

**INFORMATION OF SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES****Scientific conference: “Promoting green, digital, and heritage-based economies in Ha Long City in the Era of the nation’s rise”**

On December 26, 2024, in Ha Long City, Quang Ninh province, the Standing Committee of Ha Long City Party Committee, in collaboration with the Vietnam Institute of Economics (now Vietnam Institute of Economics and World, under the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences), hosted a scientific conference titled “Promoting green, digital, and heritage-based economies in Ha Long City in the Era of the nation’s rise”. The conference was held in a hybrid format, both in-person and online, with the active participation of numerous experts, scholars, leaders, and administrators from various sectors, as well as representatives of domestic and international organizations and enterprises.

The conference focused on three main themes: (i) “Positioning Ha Long City as a heritage-based urban center in the Era of the nation’s rise”; (ii) “Ha Long: From an economic growth pole to a driver of regional, national, and global development”; and (iii) “Promoting the outstanding universal value of Ha Long Bay - A UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site - to foster the heritage economy.” Nearly 50 presentations were delivered, offering profound, multidimensional insights into these issues.

At the conference, participants concentrated on clarifying key concepts and analyzing the city’s potential and advantages in developing green, digital,

and heritage-based economies, while also identifying pressing challenges that need to be addressed. They emphasized that Ha Long possesses favorable geographic conditions and distinctive strengths conducive to both economic and tourist development. The shift toward green and digital economies, along with the effective utilization of heritage values, is not only an inevitable trend but also a vital opportunity for Ha Long to enhance its local identity and brand.

In recent years, the development of green, digital, and heritage-based economies has become a strategic goal actively pursued by Ha Long City, yielding meaningful initial outcomes. However, amidst deep international integration and regional competition, Ha Long faces a series of significant challenges, such as climate change and the risk of natural resource depletion, a decline in budget revenues, conflicts between economic development and heritage preservation, rapid urbanization leading to increased flood risks and disruption of natural landscapes, and a lack of harmonious connection between urban development and heritage sites, which hinders the creation of a distinct identity within the coastal urban areas. Scholars have recommended that Ha Long implement breakthrough strategies to leverage its advantages and transform these challenges into opportunities. The city needs to develop an integrated plan that effectively and substantively incorporates the green transition, digital transformation, and a heritage-based economy into the key objectives and

strategic directions outlined in the City Party Congress Resolution for the 2025-2030 term, as well as the city's priority projects and action programs for the 2025-2030 period, with a vision toward 2040.

The conference also proposed groundbreaking initiatives, including the development of a new urban center based on the following guiding principles: (i) a tourism hub connected to the global network; (ii) the integration of preservation and the sustainable use of cultural and natural heritage values; (iii) an urban area designed in alignment with a circular economy and green development; (iv) a modern model of urban governance; and (v) leveraging land value for infrastructure development, as well as implementing real estate-related tax and fee policies to generate adequate revenue for the operation and maintenance of the city.

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### **International conference: The role of India and Vietnam in South-South cooperation**

On March 19, 2025, in Hanoi, the Institute of South Asian, West Asian, and African Studies under the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences, in collaboration with the Embassy of India in Vietnam, hosted an international conference titled "*The role of India and Vietnam in South-South cooperation*". The event brought together a diverse group of scholars, researchers, and experts from both Vietnam and India.

In a rapidly changing global landscape marked by economic uncertainties, climate change, and shifting dynamics in global power structures, South-South cooperation has emerged not only a necessity but also an inevitable trend

for safeguarding shared interests and promoting sustainable development. The Vietnam-India partnership enables both nations to better seize development opportunities while contributing to creating a more multipolar, balanced, and equitable world order.

The conference focused on four main themes: The importance of the Global South in the current context; the role of India and Vietnam in South-South cooperation; opportunities and challenges in Vietnam-India cooperation; and the potential and solutions for enhancing India-Vietnam collaboration in the development of the Global South.

At the conference, scholars and experts observed that both Vietnam and India have achieved remarkable economic growth and share a common interest in fostering a multipolar, balanced, and sustainable world order. Both countries pursue multilateral foreign policies and are strongly committed to promoting South-South cooperation - an approach that strengthens the collective negotiating power of developing nations within international organizations such as the WTO, G20, the United Nations, and BRICS.

The participants exchanged views and assessed the impacts of geopolitical and economic transformations on the development of Global South countries. They highlighted key contributions and lessons learned from the Vietnam-India partnership, analyzed both advantages and challenges that must be addressed to foster sustainable cooperation, and proposed initiatives and strategies to enhance the bilateral partnership in the years to come.

The scholars and experts acknowledged Vietnam and India as two dynamic and regionally influential economies, both well-positioned to play a pivotal role in advancing this agenda. Vietnam's flexible foreign policy and deepening international integration enable it to serve as a crucial bridge between ASEAN and major global economies. India, with its robust economic capacity, large population, and advanced scientific and technological foundation, is well-equipped to provide both technological and financial solutions to Global South countries in pursuit of digital transformation and sustainable development. In addition, India has launched numerous collaborative initiatives to assist those countries, particularly

through its Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) as a powerful driver of large-scale digital transformation across diverse sectors, such as social welfare programs, financial inclusion, e-government, and other digital services.

The participants emphasized that with two significant developmental milestones - India's vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047 (India@2047) and Vietnam's vision for 2045 - South-South cooperation will remain a key strategic focus. This collaboration will not only help both countries strengthen their international standing but also make a positive contribution to the broader development of the region and the world.

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The dissertation indicates that the restoration of Truong Ba Temple festival over the past three decades has revealed characteristics that are completely different from the prior period under the Republic of Vietnam. In recent years, the festival's revival has extended beyond the boundaries of Xuan Khuong village, evolving into a district-level event that conveys new meanings. Both the content and the structure of this revival reflect profound transformations in the perceptions and behaviors of various social classes. This reconstruction simultaneously meets diverse needs of involved stakeholders. Local people seek security through their veneration of the goddess, while entrepreneurs are motivated by profit-driven opportunities. For authorities at multiple levels, the objectives extend beyond heritage

preservation or economic development; more importantly, the revival aims to reinforce great national unity bloc through a multi-ethnic community bound by the shared worship of a common goddess.

Truong Ba Temple was officially recognized as a National Historical and Cultural Site in 2002, and its festival was inscribed as a National Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2017.

A review of the restoration and revitalization of the Truong Ba Temple festival reveals a parallel shift in the perception of spiritual and cultural practices by both the political system and the local community.

This dissertation was successfully defended before the Academy-level Doctoral Dissertation Evaluation Committee at the Graduate Academy of Social Sciences in 2024.

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