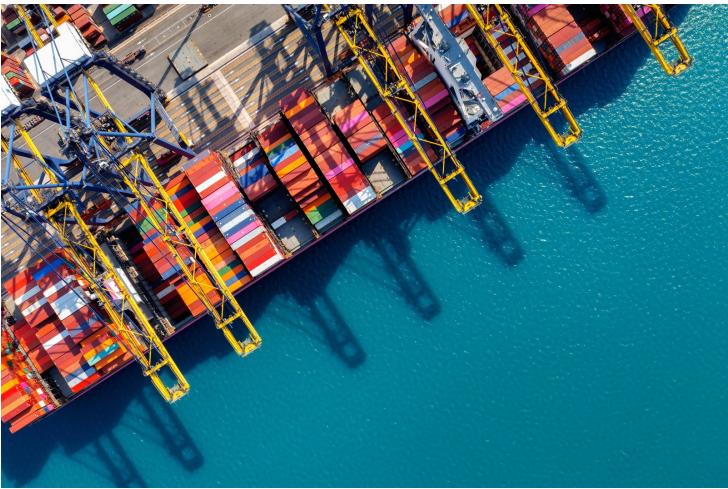


## Vietnam opens a special port to create a new gateway for export and import

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Vietnam's Tran De Seaport in Soc Trang province is planned and invested as a special port to quickly transfer goods from the Mekong Delta to the world. The Mekong Delta region has an important strategic role and position in the development of the economy, culture, society, defense and security of the whole country. In recent times, the region's socioeconomic achievements have achieved comprehensive results, becoming a key agricultural region of the country with many key products, especially rice, shrimp, fish and fruits.

However, the country's "agricultural product basket" has not developed according to its potential. Transportation infrastructure is limited and lacking in uniformity and lacking linkages between different modes of transport. In particular, the scale and capacity of waterway transport remain low with no major ports or large logistics centres.

More than 70 per cent of the Mekong Delta's import and export goods must be transported by road to the Ho Chi Minh City port cluster. This has increased transportation costs and affected the quality of goods, and created pressure on road traffic.

For a long time, shipments have been focused on being transported from Soc Trang to Cat Lai and Cai Mep ports, for export. This route is long and has very high traffic density, taking time and creating high costs for businesses.

Therefore, investing in the construction of Tran De Seaport urgent to quickly remove bottlenecks and support operations for businesses, including reducing costs and risks, and increasing reliability with partners in goods delivery and further promoting

the socioeconomic development of the entire region.

According to Le Tan Dat, deputy general director of Maritime Construction Consulting JSC, the development of Tran De Seaport will affect the movement of direct import and export goods volume of 8 out of 13 Mekong Delta cities and provinces. In addition, it will attract goods from other ports in the Mekong Delta region as well.