

INFORMATION**Scientific Conference: Migration, Development and Poverty Reduction**

Hanoi, in two days October the 5th and 6th 2009, Scientific Conference "Migration, Development and Poverty Reduction" was held with the cooperation of Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS) and the United Nations in Vietnam (UN). Attending the conference were representatives of UN leaders, VASS, the departments and branches in domestic and experts, researchers, from international.

At the conference, participants agreed that the benefits of migration not only were noticed at the national and regional level but also at individual migrants and their families. Prof. Bruce Campbell, Representative of UNFPA emphasized the aspect to promote the migration because migration can help to promote human development. Women, men and children moved to live elsewhere, the communities they move to and people stayed in the country, gets benefits. Benefits from the transfer of money to families and communities of migrants are important. Estimating the total amount of money which migrants in nation and international sent to their native country was 5.5 billion U.S. dollars in 2007 (according to the on the Human Development Report 2009 by UNDP).

In Vietnam, domestic migration has been contributing to raise economic growth rapidly and reduce poverty. This is shown clearly over the past 20 years. The data

of the recent National census of the population fluctuations in 2007 showed that with each 100 people there were 7.5 migrants, more than 2 times higher than the number of the year 2005 (the rate was 3.36 migrants per 1000 populations). Research results showed that income generated in urban areas and industrial parks in Vietnam tended to be sent to poorer areas. This is a direct positive impact on the activities of people migrating. As a result, Vietnam has been substantially reduced poverty - from 58% in 1993 to 15.6% in 2006.

In addition to note the migrants' contributions about society and economics, the conference also clearly showed social challenges related to migration process, such as migrants are vulnerable and they need the special care of policy makers because of migration from rural to urban areas makes pressures on the current infrastructure in cities and other social services like housing, medical treatment disease, electricity and water systems and sanitation; ensuring equitable access to quality services in health care, education and other social services for immigrants is a challenge; household registration system now is a barrier to migrants in accessing services and information that local people get; the greatest risks for women migrants are sex abuse and violence leading to the dangers of HIV / AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases which are the main reason is due to lack of social protection and sponsor.

Therefore, according to comments at the conference the considerations about policy in the present period should be noted that: immigration should be integrated into national poverty reduction strategies and so-economic development planning ; ensuring the provision of sponsored services and social security for migrants, especially low-income people and women; ensuring equal access to social services such as education, health care, especially consider the perspective of gender, children and youth; although many measures to reform registration procedures for temporarily and permanent residence has been used to reduce the limits for a certain group of migrants, migrants who did not register or just register temporarily household registration still had many difficulties.

In this conference, UNDP also announced the Human Development Report 2009 titled "Overcoming barriers: Migration and Human Development".

HÒA AN

Conference "Vũ Trọng Phụng in the process of Vietnam literature"

On the occasion of 70 years commemoration of the writer Vũ Trọng Phụng's death, on October 30th 2009, the conference "Vũ Trọng Phụng in the process of Vietnam literature" in Hanoi, held under the co-organization of Vietnam Writers' Association and the Literature Institute. The conference had the participations of the writers, poets and critical literary researchers and large readers.

After a commemoration by burning incense and opening speech of the chairman Hữu Thịnh, the conference exchanges knowledge of life, career of the writer Vũ Trọng Phụng and raise and fall destiny of his famous work.

Vũ Trọng Phụng (1912 - 1939) was a famous writer and journalist in Vietnam of the earlier 20th century. In spite of having short writing, with the first short story "Chống nạng lên đường" posted in *Ngộ báo* newspaper in 1930, he left staggering works: more than 30 short stories, 9 episodes of novels, 9 episodes of reportage, 7 plays, 1 translated play from French, some critical works, literary debates and hundreds of articles written about the problems of politics, society, culture. Some excerpts of his works *Số đỏ* and *Giông Tố* was put into literature textbooks of Vietnam. Well-known with his satirical satire, some people admired him as Balzac of Vietnam.

Most of the comments said that the literature of Vũ Trọng Phụng was a journey of sticking with the truth, only the truth. The picture of the old generation, which he painted in his works, has still true value until now.

This is the 3rd conference about Vũ Trọng Phụng which officially reconfirmed the value of his literature career and explained why a long time people admired for him not only in arts but also in political and moral, outlook of world and outlook of life, made him become both sinners and victims in an internal conflict about ideology, the concept of birth and art. According to comments at the conference, at that time

the writer used sharp pen to fiercely protect himself, which is an encouragement to those who love Vũ Trọng Phụng

Since 1989, being returned to the worthy position in the literature, he was one of the leading reality writers of the 20th century in Vietnam. Vũ Trọng Phụng had been confirmed as the few leaders who had first contribution to enrich for the Vietnam modern literature.

ĐOÀN TÂM

Conference for “Introducing Vietnamese Literature to the world”

In days from 5th to 10th of January 2010, the conference for introducing Vietnamese literature to the world has taken place in Hanoi. Attendants are 108 representatives from 34 foreign countries and nearly 200 ones who are translators, culture researchers, poets and writers in domestic, members of Vietnamese writers’ society and representatives of publishing houses, publishing offices. Representatives have met and discussed in group about 4 main topics: Vietnamese classical literature, Vietnamese modern prose, Vietnamese modern poem, and Vietnamese youth literature.

Giving speech in the conference opening, poet Huu Thinh, president of Vietnamese writers’ society emphasized that literature is the important channel of communication in the integration process. Introducing Vietnamese literature to the world is actually the way of culture exchanges and diplomacy by culture. It is also considered the exchanges among civilizations and this

conference is the opportunity for Vietnamese literature to enter the world one.

Generalizing the situation of literature’s translation in the past time, Mr Huu Thinh said that there is still an unbalance in literature’s translation. According to an uncompleted statistics, up to 2007 there were 13.7000 foreign literary works publishing in Vietnam whereas just 570 Vietnamese ones were translated into other languages. Moreover, while literary works (including both classic and modern ones) from foreign countries are warmly welcomed in Vietnam, Vietnam’s literary works are not assessed positively in foreign countries. The translation of Vietnamese literature is not done in a systematic way by a professional organization but spontaneously and randomly. He noted that translation is an interest and useful job but also be difficult and complicated one. Therefore, a long-term strategy is needed. The interest and demand of readers around the world, acquisition of different cultures, profit gained from publishing, translator’s role and benefit all must be considered.

In the conference, many foreign representatives have directly expressed their opinions about this meeting; after reading the speech about the literature’s translation and its role in current life. Many representatives agree that there is a few Vietnamese literary works published in foreign countries, the amount is so small in comparison with the capacity of Vietnam literature and writing in 100 years. They all wish that

the literature's value of the country which is shaped like an S will be sent all over the world.

Evaluating the organization of translation staff, some said that the number of Vietnamese translators is so small, they are not trained and organized in a systematic way. The number of experienced translators is decreasing, the young and potential ones have not been treated appropriately in both material and spirit aspects.

Sharing the same view of the committee of Vietnamese writers' society, many writers and translators in domestic and from foreign countries said that it is high time established a translation center. By this, specific plans will be prepared and implemented to gather translators and support them in introducing Vietnamese literature.

In time the conference taking place, writers and their literary works which have been translated into many foreign languages and become typical ones by the time have been shown and introduced in the national library (No 31 Tràng Thi, Hanoi). Besides, famous writers from foreign countries and their works which have been translated into Vietnamese are also introduced. Those foreign literary works have big effects on the literary and cultural life of Vietnamese.

HIÊN LY

Scientific conference: Scientific foundation for regions' development in the context of Vietnams' international integration

Recently, in Hanoi, the institute for Vietnamese studies and scientific development that belongs to Hanoi national University has organized a scientific conference named "scientific foundation for regions' development in the context of Vietnam's international integration". The conference is occasion for scientists, researchers to discuss and exchange information, experience in studying and training of regional science, regions' zoning and other related fields. Many representatives from research institutes, ministries, departments and many universities in domestic have participated.

More than 80 scientific reports that have been sent to the organization board of the conference concentrate on following contents: theory basis of region zoning and regions' development learned from theory in the world and practice in Vietnam; policy and strategy for region's development in the context of international integration; the combination between environmental problems, climate changes and project for socio-economic development, those are considered basic issues of sustainable development of regions.

In the conference, representatives have agreed that Vietnam is the country that has rich and various resources. The territory is divided into regions, zones which have specific characteristics of natural condition, residence, socio-economic condition and culture. Having a general and total research on the capacity for development and analyzing the characteristics of cultural space are scientific foundations that play

important role in sustainable development of regions in the context of Vietnam's integration currently.

Since 15th century, there have been research works of administrative territory in Vietnam that access the point of nation, independence, and self-control of each administrative region. To prevent external invasion and protect the territorial integrity, in the past, when the definition of "region development" has not used yet, our predecessors have divided the country into zones, have planned production, and national defense. Those are considered flexible, delicate issues that play a very important role in the history of national development. Nowadays, due to the demand of the real life and the nation's existence, Vietnam and many countries in the world have recognized the necessity of territory's organization and zone division.

In the conference, attendants have discussed ebulliently about: Purpose of zone establishment, criteria for dividing the economic zones in Vietnam;

economic zone division of territorial waters which play important role in the development of Vietnam's economy and defense; determination of Vietnam's maritime economy space; the use and application of research toolkit in real situation of regions' development in Vietnam and the world; solutions for real application.

Representatives share the view that regions' development is different from its real development that includes economic growth's maintenance and ability of exploiting it. This means that the economic growth is not only maintained but part of its surplus value must be reinvested. The key of regions' development strategy is the harmonious manipulation of production's growth and social welfare. Improving level of living-standard and economic growth rate are basically equal, they impulse the development of each other.

VÂN HÀ