

Panama and Vietnam sign nine cooperation agreements

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Summary

In Hanoi on 6 October, Panama and Vietnam signed nine agreements covering agriculture, maritime training, customs, security, tourism and aviation, and Vietnam will reopen its embassy in Panama in early 2027.

Details (summary of the article)

President Mulino travelled to Hanoi, the first visit by a Panamanian head of state to Vietnam in 14 years, and on 6 October 2026 the two countries signed nine agreements and memoranda. Foreign ministers Javier Martínez-Acha and Le Hoai Trung signed documents on agricultural technical assistance (including a deal between Panama's Idiap and the Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences), cooperation between the two maritime universities, customs, crime prevention, tourism promotion, civil aviation connectivity and joint diplomatic training. Vietnam announced it will reopen its embassy in Panama in early 2027 and offered to act as Panama's bridge to Southeast Asia, including support for Panama's interest in APEC. Mulino promoted the Canal, ports, free zones and financial centre as a platform for Vietnamese firms entering Latin America, and noted that more than 25,000 Vietnamese seafarers serve on Panamanian-flagged ships. Trade is modest: Panama mainly exports teak, while Vietnamese goods such as electronics, seafood, furniture, cinnamon and pepper arrive largely via the Colón Free Zone; Vietnam's leader praised Panamanian coffee. A high-level Vietnamese delegation will attend the Latin America and Caribbean Economic Forum in Panama in January 2027. The travelling delegation included the agriculture and Canal affairs ministers and Tocumen's general manager. Reported by Casa Solution from La Estrella de Panamá, Infobae and La Prensa.