

INFORMATION

**International scientific conference
“Experience of Vietnam and the world
in investigation press profession”**

Academy of Journalism and Communication, Centre for Media and Development Initiatives and Representative Office of Vietnam Journalists Association in Hồ Chí Minh City co-organized the National Scientific Conference titled “Experiences of Vietnam and the world in investigation press profession” in the morning of March 31st, 2014 in Hanoi. This is one of the first intensive conferences held in Vietnam on investigation press and role-play profession, attracting attention from over 100 journalists and press managers.

The Conference comes to a joint agreement that, investigation press is a challenging topic and is dangerous in many cases, requiring journalists to be of profession proficiency, firm stuff and courage. Along with discovering new and advanced elements, journalists in Vietnam have committedly investigated, discovered and declared in public negative behaviors and corruption, such as the incident of PMU 18, violations in land administration in Khánh Hòa, Phú Quốc (Kiên Giang) and Đồ Sơn (Hải Phòng), corruption activities in Miền Đông bus station and illegal deeds of Vinashin, etc. Series of articles have resonated, got agreement and concern of national public opinions, including

“Transforming water and substances into gasoline” (*Tuổi Trẻ*), articles titled “Outrage of illegal credit” (*Công An Nhân Dân*), articles titled “Mobile patrol units illegally implement law” (*Thanh Niên*), articles on the blatant coal robbery in Mạo Khê - Quảng Ninh (*Lao Động*)...

However, accompanied by the social development, investigation press has encountered challenges; therefore, investigation press activities should be raised into a new level of profession as well in legal framework.

The Conference agreed with the opinion that public benefit of investigation issues and found understanding about legality should be clearly determined in investigation press profession so as to conduct appropriate behavior and proper recognition of actual situation. Especially, profession morality should be paid attention to by journalists.

For the develop the investigation press profession and to effectively contribute to the country’s development as well as the establishment of a more and more professional Vietnam investigation press, the Conference also agree with the opinion on 4 following current press issues including awareness of increase in the practical role of monitoring and social criticism of the press should be committedly put into consistence; investigation press should

be understood to comprise of a system of issues from perception to practices of not only the press but also working results of other professions; recognizing the more and more important role of investigation press, press managers and Vietnam Journalists Association should continue to complete a legal environment for effective performance of investigation press; journalists should be trained to be able to conduct effective investigation press practices.

In addition, the Conference also collects discussions on experiences in role-play profession of journalists of Vietnam and worldwide. With vivid practical experiences, speakers shared their precious experiences in various situations and issues during their investigation press performance.

HÀ AN

Declaration of the Findings of Viet Nam National Child Labour Survey 2012

The Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs has coordinated with Vietnam General Statistics Office and International Labour Organization (hereinafter called ILO) to organize the declaration ceremony of the *Findings of the Viet Nam National Child Labour Survey 2012*. Participants of the ceremony included representatives from leading agencies, related agencies, scientists and press agencies.

The national survey about child labour under the framework of the “International Programme on the

Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC)” between Vietnamese Government and ILO was conducted in 2012. This survey was implemented nationally and covered every single household with general questions of many aspects such as income, working place and condition, etc. The survey provided a panorama about actual child labour in Vietnam recently as well as impacts of the economic crisis on child labour group.

It is reported that 9.6% of Vietnam children (within age of 5 to 17) is estimated to have participated in the labour force. This means that about 1.75 million of children in Vietnam are now under child labour group, in which many of them are working in hazardous working environment and engaging in prohibited work for children as regulated in Vietnam labour code and provisions of ILO.

According to the survey results. Children participating economic activities are mostly in rural areas, accounting for 84.9% of the total number of child workers. The poorer the area is, the higher rate of children engaging in economic activities, especially in the northwestern, northeastern, and north-central coast. In the recent economic context of Vietnam, household economy still takes a big proportion. Therefore, child labour mainly works in agricultural field and in their families (unpaid). Among all children participating in economic activities, 88% of 5-11 year old group,

83% of 12-14 year old group and 66% of 15-17% year old group enaging in household economic activites. Besides, 513 thousand children (accounting for 18% of the children participating economic activities) get paid, mainly under the relatively matured stage (15-17 years old).

Also according to the survey results, about 1/3 of child labour (approximately 569 children) work for more than 42 hours per week. Prolonged working time significantly affects their studying and many of them do not even go to school.

It is undeniable that child labour has contributed to increase income, improve

living standards and more or less help to educate about the love of labour and independence for children; however, its consequences are significant. Child labour has become a difficult issues in developing countries including Vietnam. Although the Government has been relentless in preventing and step by step eliminating, the rate of child labour remains high. This indicates that the schedule of eleminating child labour of Vietnam as committed remains many difficulties to be solved.

HOÀI PHÚC