

Out-of-Province Ministerial Travel
(including expenses of participants and general expenses associated with travel)

Ministry	Trade and Export Development
Title of Travel	Mission to Vietnam and Singapore
Location	Hanoi and Singapore
Date(s)	February 14-21, 2025
Participants	Honourable Warren Kaeding, Minister of Trade and Export Development Jodi Banks, Deputy Minister of Trade and Export Development Christian Kainz, Ministerial Assistant to Minister Kaeding
Purpose of Travel	To advance Saskatchewan’s (SK’s) trade and investment interests with Vietnam, Singapore and other member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and to support the province’s trade and labour recruitment priorities in Vietnam and ensure diversified market access for SK goods in response to tariffs from the U.S. Administration.
Total Travel Expenditures for Participants	
Air Travel (including airfare and airport service fees, baggage fees)	\$32,373.65
Ground Travel (including taxis, car rentals, trains and buses)	\$0.00
Accommodation (including room charges and all related taxes and fees)	\$5,069.24
Meals (personal per diem meal claims)	\$2,442.98
Conference & Registration Fees	\$0.00
Miscellaneous (including incidentals, parking, temporary cell phone upgrades, fax and internet charges, passport and visa fees, medical and vaccination fees, and other sundry expenditures)	\$428.50
Subtotal	\$40,314.37
General Travel Expenditures	
Business Hosting Expenses (expenses for luncheon and/or dinner meetings hosted by the Government of Saskatchewan, including food, beverages, catering staff, service charges, equipment, and entertainment)	\$0.00
Miscellaneous (Including meeting rooms, translator and interpreter fees, police security, publications, shipping charges, gifts)	\$2,770.16
Subtotal	\$2,770.16
TOTAL	\$43,084.53

Overview of Travel and Objectives

Vietnam is a growing trading partner for SK – in 2024, SK exported about C\$130.6 million (M) of goods to Vietnam, a 40.9% increase compared to 2023.

- SK's top two exports to Vietnam were non-durum wheat (C\$63.5M and 48.6% of SK's total exports to Vietnam) and potash (C\$55.3M, 42.4%). Together, these two products accounted for 91% of SK's total exports to Vietnam in 2024.
- In 2024, the value of SK's non-durum wheat exports to Vietnam increased by 56.3% compared to 2023 (from C\$40.6M to C\$63.5M).
- In 2024, the value of SK's potash exports to Vietnam increased by 43.6% compared to 2023 (from C\$38.5M to C\$55.3M).

In addition to trade, there are also opportunities for innovation collaboration with Vietnam, talent attraction to SK, and student exchange.

Singapore serves as a pivotal hub and gateway for SK to access the broader ASEAN region, now the world's fifth-largest economy, offering a wealth of opportunities for trade and investment.

- SK exports have fluctuated between C\$1.5 and C\$2.9 billion annually to ASEAN over the past three years, making it one of the province's largest overseas markets.
- Singapore's strategic role as a corporate headquarters, investment and trading hub facilitates access to diverse markets within Southeast Asia and beyond.

Mission objectives included:

- Promote SK-Vietnam/Singapore/ASEAN commercial relationships and diversification of SK's trade particularly in light of potential United States tariffs on Canada;
- Position SK as a key partner in energy transition through engagements in Vietnam, Singapore and with partners from the Philippines;
- Concluded a memorandum of understanding with Vietnam's Ministry of Education and Training to strengthen academic and global connections through research collaborations, educational exchanges, and the sharing of expertise;
- Highlight SK's position as a reliable supplier of high-quality ingredients, a hub for agri-food research and innovation and a leader in sustainable food production practices and plant-based protein development through bilateral meetings with companies in Singapore; and,
- Participate in the Canada in Asia Conference and other events in Singapore to promote SK exports and attract investment opportunities to the province.

Travel Activity

While in Vietnam, Minister Kaeding highlighted SK's strengths in sustainable food, fuel, fertilizer and critical minerals at the *Doing Business with SK Forum* and *Showcasing SK Food and Ingredients Event*. He also met with:

- Former Ambassador of Vietnam to Canada His Excellency Pham Cao Phong;
- Vietnam National Coal and Mineral Industries Group;
- Sovico Group;
- Vietnam's Ministry of Industry and Trade;
- Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development;
- Vietnam's Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs;
- Vietnam's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment; and,
- Vietnam's Ministry of Education and Training.

While in Singapore, Minister Kaeding participated in several key engagements including:

- The *Canada in Asia Conference*, where he delivered a keynote address, emphasizing SK's strengths across various sectors;
- A Canada-ASEAN Business Council Nuclear Energy Capacity Building Symposium, where he profiled SK's nuclear industry;
- A roundtable meeting with the Asia Business Leaders Advisory Council, where he provided remarks on SK's competitive business environment;
- A Canadian Chambers of Commerce of Asia Networking Event, where he highlighted SK's strengths in food and energy security, innovation and sustainability;
- An Agri-Food Innovation and Foreign Direct Investment Forum, where he promoted SK as a premier destination for investment; and,
- A reception co-hosted with the University of Saskatchewan, where he delivered a keynote address highlighting the province as a trade powerhouse, a global leader in research and development and a hub for innovation.

He also met with:

- Philippines Department of Energy;
- Agrocorp International; and,
- Nurasa, where he acknowledged the new partnership between Nurasa and the Saskatchewan Food Industry Development Centre intended to bring more SK food and ingredients to the ASEAN region.