

INFORMATION OF SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

International Conference: Ancient Japanese Book Collection of the Social Sciences Library of Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences - Issues and Potential

On October 14, 2020, in Hanoi, the Japan Foundation as a joint sponsor, in collaboration with the Institute of Social Sciences Information under the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences organized an international conference: “Ancient Japanese Book Collection of the Social Sciences Library of Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences - Issues and Potential”. The mixed onsite-online conference was held at the headquarters of the Institute of Social Sciences Information and with 9 bridge lines in Japan, France and Malaysia. Attending the conference were representatives of domestic and international departments, organizations, universities as well as many researchers from research institutes of Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences, key staff of the Institute Social Sciences Information. The conference proceedings consists of 19 papers.

The papers and discussions were divided into 2 sessions. *Session 1* with the topic “Ancient Japanese Book Collection: Values and Research Potentials” includes 6 presentations by Japanese, French and Vietnamese managers and researchers presenting their results of initial survey and research on the old Japanese book collection. They also discuss the potentials, prospects and research orientations on the basis of exploiting the content of ancient Japanese collection.

Session 2 with the topic “Ancient Japanese Book Collection: Preservation and

Exploitation” includes 7 presentations by Japanese, Malaysian and Vietnamese managers, researchers, providing an overview on the current preservation of the old Japanese collection archived at the Social Sciences Library; share issues and experiences in preserving, managing and exploiting ancient collection values.

There is a general perception that the Social Sciences Library currently stores various documents in various formats (newspapers - magazines, royal horour conferment, pictures, records, maps, microfilm, microfiche, EVA film, film-strip and cut film, drawings, and inscriptions) and in different languages (Vietnamese, English, French, Russian, Chinese, ancient Chinese, ancient Japanese, ethnic minorities, etc.) including ancient precious and rare documents inherited from the French School of Asian Studies. The ancient Japanese book collection, among others, with more than 11,000 titles is considered one of the most valuable and rare collections on Indochina archived in Southeast Asia.

This collection has been currently archived at the Social Science Library covering Japan’s development history, is the result of Japanese awareness and efforts to propagate their culture, which partly demonstrates long-term cultural exchange relationship between Vietnam and Japan. It is not only a collection of rare and precious documents, but also the most massive collection of books and magazines among the overseas archives about Japan. It is not only valuable in the field of information - library, but also in cultural, historical, political, and diplomatic aspects.

The conference is a valuable opportunity for attendees to exchange academic knowledge, professional experience and open up a long-term vision for the preservation and exploitation of cultural and historical values of the Japanese collection. Accordingly, the diverse historical, cultural values and special features of the collection are presented. At the same time, the actual assessment of those values on the basis of in-depth research, cooperation in multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary research on the content of the documents should be done. Besides, there are several comments on the preservation, storage and promotion of the values of ancient Japanese book collection as well as the ancient and rare documents inherited from EFEO currently archived at the Social Sciences Library.

PV.

Scientific Workshop: “Institutional Reform for Private Economic Development”

On September 15, 2020 in Hanoi, the Institute of State and Law (under the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences) in collaboration with the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Institute (Germany) organized a scientific workshop “Institutional reform for the development of private sector” with the participation of a large number of researchers from hosting organizations and domestic and foreign scholars and managers. The workshop was divided into 2 sessions with 9 presentations.

Session 1 - The need for institutional reform for the development of private sector

The presentations clarified the entities in the connotation of the private economy (including: enterprises, private companies; individual economy, individual households)

and the current situation (other entities of the private sector must be included such as agricultural households; self-employed individuals, business individuals; freelancers; other and new entities in the digital economy like selling online, working on digital platforms, etc.)

Delegates also gave some comments on the administrative reform in the period 2020-2025 and recommendations to partly pave the way for the development of private sector; analysis of market economy institutions for the private sector from an integration perspective. They clarified some barriers to the exercise of the right to free business (such as unreasonable simplification of investors’ obligations in the process of entering the market; or there are still many regulations restricting the right to free business; for example, there is no regulation on transition from private enterprises to joint stock companies) and ownership of private business entities (such as individuals have no ownership rights to certain assets, resources, including land).

Session Two - Support for private sector to integrate and develop

The presentations and opinions at the second session analyzed opportunities and challenges from the EU-Vietnam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA) and the EU-Vietnam Investment Protection Agreement (EVIPA) for private sector in Vietnam. Tax reform (corporate income tax, contractor tax, ...) as required by EVFTA and EVIPA agreements, institutional reforms for the private sector to link with foreign-invested sector are also discussed.

(continue to page 55)