

INFORMATION

Conference: 70 years of Vietnam Cultural Blueprint

On September 18, 2013, in Hà Nội, Central Committee for Propaganda and Education held a conference “70 years of Vietnam Cultural Blueprint.” There were representatives of departments, committees, industries, scientists, and researchers attending at the conference.

Stated at the conference, Mr. Đinh Thế Huynh, member of the Political Bureau, Secretary of Party Central Committee, Chief of Central Committee for Propaganda and Education affirmed: “The cultural blueprint edited by Trường Chinh, Former General Secretary, is an valuable and profound historical document of the Party, is considered the Party’s declaration on the national, scientific, mass culture that are building. He also emphasized, from 70 years ago, when Vietnam social background had been characterized as “half feudalism, half bourgeois, and completely colonialized”, the establishment of the Vietnam Cultural Blueprint had oriented thoughts, awareness, and cultural motto for the Party and the people in the struggle for the independence and freedom of our country advancing to a new regime, new culture.

At the conference, over 20 proceedings of scientists, leaders, culture managers concentrated on clarifying contents: Vietnam cultural blueprint in 1943 – the first outline of our party’s culture; long-

lasting meaning, historical value, theoretical and practical view, strategy view and contemporariness of the Vietnam cultural blueprint; from the Vietnam cultural blueprint 1943 to the 5th Central Resolution (VIII term) of culture.

Contents in the Vietnam cultural blueprint 1943 provided a completely new awareness of culture, attracted numerous patriotic cultural activists, and the Association of National Salvation, member of League for the Independence of Vietnam.

According to researchers, Vietnam cultural blueprint bases on three principles, three basic characteristics. The first principle is nationalization, meaning to prevent every slavish and colonial effect, develop an independent Vietnamese culture, freely and humanely. The second one is popularization, which means that culture belongs to the whole population and people are who formulate culture. The final principle is scientific making, is to oppose against obsolescence, antiscientific ideas and to acquire human culture quintessence.

The conference discussed several points of view, principles, profound, and perpetual values of the cultural blueprint 1943. The principle is the Party leads the revolution, manages culture; principles and characteristics such as “national”, “scientific”, “mass” nature of Vietnam

culture; implementing, acquiring and supplementing, and completing opinions, policies of the Party about culture in the cultural blueprint 1943 during 70 recent years, manifested in documents of the Party, especially in the 5th Resolution (VII term) about “construct and develop an advanced culture imbued with national identity of Vietnam”.

...A number of speeches at the conference reached to a consensus that economic integration requires us to enhance and preserve traditional cultural values of the nation. Therefore, worthy lessons of Vietnam cultural blueprint 1943 will play an important part in ensuring viewpoints and implementing solutions to make culture truly an aim and a motivation to develop the nation, and a spiritual social foundation.

IV.

International Scientific seminar: “To evaluate the outcome of 6 years - research of A-B monuments and The Imperial Citadel of Thăng Long after 6 years”

On the 13th of September in Ha Noi, the Center of Imperial Citadel Research, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences organized an international science conference: “Evaluate the results of the research on A-B area of Imperial Citadel of Thăng Long after 6 years of research”. This is a specialized conference that concentrated on discussing research result and evaluating all forms of architecture in A-B area, was performed by the Institute of Archeology and Center for Imperial Citadel Research from 2008 to 2013 in all aspects of

planning, construction techniques, quality, date, function, and architectural complexion. Attendees the congress includes experts, historical scientists, and archeologists from Vietnam and Japan.

At the conference, delegates agreed that, after 6 years of examining architectural structure in areas A and B of the excavated archeological site of the Imperial Citadel, scientists have found convincing evidences of large-scale projects, palaces, attics which were constructed meticulously, with various decorations exhibited the magnificence as well as the sovereignty of the royals. A number of layers overlapped, proceeded from Đại La (VII-IX century), through Đinh, Pre-Lê dynasty (X-XI century) and Lý-Trần (XI-XIV century) to Latter Lê dynasty (XV-XVII century) indicate the continuity in the construction of Imperial Citadel of Thăng Long of several feudal dynasties of Vietnam. The relics relate and connect with each other, aggregating to a complicated, yet profound and fascinating, series of structures, reflecting the relationship between urban planning and architectural space, as well as the continuation in dynasties in the history of building Thăng Long Capital. Furthermore, in this area, researchers also discovered millions of archeological relics, including many porcelain potteries of China, Japan and Western area. They prove clearly the relationship, trade, and cultural exchanges of Thăng Long in history.

At the conference, scientists provided multi-dimensional perspectives of the

importance, scale, diversification, and uniqueness of architectural relics revealed at archeological sites, and at some parts, specified the relation between architectural structures and landscape (river, pond, lake,) architectural structures and planning... However, the results shown that the value of the area was just evaluated in general, deeper and more fuller understanding of the appearance, scale, quality, function, and date of each area, and greater evaluation of qualification, construction skill, urban planning, uniqueness of the palace and attic architecture in Imperial Citadel of Thăng Long over periods, are still needed to study further. The complex of discovered architectural vestiges is just a very small part of extensive center area of Imperial Citadel of Thăng Long. The results of the study on architecture form of A-B area gives basic understanding. The relation between space and time as well as evaluation of urban planning remains incomplete. Particularly, comparative studies to identify shape, quality, function, name of architectural structures of these relics are difficult and needed to invest in a long term.

The result of the conference will assist the Center of Imperial Citadel Research to keep researching, incrementing, and completing scientific record of A-B relic area before officially hand over to People's Committee of Hà Nội City, which will plan, preserve, develop, and promote the value of the historical area at the end of 2013.

MAI LINH

Scientific conference: Professor Văn Tân – a revolutionary activist, cultural activist, and historian

On the tribute of the 100th year of birth (1913-2013) and 25th year of death (1988-2013) of Professor Văn Tân, Institute of History cooperated with the Vietnamese Association of Historical Sciences on holding a scientific conference with the theme “Professor Văn Tân – a revolutionist, culturist, and scientist”. The conference attracted the participation of numerous historical and cultural researchers coming from research institutes, universities in the country as well as delegates from state departments, committees...with 31 proceedings.

Professor Văn Tân's real name is Trần Đức Sắc. He is a courageous revolutionary activist and had important contributions to the national liberation. Being awoken very early to the idea of revolution, he had participated in the revolution since 1929, at the age of 16.

Although he was arrested and jailed several times by the enemy in Sơn La, Hải Phòng, and Hà Nội, his patriotism and revolutionary will remained unchanged. During years of active in the revolution, he used to take part in the editing of public newspapers of the Party such as Thời Thế (Era), Thời Báo (Times)...

After the victory of August Revolution, he turned to run Cứu Quốc (National Salvation) newspaper, then later taught philosophy and compiled dictionaries. Being one of first cadres of Literature –

History - Geography Research Department, the predecessor of nowadays Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences, Professor Văn Tân (with pen-names such as Văn Giang, Cựu Kim Sơn, Dương Minh, Duy Minh...) has considerable contributions to Vietnam's social sciences. Professor Văn Tân's scientific career has been increasingly affirmed since he worked at the Literature – History – Geography Research Department with hundreds of magazine articles and a series of work and famous scientific projects in various fields.

In the field of history, professor Văn Tân is the author and co-author of many famous books, such as: Issues of Political Party (1945), Tây Sơn Revolution (1958), Vietnamese History Abridged (1963), Nguyễn Huệ - Person and Career (1967), The Era of Hùng King (1965) ... With Tây Sơn Revolution and Nguyễn Huệ - Person and Career, Professor Văn Tân is awarded with the State Award in Science and Technology. In literature, his writings includes: Dispute anti-

proletarian standpoint in art and politics (1958), Vietnamese Satire (1958), Nguyễn Khuyến – Outstanding Poet (1959), Vietnamese Laugh: Literature Study and Critic (1965)...

Professor Văn Tân organized the compilation of the Vietnamese Dictionary (completed in 1967 with 1.176 pages). This is the first dictionary of Vietnam since the success of August Revolution and the establishment of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. Furthermore, he is also the author of Chinese - Vietnamese Dictionary (1956).

In the end, all delegates shared the same conclusion: Professor Văn Tân has a great personality, talent, and will with such a tenacious working. We need to gather all of his work to make an entire series namely Collected works of Văn Tân, due to their scientific content, which are considered to be earnest and erudite, and it is essential for propagating historical knowledge for all Vietnamese people.

HOÀI PHÚC