

INFORMATION

Scientific conference: President Hồ Chí Minh and National liberation path

On the occasion of 121 years anniversary of President Hồ Chí Minh birth day (5/19/1890 – 5/19/2011) and 100 years since He left Vietnam to find the way to liberate Vietnam (6/5/1911 – 6/5/2011), recently, in Hanoi, University of Social Sciences and Humanity (National University), Hồ Chí Minh vestige area in President Palace, Hồ Chí Minh Museum and Truth National political Publishing house cooperated and held the Scientific conference "*President Hồ Chí Minh and his National liberation way*". The conference attracts crowded attendance of scholars from presided agencies and interesting researcher.

More than 70 speeches sent to the Conference and focus on historical context of Vietnam at that time, when Nguyễn Tất Thành was determined to find the way to liberate Vietnam with predecessors, with his patriotism, love to people and desire to liberate country. Many documents about his itinerary to find the liberation way and universal truth of President Hồ Chí Minh were published at the Conference. Speeches also clear out the goal and itinerary for country's liberation of Hồ Chí Minh.

Representatives also analyses and point out elements related and impacted on His choice for National liberation, proletarian revolution of Hồ Chí Minh. Key contents of National liberation way in Hồ Chí Minh's thought, national

independence attached to socialism is the issued attract most attention of the conference, especially revolutionary points, creatively develop Marxism-Leninism of Him about colony revolution, building Vietnamese Communist Party, Great National Unity.

Propagation of Marxism – Leninism and role of President Hồ Chí Minh in founding, forming Vietnamese Communist Party as well as Democratic Republic of Vietnam and His great contribution for Vietnam revolution and world revolution movement is one of the important contents at the conference.

Theoretical and practical values in Hồ Chí Minh's thought about morality, lifestyle... converging and crystallizing values of Western – Eastern culture in His thinking and manners are important content discussed at the conference to help Vietnamese communist party and state to apply appropriately in the work of building up Vietnamese in context of international integration and globalization.

PV.

International conference: "Approach Asian literature from modern Western theory: application, compatibility, challenges and opportunities"

In two days, March, 14-15/2011, in Hanoi Institutes of Literature, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS) cooperated with Harvard-Yenching Institute and Japan Foundation held the International Conference "Approach

Asian literature from modern Western theory: application, compatibility, challenges and opportunities". This is the second International conference held by cooperation of Institutes of Literature and Harvard-Yenching Institute since 2006 up to now. Attending the conference were many scientists from VASS, domestic and international research institutes and universities

Compared to founding history of literary study and social sciences in the world, study literature in Vietnam began later... Create this kind of science, besides the tradition of criticizing and appreciating Asian literature works, scientific knowledge of the Western about social sciences and humanity plays an important role. During last century the acceptance and application of knowledge as well as literature study methods in Vietnam gain significant achievements in flash back and national values, like introduce and approach to world's literature.

At the conference, representatives listened to 22 speeches presented at 3 sub-committees and focused on these contents: General issues of theory and apply theory in practice; Apply western theory in folk literature study and pre-modern literature study.

The representatives agreed with the idea that, since the end of 19th century when Europe and the Western sent troops to Asia and the Eastern by crusades, then contacts and exchanges by force happened in almost all nations... Many Asian countries considered that was historical premises leading to the first entry for the Western, and the first

country is Japan, then China, India, Vietnam and South Asia countries..

Achievements of initiative researchers such as Trương Tửu applied psychoanalytic of Sigmund Freud into studying "Truyện Kiều"; or Marxist doctrine to study Nguyễn Công Trứ, showed modern western theory not only found the way to Vietnam but also proved compatibility with national literature phenomenon. New applications bring effectiveness within literature sciences like theoretical tests. In the situation of contacting and circulating multi theoretical system nowadays, if we do not acquire or apply thoroughly and experienced, it will cause gross, lack of sense to realize shortcomings of the system objectively

Practice of Vietnam's literature and of Asian countries show that, Western theory can decode literary phenomenon happened under impact or influence of western during contact and exchange of literature, and also decode literary traditions impured with national characters. However, when we recognize ability of western theory, we have to recognize exception, blind spot that theory can not explain.

From actual of world life, tendency of integration is being considered as indispensable trend which can not be reversed... However, literature, as important element of national literature structure, has to confirm itself by other rule to survive and develop, that is the effort to exist in the world in basic values, common values and it must maintain its specific traits.

The light of theory, even of the western

or the eastern, will only be useful if it is used as a tool of discovery for the fine arts secret, help us to discover the inner rule of fine arts, potential values of literature. In the other hand, the great power of literature theory does not disperse literature of each nation or change literature to the same mix, but it makes of each nation or change literature to the same mix, but it makes unique characters of literature become more attractive and clear.

Through this conference, scientists in many nations have a chance to be closer in the same attention, aspiration, bring theory's position to as "philosophic awareness of each literature". In different points of approach, with literary reality which does not like Vietnam, speeches and exchanges of ideas of scholars brought multi-side viewpoints and valuable experience for study of Vietnam literature currently as well as in the future.

After the conference, the Institute of Literature and Harvard-Yenching Institute will co-hold a presentation about "Comparative literature: theory and application" from March, 16-19/2011 at the Institute of Literature.

HÀ AN

Conference: Sharing experience, strengthening cooperation in education and climate change in Vietnam

On 3/29/2011, in Hanoi, Conference: "Sharing experience, strengthening cooperation in education and climate change in Vietnam" was held under the chair of Ministry of Education and Training, with the cooperation of non-government organizations in Vietnam and

international, including: Live&Learn, Plan International (PLAN), The Flemish Association for Development Cooperation and Technical Assistance (VVOB) and Save the Children. The conference is the first event to share and change experience about education and climate change in Vietnam, to push up the education to deal with climate change in Vietnam and speed up sustainable development.

The conference was attended by representatives of agencies, local to share experience of climate change education and reduce natural calamity as well as build up a common cooperation mechanism in climate change education in Vietnam.

At the conference, representatives raised and discussed about successful model and lesson about climate change education and reduce natural calamity in Vietnam. That was: experience in reduce risk of natural calamity and impact of climate change in a model which children are center from mountainous area in the north, coastal central, to Mekong Delta River supported by Plan International (PLAN) and Save the Children; VVOB and Hanoi National University of Education exchange ideas about integrating environment and climate changes to high school education through teachers and lecturers training programs; Action for the City introduced way to change behavior of citizen.

Also presented at the conference was plan to deal with climate change of Education and training branch from 2011 -2015 made by representative of Ministry of Education and Training,

with the goal to improve awareness and ability to deal with climate change in each specific period; skills and behavior for education branch and community before climate change.

NGOs in Vietnam express their willing to share experience and material documents with Ministry of Education and Training to build up national forum for climate change education to perfect Educational documents for all school levels.

Standing side by side with Vietnam during the fight against climate change, Save the children, Action for the City and many other NGOs had shared their experiences and commented about climate change education in Vietnam in coming time. Representatives from other levels, local, agencies also shared experiences about climate change education and reduce natural calamity as well as build up a common cooperation mechanism.

The conference expected that lesson from such experience can attract support and cooperation from domestic and international organization, community and society to bring climate change education and reduce natural calamity into education program of Vietnam.

PHUONG HÀ

Scientific conference: "Vietnam's history in context of integration and globalization – Theoretical issues and approaching method"

On 3/4/2011, in Hanoi, University of Social Sciences and Humanity, Hanoi National University and University of Social Sciences and Humanity, Hồ Chí

Minh National University co-held the scientific conference with the topic "Vietnam's history in context of integration and globalization – Theoretical issues and approaching method". This was the 3rd conference of Historian in Vietnam about this issue after the first conference held in 1966 and the second held in 1991.

Speaking at the opening speech, Prof. Dr. Vũ Minh Giang, Deputy Director of Hanoi National University, Vice president of Vietnam's historical science Association stressed: history is important as a knowledge tool for people to aware about natural laws. In addition to historic documents: ability to process and exploit documents, methodology... is very significant for value of study. In current integration context, together with new development tendency of science, many questions are raised for history: where are we among International historical science, allocation of aspects of history; how Vietnam's history integrates, establish connection between domestic and international historians...? This conference need to bring out the meaning of such issues; contribute to find out the development way for Vietnam's history in next period.

At the conference, representative exchanged ideas and discussed at 4 sub-committees: Sub-committee 1 evaluate reality of *Theoretical issues*; Sub-committee 2 discussed about *approaching method to history*; Sub-committee 3 *study history – new awareness*; Sub-committee 4 *study and lecturing; training about history*.

At the conference, the participants

agreed with the idea that Vietnam's history spent more than half a century of construction and development and it has made important achievements, have contributed greatly to education, the struggle for national liberation, to the construction and development of the country. History became one of the key aspects of the social sciences and humanities; it has been directly involved in solving major problems in theory and practice for the national construction and defense. However, it must recognize the fact that in contemporary Vietnam's history, in the context of the profound changes in the world and in domestic, there are still many limitations and inadequacies. If in 1960, 1970, in Vietnam's history appeared much excellent work, especially in the field of history against invasion, but now we do not have many pinnacle historical works, although historic publications seem to appear a lot. Meanwhile, the foreign history has the resounding works of research on Vietnam's history even in Vietnam. Besides, there are many problems posed by the country, the society under the responsibility of history, such as quality historic training, education about history at all levels, from school to University is not effective ... On the situation has many causes, including reasons related to the theoretical issues, methodologies and approaches in researching and teaching history. In a certain aspect, we are outdated compared to the world at a very fundamental aspect of history.

In this conference, in the context of globalization, the participants also

considered the issues raised in the study of contemporary history, the image data source in the study recent and modern history and history is closer than historical reality...

KHÁNH CHI

International conference: Belief of worship for ancestor in modern society

On 13/4/2011, in Việt Trì city, Phú Thọ Provincial People's Committee, Vietnam National Commission for UNESCO, the Ministry of Culture, Sport and Tourism jointly organized an international scientific conference "*Belief of worship for ancestor in modern society.*"

Attending the conference were representatives of the Ministry of Culture - Sports and Tourism, leaders of Phu Tho province, Ms. Katherine Muller Marin, UNESCO Representative Office in Hanoi with many scientists, managers, researchers for Vietnam cultural studies and cultural researchers from 16 countries and territories such as Japan, China, Australia, Canada, the United States...

In this conference, participants with reviews, analysis of cultural values-the history of worship for ancestors of the country in general, Vietnam in particular, including the King Hùng worship. The conference was also an opportunity to promote and introduce to international friends the invaluable belief to worship King Hùng in Vietnam, and noted the comments of Vietnam's and international scientists around conservation belief to worship King Hùng, as an intangible cultural

heritage. Since we can set up national action plan for this invaluable cultural heritage.

130 speeches submitted to the conference, discussed in the six subcommittees, referring to different aspects of the belief to worship ancestors of the peoples, nations in general and Vietnam in particular, including worship King Hùng: 1/ Theory, research approaching method to worship of ancestors in Vietnam and the world; 2/ Belief to worship ancestors in Vietnam and the world: practice, thought ceremony, the value of history, cultural value; 3/ Belief to worship King Hùng in Vietnam: the formation, development, historical value, cultural value; 4/ Modification of belief of King Hùng in modern society and conservation, promoting the belief to worship ancestors and the worship of King Hùng in context of integration and globalization.

At the workshop, participants agreed that, in Vietnam, ancestor worship is a longstanding practice, exist in all ethnic groups, which shows the moral tradition of remembering the source. Therefore, Vietnamese worship King Hùng - who opened the ancient state of Văn Lang is a natural way. Hundreds of years in Vietnam in general and in particular the provinces of Phú Thọ, King Hùng was considered the ancestor of the nation, a royal saint and spiritual closeness to the people and each village community, he is essential fulcrum, god created cohesion for the national sustainability.

Worship King Hùng is not a religion but a belief, deeply rooted and has vitality of

Vietnamese cultural life, education, filial piety, politeness, good heart to improve human character. Belief to worship King Hùng of Vietnamese brings its own character, the whole nation regarded him as the National ancestor, the countries have a common anniversary date for his death.

Held immediately after the death anniversary of King Hùng, the conference is completed step in the process of nomination Belief to worship King Hùng is non-material cultural heritage of humanity

VĂN HÀ

First ever index enables citizens to monitor local government's performance

Hồ Chí Minh City, Hà Tĩnh, Bình Định, Đà Nẵng, Hải Dương and Thừa Thiên – Huế have the highest scores in aggregate governance and public administration performance index. This is a result of the policy research entitled “The Vietnam Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance Index (PAPI) in 2010: Measuring citizens’ experiences”, released earlier on March 31, 2011 jointly by the Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front (VFF), the Centre for Development Studies and Community Development (CECODES) under the Vietnam Union of Science and Technology Associations (VUSTA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Vietnam.

Overall PAPI 2010 findings show that while the dimension-level analysis highlights varying degrees of

performance, four tiers of provinces can be observed in the aggregate performance index (using a scale from 6 to 60 points and yet taking into account confidence intervals in statistics). Kiên Giang, Cao Bằng, Đắk Lắk, Điện Biên, Yên Bái, Lạng Sơn, Lai Châu and Kon Tum rank in the last tier with lowest performance scores.

“The Vietnam Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance Index (PAPI) 2010” provides objective and evidencebased measures of the performance of governance, public administration and public service delivery at the provincial level. PAPI 2010 presents assessments of the effectiveness and efficiency of provincial performance in the areas under study. The assessment is based on experiences from 5,568 citizens with different social backgrounds selected from 30 provinces in 2010 following robust and rigorous sampling procedures, through face-to-face interviews of the citizens’ direct experiences and observation.

The philosophy behind PAPI is to consider citizens to be “end-users of public administrative services” who are capable of monitoring and assessing governance and public administration at their local levels. PAPI is developed in the context of increasing demands for engaging citizens in monitoring and evaluation of policy implementation to feed evidence for subsequent policymaking.

PAPI captures performance levels in six dimensions, including (i) Participation at Local Levels, (ii) Transparency, (iii) Vertical Accountability, (iv) Control of Corruption, (v) Public Administrative Procedures, and (vi) Public Service Delivery. Each dimension consists of several sub-dimensions that reflect some of the most relevant areas of contemporary Vietnam.

PAPI is concerned with what is happening at the aggregate level of governance and public administration. It also examines what is happening on individual aspects of public administration, as provinces may excel on one dimension but require improvements on others.

With the use of a dashboard, local governments can monitor an array of indicators that illustrate separate facets of governance, public administration and public service delivery, and find appropriate measures to improve their performance.

PAPI thus provides objective data and information for policy makers at the national and local levels to examine their policy impact and withdraw lessons to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the state and government apparatuses, as well as to enhance the level of satisfaction of citizens with the services the state and the government provide to them.

(www.undp.org.vn)