negotiations to resolve them has become an imperative requirement. Bandung spirit is also the most important driving force to make tendency of peace development cooperation becoming the mainstream in the world

Peaceful coexistence between countries with different political systems, the protection of the independence and sovereignty of the country, strengthening the dialogue for peace dialectically linked with the movement of solidarity and cooperation between Asia and Africa Latin America and the world. That is not only the fight to defend national independence in political and economy but also in joint efforts to cope with global challenges which is increasingly emerging such as climate change, natural disasters non-traditional security, diseases. It has repeatedly been shown in the movement to unite peoples like the peace movement in solidarity with VN struggle for national liberation, movement in support to the Palestinian people and that of many other countries as well as in the movement demanding abolition of nuclear weapons, weapons of mass destruction including the poisoned chemicals. The unity is showed in the active solidarity and support to victims of the earthquakes, Tsunamis Japan hurricanes and earthquakes in Nepal recently or the joint action of the world people to fight against the global diseases of the century HIV, Ebola, ...

. From the people movement of solidarity, many cooperation and solidarity organizations have been established such as the birth of the Association of Asia and Africa Writers, the Asia, Africa Journalist Association, and the Asia Africa people

solidarity Organization Today at many People's Forums such as the ASEAN People Forum, the Asia Europe Peoples 'Forum, the World Social Forum ... the voice of solidarity and cooperation of the people of Asia, Africa, Latin America to struggle against the common enemy that is colonialism and imperialism is raised and also in the fight to face the global challenges is sounded, that making the Bandung spirit to be strengthened and nourished

For the last 60 years, the Bandung spirit has been always revitalized as in 2005, on the 50th anniversary of the Bandung Conference in Jakarta, Indonesia, nearly one hundred heads of state and governments of Asian and African countries participated. They confirmed further development of the Bandung spirit by passing a declaration to build a New Asia Africa Strategic Partner (NAASP).

This year, 2015, on the occasion of 60 anniversary of Bandung Conference, there were 109 delegations headed by the heads of states and governments from Asia and Africa attended. The theme of this year is "strengthening cooperation to promote peace, South - South cooperation and for prosperity in the world ". That will promote cooperation and solidarity between Asia and Africa deeper, more specific, tightly structured and more systematic. This event coped with many significant anniversaries in the year will be good opportunity to develop the struggle of the world people for peace, stability development prosperity and cooperation.

The journey of Bandung spirit has not only brought into good things it has met with a lot of challenges such as the happening of hundred local wars and military disputes caused by the enemy of peace and the forces who have ambitions to to dominate the world and also natural disaster. Even between the Asia and Africa there are countries still existing disputes over territory, religion and ethical issues. In Asia, from Northeast Asia to Central Asia, today, where there are also hot spots, hot issues.

In Southeast Asia, although the situation in the East Sea is complicated but with the formation of the ASEAN and in the end of 2015, the ASEAN community is formed. That is a concrete step in this area following of Bandung sprit. In the Northeast Asia, although there is some disputes over territory and sovereignty or the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula but the demand to build a peaceful and stable region, non-nuclear, cooperation, development and prosperity is still the mainstream.

Used to be a colonial country, during its hard struggle for national independence, Vietnam had sent delegations to many Conferences of the Asian and African countries before and after the Bandung Conference. Vietnam is also one of the active members of the Non-aligned Movement, the G77 group, the solidarity organizations with people of Asia and Africa. It has contributed enormously to the international solidarity movement and in return it has received the strong solidarity and support of Asian and African peoples as well as the world people

The Bandung Conference and its spirit will forever go down in the history of the struggle for independence and freedom of peoples. It will always be an engine to nurture and motivate the cooperation, development, cooperation for peace and prosperity of any country, any region and the world.(end)