

INFORMATION**The national scientific conference on “The social ethics in today literature and arts”**

In two days November 11-12 2014, in Ho Chi Minh City, the Central Council for Theory and Criticism on Literature and Arts held the national scientific conference: “Moral issues in literature and arts today”. Attending the conference were delegates representing the Party, the State; ministries, departments, sectors at the central government, provinces, cities; scientists, heads and staffs of culture and art management departments, artists... in Vietnam. Conference aimed to implement the resolutions of 9th Party Central Committee (11th Tenure) on “Building and developing Vietnamese culture and people to fulfill the requirement of sustainably developing the country”. The organizers received more than 80 papers.

At the Conference, the delegates agreed that since the issuing of resolutions of the 5th Central Party Committee (12th Tenure, 1998), in the line with the duty of developing socio-economics, the Communist Party of Vietnam has increasingly paid attention to develop culture, literature and arts and taken them as a solid foundation of the society, which creates important strength for the

country to ensure a sustainable development and protect Vietnam for a rich people, strong country and a fair, democratic and civilised society. However, the above achievement in culture, literature and arts of Vietnam over the past years have not met the requirement of reform and international integration, especially, have not made sure that culture is the objective and at the same time the motivation for a sustainable development of the country, and they have not made an active contributions to build the morality and dignity of Vietnamese people.

It can be seen that positive of activities in the Vietnam entertainment industry causes the domestic cultural life and the positive changes in entertainment: Available market, a large number of professionals. However, in the literature and arts, the entertainment function seems to overwhelm other basic functions, of which there is education, especially for some types of arts like theatre, cinema, music; literature and arts contain lots of aspects, but it seems that there are too many emerging issues, negative incidents... which creates a bad picture, some even say that this results from the degraded moral values in the society.

The Conference pointed out the movement of social ethics in Vietnam has been facing a lot of big and complicated problems which were not available in the previous periods before 1975, 1980. The degradation in terms of morality in almost all fields in the social life is not an abnormal event, but it's worth a concern. Culture and arts are always expected to make a contribution to development of a better society. However, the actual culture life over the past years has shown that good values, positives of the society are rarely mentioned. One question which was posed by many delegates at the Conference was that whether culture and arts can save the current social ethics when the beauty of culture and arts become more and more gloomy and are seriously destroyed by commercial factors...

To have a moral society, there must be moral people. Similarly, to have moral literature and art works, there must be moral writers and artists. Accordingly, for a better culture life, it requires lots of efforts and the bravery to change thinking, theory and perception of aesthetics. At the Conference, the delegates proposed solutions and directions to contribute to the course of "building and developing Vietnamese culture and people, to fulfill the requirement of sustainably developing the country," and firstly lifestyle and morality.

DIỆU LINH

National scientific conference: 85 years development of Communist Party of Vietnam and creative manipulation of Marxism-Leninism into Vietnam's practice

On January 28th 2015, in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics held a National scientific conference on *85 years; Vietnam Communist Party has developed and creatively implemented Marxism-Leninism in Vietnam*. Attending the Conference were representatives from ministries and departments at the central government and delegates, scientists from research departments and institutes.

The organizers received more than 60 papers. The content of papers presented at the Conference explained a lot of important issues in the course of development of Vietnam Communist Party over the past 85 years; the role, competence and ruling responsibility of the Communist Party in many aspects at different extent in a divers and appropriate manner.

The papers analyzed and clarified some achievements in theory development of the Party in democracy and Socialist model in Vietnam with the development and creative implementation of Marxism - Leninism into practice, including: 1) Establishing the argument that the revolution for national independence does not separate from Socialism - the causes of all victory of Vietnam

revolution; 2) Developing the theory of the people's war in Vietnam based on a sound understanding of war and revolution principle of Marxism – Leninism; 3) Developing the theory on constructing revolutionary forces and the strategy of ethnic unity on the basis of a full awareness of Marxism – Leninism; 4) Establishing creative, proper and efficient revolution methods; 5) Orienting the objectives and more and more fully clarify the path to Socialism; 6) Establishing a theoretical system of paths and fundamental solution to realize a socialist model.

At the Conference, the delegates affirmed that, the process of forming and developing the Party's reasoning of Socialist-oriented market economy could be seen as an important transition in the perception and thinking, which has transformed our country over the past 30 year of doi moi. The application of theory on Socialist-oriented market economy 30 years ago was a creative and proper use of Marxism-Leninism in to practice of Vietnam. In addition, the delegates also emphasized that if there was not an innovation in reasoning of Socialist-oriented market economy, there would be no such market economy flourishing today.

The Conference helped to deepen the course of 85 years that Vietnam Communist Party has developed and creatively implemented Marxism–

Leninism into practice of Vietnam. The delegates agreed that the ongoing process of summarizing, developing and completing the theory on the organization and operation of the Party in terms of educating and training governmental staff, Party members, of the relation between Party, State and the Fatherland Front, of the implementation of democratic socialism, the promotion of people's sovereignty ... is an urgent issue nowadays.

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Conference “ASIAN performing arts: Identity and Value”

Recently in Ho Chi Minh City, the College of Social Sciences and Humanities (Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh City) cooperating with Tra Vinh University, TED Saigon School of Arts and Vietnam – ASEAN Friendship Association held the Conference “*Oriental music: Identity and values*”. Attending the Conference were representatives from the Consulate General of Laos, Indonesia, Korea, India ... in Ho Chi Minh City, governing bodies and plenty of researchers.

The Conferene agreed that Oriental music is a long-standing, abundant, and precious treasure. That treasure helps to create a “mysterious Orient” in the civilization of the human beings. That valuable music treasure is the

emotion bridge between performers and the audiences, from one heart to another, passed from this generation to another one. It is considered as the unique cultural "generic code" of each nation among different communities in the world. That mysterious beauty of the Orient is the soul of the Orient, the culture of the Oriental. Since ancient times, the cultural centers such as India, China, Middle East, Southeast Asia has the exchanges, mutual influence on music. However, the music of the Oriental peoples, especially the music of the minorities is vulnerable before the modern musical movement, a highly technological and entertaining movement. The Conference helps to learn about, to confirm the values, preserve and promote that Oriental music treasure.

63 papers sent to the Conference were discussed at there sessions corresponding to the following big aspects:

1/ Oriental music - exchanges and acculturation: clarify the process of music exchange and acculturation among Oriental peoples (in East Asia, Middle East, South Asia and Southeast Asia) and between Oriental music and Western music.

2/ Vietnamese music: analyze the achievements, values and identity of the Vietnamese music and its place in the community of ethnic groups of Vietnam and other brother countries in the region. The papers also clarified

the musical identity of different Vietnamese art forms such as: đờn ca tài tử, hát sắc bùa, hò bả trạo, nghệ thuật cải lương...

3/ Music of different ethnic groups: study the musical values and identity of some ethnic groups in Vietnam such as Cham, Khmer, Cho ro... and some other Oriental countries like India, Philippines...

The above content was lively discussed by the delegates, especially acculturation and exchange of Oriental music. Can the Oriental music "live" in the era of globalization, when the high-tech electronic music with Western dance are becoming overwhelmed? And how can music education be on track at school so that our future generations in a uniform of a global citizen still can keep the soul of a nation? Those issue got a lot of attention from the delegates in order to preserve the identity of Oriental music, especial in this erea, when the Oriental music is increasingly exposed to the world music.

HOÀI PHÚC

Conference: "Practice and solutions for preventing school bullying in high school"

Recently, in Ho Chi Minh City, Institute of Education, Ho Chi Minh University of Pedagogy has organized a seminar on "*Situation and solutions to prevent violence in high schools*".

Participants to the seminar were representatives who are administrators, educational researchers, staffs, lecturers, teachers from universities and colleges, the educational management authorities, high schools and national press agencies.

At the seminar, participants agreed that the situation of school violence is extremely worrying, as shown in the trend of rejuvenation, feminization and no limits of school violence – the behaviors which we could not imagine that they would occur in the relationships between students, between students and teachers a decade ago.

On the causes, from many different perspectives, the author has pointed out and analyzed thoroughly many reasons, such as: *On the side of family*, parents neglect their children, let them free with electronic games, pay little attention to their relationships with friends, adult family members do not treat each other and their children properly and are not role models for them... *On the side of school*, it still focus on pure knowledge spreading, not yet intensively caring about human training, the mindset of 'learning for exams, sit in exams for what have learnt' is still strongly emphasized; comprehensive educational activities have not been paid adequate attention, the education of law-abiding awareness is not really effective; some teachers are no longer "role models" for students to follow; organizations like Youth Union, Parent representative board do not pay proper attention to moral education for students; extra-

curricular activities to educate morality, lifestyles, life skills are still superficial and ineffective; methods of handling students who have violent behaviors are not really effective; teachers including head teachers pay little attention to difficulties and changes in thoughts, feelings of students; the collaboration between school, family and society is still loose, lacks of closeness... *On the side of society*, for many reasons including impact of downside of economic market, there have been strange lifestyles which are contrary to social morality and greatly influence on students; lack of facilities to organize healthy entertainment activities while movies, video games and other cultural publications that have no educational value are still widely spread; different types of law violations amongst adults; dissemination and education of legal awareness for youth, especially those who are at high risk, are not really effective... *On the side of student*, it can be seen from the article that, school violence is from the rapid biopsychosocial development in high school students, such as the appearance of signs of puberty, the rapid physical and intellectual developments. Students are fully aware of these changes which make them feel "I am no longer a kid", thereby they often think of themselves higher than in reality, desire to express their thoughts, opinions, confidence and behave in their own way regardless of the adults, while they are not aware that all acts performed by them can cause

negative consequences for others and for themselves.

The participants said that, to limit school violence, we need: 1) To raise awareness of school violence and how to prevent school violence in students, teachers and parents; 2) To have more effective student disciplinary actions and ensure deterrence; 3) To enhance the role of the family, to let parents to participate directly in the moral education program for students; 4) To have more suitable moral rating scale for students; 5) To establish advisory board, discipline board to ensure education, counseling and timely resolution of students' violence; 6) When organizing extra-curricular activities, to pay attention to the direct impact on the students, the school activities are now organized on large scale so the educational effectiveness for each student is still low; 7) To review and change how media delivers news: it is necessary to analyze the causes and assess consequences and education, rather than sending original information on violence; 8) To disseminate knowledge about school violence, preventive measures to families, schools and society.

Besides, the participants also said that, the promotion of the role of psychological counseling of education, support and timely intervention for psychological problems of students, it is necessary to promote the role family in moral education for students. To restrict school violence, it is necessary to

change the perception of students, life skill education so students know how to analyze and solve situations to limit those that can arise violence, and how to response when being abused at school. From the comments of the participants, for a clean and healthy school environment, school, family and society need to incorporate to implement synchronous measures to comprehensively reform general education.

HÀ LINH

International conference Teaching Vietnamese and Vietnamese Studies at Universities

On 12-13/12/2014, in Hanoi, University of Social Sciences and Humanities (Vietnam National University, Hanoi) organized an International seminar on *Research and teaching of Vietnamese language and Vietnamese studies in universities* with the participation of domestic and international experts and scientists. The purpose of the seminar was to further enhance research and teaching of Vietnamese language and Vietnamese studies, prepare to form this network in universities. Besides, the seminar was a discussion place of researchers, professionals who share common academic interest in Vietnamese language and Vietnamese studies. It was also the driving force for connection of Vietnamists, boosting promotion of Vietnamese language as a key of Vietnamese culture in the process

of comprehensive integration with the world.

Speaking at the opening session of the seminar, Prof. Nguyễn Văn Khánh – Rector of University of Social Sciences and Humanities confirmed, the assessment of the status of Vietnamese language and Vietnamese studies today is one of the key issues for domestic and international Vietnamists, and they are tending to become the concern of the international scientific community. This has been further driven in the context of globalization is strongly influencing the activities of exchange and cooperation in scientific research.

In the seminar, the participants focused in the following key topics: Current status, method of teaching Vietnamese language and Vietnamese studies in universities; Program, curriculum, teaching of Vietnamese as a foreign language; Teaching method of Vietnamese language and examination, assessment of learner's competence; New researches on Vietnamese language studies; Vietnamese studies from interdisciplinary perspective of history, economics, politics, culture and society. These are important issues directly related to the training, orientation of research, promotion of Vietnamese language etc. in universities as well as

for foreigners who are studying Vietnamese language or researching in Vietnam. At the same time, they are also questions, problems and initial solutions on positioning process of Vietnamese studies from many reference bases of theory and practice.

At the plenary session, the participants were interested in discussing topics such as: Some comments on the assessment in teaching Vietnamese as second language; Teaching Vietnamese language through the homepage of TUFSS; The role of native language of learners who study Vietnamese language as a foreign language...

From analyzing the content, sharing experience, pointing difficulties in practice, outlining a number of issues on works and authors etc., the participants agreed that the research and teaching of Vietnamese language and Vietnamese studies in the world is a significant and necessary, hence Vietnamese relevant agencies should cooperate with overseas research institutions, universities to promote teaching of Vietnamese language and Vietnamese studies to develop widely and deeply.

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