

INFORMATION

**National-level Science Conference
“Vietnamese Script on formation,
development and contributions to
Vietnamese culture”**

On 3rd October 2015, in Phú Yên - one of the cradles of Vietnamese script, National-level scientific conference on “Vietnamese script: formation, development and contributions to Vietnamese culture” was held under the coordination of the University of Social Sciences and Humanities (Vietnam National University, Hochiminh City), Phú Yên University and Oriental Research Development Institute. Participants in the Conference were numerous researchers and scholars from a variety of local and international universities and research institutes. More than 100 papers had been sent to the Organizing Committee.

Looking back to the stage of formation and development for the last time as well as evaluating the contributions of Vietnamese script to Vietnamese culture, the Conference emphasized that for any nation and people over the world, languages and scripts are always the origin of existence and development. With 400-year history of formation, evolution and improvement, Vietnamese script has become the spirit and soul of the Việt people. These national characteristics need to be nurtured for strong growth.

The Conference agreed that Vietnamese script had significantly contributed to Vietnamese expansion. The Vietnamese language today acts as a bridge to bring the Vietnamese culture to the world and vice versa, help the world culture reach Vietnamese people. For its current appearance and strong attraction, the Vietnamese language, like many others around the globe, also experienced ups and downs along with its people. It begins to be taught at various established universities in many countries over the world. In relation with such nations, it plays an important role in developing and maintaining the relations of cooperation and friendship between Vietnam and those host countries. Every year, tens of thousands of foreigners all over the world go to Vietnam for study.

However, in the tendency to communication with other languages, Vietnamese script has showed its restrictions despite being improved. First, the existing script does not have enough letters to transliterate the words of other languages in contact with the Vietnamese language; While some Latin letters are not used yet, the new letters are added so that Vietnamese script becomes complicated; Besides, such situations as writing in standard deviation, without consistency, of misspelling, etc. were very popular,

especially in mass media, even in schools. Based on these shortcomings, many linguists have proposed that improving Vietnamese script is required to be implemented towards use of Latin letters, including unused ones as f, w, z, j as a means of transliterating borrowed words from other languages. The biggest goal is to improve Vietnamese script to be more reasonable and convenient without unnecessary disorder, which affects the user's habits. This conference was the real opportunity for the scholars to exchange and discuss views of ways of preserving, standardizing and promoting the good values of Vietnamese script at present and in the future, striving to bring the Vietnamese language - Vietnamese script has its worthy position in relation to other languages- writing in the world.

MAI LINH

National Scientific Conference “History in general education”

On 15th November 2015, in Hà Nội, Scientific Association of History of Vietnam held the National Scientific Conference with the theme of “History in general education”. Participants were the representatives from the Ministry of Education and Training, representatives of the Development Board of *Overall General Education Program* and a range of leading historians in the country, researchers from institutes, universities and many teachers currently in charge of history at schools.

Implementing Resolution No. 40/2000/QH on innovating general education program, the Ministry of Education and Training held compilation of the program and textbooks of grade 1 to grade 12, where the important proposals were integrating history into some other subjects. This draft had received opposite views from researchers, those who are teaching history at schools and people. They were distinctly expressed at the Conference.

In recent years, the status of teaching and learning history in schools has caused much annoyance and anxiety in the society. This has been reflected not only through scores in graduation exams from schools and entrance exams into universities and colleges but also via the findings of sociological surveys, TV playing fields and public opinion. The worst limits of history education is that the majority of pupils do not like learning history, consider it as the subject of events, dates, memory, dryness and boringness. The reason for the above situation is due to “history”, but the contents and methodology and even the work of training history teaching staff. Therefore, many commented that it was essential to renovate the program and methodology of history.

However, before the proposals of integrating history into some other subjects, many researchers and those who are teaching history in schools said that history must be the subject which is

basic, obligatory and independent. Some delegate stressed that at the junior and senior secondary levels, history was truncated, part of whose content was integrated into other subjects, which had no scientific basis and in reality, deleted history from general education.

Responding to many researchers' comments, some representatives from the Development Board of Overall General Education Program of the Ministry of Education and Training stated that history would not disappear but belong to a learning aspect, namely social sciences. Not independence makes history educated and why other subjects except history can be integrated. Integration does not mean the disappearance of a subject but creation of new logics, structure and value. In the spirit of learning and science, representatives from the Ministry of Education and Training asserted they would be available to exchange and receive the reasonable suggestions for amendment, supplement and correction for the best Overall General Education Program.

LÊ HỮU

Scientific workshop: The role of Public opinion of executing the people's right to mastery in social management

On 27th August 2015, in Hochiminh City, the Project KX.03.16/11-15 and the Institute of Human Studies under Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences coordinated the organization of the

workshop on "*The role of Public opinion of executing the people's right to mastery in social management*", which was within the framework of the State-level project "Public opinion of social change in the renovation process". Attending the Workshop were scientists and experts from the Institute of Human Studies, Southern Institute of Social Science, Hochiminh City University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Tôn Đức Thắng University, Hochiminh City Institute for Development Studies.

In the opening speech, Assoc. Prof. and Dr. Mai Quỳnh Nam - the chairman of program KX.03/11-15 emphasized: The process of renovating the country has been initiated from the 6th National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam (1986), which once again identified the great role of the people in the history of social evolution, that is *taking people as the foundation*. After that, the democratic regulations at grassroots level were issued with the motto "the people know, the people discuss, the people do and the people check". The renovation process had resulted in deep social change, which had taken place in social structure and stratification in all walks of life. This stratification was not only in economic relations but also clearly in the people's spiritual life, which showed their transformation of values and behaviors. This fact was reflected in the state of public opinion which manifested the people's comments on the issues

representative of urgent social interests, so the studies of public opinion in the countries all over the world were considered as scientific activities impacting on the system of public authorities in policy proposals. Therefore, the workshop aimed at clarifying more the role of public opinion of executing the people's right to mastery in Vietnam currently.

At the workshop, most of the delegates' views agreed that the people had the role as both motivation for and goal of development. The people had the right to take part in strategic decisions and assess the social situation of development, then propose the objectives of development. Our country is undergoing transformation of the traditional society into the modern one. The target of building a law-governed State is closely attached to the basic institutional issues, e.g. the Constitution, land ownership, implementation of democracy, market mechanism and civil society, which are drawing the public attention. So promoting the role of public opinion in management and administration of the country at present is extremely necessary.

TV.

Scientific Workshop: Literature and arts in building Vietnamese personality

Recently, in Hochiminh City, the Central Council of Theory and Criticism of Literature and Arts has chaired the scientific workshop whose

theme was "Literature and arts with building Vietnamese personality". Participants in the workshop were high-ranking representatives from ministries and departments of central and local level and a variety of writers, poets, artistic and literary critics from provinces and cities within the country. The organizing committee had received nearly 100 papers.

Multi-directional approaches and methods of presenting the latest information about the social, literary and artistic life, the papers and presentation of comments at the workshop generally clarified the background of theory and reality, basic issues and core of literature and arts in cultivating and fostering the soul, building Vietnamese personality in the new stage.

The workshop agreed to the statements: the spiritual culture played an immense role, the generations of writers, poets, researchers and composers of literature and arts had merits in forming the foundation and personality of the Vietnamese. At present, in the trend of global integration, many negative forms have been alternately brought into literature and arts which distracts their great, positive role from building Vietnamese personality.

In the field of literature and arts, the function of entertainment tends to govern that of education. In the reality of literary life, there are few works of high artistic and educational values. Most of them only follows the tastes or

focuses on sensation-driven events to attract readers. This is an alarming situation which adversely affects the life and personality of the current young generation. Youngsters are surrounded by so much violent culture which leads to distortions of personality and ease to commit violent acts when provoked. Law-breakers tend to rejuvenate, causes felonies with sample details of crimes described rampantly in films, on the Internet and social networks. Additionally, the artistic and literary works have no appeal to the public. Many award-winning films are publicly shown for free but few viewers whereas the “market” lines obtain revenues of up to tens of billion. In the market of publication, the rate of books of revolutionary traditions and moral education is low. Books for teenagers are numerous but most of them are with negligence, lack of education and focuses on sales only. Many writers consider literature and arts as unlimited self-expression of their egos, satisfying the needs of trivial entertainment.

5 main solutions to promote the role of literature and arts in building Vietnamese personality were proposed at the closing session of the workshop concentrated on the following contents: 1/ Promote the responsibilities of the writers and artists in building ethics, personality and lifestyle of Vietnamese people; 2/ Strengthen the management of Education and Training and other relevant sectors; Expand cooperation among ministries and departments,

especially coordination between ministries and socio-political organizations and the relevant industries; 3/ Innovate and supplement the mechanisms and policies as well as building and perfecting the award regulations, promoting the duty of work appraisal, appreciating quality, make consistency and large spread of annual artistic and literary awards; 4/ Have regular allowances for writers and artists with outstanding achievements and in difficult circumstances; 5/ Intensify theory and criticism of literature and arts to perform the role of connecting, accompanying and orienting sensitive and creative activities and discover in time and reject abuse signs of foreign literary theory to deny historical traditions, national cultural quintessence, delete the Vietnam revolution’s achievements.

HÀ CHI

International Scientific Conference: Social Work in Vietnam - Challenge of professionalism before the needs of integration and development

On 10th November 2015, in Hà Nội, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the Ministry of Labour - Invalids and Social Affairs, Vietnam Trade Union University and the Social Work Education Enhancement Program (SWEET) in Vietnam jointly organized an International scientific conference on “Social work in Vietnam - Challenge of professionalism before the needs of integration and development” within

the framework of the activities in commemoration of the day of 18th World Social Work (11th November 1997 - 11th November 2015) in Vietnam. Attending the Conference were high-ranking delegates from ministries and departments of central level, international organizations and numerous scholars, experts, scientists, lecturers and students from academies, research institutes, universities and colleges in the country.

75 papers sent to the Organizing Committee of the Conference contributed to clarification of the theoretical and practical values related to the theme of professionalism of the social work job before the needs of integration and development. The Conference took place including 2 plenary sessions and 3 sessions corresponding to the 3 basic issues as follows:

Social work for migrant workers in industrial zones, export processing zones: The Conference mentioned the goals of changing and developing the models of the social work service supply for the migrant workers (children's rights, violence against children in preschools and primary schools; housing problems, women's reproductive health care in industrial zones, community integration, corporate culture, unemployment, labour export, etc.). Besides, the Conference also emphasized the intensive studies on policies, resources training and especially, timely

intervention by the State, organizations, trade unions and social workers to protect the right to fair treatment, make employment opportunities sustainable, sanitary and safe for migrant workers.

Education and training of professional social work in Vietnam: The representatives considered and made clearer the theoretical and practical values of the career of training and improving staff of professional social work currently; especially in determining the objectives, models, programs, contents, methods of training and improvement of transferability between training levels and between vocational and professional training.

Develop the mechanism and policies on social work in Vietnam, the delegates focused on analyzing the strong points, drawbacks, results and experience in studying, deploying and implementing the policies; while pointed out the "gaps" in the legal framework, mechanism and policies for social work activities in general and in the field of social work intervention for migrant workers in particular will continued to be solved in the context of Vietnam today.

Through the session of discussion and experience exchange, the participants gave out the practical solutions to promote professionalism of social work before the needs of integration and development.

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