

## NEW BOOKS REVIEW

PROF.DR. NGÔ ĐỨC THỊNH (Chief author, 2016), **Faiths of the Peoples of Vietnam**, Social Sciences Publishing House, Hanoi, 432 pages.

Religious belief is not just part of the cultural and spiritual life, but also organic component closely linked to the daily cultural activities of the community. Contents of the book are a collection of research articles of many authors on religious and cultural beliefs. The approach is not purely of religious studies, but it is essentially cultural studies approach, with religious belief as a focus, integrating the folk cultural activities, making up a whole belief-culture or culture-belief.

With 13 chapters, apart from some theoretical perspectives and methods related to religious and cultural beliefs, the contents of the book refer to some specific folk beliefs, such as ancestor worship (family and nation worship, totemism; worship of village tutelary god and communal festival typical for community, neighbourhood and village cohesion; divine beliefs (god worship), as the result of the process of acculturation among the indigenous beliefs and of the influence of Chinese Taoism, giving birth to many religious faiths like the Paternity Faith, Maternity Faith,..., Saint Trần worship, Four Immortals Worship (Saint Tản, Chử Đồng Tử, Saint Gióng, Saint Mother Liễu Hạnh) and other national heroes worship; professional beliefs such as rituals and customs related to agricultural activities (fertility rites,

worship of Four Goddesses of Cloud, Rain, Thunder and Lightning, worship of Emperor Shen Nong [God of Farming]...), to fishery (Whale worship, Dead Fishermen worship), and worship of patron saints of jobs and of traditional craft villages.

TA.

PROF. NGUYỄN ĐÌNH HƯƠNG (Chief author, 2016), **Urbanization Strategy under the Direction of Sustainable Development**, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 276 pages.

Urbanization and urban development are one of the driving forces of a country. Therefore, urbanization strategy is the most concerned and top-ranked target of all countries, including Vietnam. In the context of international integration and climate change, urbanization strategy requires long-term vision in the direction of the sustainable development. Urbanization strategy towards sustainability in Vietnam for the period to 2025 with the vision to 2050 is a major issue related to the strategy of industrialization and modernization and sustainable development.

Contents of the book refer to the common problems of urbanization strategy under the direction of sustainable development (chapter 1), including: conceptions, nature, criteria system of urbanization evaluation under the direction of sustainable development; the process of urbanization in the world and in Vietnam; the relationship between urbanization and sustainable development; the experiences

of some countries in urbanization strategy under the direction of sustainable development and lessons for Vietnam. Based on analysis of the *urbanization situation from sustainable development perspective* in Vietnam for the period 2010-2015 (Chapter 2), the author exposes the points of view and the directions for *urbanization under the direction of sustainable development in Vietnam for the period to 2025 and with the vision to 2050* (chapter 3), pointing out the system of cities that include special cities, big cities, medium, small and specific cities that are disposed on three bands of territory (delta and midland; mountainous region and Central Highlands; coastal region and islands) and on regions (Red river delta, Cửu Long river delta and the South East region, midlands and Northern mountains, Central Highlands, North Central Part and Central coast). The author also points out the conditions and solutions to implement that strategy.

HB.

DR. HỒ XUÂN MAI (2016), **Vietnamese Language and the Vietnamese Culture Development**, National Political Publishing House, Hanoi, 410 p.

Language and cultural history of a nation have an extremely special relationship. They develop in parallel, survive and transform. Vietnamese language and Vietnamese culture are the same as that too. The process of development of the Vietnamese language and Vietnamese culture always attach to each other, leave a "hallmark" in each other (the hallmark of one in another was represented

throughout the history of country building since our ancestors). In the flow of the culture of Vietnam there always was the contribution of Vietnamese language, and on the other hand, the development of the Vietnamese language is a proof of the culture development of Vietnam.

With the approach to culture by linguistic thought and approach to language by cultural thought, the author cited many arguments of experts nationwide and abroad for each specific problem. Besides, the author also uses more factual materials to prove the raised issues. At each specific stage of history, the author has shown the characteristics of Vietnamese language development and its role in the development of Vietnamese culture; and vice versa he also shows the imprints of Vietnamese culture in the process of Vietnamese language development. In addition, the author tries to concretize the responsibilities to protect and develop the culture and Vietnamese language as well as the methods and measures to implement these responsibilities. The above issues are argued and explained specifically and in details by the author in 5 chapters: 1/ Theoretic bases. 2/ Vietnamese language and the Vietnamese culture development. 3/ Vietnamese language and the culture development of the South-West region. 4/ Preservation and development of Vietnamese language and Vietnamese culture. 5/ Thinking about Vietnamese language and Southeast Asia languages in the context of globalization.

TK.

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