

INFORMATION OF SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES**International scientific seminar “Water security in the Mekong region: Looking to the future”**

On June 21, 2024, in Hanoi, the Institute for Human Studies under the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences in collaboration with the SUMERNET Young Professionals under the Asia Centre of the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI-Asia) organized the hybrid seminar “Water Security in the Mekong Region: Looking to the Future”, which was attended by a large number of domestic and foreign scholars and researchers.

The seminar focused on analyzing the successes and challenges in ensuring water security and sustainable development in the Mekong region, and clarifying the role of researchers in this field. Discussions aimed at proposing solutions to address water security challenges in the Mekong region in the coming time.

The Mekong region is not only a source of freshwater for millions of people, but also supports the economy through agriculture, fisheries and industry. However, population growth, climate change, economic development and unsustainable resource exploitation are posing major challenges to water security in the region. It is facing serious environmental challenges. The impacts of climate change are undermining the region’s sustainable development and slowing the progress of countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Such issues as water scarcity, pollution and conflicts over water rights are not only threatening the environment but also directly affecting millions of people who live on the Mekong River for their livelihoods.

Water security is one of the key and vital issues for the sustainable development of the Mekong region. One of the proposed solutions to ensure water security for the Mekong region is to strengthen international and regional cooperation and develop policies on it based on the principles of equity and sustainability. Protecting water security in the Mekong region is a challenge but also an opportunity for countries to work together to find sustainable, comprehensive solutions to protect water resources and build a better future. The commitment and efforts of all stakeholders will be the key for the Mekong region to overcome current challenges and achieve the sustainable development goals. Some other specific solutions were proposed to ensure water security in the Mekong region, namely, developing water resource management policies based on advanced science and technology; raising public awareness of the importance of protecting water resources; strengthening scientific research and applying advanced technology in water resource management and protection.

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Scientific workshop “Orientation to build Hai Phong to become a leading city in Asia and the world”

On August 9, 2024, in Hai Phong, the Institute of Social Science Information (ISSI) under the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences in collaboration with the Hai Phong City Labor Federation organized a scientific workshop on “Orientation to build Hai Phong into a leading city in Asia and the world”. Attending the workshop were delegates from the Ministry of

Science and Technology, Vietnam Maritime Corporation, Hai Phong city departments and agencies, and researchers from the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences.

Hai Phong is seen to have evolved from the “big port of Tonkin” to a growth pole of the Northern key economic triangle including Hanoi, Hai Phong, Quang Ninh. It has become the comprehensive economic - scientific and technical center of the Northern coastal region. According to Decision No. 1516/QĐ-TTg dated December 2, 2023 of the Prime Minister approving the “Hai Phong City Planning for the period 2021-2030, with a vision to 2050”, Hai Phong aims to become a modern industrial city, a driving force for development in the Northern region, a key maritime economic center of the country, a modern, international, leading maritime economic center in Southeast Asia, focusing on seaport services, logistics and marine tourism; striving to become a city with a high level of development in the group of leading cities in Asia and the world.

Over the years, the city has established connections and implemented regional linkage programs and projects, socio-economic development, demonstrating its role as one of the three growth poles of the Red River Delta and a leading role in attracting investment. However, there are still certain limitations in the development of the city.

Specific issues discussed at the workshop include: Current status of Hai Phong’s economic development - achievements, limitations, causes and development orientations; Solutions for the city to take advantage of opportunities and overcome challenges in the context of China building

the Pinglu Canal connecting Hengzhou city with Qinzhou city and facilitating Guangxi province to connect with the sea in the Gulf of Tonkin; Promoting the development of the logistics system; Urban and infrastructure development planning; Orientation for developing green port city; Application of information technology in building a database on technology for development; Current status and solutions for developing the marine economy, marine tourism, linking marine tourism development, sustainable tourism development, and reducing plastic waste in tourism.

In terms of culture, the presentations analyzed the cultural exploitation for the city’s tourism development; overviewed of the worship of General Le Chan and its values in people’s lives and in the development process; analyzed the preservation and promotion of the cultural values of the city’s villages; presented a collection of documents about Hai Phong currently stored at the Social Sciences Library.

The presentations and opinions exchanged at the Workshop clarified the potential, strengths, and development status of Hải Phòng city in many aspects; analyzed, evaluated, commented, and made recommendations for selected areas of development of the city in the coming time. To ensure the orientation of building Hải Phòng into a leading city in Asia and the world, it’s necessary to pay attention to development indicators, modernization strategies, criteria for assessing the level of modernization, especially the factors that determine investment destinations for foreign investors.

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