

SOCIAL SCIENCES INFORMATION YEARBOOK NO.7

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Social Sciences Information Yearbook No.7 published by the Institute of Social Sciences includes many research articles and consolidated information on Vietnamese and global sciences, politics, economics, culture, and society with a focus on the year 2011. The articles dwell mainly on three areas: maritime issues, social sciences, literature, art, and culture.

1. Maritime issues

Social Sciences Information Yearbook No.7 mentions the Vietnam Maritime Law approved by the National Assembly on June 21, 2012, which will take effect on January 1, 2013. The said law includes 55 articles, 7 chapters, and many regulations on maritime territories and the ownership of land rights to these territories.

The law stipulates the maritime boundaries and channelling of nautical traffic, as well as restricted areas. Authorized entities include the army,



police, and appropriate patrol forces.

Vietnamese marine law requires that the government resolve disputes over territories and islands in an

amicable way and in conformity to the United Nation's 1982 convention on marine law and to international laws and practices. Vietnamese agencies, organizations, and citizens are responsible for upholding national rights to the waters, islands, archipelagos, and natural resources owned by Vietnam.

Pertaining to this issue, Prof., PhD. Nguyễn Hồng Thao authored the article "The East Sea – three phases, four challenges, two approaches, and one sole belief", which suggests that the history of disputes over the East Sea

may be divided into “three phases”: 1- Dispute over the islands up until 1958; 2 - Disputes over extended territories as a result of the development of international marine laws lasting from 1958 to 2009; 3- Managing and resolving disputes in an amicable fashion and ways to approach the issue from 2009 onward. “The four challenges” include ownership rights (a preliminary condition to resolving maritime disputes), the “bull’ tongue” (a testament to China’s laying claim to islands within the bull’s tongue), island policies and ethnical democracy. “The two approaches” refer to the United States’ policies, and China’s and ASEAN’s perspective on relevant issues, aiming to manage the dispute and reach a long-term resolution with the “single belief” that countries regard one another with respect and coexist in a state of peace.

Maritime security is a relatively new concept to which there exist many different approaches, all of which place focus on the preservation of order and the management of maritime territories for the sake of human progress. In turbulent regions such as the East Sea, where territorial disputes are complex and escalating, maritime security is an important matter that encompasses security both in a traditional sense and a non-traditional sense. This problem can be resolved only if threats are controlled and managed. In an effort to find tools to manage threats to maritime security, in her article “1982 United Nations

Convention on Law of the Sea on Maritime Security in the East Sea”, Ph.D Nguyễn Thị Lan Anh focuses on identifying threats, analyzing the effect of the 1982 UN Convention on these threats, and determining the role of the convention which is meant to serve as a multilateral legal framework whose purpose is to help nations make use of and manage the seas in a fair, peaceful, sustainable, and respectful way.

2. Issues pertaining to social sciences and the humanities

As Prof., Ph.D. Trần Ngọc Thêm would have it, the world we live in poses two main problems that relate to social sciences: life’s questions must be answered; and the necessity to be ahead of the times so as to make accurate projections of society and mankind. Social sciences are out of date for three main reasons. Traditionally, objects have been held in higher importance than humans have. This is due to a materialistic frame of mind, which is gaining prevalence. Those who study social sciences have a much harder time than those who study natural sciences and technology. Social science problems are divided into three groups by the author: problems unique to social sciences, problems relating to the relationship between social sciences and natural sciences and technology; and problems with social sciences as seen from the perspective of society. Vietnam and the likes are characterized by three things: sciences are slow to advance,

growing economy, old and defective management methods not yet abandoned. Hence, social sciences around the world have a long way to go before becoming “mature”. Vietnamese social sciences in particular, must be modernized and fortified to stand on its own. Managers ought to understand and respect the characteristics of social sciences. They must adopt a culture that favours researching and developing social sciences in Vietnam.

The article “Integration of humanity and humanity science” by Prof., PhD. Trần Văn Đoàn is essentially an effort to find answers to two questions: How are we adapted to the field of social science as practiced internationally? Why must we adapt from a cultural point of view as well? Consider the differences between cultural adaptation and assimilation. The author has the following to say: First, it is essential to showcase the critical importance of culture and its role in human, societal, and intellectual development. Second, leaders play a crucial role in the development of cultural science. They must have vision and passion, and they must not be followers of natural science with a narrow, obtuse perspective on culture. We agree to the rules, conditions, and terms of “the game” not because we are forced to, but because of our will to adapt and to contribute rather than to reap immediate benefits.

In his article “Vietnamese science over the past year”, by Prof., PhD. Nguyễn

Văn Tuấn points out scientific and research achievements as recognized by international magazines in 2011. The author acknowledges that Vietnamese sciences have yet to see a breakthrough. Vietnamese scientific publications amount to a mere 25% of Thailand’s and Malaysia’s total volume and only 15% of Singapore’s. Because scientific infrastructure is poor, most research projects carried out in Vietnam are theory-based or deal only with low-level technology rather than advanced topics such as biology or genetics. If there are no revolutionary changes to policies that support scientific research, the field of science in Vietnam may very well be stagnant over the next 10 years. And the goal of industrialization and mass education will likely not be achieved by 2020.

From an objective point of view, Vietnamese sciences are backward and inferior to global science. From another point of view, however, Vietnamese sciences can be seen as a catalyst to the country’s taking a different growth approach, one that is dynamic, positive, and effective. Prof., PhD. Hồ Sĩ Quý’s article discusses the issue of “Social sciences and Humanities in period of integration”. It takes into perspective science in Vietnam and attempts to analyze and evaluate it in a multitude of ways. The conclusion is roughly that: There are a number of talented scientists in Vietnam, but most of them are not in the same league as their foreign counterparts. Thus Vietnam has yet to be

able to make valuable contributions to sciences. The problem is that too many Vietnamese leaders, social sciences are not important enough. Only when social, cultural, ethical, environmental, and a number of other problems become alarmingly big do people actually give heed to social sciences. People sometimes expect too much from social sciences. This is due to a lack of comprehension.

In the same almanac, there is another article by Prof., PhD. Hồ Sĩ Quý titled "Talent and the Environment". It talks about the complex relationship between talent and society. It makes the claim that there is a large deficit of talented people and competent workers in this day and age. It also attempts to unveil the reasons for this deficiency.

In relation to the topic of cultural and social sciences, Prof., PhD. Nguyễn Thị Cảnh's article lists 5 requests addressed to universities: meet instructors' desire to conduct research and expand their knowledge; focus on master's and doctorate programs for relevant fields of study; pay attention to actual economic problems and the state of society and the economy; work with other universities within the country and those in foreign countries; adapt to modern and global science more and more.

In light of these requests, the author proposes that further scientific research be conducted by universities that offer economic education. First, there needs to be skilled and able researchers that are

passionate about what they do. Second, research groups need to be formed at universities so that contracts can be signed for various research projects. Third, different types of research must be distinguished from one another. There are theoretical researches and then there are practical researches. Then appropriate budgets need to be prepared so that funding for these researches are always sufficient. Fourth, research fees ought to be integrated into tuition fees and scholarships so as to attract the stellar students and researchers. Fifth, establish cooperative relations for the purpose of conducting research and training.

The article "Scientific assessment by means of quantifying publications: new trends in assessing social science, art, and culture" by PhD. Phạm Thị Ly makes mention of the limitations on assessing scientific research results; new, prevalent trends in addressing these limitations. Under actual conditions in Vietnam, some measures need to be taken immediately to allow for better researches to be conducted in the field of cultural and social science. Only then can Vietnam move up the international scale.

3. Art and culture

With regard to this subject, of note is the article titled "Cultural products and services in a market economy" by Prof., PhD. Nguyễn Xuân Thắng. According to the author, Vietnam has come to the realization that the development of

cultural products and services is a peculiar economic activity. Such products and services are highly rich and diverse and are becoming increasingly prevalent. Not only does the development of these products and services help to enrich our culture, it also strengthens our economic and exports. Developing such products and services is essentially making use of our already rich culture.

In light of the Party and the Government deeming the development of culture as an important step toward growing the market economy and international integration, the author presents five approaches to developing cultural products and services in Vietnam: 1- Accurate assessment and comprehension of Vietnam's values and appeal; 2- Strategy for development of cultural services; 3- Clear development roadmap and appropriate direction; 4- the development of cultural services is a joint effort that is to be made by all enterprises operating in areas relating to culture; 5- It is crucial to preserve, to innovate, to promote, and to propagate Vietnamese culture. This is the mandate of all Vietnamese, for all Vietnamese, and to be carried out by Vietnamese.

The article "Culture in international relations: foreign diplomacy and culture" by BA. Hà Thị Quỳnh Hoa brings up a number of concepts such as culture, diplomatic culture, public

relations culture, the impact of culture on international relations, modern day diplomacy, and diplomacy as it is practiced in India, China, and Vietnam. The author proposes a number of measures that would render diplomatic culture more effective, thus contributing to national security, economic growth, and national image.

The article "Modernism in Art – Nature and Characteristics" by Asso. Prof., PhD. Nguyễn Văn Dân mentions the concept of modern republicanism. It discusses the social crisis seen by the West at the end of the 19th century and the radical art movement of the 20th century. The modern art movement implies the rejection of republicanism as we know it, natural republicanism, romantic republicanism, and pretty much all guidelines pertaining to traditional art and conventional art. It gravitates toward the new and impels breakthroughs that gives art a complete facelift, the result of which can be regarded as modern art. But innovative art does not reject actuality. Rather, it portrays reality in a unique and novel way, one in which reality is distorted, as if viewed through a refractive lens. Consequently, the newly formed desire of discovering the past and the origin of the universe has impacted a great deal of trends. In illustrating this, artists are at the same time pessimistic and optimistic. Their contributions have turned modern art diverse and richer than any precedent form of art mankind has seen. Such is the

uniqueness of the 20th century innovative art movement.

Aside from the aforementioned articles, *Social Sciences Information Yearbook No.7* also introduces to the readers a number of research articles and information on religion, faith, law, history, linguistics, global politics, economics, and Vietnamese economy... This information can be found in article "Religion and faith in Vietnam in recent years" by MA. Nguyễn Thị Thanh Hoà and article "Overview of the Vietnamese economy in 2011" by Trần Nguyễn Mỹ Linh, "2011 feats in legal research" by authors at the Department of State and Legal Information, "Historical research

conducted in 2011 in Vietnam" by Phan Thị Vân, "2011 Vietnamese Literature" by MA. Phạm Quỳnh An, Nguyễn Mạnh Hoàng, and Vũ Thị Mỹ Hạnh, "Significant linguistic achievements in Vietnam over 2011" by MA. Nguyễn Thị Hiền, "2011 Global Politics" by MA. Đoàn Thị Quý and Phan Thị Thu Huyền, "Significant Economic Events around the World in 2011" by MA. Trương Tuấn Anh, and article "Family Life Model applied by Vietnamese elderly" by Bùi Thị Hồng. Hopefully the *Social Sciences Information Yearbook No.7* will yet again be one of the great scientific references that proves to be of aid in scientific research and forecasting.