

## INFORMATION

**Scientific Conference: Renewals of the information and library activities in Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences**

Recently, in Cua Lo Town, Nghe An, the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS) held a scientific conference on “Renewals of the information and library activities in Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences”. Attending and directing the Conference are many leaders from the VASS together with the presence of many guests from the Lao National Academy of Social Sciences. The conference also attracted the participation of a large number of staffs working at the libraries of the VASS.

Currently, the VASS has 27 libraries under 27 specialized research institutes and 2 libraries under business administration units, 1 library under the Graduate Academy of Social Sciences. Opening Speech at the Conference, the leaders of the VASS identified that recently, although its information-library work has made remarkable achievements; however, under the context of international integration, it is necessary for the libraries to recognize and evaluate achievements and outstanding issues in a systematic manner in order to build modern libraries to meet the requirements of the new context.

The Conference identified that the VASS always focuses on information-

library activities and has implemented a formal investment in the policy of building library systems in a unified way, taking the Social Sciences Library as center. Since 2011, it started implementing investment plans to build the Social Sciences Library to become a general library on Social Sciences at the national level, assigned to the Vietnam Institute of Social Sciences Information as the focal point to build an electronic library management system, which includes the Social Sciences Library and specialized libraries. However, the information-library work at the libraries of the VASS is currently unsettled.

The issue particularly interested by delegates was working towards building electronic libraries, digital libraries of the library system under the VASS in the trend of globalization and integration. The Conference identified that in the current trend of globalization and integration, the information exchange among countries and information agencies is ever growing. Besides, with the rapid development of science-technology and society in general, information demands are also more and more diversified.. Therefore, the development of electronic and digital libraries is an inevitable trend of the libraries all over the world in general and the libraries in Vietnam in particular.

Recognizing the inevitability of the development trend of digital libraries, the libraries have researched

applications of information technology in library information activities quite early. At the same time, they also determine the direction of future development of the library modernization, gradually build electronic libraries. However, due to low information technology infrastructure, the level of information technology is weak both in quality and quantity, the development of digital information in the libraries of the VASS is scattered, incomplete and inconsistent. The focal point is the Social Sciences Library are underperforming its roles and duties. Therefore, the digital information in the specialized libraries is very limited, particularly the creation and management process of material types is not high enough to meet users' needs. Furthermore, VASS is the governing body of all the libraries; however, for each library it is decentralized for its affiliated libraries. Thus, their activities are separated which are decided by its affiliated Institutes, leading to a lack of uniformity and consistency, without the close link.

Speaking at the conclusion of the Conference, the VASS's leaders evaluated that it is necessary, urgent and unified to develop solutions to modernize library systems in the whole Library and there should be an appropriate roadmap. First of all, it is necessary to build technical software solutions. The Vietnam Institute of Social Sciences Information (VISSI) was assigned by the VASS to report on the ability to integrate into the overall network of Millennium Administration

Software and continue to build and complete the library system administration software, research the ability to integrate, connect between the Social Sciences Library and specialized libraries.

Additionally, the libraries should focus on positive solutions to overcome the backwardness of software technology in the coming time; have specific policies on the exchange and sharing of information between libraries. The VASS will also focus on professional training and fostering for information-library staff, assigned the VISSI to build training plans. If it is well-done, the libraries of the VASS will become modern ones and the first destination of the majority of readers interested in the social sciences.

#### *HOÀI PHÚC*

#### **Opening ceremony of the “Exhibition of Paracels and Spratlys and East Sea at the Social Sciences Library”**

On 08/8/2014, at the Social Sciences Library (Vietnam Institute of Social Sciences Information (VISSI), Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS)), “Exhibition of Paracels and Spratlys and East Sea at the Social Sciences Library” took place with the participation of representatives from the Board of Directors and functional boards under the VASS, the civil servants working at the Institute of Social Sciences Information together with a large number of readers and media agencies.

The materials in the collection were exhibited at the Social Sciences Library

with 190 units, 8 groups of categories: 24 maps; 4 photos; 40 Vietnamese books; 24 Vietnamese magazines; 37 journal issues *Indochinese Economy Awakening*; 35 French books before 1954; 5 new Latin books; 20 Chinese books. Of which:

- The ancient Chinese documents on display, from the books published in 1178 to the ones published in 1951 by Chinese historians writing about the history of China through the Han, Tang, Song, Yuan, Qing, the Republic of China and the People's Republic of China.
- The European maps from XVIIIth century, Japanese, Chinese, French maps drawn in the late XIX<sup>th</sup> century and early XX<sup>th</sup> century on the situation of China, which specifies Hainan Island as the Southernmost point of Chinese territory. Indochina map, Danang map (Tourane) drawn by the French in the early XX<sup>th</sup> century clearly showed that Paracels belongs to Vietnam.
- The official histories of Vietnam in Chinese writing which have been translated into Vietnamese and published from 1979s so far have provided more evidence of the establishment and enforcement of Vietnam's sovereignty over Paracels and Spratlys of feudal dynasties, notably the King Gia Long officially established the sovereignty of the Nguyễn Dynasty over Paracel Islands in 1816.
- The French documents provide more evidences for further exercise of sovereignty, the right to sovereignty over Paracels, Spratlys of Vietnam under French colonization and show the

struggle to confirm the maritime sovereignty of Vietnam to China starting from the early XX<sup>th</sup> century.

The documents displayed at the exhibition are results of a long research, evaluation with full sense of professional responsibilities of the Chinese, French expert groups from the VASS. The documents displayed here help researchers to get more scientific data in building arguments to reject sovereignty claims from the Government of China over Paracels, Spratlys, and prove, assert historical, long-term, continuous sovereignty of Vietnam over these two islands and the East Sea.

The exhibition was open to the public from 08/8-08/9/2014 on weekdays (except Sunday) at the Social Science Library, 26 Lý Thường Kiệt, Hà Nội.

HÀ AN

#### **International Scientific Conference on “Communal festival: tradition and change”**

Recently, in Ho Chi Minh city, the University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University of Ho Chi Minh City in collaboration with Tuệ Thành Assembly Hall held an “International Scientific Conference on “Communal festival: tradition and change”. The Conference attracted a large number of scientists, researchers, teachers, graduate students, students from national and overseas universities and research institutes.

In addition to the plenary session addressed general issues, the Conference

was divided into three subcommittees focused on key topics.

*Communal festivals: approaches.* Scholars aim to the issues of multidisciplinary research overview of festivals; awareness of Communal festivals; the formation of traditional communal festivals; religious changes and variations within the traditional festival of the Stiêng people - Protestant followers in Binh Phuoc now; find out Vietnamese wisdom through communal festivals in Vietnam; and lotus image in the culture of Vietnamese people.

*Communal festivals in Vietnam: Traditions and changes.* The delegates mentioned the identity of communal festivals from the two traditional and changing perspectives (rituals, oratorio forms, music, dance, costumes, cuisine during the festival), such as Thánh Gióng statue; the values of the folk festivals of Montagnard; phenomenon of cultural changes and localization of Minh Hương people in Vietnam; khmer traditional dance (chấn dance) in the festival of Southern Khmer people.

*Contemporary communal festivals and international experiences.* The Conference highlighted the festivals's special features in neighboring countries such as Malaysia, China, Australia, those are: Mao worship (cat worship) and communal festivals of ethnic minorities in Bangdong, Guizhou, China; origin and custom developments of "throwing oranges for husband" of young Chinese women in Penang island, Malaysia in Lunar New Year night; revival of heritage: Lễ hội Khất Xảo cầu

Chức Nữ (Qi Xi Festival) and street costumes (China); Garma festival in Australia; contemporary-based communications; communication and festivals: media recognition as a member of the heritage market; ...

From the contents discussed above, the scholars analyzed and evaluated the values of communal festivals in various angles and different theoretical frameworks. In particular, theoretical issues, theoretical approaches and research methods for communal festivals; comparative study to find out the similarities and differences among the festivals in each zone, region and area; the changes of communal festivals and trigger systems; roles and positions as well as the impact of the festival on economic life, culture and society in each region, each country; changes of communal festivals throughout history and lessons learnt in management policy and festival orientations in each country; etc. It brought back multiple systematic perspectives on communal festivals in each region, in Vietnam South, as well as some countries in the East Asia and Southeast Asia.

TA.

### **Seminar: Enhancement and effectiveness of collective management of copyrights in the digital era**

Recently, in Hanoi, the Copyright Office of Vietnam (COV) in collaboration with the International Federation of Reproduction Right Organization

(IFRRO) and the Vietnam Reproduction Rights Organization (VIETRRO) held a Conference on "Improving efficiency of collective management of copyright in the digital era" with the participation of delegates from COV, IFRRO, VIETRRO and ministries, agencies and representatives from universities, research institutions, journalists.

At the Conference, delegates are introduced to the functions, tasks, organizational structure and activities of IFRRO; organization and operation model of some national copyright collective management institutions such as The Copyright Agency, The Copyright Licensing Agency, etc.; management and organization of collective management on copyright: membership, licensing, collection and distribution of revenues; Vietnamese legal provisions on copyright and related rights.

IFRRO is an international organization linking all copyright organizations as well as associations of national and international copyright owners. IFRRO provides reliable information about the copyright-based solutions for the text and image-based elements. Currently, IFRRO has 143 members, including 88 national copyright collective management institutions in 79 countries worldwide, 55 associations of creators and publishers, and VIETRRO became a member of IFRRO since June/2011.

According to the speakers, in the developed countries, the concept of copyright industries appeared. This can be considered as a smokeless industry, annually contribute to create new jobs

for laborers and contribute from 4-6% GDP. The speakers also emphasized the online sales growing rapidly in the countries with developing digital environment, of which the publication was third-ranking. The development of copyright industries in developed countries has important significance not only for the integration process, but also directly promote creative activities for local economies.

However in fact, the use of valuable products as culture, spirits without paying to manufacturers and authors are taking place at different levels. When the illegal copying is rampant, the intellectual creativity will be damaged and the foundation of the publishing industry will be undermined. Therefore, there should be clear protection for reproduction rights and works. This has important significance for the publishing industry, publishers, authors in allowing valuable intellectual properties to be propagated in the printed and electronic - digital forms.

At the Conference, a number of issues about membership, license withdrawal and issue by copyright collective management institutions, Vietnamese legal provisions on limitations and exceptions of copyright and related rights in accordance with Articles 25, 26, 32 and 33 of the Law on Intellectual Property, as well as the Government's support for collective representative institutions of copyright and related rights in Vietnam were also discussed by delegates.

*QT.*