

## INFORMATION OF SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

### **International Conference “EFEO Photographic Archives in the Social Science Library of the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences”**

On November 25, 2021, in Hanoi, the Institute of Social Sciences Information, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences cooperated with the French School of Asian Studies (The École Française d’Extrême-Orient - EFEO) held an international conference “EFEO Photographic Archives in the Social Science Library of the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences”. The hybrid-webinar event, attended by Prof. Christophe Marquet - Director of EFEO Paris and Dr. Isabelle Poujoi - Expert in charge of photography at EFEO Paris, Mr. Philippe Le Failler - Chief Representative of EFEO Office in Hanoi and several Vietnamese scholars. The conference is within the framework of the cooperation project between the Institute of Social Sciences Information and EFEO Paris to develop a joint website for collections of photos taken by EFEO staff and equipment in the early twentieth century, which is currently archived at EFEO Paris and the Library of Social Sciences.

The Social Sciences Library managed by the Institute of Social Sciences Information currently stores many ancient documents handed over by EFEO in 1957. In particular, one of the rarest and most precious collections of nearly 60,000 photos of Eastern studies collected and studied by many generations of experts, researchers, archeologists, architects, historians, etc. contributed to the former EFEO and the later Institute of Social Sciences Information.

The Collection is divided into 20 major themes such as photos of Vietnam’s historical sites (communal houses, pagodas, temples, shrines, palaces, churches, palaces, citadels, and tombs), ethnic groups (those in the Northern mountainous areas, on the Central Highlands or coastal fishermen), of cultural activities (religious festivals, worshiping customs, mediumship, trance singing, etc). Notably, there are photos of relics, archaeological artifacts, excavation processes, excavation areas in some regions in Vietnam (more than 3,000 photos), photos of cultural relics, Cham artifact relics, towers in My Son Sanctuary (more than 2,000 photos), which are historical documents of great value for current studies.

The presentations of French and Vietnamese scholars highlighted the great contributions of the EFEO Photographic Archives at the Library of Social Sciences. They are not only useful in the field of social sciences and humanities studies but also serve as a critical scientific basis for restoration, especially using 3D for cultural, historical, archeological works, and future religious sites. Since then, researchers have oriented towards the preservation, storage, and promotion of this photographic collection. They agreed that the richness and diversity of the EFEO Photographic Database have become valuable legacies for prospective social sciences and humanities researchers in exploring the national cultural heritage deposits and it is the most valid reference for the restoration of cultural and historical works that have been destroyed by nature or war.

Within the framework of the conference, an exhibition on the EFEO Photographic Archives being stored at the Social Sciences Library was organized by the Institute of Social Sciences Information.

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### **Scientific Forum “Covid-19 Pandemic and Digital Transformation in Vietnam”**

On December 24, 2021, in Hanoi, a hybrid-webinar scientific forum “Covid-19 Pandemic and Digital Transformation in Vietnam” was organized by the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS) to assess and examine the multi-dimensional impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the digital transformation process in Vietnam in all fields, industries and localities across the country, thereby making recommendations and proposing solutions to accelerate it.

At the opening ceremony, Assoc.Prof.Dr. Bui Nhat Quang - President of VASS commented that while the Covid-19 pandemic has hurt the whole economic, political and social life, it brings an opportunity for Vietnam to accelerate the digital transformation process to realize the dual goals of “safe and flexible adaptation to and effective control of the Covid-19 pandemic” and “economic development and ensuring social security to achieve new normalcy” following the Resolution No. 52-NQ/TW dated September 27, 2019, of the Politburo.

The forum took place in two sessions. Session 1: Covid-19 pandemic: Digital transformation opportunities and challenges for the world and Vietnam; Session 2: The Covid-19 pandemic and digital transformation in key industries and enterprises in Vietnam under its impacts.

The participants all acknowledge the positive impact of digital transformation in all areas of social life, especially in the

context of the complicated evolution of the Covid-19 pandemic. However, many difficulties and challenges also arise in the digital transformation process in Vietnam, that is, inequality in accessing digital transformation of disadvantaged groups in society (remote areas), the need to build an infrastructure system of institutions, laws, social institutions (in terms of culture and education) to gradually respond to the requirements of the current digital transformation, and the inevitable and widespread digital transformation in line with Vietnam’s conditions and context. It is necessary to be aware of the importance of information security, cyber security, and ensuring user privacy, along with maintaining the stability of the transmission line. These issues need to be recognized and resolved in Vietnam today.

They also added that while the economic crisis triggered by the Covid-19 outbreak has been destructive, it facilitates economic restructuring and building towards a green and sustainable model. The Covid-19 crisis helps Vietnam to quickly transition to a green economy that Vietnam’s Socio-Economic Development Strategy for the period 2021-2030 has identified.

Proposals on solutions and appropriate policy recommendations at the forum towards the successful implementation of digital transformation in Vietnam in the coming time have profound practical and predictive significance.

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### **Cultural Information Workshop 2021: Cultures of ethnic groups in Vietnam in the context of modernization and integration**

On December 15, 2021, in Hanoi, a cultural information workshop 2021 of “Cultures of

ethnic groups in Vietnam in the context of modernization and integration” organized by the Institute of Cultural Studies (under the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences) has attracted a large number of scholars, graduate students in the social sciences and staff of the Institute of Cultural Studies.

While the process of modernization and the strong regional and international integration that has taken place in Vietnam over the past few decades has greatly impacted the cultural life of the communities in all aspects, they have not created homogenization, “dissolving” or destruction of the traditional culture of local communities. Instead, a new variety of cultural practices was born. In the new context, communities, ethnic groups, and social groups, depending on their self-determination and cultural traditions as well as their own needs and goals, create cultural identities, practices, lifestyles, and livelihood strategies, which are not identified in one form or dissolved as previously assumed by many researchers of modernization. At the conference, cultural researchers presented and discussed new research results on the relationship between modernization, integration, and cultural practices of ethnic groups and regions in Vietnam from both theoretical and practical aspects.

Out of 58 selected papers, 06 papers were presented including “The Restoration of relics and festival of Xa Tac temple (Mong Cai, Quang Ninh province): traditional consciousness, contemporary needs” by Nguyen Thi Phuong Cham; “Becoming a citizen of a heritage area: cultural adaptation of the Hmong in the Dong Van

rock plateau, Ha Giang province” by Tran Duc Tung; “Facebook - communication on social networks and the creation of personal identity” by Dang Thi Dieu Trang; “Chinese films in Vietnam: spreading and receiving culture through the Internet in the integration period” by Dinh My Linh; “Chinese love films in the cultural and spiritual life of Hanoi’s youth today” by Hoang Phan Hanh Hien and Luong Thu Trang; “The militarization of language against the Covid-19 epidemic: an interpretation from a cultural perspective” by Vu Hoang Hieu.

Based on rich field materials and from a contemporary cross-sectional perspective, the papers focus on different forms of cultural practice and expression among different ethnic groups in contemporary contexts in terms of livelihoods, religious practices, beliefs, festivals, music, art, movies, indigenous knowledge, identity building, etc. Thereby, the different manifestations of the modernization process, the integration in different aspects of social life in regions and ethnic groups as well as their impact on cultural life are better understood.

Attendees engaged in lively discussions on topics such as the relationship between tradition and modernity; the dimensions of exchange, integration, and acculturation in the contemporary context; the impacts of technology, social networks, and foreign cultural factors on the movement of Vietnamese culture in the context of modernization and integration, etc., which opens up several new and fascinating research directions in the future.

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