

INFORMATION

International Scientific Conference: Demand, orientation and school's psychology training in Vietnam

Recently, in Hanoi, Institutes of Psychology, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences and six universities in Viet Nam with two U.S. universities co-organized a conference with the title: "Demand, orientation and school's psychology training in Vietnam"

Attending the conference was about 150 representatives from Ministries, departments, branches, functional agencies, research institutes and universities in the country and international. There was also the participation of representatives from the U.S. Embassy in Vietnam. There were 78 reports sent to the conference.

At the conference, the participants presented their speeches and focused on the discussion to clarify the contents of the following:

- Some psychological problems of Vietnamese pupils and students today;
- Practical status activities for psychological school, social support and functional agencies;
- Status of research and psychological school training in Vietnam;
- The research, training and support models of school's psychology in the U.S. and experience for Vietnam;
- Developing training programs for school's psychology in Vietnam and development orientations.

Representatives of the American University: Ph.D. Kristi Hagans; Ph.D. Kristin Powers (California State

University, Long Beach) and PhD Michael Hass (Chapman University) presented about the school's psychology education and training programs. They supposed that candidates who tested in school's psychology sector must demonstrate the capacity input for each field (criterion) about the ability to professional practice. Capabilities include both knowledge and operation-skills. Programs of school's psychology ensure that candidates have a solid foundation of knowledge in psychology and education, including theories, models, experiences and techniques for each area. Programs of psychology in school also ensure that candidates demonstrate the professionally necessary skills to deliver services the most effectively. The areas should not be separated but combined with the practical and teaching program. They also offered 11 criteria NASP about training and practicing psychological school.

The conference- participants agreed that the expansion of school's psychology in is necessary and it needs the attention and contribution of all people. School's psychology conference is also an important and initial step on the way of building a school's psychology sector from theoretical, practical aspects and practice, training in Vietnam.

BÙI THỊ HỒNG

The conference reported new findings about the 44th archaeology – 2009

Hanoi, in two days September 24th and 25th, Institute of Archeology, Vietnam

Academy of Social Sciences conducted the conference to announce the new discovery about the 44th archaeology with the participation of many archaeologists, domestic and international historians, expert of museum and preservation, cultural managers, researchers, collaborators interested in archeology of the country.

At the opening meeting, Asst. Prof. Dr. Tống Trung Tín (Director of Institute of Archeology) said that the Institute of Archeology has received notification of 424 archaeological findings from all provinces across the country in 2009. It can be seen as “a bumper crop” of archaeology when there were more than 400 research projects of the Stone Age era, metals, archaeological history, Chămpa – Óc Eo areas...have been carried out. There were a series of new discovery vestiges. Results obtained from the vestiges and relics contributed to restore authentic portraits of our national history, cultural history and history of civilization of Vietnam from the most ancient times to modern time.

According to the report of Asst. Prof. Dr. Nguyễn Khắc Sử (Institute of Archeology), field trips from 2008 to 2009, the archaeologists has obtained some remarkable results, such as firstly discovered the ancient core in Sơn La; populations of animals in Mỏ Tuyển cave in Lào Cai (belonged to the archaeology of The stone era), 12 new announcements discovered in Tuyên Quang (firstly detected Gò Mun's culture here), Vĩnh Phúc, Quảng Trị, Thừa Thiên-Huế, Đắk Lắk (belonged to Metallic archaeology); excavated relics

Thành Hồ, Phú Yên, the Dương Long towers ...; added more new discovery of archaeological Chămpa - Óc Eo (civilization of Chămpa in Bình Định).

These discoveries helped managers to set up protection, restore, embellish, rank, and exploited plans of many relics and typical heritage, as The Trần Temple relics (Nam Định), Nam Giao Alter (Thanh Hóa), Xã Tắc Alter (Thừa Thiên-Huế), Dương Long Tower (Bình Định) ..., or as in the 4th excavation in Phùng Nguyên identified potential areas for Phú Thọ Museum to set up preservation plan and embellish relics; while excavating Kim Tôn temple-tower relics, we discovered many items, materials which were valuable rare documentation to study the temple-tower architecture and Buddhist art of the Trần dynasty.

The 3rd excavation at Nam Giao relic (Thanh Hóa) in an area of 3088m², defined 3 stages of alter, 3 circle of alter built by stone, affirm that this is the Nam Giao alter of Hồ dynasty, and this is the most ancient alter relatively having intact vestiges of the foundation in the history of architecture in Vietnam.

Excavating architectural relics in Dục Tú school (Đông Anh, Hà Nội) discovered the ruins of architectural domed form, which probably be the sewer of the Dong Han's large architectural system.

In addition, the large excavations to relocate the relics from the region which had the big economic project of the State, were made effectively, as in 62-64 Trần Phú (Hanoi) and other sites in the

bottom of lake in Son La and Vĩnh Yên' hydroelectricity.

According to the Asst.Prof. Tổng Trung Tín, archaeology has been increasingly promoted interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research to identify more accurately and objectively the value of individual sites.

The archaeology has aimed at the goal to protect heritages well.

But not "prevent" the development of the country. In addition, Asst.Prof also expressed the concerns of archaeologists about destruction of the relics and archaeological sites today; he also recommended "urgent" for the authorities the need to rank relics to build legal basis for the preservation and promotion of the value of the relics.

PHẠM VŨ

Consultative Group Meeting for Vietnam 2009: "Regaining Rapid and Sustainable Economic Growth"

The Government of Vietnam and Development Partners held the 16th Consultative Group Meeting on December 3-4, 2009. His Excellency Nguyễn Tấn Dũng, Prime Minister of Vietnam attended meeting. Minister of Planning and Investment Võ Hồng Phúc, and World Bank Country Director for Vietnam Victoria Kwakwa co-chaired the meeting.

At the meeting, Development Partners committed over US\$ 8 billion in ODA to assist Vietnam in stabilizing the macro-economy, regaining growth and further reducing poverty. The Government of Vietnam and Development Partners discussed issues relating to securing

macroeconomic stability, re-positioning the economy for growth in the post-crisis world, addressing the emerging challenges for poverty reduction, strengthening public administration and fighting corruption, and ensuring sustainable development. Vietnam's Prime Minister H.E. Nguyễn Tấn Dũng, in the first session, provided an overall assessment of Vietnam's recent economic performance and social development, stressing the government's flexible approach to macroeconomic management in the face of changing global circumstances. *"The Vietnamese government has timely adjusted the overall target for 2009, shifting the priority from inflation control to prevention of economic slowdown and directed the comprehensive implementation of the solution packages to meet set targets."*

Development partners recognized and commended the Government for Vietnam's recent achievements and reaffirmed their support to the country's continued progress. They urged the Government to put the great potential of the whole of Vietnam society to use as a critical part of Vietnam's ambition to become an industrialized country by 2020.

Positioning Vietnam for Growth in the Post – Crisis World

The participants discussed challenges to Vietnam's macroeconomic stability, and heard from the government its plans for re-positioning Vietnam for sustainable growth, and on the road map for the reform of state owned enterprises. Delegates exchanged views on

Vietnam's stimulus package and the risks going forward, the impacts of the growth slowdown on the poor, and improving the investment climate. Development Partners suggested that the government seize the crisis as an opportunity to advance the reform agenda. They also mentioned several issues holding the key to sustainable future economic development, including education, training, social cohesion, gender balance, and addressing the impacts of climate change.

On behalf of Development Partners, ADB Country Director for Vietnam, Mr. Ayumi Konishi, congratulated the government for successfully managing adverse impact of the global economic crisis by implementing a stimulus program. *"Yet, risks are growing and we appreciate the Government's recognition that stabilization is the essential prerequisite for rapid and sustainable growth."*

International Monetary Fund's Assistant Director of Asia Pacific Division, Mr. Shogo Ishii said: *"The IMF welcomed the recent steps taken to address the emerging risks to macro-economic stability, but urge the authorities to remain vigilant to ensure these are overcome."*

Responding to the Development Partners' remarks, the Prime Minister highlighted measures in six areas to ensure rapid and sustainable development. They include i) guaranteeing macroeconomic stability and preventing inflation, while addressing shortcomings in infrastructure and strengthening the

quality of human resources, ii) developing social safety nets, with emphasis on health care services and the education system, gender balance, and combating human trafficking, iii) continuing anti-corruption efforts as an urgent mission for the Government of Vietnam, iv) fostering democracy and an open society that guarantees fundamental rights of all citizens according to Vietnam's constitution and laws, v) implementing the action plan on climate change, and vi) enhancing the sustainability of Vietnam's economy to achieve high growth, so that Vietnam will be an industrialized country by 2020.

Emerging challenges for poverty reduction

Development Partners and the Government recognized that economic development and poverty reduction are closely linked, and so far Vietnam's strategies and plans have been successful on both fronts. The Development Partners heard the government's proposals, including the adoption of a new poverty line, conducting stock-taking exercises on poverty reduction programs, developing policies that reflect the changing nature of poverty as Vietnam approaches Middle Income Status, developing the social protection system, and increasing social participation in poverty reduction efforts. The Development Partners emphasized the need to improve the overall coherence of poverty reduction and social protection programs and to strengthen coordination among the relevant government agencies.

Speaking on behalf of Development Partners, Fiona Lappin, Head of the UK's Department for International Development in Vietnam stressed the importance to proactively adapt to a new socioeconomic environment so that no Vietnamese is left out of the process of growth and development. *"We believe that, as the Vietnamese economy continues on a path of economic recovery, there continues to be a need for efficient welfare measures that help Vietnamese families through these difficult times. We need to think differently about how to address the emerging challenges of rising inequality, urban poverty and the working poor, especially ethnic minority that accompany middle income status."*

United Nations Resident Coordinator, Mr. Jesper Morch, reminded the meeting that *"looking at poverty in terms of deprivation and not only in terms of income, we see that one of three children in Vietnam is poor in terms of being deprived of basic needs such as education, healthy sanitation or social inclusion or protection."* He added that *"in this context, development partners welcomed the current efforts of the Government to reform its social protection system and encourage the Government to embrace fully a universal approach to social protection as a core development strategy."*

Strengthening public administration and fighting corruption

Participants heard reports on the results of the Anti-Corruption Dialogue, held ahead of the CG meeting, which focused on the health sector in particular.

Development Partners presented their experiences and recommendations, and exchanged views with the government on informal payments in the sector.

On behalf of the Development Partners, Swedish Ambassador Rolf Bergman stressed the need to involve the civil society in fighting corruption and improving the quality of public services. *"In the fight against corruption, it is the joint efforts of everyone that will lead to success. It is not enough to only have good laws and decrees, but it is the combination of engagement of the Party, Government, Civil Society, media and each individual in the society that lead to results"*

American Ambassador to Vietnam, Michael Michalak commenting on Vietnam's public administrative reforms, said: *"There is a pressing need to expand awareness, understanding and involvement of public, private sector and civil society organizations in Project 30 through outreach and public relations, and proactive engagement of key stakeholders. Strong leadership and political commitment will be even more critical during the review and simplification process."*

Climate Change and Sustainable Development

Development Partners and the government discussed the environmental aspects of industrialization and in particular the climate change agenda. They also reviewed the government's policies for mitigation and adaptation to climate change, as well as coordination and management of external financial flows for climate change.

On behalf of Development Partners, the **Danish Ambassador, Mr. Peter Lysholt Hansen**, stressed the need to make *“the National Target Programme to Respond to Climate Change operational as soon as possible*. He also highlighted *“the importance of ensuring effective coordination and management as additional international funding for climate change in Vietnam was expected.”* He commended the Prime Minister for participating in the United Nations Climate Change Conference Copenhagen 2009 (COP 15).

Minister of Planning and Investment Võ Hồng Phúc concluded the meeting by thanking the Development Partners for a record-high commitment to Vietnam’s

development, in spite of the donors’ own difficulties. *“We are committed to effectively use the funding, and closely monitor the implementation of donors’ money.”*

In her closing remarks, the World Bank Country Director to Vietnam Victoria Kwakwa extended the Development Partners’ support to the country’s development process. *“Development Partners stand ready to continue to provide support to Vietnam to consolidate earlier development progress and to confront the new challenges presented by entering middle income status.”*

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