

# INFORMATION

## **Launch of the Vietnam National Human Development Report 2015 on inclusive growth and the Global Human Development Report 2015**

On Feb 5<sup>th</sup>, 2016, in Hanoi, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS) and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) launched the two reports Vietnam National Human Development Report 2015 on inclusive growth and the Global Human Development Report 2015. Many representatives, experts and researchers from inside and outside the country attended the launch.

*The Vietnam National Human Development Report on inclusive growth 2015* is the result of the extensive collaboration between VASS and UNDP in analyzing a policy framework on inclusive growth to gain new progresses in human development in Vietnam. The report includes three parts. Part 1 highlights the theory background and basic information, including: Chapter 1 mentions the definitions of human development and inclusive growth, the connection to human and equity, and affirms that inclusive growth is the pathway to advance human development; Chapter 2 analyzes the situation and trend of Vietnam human development which is measured by HDI and other related indices; and factors that impact on human development. Part 2 gives out the keynote analysis, including: Chapter

1 clarifies the inclusive level of growth in Vietnam; Chapter 2 explains changing context during the development of Vietnam; the following chapters focus on the three pillars of inclusive growth model, they are: enhanced opportunities through more productive employment (chapter 3), enhanced capabilities through improved healthcare and education (chapter 4), greater resilience through expanding and strengthening social protection (chapter 5). Part 3 proposes some policy reforms, selected plans and activities to achieve inclusive growth, advance human development and deal with challenges in new development stage in Vietnam.

*The Global Human Development 2015* presents an overview of employment issue and refers that the relation between employment and human development is not implicit and inevitable. Employment quality is an important perspective to advance human development. Sustainable employment is considered the major component of sustainable development, it advance human development, decrease and discard negative effects. The report urges that advancing human development through employment requires policies and strategy in three main fields, such as: enhanced opportunities through employment, welfare assurance for labours, and action plans for desired objectives. The

report also sets a target of achieving a new Social Contract, a global agreement and an agenda on sustainable employment. Besides, it announces the data to assess human development in many countries in the world.

In the ceremony, representatives highly assessed the results of the Vietnam National Human Development Report 2015 and the Global Human Development Report 2015, as well as the efforts of the writing team. Also, they contributed ideas to perfect the reports, especially the Vietnam National Human Development Report 2015.

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#### **Report Launching Ceremony: “Vietnam 2035: Toward Prosperity, Creativity, Equity and Democracy”**

On Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016, in Hanoi, Ministry of Planning and Investment together with World Bank Group held the report launching ceremony “Vietnam 2035: Toward Prosperity, Creativity, Equity and Democracy”. Mr Vũ Đức Đam, Vice Prime Minister of Vietnam Government, Chairman of Vietnam 2035 Report Steering Committee attended the ceremony. Besides, participants are leaders of ministries, branches from central to local levels, representatives of World Bank and some international organizations, economic experts, business, and press agencies.

The report include seven chapters: Chapter 1 - *Thirty years of reforms and aspirations for 2035 of Vietnam*;

Chapter 2 - *Enabling economy modernization and promoting competitive capacity of private sector*; Chapter 3 - *Developing innovation capacity*; Chapter 4 - *Urbanization and promoting economic efficiency*; Chapter 5 - *Sustainable environment and strengthening climate resilience*; Chapter 6 - *Promoting equity and social inclusion*; Chapter 7 - *Building modern institutions for an effective state*.

The contents highlight three pillars for development of Vietnam, including: Economic Prosperity with Environment Sustainability; Promoting equity and social inclusion; Bolstering capacity and accountability of state. The report also lays out six key transformations for Vietnam to join the group of high middle income countries in 2035: 1/ Economic modernization with capacity promotion of private sector; 2/ Developing innovation capacity, enabling private sector-led economy; 3/ Managing effective urbanization, strengthening connection between urban area and surroundings; 4/ Achieving sustainable environment and promoting climate-resilience; 5/ Promoting equity and social inclusion for vulnerable groups together with middle-class society; 6/ Building a modern law-governed state with a full market economy, international integration, and high-level democratic society. In particular, if Vietnam expects to become an upper-middle income country in 2035 (15,000-18,000 USD), it must maintain high growth rate in the twenty years time with GNI

per capita increasing at 7% per year equally GDP growth rate on average reaching 8% annually.

In the ceremony, representatives emphasized that the reports were important documents for both Vietnam and World Bank. The collaboration of World Bank during implementation time expresses the commitment of World Bank to the development of Vietnam. Aspirations of Vietnam 2035 must be implemented through institutional reform program and supporting policies that base on three pillars. Only by accelerating productivity growth, calculating environmental damage, building an innovation and technology-based economy, can high-speed growth be maintained. Promoting achievements in equity and social inclusion also requires to take care of people with disabilities as well as to meet the need of an aging middle-class. State governance need to be modern, transparent and law-based. Vietnam is standing in front of a turning point to reform and develop. Opportunities and advantages are many, however challenges and disadvantages are not less. In order to achieve the aspiration for a prosperous, creative, equitable and democratic Vietnam, reform is our only choice.

HOÀI PHÚC

### **The launch of “World development report 2016: Digital dividends”**

On March 14<sup>th</sup> 2016, the World Bank (WB) announced the *World Development Report 2016: Digital Dividends (WDR 2016)* in Hanoi. Prime

Minister Vũ Đức Đam, representatives from WB and press agencies, and many domestic and international experts and researchers attended the ceremony.

The representatives considered that the digital revolution has been transforming the world, supporting flows of information, making good conditions for countries that take the new opportunities. It is definitely an incredible change when more than forty percent of the world's population has communicated by internet. However, does this change make a new lower class in society as twenty percent of the world's population cannot read or write either? Although the topic of WDR 2016 covers the field of technology, it is written from the economic development perspective. The report collects many sample examples of how internet, mobile phones, and other digital technologies that have promoted development, expanded opportunities and improved service delivery. It also denotes that digital dividends have not spread and it is majorly for those who are wealthy, skillful and powerful to benefit the most from the digital revolution.

In order to complete the commitments in the digital age, the report makes two main recommendations, including: discarding the digital divides by making internet accessible, affordable, open and safe; strengthening good governance in order to assure fair competition between firms, training labors to meet requirements in modern economy, and promoting institutional accountability. Digital development strategy requires a broader

vision than communication development strategy. For the sake of maximizing benefit, countries have to create appropriate conditions for technology development: governance tools to advance competition and join the market, skills that help labors to master technology, accountable institutions to citizens. In turn, digital technology could pace of development.

Digital technology can transform economies, societies and public institutions, however, this is not an automatic transformation. Countries that have invested in digital technology and supporting factors will reap deserved dividends while the rest seem to fall behind. Technology which does not base on a stable background will cause risks and polarization and rise inequality. To Vietnam, to develop digital technology, entrepreneurs have to play the key role in applying technology. To the IT companies, beside the target of reaping their profit themselves, they need to express their responsibility to community to create an 'ecosystem' for joint development. IT companies by providing affordable and comfortable services will facilitate citizens' development. In turn, citizens need to endeavor to access information technology and apply it in business and daily life. Citizens should be aware of applying digital technology to assure the benefit for themselves and community.

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### **The first annual conference “The role of civil society in Vietnam’s socio-economic and cultural development”**

On April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, Gender and Community Development Network (GENCOMNET), People’s Participation Working Group (PPWG), and Governance and Public Administration Reform Program (GPAP) co-hosted the first annual conference “The role of civil society in Vietnam’s socio-economic and cultural development” in Hanoi. The conference aimed to build an annual forum to promote both scientific and real discussions on civil society in Vietnam and to shape the trend to develop civil society in the relation with the state and business.

Approximate 130 participants from research institutes, universities, Vietnam and international NGOs, community-based organizations, embassies, entrepreneurs and press agencies attended the conference.

The conference included five sessions emphasizing on major topics as follows: theory background of civil society in the world and in Vietnam; the role of civil society organizations in socio-economic development; Resources for Vietnam’s civil society organizations; Traditional space and network space of civil society in Vietnam; Space for civil society and resolutions to develop.

Speakers discussed on keynote issues for civil society to develop in Vietnam, especially highlighted the challenges that Vietnam’s civil society had been

facing (for example: finance, human resource... Important issues for Vietnam's civil society to develop are defined, namely: (i) think-tanks problems, the necessary of intelligentsia to join civil society to widen its space as well as to improve its quality; (ii) resources (how to transform civil society in both aspects including action strategy/methods and funding); (iii) Lacks in cooperation and share among different groups in civil society; (iv) Changes in unilateral discourse on civil society are not only the position/ranks but also the opportunities to cooperate with others social zones; (v) the capacity of civil society to emphasize on the role to promote social movements, human rights protection, and social supervision

Representatives also mentioned that in recent years, the Vietnamese have been more and more proactive in

participating social activities, proved by the increasing number of civil society organizations. The civil society in Vietnam has been playing different roles in many fields such as poverty reduction, elimination of gender-based violence, supporting vulnerable groups, environment protection, climate change adaptation, human rights protection, combating discrimination treatment... The civil society in Vietnam is growing rapidly within the national development and integration process and makes it more and more effective. Therefore, if better facilitated, civil society will bring more efficiency for development, especially in the fields that the state lacks resources to run.

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