

Editorial Letter

Dear precious readers!

Since the first issue published in 1999, Tạp chí *Nghiên cứu Tôn giáo* (*Religious Studies Review*), the official organ of Institute of Religious Studies at the Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences, has been a bimonthly journal in Vietnamese.

Up to present, Tạp chí *Nghiên cứu Tôn giáo* is still the only journal in Vietnam about religious studies.

Thank to enduring consideration and encouragement of scholars from inside and outside of Vietnam, the Review has gained its own life and a certain academic position.

Tạp chí *Nghiên cứu Tôn giáo* always concentrates on its aim: publishing primary works on religions and religious life in Vietnam and presenting their history and current issues relating to progress of the *Đổi mới* (Renovation) and the state's awareness and policies on religion. Besides, the *Nghiên cứu Tôn giáo* leaves a number of page to disseminate knowledge of religion in regions and in the world along with new trends in religious studies at the present.

However, since the *Nghiên cứu Tôn giáo* is only published in Vietnamese, it is not widely known out-side of Vietnam. Therefore not only the editorial board but also audiences look for the English version of *Nghiên cứu Tôn giáo*. Fortunately, now we have gained necessary conditions to publish 4 English issues a year.

On this important event of the first English issue, we would like to express our deep gratitude to the consideration and help from functional institutions and enthusiastic support from various scholars. We really look for audiences' suggestions and initiatives to make our edition better and richer.

We spend the first issue to respectfully introduce a number of paper from the international conference of "Beginning the conversation: Religion and Rule of law in Southeast Asia", held in Hanoi on September 8-9th, 2006.

EDITORIAL BOARD