

INFORMATION

Scientific seminar: Impacts of West European, North American cultures on the world and Vietnam in the process of globalization

On October 06, 2008, the Seminar on the theme: “Impacts of West European, North American Cultures on the World and Vietnam in the Process of Globalization” was held in Hanoi. This was the first Seminar within the framework of State-level Scientific Topic KX.03.06/06-10. The second Seminar of the Topic was held in Ho Chi Minh City at the end of June 2008. Attendance at the Seminar included scientists from many research institutes, academies, universities of the country.

In order to obtain the initial targets of the Topic KX.03.06/06-10, at the Seminar this time, the participants focused on analyzing and highlighting the typical Western values, aspects, ways of expression of the Western cultural identity... which have impacts on the development of other countries in the context of globalization in both two aspects of opportunity and challenge.

The reports presented at the Seminar such as *The challenges of nationalities' culture before the impacts of the Western culture* (Prof. Dr. Dương Phú Hiệp); *The Western value system and its impacts on the Oriental and Vietnamese viewpoints in the process of globalization* (Asst.Prof., Dr. Hồ Sĩ Quý); *Some typical thoughts of the modern Western democracy (West Europe, North America) with character of*

a vital value of culture and its impacts on Vietnam in the process of globalization (Prof.DSc. Đỗ Ngọc Quang); *The role of culture toward the expansion of the American “value”* (Dr. Nguyễn Thái Yên Sơn) analyzed and pointed out the indispensability of globalization and the mode of globalization which are impacting the existence and development process of each country, at the same time, affirmed the role of culture towards the general development during globalization.

Some reports focused on analysis of specific cases and drew experiences in behaving before the impact of the Western culture, during globalization such as *Approaching the world's culture from the experiences of Vietnam in the 20th century* (Prof. Vũ Dương Ninh); *Experiences in acquiring the Western cultural values in China from the time of reform and openness until today (1978 - 2008)* (Prof. Dr. Đinh Công Tuấn); *Impact of the Western culture in India and experiences in behaving during the globalization time* (Prof. Dr. Đỗ Thu Hà)...

Besides, the Seminar organization board also received some reports with deep analysis in some specific fields such as *Acquisition of the Western legal culture through the drawing up of the 1946, 1959, 1980 and 1992 Constitutions of Vietnam* (Prof. Dr. Nguyễn Đăng Dung); *Reasoning of the modern Western literature and its impacts on Vietnam* (Asst.Prof. Dr. Nguyễn Văn Dân); *Impacts of the Western press culture on*

Vietnamese press culture during the integration process (Prof. Dr. Dương Xuân Sơn); *The Vietnamese culture in foreigners' eyes* (Prof. Dr. Vũ Văn Thi); *Impact of the neo-colonialist culture on South Vietnamese youths in the period 1965 - 1975* (Nguyễn Quang Liêu MA)...

VÂN HÀ

Vietnam family survey 2006 result announcing ceremony

On the occasion of the Vietnam Family's Day (June 28), in the morning of June 26, 2008, results of the first nationwide survey on some Vietnamese families' matters were announced in Hanoi.

This was a survey conducted in the collaboration between the by then Vietnam Population, Family and Children Committee under Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism; Family and Gender Research Institute (Vietnam Social Sciences Institute); Statistical General Department, and the United Nations Children's Fund with the technical assistance of experts from Australia Family Research Institute and Ministry of Family, Housing, Community Services and Matters of the Aboriginals, and the Government of Australia.

The target of the survey is to identify families' reality in the time of industrialization, modernization and globalization in Vietnam.

By using qualitative and quantitative survey method, carried out since 2006, the survey has collected data from 9,300 households (2,436 in urban cities and 6,864 in rural areas) which were randomly selected from all the 64 provinces and cities of Vietnam. The survey's

interviewees were not only householders but also the elderly and minors in order to collect the most family information.

The content of the survey focused on four main subjects: Family relations; Family values and standards; Family economy; Family welfare.

Family relations: the two main contents in focus were the spousal relation and relations between generations in a family. The survey's report presented some judgments and assessments of the standards in spousal relation, behavioral standards in families, level of satisfaction of married life. As it was remarked by the report, although there is a more equitable share between the two genders in production and business or in some other types of work, allocation of work based on gender still remains. There is a slow change in the conception of the householder, most people still consider men as householders, the proof is that large, valued assets and important affairs of the family are usually in their names, and with "big affairs" of the family, the men's decisive role is always a standard that is rarely changed. While more than 80% of the men under the survey with the right to land, house/forest land in their names, then this in women is merely about 10%. If in rural areas, the rate of men holding rights to business assets is 62.4% and women is 31.4% of women, then this rate is 40.0 and 53.0 in urban cities respectively.

Relations between generations in a family: The focus was on the relation between parents and their under adulthood children, the relation between the elderly and their descendants. The survey

discovered that parents often pay special attention to their children's education, in which women spend six times longer than men looking after their under 15-year-old children.

Family values and standards: The family survey in 2006 showed that part of the changes, inheritance of the values and standards of Vietnamese families today. Marriage is still considered a value, a premise to set up a family. More than 80% of the interviewees aged between 16 and 60 have been aware of the need of marriage registration. Individual values are set higher store by, women are more active in their happiness. Children are still a value of the family. In the context of a new society, giving birth is still an important function of the family; everyone thinks that one must have children, but the majority of people do not fancy having many children. The interview results showed that only 18.6% of elderly people, 6.6% of people aged between 18 and 60, and 2.8% of juvenile aged between 15 and 17 said that a family must have many children. Despite the fact that the sentiment of having son(s) remains, more than 63% of the interviewees aged between 18 and 60 opposed this traditional concept.

On observing the family standards, the report has shown that "suitable alliance" (similarity of social background between bride and bridegroom's families) is still prevailing in marriages. Registration for marriage is a legal standard still respected by most people. Though slow in its growth, age for marriage has increased. There are many changes in the standards for choosing spouses towards increasing the active role of the youths. The

behavioral custom of "male chauvinism" has been existing for a long time and its impact is still rather heavy in the society today.

Family economy: The focus is on the changes in consumer practice, living standards, the issue of asset accumulation, difficulties and risks in terms of family economy under the survey have shown that the economic function of the family reveal themselves clearly in consumer activities rather than in activities of generating income. For that reason, in policies in order to stabilize the family economy, impacts on family's consumer activities should be considered as an important aspect so as to ensure the economic life and living standards of the family.

Family welfare: The survey's focus was on the households' awareness of welfare services for families, level of using family services, welfare for poor families, families in special difficulties, families credited with great service, convenience of family welfare services.

At the survey result announcing ceremony, Deputy Minister of Culture-Sport-Tourism Huỳnh Vĩnh Ái remarked: "The survey provides a comprehensive picture of the changes in family relations as well as the role and responsibilities of each member". The results of the survey this time shall be used as scientific and practical grounds for proposing policies on building well-to-do, equal, progressive, happy families, as foundation for monitoring, assessing the development of families as well as creating premise for further researches on Vietnamese families.

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