

THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES REVIEW (26.8. 1999 - 26.8.2009)

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In December, 26, 1998 the Minister of Ministry of Culture and Information decided to licence *Religious Studies Review* to be published (N^o 3824/ BVHT-GPXBBC) with principles: making public and introducing the religious studies works inside and outside Vietnam following the view of Party and Vietnamese State policies. After nearly year for preparing material facilities, articles and editorial staffs, the first issue of *Religious Studies Review* made its appearance in August 26, 1999.

Religious Studies Review has come into the world and grown in 20 years of Renovation (Đổi Mới) to be guided by Vietnamese Communist Party. During 10 years, *Religious Studies Review* has completed excellently all entrusted duties and contributed to carry out the Line of Renovation in particular and sensitive sphere – religious sphere. From the first days to now *Religious Studies Review* has made great progress. Our review is one of the good reviews of the Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences. At the first time, our review was quarterly. After two years, our review was periodically (2 months) but now it is monthly in Vietnamese. *Religious Studies Review* in English has been published quarterly. We have website <http://www.vjol.info> to be helped by INASP (Great Britain). *Religious Studies Review* not only serves Vietnamese readers but also foreigners and overseas compatriots by traditional editions and website.

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During 10 years, *Religious Studies Review* have printed and published 100.000 issues in Vietnamese and 2.500 issues in English, a website in both Vietnamese and English.

Thanks to enthusiastic editorial staffs and collaborators who expert in religious research and science of religion so our review has attractive and scientific contents. Our editorial staffs have affirmed that collaborators are the most factors contributing to the strong development of our review. Scientific quality of this review depends upon our collaborators. We have many collaborators; they are not only researchers of research institutes, the teachers of universities but also officers of state organs on religions, of concerned services of Party and Vietnam Homeland Front, dignitaries, believers of religions and people who like to study religions. Many foreign scholars and oversea Vietnamese intellectuals send theirs articles to *Religious Studies Review*. The editorial staffs define special headings and help collaborators write their articles conformable to these headings.

During 10 years, our review has considerable contributions to the development of science of religion that is a new scientific field in Vietnam, a field related to a famous Orientalist-Friedrich Max Muller (1823-1900). Our editorial staffs are interested in three main headings because these headings create identity of our review.

The heading of *Religions and theoretical and practical issues* has an important merit in the development of our review. During 10 years, we have received nearly 200 articles on this subject, all these articles have inserted in 70 issues so we can say that our researchers are laborious in dealing with the theoretical and practical issue of science of religion in Vietnam. The editorial staffs decided to insert articles on Ho Chi Minh's thought and policy line of Vietnamese Communist Party on religions in the first issues. Some articles on K. Marx, Ph. Engel, and V.I Lenin with religious problems have been inserted. In our review there are many articles on religious thoughts of the founders of Enlightenment movements, of the classical philosophers, and of the revolutionaries... The experiences of some countries in dealing with religious problems have been introduced in our review. Our review is interested in

religious theory such as: religious sociology, religious philosophy, religious morality, religious history, new religious phenomena, the present tendency of religious development and the relation between state and church....

Religion and Nation is one of three important headings. In this heading there are 350 articles. They dealt with all aspects of religious life in Vietnam. Articles not only discuss entering and integrating of exogenesis religions as Buddhism, Catholicism, Protestantism, Islam but also the development of native religions as Caodaism, Hoa Hao Buddhism... Through these articles, readers see the contributions of religions to our cultural history. Every article is a meticulous and serious study work of the author. It is said that this heading attracts many collaborators from professional researchers to amateur writers, from professors to graduated students.

Our readers are interested in the heading of *Religion Abroad* because of its value of scientific information. At first time we met many difficulties because our collaborators were very few. Now the number of collaborators increases, they are very good at foreign languages and understanding the oversea religious conditions. The editorial staffs regularly maintain this heading to supply the reader with the information of religious life and activities in the world as: Buddhism in Thailand, Shinto and Zen Buddhism in Japan, Hindu in India, Islam in Middle East, Southeast-Asia, North America, Western Europe; Protestantism in America; Catholicism in Western countries; Lamaism in Russia; Religions in China; The religious situation in Australia...

Beside elementary problems, we are interested in religious events in the religious life at home and abroad. Our readers are interested in the articles in the heading of *Religious Events*. Our editorial staffs do not avoid burning problems such as religious confliction; religious liberty; taking advantage of religion; new religious phenomena; land troubles... The articles on these subjects supply readers with more complete information on present religious situation. These articles also contribute to carry out the task of ideological struggle against hostile forces which take advantage of religious, national and human problems in carrying out “peaceful evolution”

policy in order to destroy the fruits of renovation in the cause of national construction and defense under the leadership of Vietnamese Communist Party.

Our review still has remained the headings of *Opinion Exchange*, *Religious Common Knowledge*, *Book Review*, *Scientific Information*, and *Religious News*. During 10 years, 300 articles have been inserted in these headings. From these articles collaborators have scientific forums on new issues. These articles have supplied readers with general knowledge on religions, religious activities, scientific activities as well as the new books on religions.

One of the developing tendencies of our review is to issue special editions for research duty. Our readers are interested in these editions because of their system and practice. Although this tendency achieved considerable results, it has not yet escaped from experimental state because of subjective and objective causes. In 70 issues there are only 10 special editions. This number is modest.

Thanks to effects of our editorial staffs and our collaborators our review has achieved good results. In past 10 years, editorial staffs have only 4 or 5 officers including editor-in-chief but we try our best to heighten the quality of review and overcome technologic mistakes. In fact, our efforts do not satisfy more and more increasing need of society. So editorial staffs and collaborators have to do many tasks if we want our review to make major contribution to religious study and become a bridge which connects our party and Vietnam State to churches and believers of all religions, non believers to believers as well as participate in realizing the duties on ideology- politics- society in new stage.

It is the first step that costs. We overcame the first difficulties. On the occasion of the 10th years anniversary of Religious Studies Review, editorial staffs are expressing their gratitude to the leader of the Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences, to Ministry of Culture- Sport and Travel; to Ministry of Information and Communication; to Propaganda and Training Committee; to INASP; to the organs inside and outside the Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences as well as all collaborators and readers having made valuable contributions to the Religious Studies Review in past years. We hope to get continuously your helps in future. /.