

## INFORMATION

**Scientific Workshop: 45 years of following the testament of the President Ho Chi Minh (9/1969-9/2014)**

On August 27, 2014, Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics organized the scientific conference “45 years of following the testament of the President Ho Chi Minh ” in Hanoi. The Conference was participated by representatives, scientists, researchers from various mass organizations, research institutions and universities.

It was confirmed at the Conference that the thoughts and contents of the historical Testament, after many decades, had still remained topical thanks to the solid thoughts, noble ethics and soul of a great man who had devoted his whole life for the Homeland and human race. Possibly speaking, contributes of the great values of the Testament and thoughts of President Ho Chi Minh to the Vietnamese Revolution were continued to be confirmed.

It was asserted by participants that, realizing Ho Chi Minh’s Testament on the development of a transparent and powerful Party, the Party had always, over the past 45 years, paid much attention to and considered Party development as a key obligation and a prerequisite for the success of the voluntary cause. Specifically, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam at various terms had issued a number of Decrees on Party development, enhancement of

the leadership competence and the fighting capability of the Communist Party. Moreover, the Party had set forth and led the people to successfully implement the innovation, gradually eliminating the crisis, stabilizing and enhancing the people’s lives. From a goods imported country, Vietnam had become a leading rice exporter worldwide. Hunger elimination and poverty reduction had gained many important achievements highly appreciated by the international community. The Party, State and society paid special attention to the policy objects and create favorable conditions for them to find their jobs to stabilize their daily lives.

According to many scholars, however, it was crucial to seriously evaluate the weaknesses and shortcomings that were slowly resolved as well as socio-economic lag compared with many international and regional countries.

At the end of the Conference, the Testament of President Ho Chi Minh was evaluated by all participants to be a practical, future- oriented summary which acted as a handbook for our Party’s development. The realization this Testament should be in connection with the socio-economic innovation as well as the promotion of the people’s autonomy. Moreover, it was essential to have a suitable mechanism to listen to feedbacks from the people.

TA.

### **Scientific conference: Culture of Sea and Islands-Values protection and promotion**

Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism has recently cooperated with the National Council for Cultural Heritage to hold the scientific conference: *“Culture of Sea and Islands-Values protection and promotion”* in Hanoi. The conference was held to make contributions to establishing scientific and practical basis for the best and most effective organization of activities aiming to preserve and promote Vietnamese marine and island values. More than 30 memoirs were submitted to the organizing committee.

It was emphasized at the Conference that, sea and island had long been played a crucial role in the cultural, socio-economic life in Vietnam. Sea brought the livelihood, left significant marks in the culture lives of many Vietnamese communities. Marine and island culture was an integral part of Vietnamese culture, an inevitable factor of such a sea-oriented nation with a coast of more than 3,000 km as Vietnam. This was not only a precious heritage of scientific, cultural and economic values but also meaningful in confirming the national sovereignty.

Statistics reveal that on the territories of 28 coastal provinces and cities nationwide, there have been more than 1,000 nationally ranked vestiges, hundreds of vestiges and vestige groups are on island and coastal areas. Among 69 heritages named in the List of national nonphysical cultural Heritages, there are also four heritages related to

the marine and island culture, including: Lễ khao lề thế lính Hoàng Sa (Hoang Sa Soldier Feast and Commemoration Festival) in Ly Son District, Quang Ngai Province, Lễ hội Cầu Ngư (Fishing Festival) in Khanh Hoa Province, Lễ hội Nghinh Ông (Nghinh Ong Festival) in Can Gio District, HCM City and Lễ hội cúng biển Mỹ Long (Festival of the Sea My Long) in Tra Vinh Province. Moreover, a large number of valuable objects and collections being preserved in museums and by individuals, etc. is a real huge, diversified and meaningful treasure.

However, the fact remains that the preservation and promotion of marine and island cultural values, over the past years, have not drawn proper attention for many reasons. We have not, actually, conducted any comprehensive study or excavation of submerged heritages. The recent “excavation” of some sunk ships is actually the salvage of antiquities, conducted by some private companies whose business requirements are always of priority. Submerged caves have hardly studied. It is the lateness in the development of submerged archaeology of our country is a persuasive evidence of this insufficient interest.

According to many experts attending this Conference, to promote marine and island cultural values, it was firstly essential to promote the propaganda about cultural heritages to gradually enhance the public awareness, mobilize social resources for this important activity with a special emphasis on the archaeology and excavation. Based on the study results, it was essential to

regularly organize exhibitions on marine and sea culture and Vietnam sovereignty for sea and island, particularly, for Hoang Sa and Truong Sa island to gradually develop a sea museum. Some scholars interested in the archaeology also expect to establish and develop an underwater archaeology center eligible for the study and excavation of underwater heritages of Vietnam.

HÀ AN

**Scientific Conference on “Public research: Anthropology application in development of Vietnam’s ethnic minorities”**

Institute of Anthropology (VASS) has recently cooperated with the Anthropology (USSH) and Institute for Studies of Society, Economy and Environment to hold a scientific conference named *Public research: Anthropology application in development of Vietnam’s ethnic minorities*. The Conference drew the participation of many scholars, researchers from numerous research institutions and universities with 15 memoirs.

Co-research is both a democratic implementation and approach in the research in which community members and external researchers equally take part in every aspect of the research, jointly contribute their professional competence, make decisions and own the copyrights. The application of co-research methodology does not only result in practical findings of the insiders but is also a good chance for the people to enhance their capabilities in studying, arguing and finding solutions to the

community’s problems as well as raising their voice and position in media and policy mobilization activities.

In Vietnam, community based approach has been, over the past decade, increasingly applied by anthropologists, policy makers and developers towards ethnic minorities in the mountainous areas and vulnerable groups in the society. This approach results in scientific achievements as well as solves some problems in the daily lives.

Time and funding were identified at the Conference to be concerns of many anthropologists when implementing development projects related to the ethnic minorities in the mountainous areas. Small and medium-sized development projects often have limited funding and field time, sometimes only lasting one to two weeks, while the research objectives and field practices are needed to result in specific benefits to the community. Therefore, how to resolve these problems is still remained an answered question.

It was evaluated by the Conference that community based approach in the anthropology would lead to deep understanding about socio-cultural organizations and the human condition of individuals or a community. This approach is really suitable to the postmodern theory established in the anthropology research over the past decades. This approach is not always, however, agreed by the academic anthropologists and even policy makers and managers.

HOÀI PHÚC

**International conference: Religions and religious life in Vietnam – Sharing European and Vietnamese experience in assuring the freedom of the belief and religion**

September 25-26, 2014 in Hanoi, Government Committee for Religious Affairs cooperated with EU to Vietnam to organize an international conference “Religions and religious life in Vietnam – Sharing European and Vietnamese experience in assuring the freedom of the belief and religion”.

At the conference, participants analyzed and evaluated achievements Vietnam had gained in the promotion and assurance of the freedom of belief and religion; clearly identified the State’s role in establishing a legal framework of belief and religion; commitments of Vietnam to the international community in protecting and promoting human’s rights in the religious freedom through 3 discussion sessions. Accordingly, delegates shared their experience about the religious diversity and secular model in the Europe as well as disclosed efforts of country members in the EU in protecting and promoting the religious freedom and values.

The conference objectively reflected the diversity and religious freedom in Vietnam. Accordingly, religious diversity has long been established in Vietnam and traditionally harmonious, particularly “tam giáo đồng nguyên” (three religions were originated from the same source) thought. Religious diversity in Vietnam has actually made many important contributions to the national development,

especially in cultural, ethical aspects, etc. Despite being various, religions are harmonious with the national development without any religious conflicts. Law on religion in Vietnam is compatible with that of other countries worldwide that respects and ensures basic principles stipulated in Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and in Article 38 of Ordinance on belief and religion.

It was emphasized by participants that the European Union has various religious and secular models on the basis of ensuring the freedom of thought, religion and belief as well as fundamental rights of individuals. This is consistent with the general human right standards approved by Vietnam. The EU and its country members commit to respecting, preserving and promoting the freedom of belief and religion everywhere and for everyone. Moreover, the protection of these fundamental rights shall be part of their foreign policies.

It was confirmed at the Conference that the religious life in Vietnam was becoming more innovative and diversified. It was also, however, recognized that complicated issues related to religion would continuously arise in the tendency of integration with specific catechism and different living opinions of religious organizations. Therefore, religious policies of each nation should catch up with this integration to find out the harmony for various religions.

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**Scientific conference on “Training and improving the press: Experiences of Vietnam and Laos”**

Academy of Journalism and Communication has recently cooperated with Laos Academy of Information Culture and Tourism to hold a scientific Conference entitled *Training and improving the press: Experiences of Vietnam and Laos*.

It was emphasized at the Conference that the traditional relationship between Vietnam and Laos had always, over the past 50 years after being established, fortified and continuously developed. Cooperation, including journalism training and retraining, between two nations had deeply and widely been developed.

It was confirmed by participants that Vietnamese journalism had, over the past years, quickly and strongly developed in terms of both quantity and quality while Lao journalism had also gained many significant achievements. However, under such circumstance of the market economic development, Vietnamese journalism needed to deal with the market relationship in tourism and communication while Lao journalism needed to have a professionalism-oriented development strategy. According to the participants, in order to bring newspapers and magazines to the public and to make them widely accepted by the public, newspapers and magazines of both nations needed to continuously improve articles' quality, to reflect the real lives

of the people as well as their complaints, to be the voice of the Party, forum of the people, to be feedbacks of the people to the political and socio-economic issues of the nation. Simultaneously, it was needed to put the press in the competitive environment, particularly, the public competition but still ensure the orientation, objectives and principles of newspapers.

Regarding journalism training and retraining, it was confirmed by participants that journalism – communication training and retraining institutions needed to depend on current status of each nation's press to adjust its journalism training activities. Accordingly, it was proposed by the Conference that to improve the efficiency of the cooperation in journalism training and retraining, it was needed to increase short courses for Lao journalists, helping Laos develop journalism training facilities in their nation.

Viet-Lao relationship was the traditional united relationship between two Parties, two States, two National Assemblies and People of two countries. With such a united and traditional relationship, it was agreed by delegates of both nations to further enhance their cooperation in journalism training and retraining, further promote and develop the close relationship between the Academy of Journalism and Communication and Laos Academy of Information, Culture and Tourism in the time to come.

PHẠM NGUYỄN