

# Identifying factors in the formation of Quang Ninh province as a growth pole

**Ho Si Quy**

Prof. Dr., Institute of Social Sciences Information, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences

Email: hosi quy.thongtin@gmail.com

Received 19 November 2021; published 25 March 2022

**Abstract:** *Economic growth does not happen all at once at different places, but appears only at poles of development to varying degrees, and then spreads to the entire region or economy. This idea of growth pole theory has initially been examined and applied in Quang Ninh province for nearly 10 years, which prioritizes investment promotion and facilitation for Van Don or Ha Long economic center to grow stronger and faster, and consequently boost smaller urban or economic centers throughout the region. This growth pole thinking has somehow been reflected in the impressive development of Quang Ninh province in recent years. The paper aims at identifying the basic factors that defines Quang Ninh province as a growth pole at the most universal level.*

**Keyword:** Growth Pole, Economic Growth, Quang Ninh Province, Vietnam

## 1. Significance of the growth pole theory

The growth pole theory was introduced in 1950s by the two French economists Francois Perroux (1903-1987) and Jacques-Raoul Boudeville (1919-1975). Perroux argued that economic growth does not happen concurrently in all places but takes place at development poles with differing intensity; it then spreads along diverse channels, creating end-to-end effects on the economy as a whole. A growth pole, according to Boudeville, is a cluster of growing industries in metropolitan area, which drives economic development of an entire region (Darwent, 1969).

Growth pole theories have since been

continuously developed and applied in many countries, and some among those have achieved different levels of success.

The theory of growth poles is widely adopted in economic zoning, urban development, and economic development. In urban spatial development (urban economic development), proper allocation of public investment will help create a growth pole through generating economic stimulation and attracting resources (labor, finance, technology, etc.). A growth pole often has strong impact on the periphery and thereby creates regional linkages and cooperation for socioeconomic development (Avram et al., 2017; Dobrescu et al., 2014).

The thinking of growth poles seems to have contributed greatly to Quang Ninh province's development in recent years.

## 2. Identifying factors in the formation of Quang Ninh as a growth pole

Quang Ninh province possesses a rich set of development factors thanks to its long history of growth. It is located in both the northern economic region and the northern coastal region. Ten out of its 14 districts are positioned along the coast line, covering 72% of its natural area and 72.5% of its population.

The emergence of the province in the last decade has taken shape of a growth pole in northern Vietnam. Quang Ninh is not just rich in coal and minerals, or tourism resources symbolized by Ha Long Bay, but also its geopolitical features of a frontier-coastal area where trading practices, cultural exchanges, and a diversity of ways of thinking and resident communities were formed early on. There is still much potential for the province to continue its rise in the coming decades.

i) Quảng Ninh is a *province in the far northeast region* of Vietnam, which bears bold characteristics in terms of geo-natural, social, economic and human conditions.

Quang Ninh has a natural area of 617,772.64 ha, of which forestry land is 422,937 ha, accounting for 70.61% of the total natural area. Forest cover occupies 55% of the province's area, in which special-use forest spreads over 29,835.9 ha, representing 7.05%; protection forest occupies 133,127.8 ha, accounting for 31.48%; and planned production forest land is 259,973.5 ha, constituting 61.47% (Vu Duc, 2020).

The idea of developing Quang Ninh into a growth pole is clearly reflected in the Resolution of the 15<sup>th</sup> Provincial

Party Congress (September 2020)<sup>1</sup>: “Continue to inherit, develop thinking, vision and roadmap of the two previous terms, constantly promote the potential and strengths for rapid and sustainable development, thereby enhancing Quang Ninh's internal power to be “one of the comprehensive economic growth poles in the northern region”. The specific goal is set as “In terms of economy, the average gross regional domestic product growth rate (GRDP) for 2021-2025 is to reach approximately 10%/annum; GRDP per capita will reach over USD 10,000 by 2025; Urbanization rate will reach more than 75% by 2025; maintaining its leading position in terms of various indexes including the Provincial Competitiveness Index (PC), the Public Administrative Refor Index (PAR Index), the Satisfaction Index of Public Administrative Services Index (SIPAS), and the Public Administration Performance Index (PAPI)”. “Quang Ninh will be a province with GRDP per capita of over USD 15,000 by 2030 [...] By 2045, Quang Ninh will become a large urban area of regional and international stature; residents in Quang Ninh will enjoy incomes comparable to those of developed countries”.

Quang Ninh province is a growth pole of Vietnam and a key economic region in the Northern area. Nonetheless, Quang Ninh's economy needs to design its own poles - from a combination point, economic development will have a strong impact on the periphery in the general development

<sup>1</sup>See: “Resolution of the 15<sup>th</sup> Provincial Party Congress for the 2020-2025 period”, *Quang Ninh Portal* dated 27 September 2020, <https://www.quangninh.gov.vn/chuyen-de/DH-Dang/Trang/ChiTietTinTuc.aspx?nid=94007>, accessed on 18 August 2020.

trend. The province sets investment priorities and facilitates the development of some general economic centers including Van Don or Ha Long to stimulate faster growth and activate smaller economic centers and urban areas in the entire region, which is the basic model of growth pole theory. Recent Provincial Party Congresses aim at focusing on public investment, attracting resources in line with the needs and strengths of localities and economic sectors, creating growth stimulus from center to periphery, etc. That means from a starting point, growth will gradually spread to the neighboring areas in the general development trend. This spirit can be clearly seen at the 15<sup>th</sup> Provincial Party Congress. This strategic thinking, in fact, is said to have been tested.

ii) Quang Ninh owns *the richest natural resources of forest, sea, and island landscapes in Vietnam*, particularly Ha Long Bay - a world natural heritage. It means Quang Ninh enjoys sufficient conditions to develop various types of tourism, consisting of sea and island tourism, eco-tourism, cultural-historical tourism, spiritual tourism, adventure tourism, etc. Quang Ninh is also qualified and possesses full potentials to develop culture and entertainment industries. The province's coastline spreads over 250 km with a sea surface area of over 6,000 km<sup>2</sup>, more than 2,700 islands, over 40,000 ha of tidal flats, and 20,000 ha of bays, etc. In addition to Ha Long bay, Quang Ninh also has many beautiful beaches such as Quan Lan, Minh Chau, Ngoc Vung (in Van Don district), Tra Co (in Mong Cai city), national parks and conservative areas like Ba Mun, Bai Tu Long, Co To (Dao Thi Thuy, 2009).

iii) *Quang Ninh is the only province sharing both land and sea borders with Guangxi*

*province of China*. This feature regulates the direct cultural-political-historical-social connection and trade with China. During the history of Vietnam's relations with China, *Quang Ninh plays a crucial role. It is impossible to develop economy in case cross-border economic relations encounter difficulties, the independence and autonomy of provincial decisions are violated, or people on both sides of the border become increasingly suspicious of each other, and the border becomes a political or military hot spot, etc.*

As a frontier province sharing border with Guangxi province of China (connecting with the Northeast Asian region), Quang Ninh has 14 border gates, of which 6 border gates locate in Mong Cai (including Ka Long, Luc Lam, Van Gia, Km3+Km4, Dai Vai, Luc Chan), 3 border gates locate in Bac Phong Sinh (including Bac Phong Sinh; Milestone 1342 + 300m; Milestone 1344 (2) + 500m), 5 border gates locate in Hoanh Mo - Dong Van (including Hoanh Mo; Dong Van; Na Kep; Milestone 1306; Milestone 1326). In fact, each border gate itself is a historic record containing a number of specific lessons on friendship exchange and war vigilance, marking a crossroad in cultural development and cross-border trade. The most important thing related to border gates is the task of firmly ensuring national defense and security, national border sovereignty, maintaining political stability, social order and safety, expanding and improving foreign affairs and international integration. This is a difficult task which has become increasingly complicated, depending on the political situations of China and Vietnam as well as those of the region and the world.

All the historical, cultural and social characteristics of the border gates are related to economic aspect of the growth pole. These characteristics can be exploited to develop tourism and cross-border trade. However, the economy of Quang Ninh and Vietnam can only develop when all 14 border gates are border markers of peace, friendliness, stability and cooperation, where ethnic people at the border gates enjoy safe life in their own cultural identity and the gap between rich and poor with other regions in the province is narrow.

“For a whole millennium under independent dynasties, the history of Quang Ninh is also the history of our ancestors’ heroic struggle to defend and build the country. The toughest and most fierce challenges to the bravery of the nation took place on the land of Quang Ninh. The most resounding feats have also been witnessed and shared by the land and people of Quang Ninh. In addition, this land plays the role of a driving force, a center for the development of all aspects of the country during peace time. When the independent feudal government was defeated by the invading power of Western capital, Vietnam became a colony under the domination of French colonists. The northeast area rich in coal resources became a typical area of colonial exploitation. Despite the agony of oppression and exploitation, Quang Ninh strongly inherited the patriotic and indomitable traditions to write new history chapters. It was the time when the mining area become the birthplace of the workforce, and the fierce struggles began again”<sup>1</sup>. We believe that the statement of “during the

ups and downs of the history of Vietnam’s relations with China in the past, *Quang Ninh has always been the leading locality*” is true. In terms of marine economy and maritime border protection, the Provincial Party Committee has specific action plans to implement Resolution No. 36-NQ/TW dated 22 October 2018 issued by the Central Committee on “Strategy for sustainable development of Vietnam’s marine economy to 2030, with a vision to 2045”, aiming to exploit and promote the potentials and advantages of the sea and island of Quang Ninh, and to develop a dynamic sea and island economic zone in Quang Ninh, with the cores being seaports, sea tourism and marine industry, fishing, aquaculture and seafood processing, etc.

Marine economic centers such as Van Don and Hai Ha districts have been established and are developing. According to the plan, Van Don marine economy will be a high-quality marine eco-tourism area, a high-class service center, and an international trade hub. Also, Mac dynasty lagoon and Yen Hung will become a multi-purpose industrial and service zone connecting to Lach Huyen port in Hai Phong. The infrastructure of Hai Ha industrial park and seaport complex is being invested in, aiming to become a transport hub for both the Northern region and the East Sea region. Co To, Hai Ha, Tien Yen, Yen Hung and Mong Cai are planned to be logistics service centers for offshore fishing, exploration and exploitation of marine resources, storm shelters for ships and boats, and fishery logistics service centers for coastal districts and towns, etc.

iv) *Quang Ninh has rich mineral resources*, including coal, limestone, and clay - the basis for developing centers of mining,

<sup>1</sup> Cited from: “Evolution and development of Quang Ninh province”, *Quang Ninh Portal*, <https://www.quangninh.gov.vn/Trang/ChiTietBVGioiThieu.aspx?bvid=458&Cat=Quá+trình+hình+thành+và+phát+triển>, accessed on 18 August 2020.

thermal power, and construction materials, etc. Part of the potential has been realized in world-known brands such as Anthracite coal, Gieng Day brick, Viglacera ceramic, Ha Long tile, or Dong Trieu porcelain, etc.

v) *Quang Ninh has sufficient conditions to strongly develop various tourism types, namely sea and island tourism, eco-tourism, cultural and historical tourism, spiritual tourism, and adventure tourism.*

Having over 600 historical sites and renowned landscapes, Quang Ninh is an ideal destination for tourism. Yen Tu is the historical and cultural mark of the Tran dynasty, a center of Buddhism in Vietnam, a phenomenon of cultural-ideological-spiritual tourism in Southeast Asia. Famous national sites in Quang Ninh such as Yen Tu pagoda, Cua Ong temple, Bach Dang historical site, Long Tien pagoda, Quan Lan communal house and the like are destinations that attract a large number of tourists. Famous landscapes in Quang Ninh include Ha Long Bay, Bai Tu Long Bay, Tra Co, Co To, Bai Dai beaches (Van Don), Tuan Chau Island, Bai Tho Mountain, etc. These landscapes are more or less associated with unique features of history and people or have architectural and artistic heritages.

Ha Long Bay is a world natural heritage recognized by UNESCO twice in 1994 and 2000. In the eyes of international and Vietnamese tourists, Ha Long is a destination not to be missed. Ha Long Bay has an area of over 434 km<sup>2</sup> with 775 islands (in 1,553 km<sup>2</sup> of the entire bay area, there are 1,969 islands). Tuan Chau island, with an area of 220 ha, is a high-class tourist complex with a diverse system of services that few places could offer, including a multi-purpose performance area, high-class beach area,

cuisine street, circus performance area, international convention center, villas and hotels, etc. Bai Chay and Tuan Chau beaches have been renovated and upgraded forming beautiful beaches with various types of services. The system of cruise ships has been added, capable of serving thousands of tourists at the same time (*Halong bay...*, <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/672/>).

In fact, Ha Long along with outer tourist destination has had the opportunity to become the leading tourist center in Southeast Asia. Vinpearl Ha Long Resort, Ocean Park, FLC resort and golf course complex, Yen Tu Legacy resort, Quang Hanh hot spring luxury resort and the like are classy destinations, qualified to meet the national and international needs of organizing events.

However, up to now, the idea of Quang Ninh becoming a leading tourism center in Southeast Asia has only partially been realized. *Becoming a world-class destination clearly does not only depend on Quang Ninh.*

Along with modern transport infrastructure and open macro policies in all areas of production, services and tourism, the development planning of Quang Ninh has been really meaningful for the attraction of investment in real estate - a field that is difficult to predict and potentially risky. Up to now, Quang Ninh is one of the 5 provinces and cities with the highest urbanization rate nationwide, which is qualified to become a modern and developed industrial and service province in accordance with vision to 2030 (Minh Thu, 2021).

Real estate in Quang Ninh is as developed as in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. Some areas have become 'extremely hot' and vibrant spots. Developing high-end real estate

segment is an undisputedly correct in terms of economic development. The Sun Grand Marina Ha Long complex is a good example. After many years, Quang Ninh is now able to meet the challenging requirements for management and mobilization of complex technological resources to develop this economic sector. Not only those living in Quang Ninh, but people from other localities also take pride in the marina of Ha Long.

vi) Development of transport infrastructure is critical but challenging to for any developing locality or country. Ha Long is a promising destination for various types of tourism. However, Quang Ninh's tourism and other economic sectors would not advance if its transport infrastructure is underdeveloped. Quang Ninh, at an early stage, had recognized the issue but the breakthrough has just been realized by high determination, thorough calculation, and reasonable prioritization in resource mobilization. Nonetheless, as Quang Ninh's infrastructure has been increasingly developed, the growth of other economic sectors improved exponentially even when such infrastructure works are being built.

In 2019, Quang Ninh put into operation 92 kilometers of Van Don - Mong Cai highway, connecting with 1,041 km of national highways. Van Don, a modern airport, was newly built and finished in 2018, contributing to increase the total national airport capacity to about 90 million passengers per annum. The upgraded Ha Long port is capable of receiving the world's largest passenger ship. The waterway system is invested to renovate and improve transport capacity connecting with the Northern Delta. Van Don economic zone was built at the same time as Van Don Airport, a *bold project that has awakened*

*both management thinking, resource mobilization, and economic activation.*

Up to now, *Quang Ninh has a modernized transportation system including roads, highways, waterways and aviation*, making it easy to connect with other regions to become a transshipment and trade center together with Hai Phong, Hanoi, key cities of the Northern Delta. Roads, waterways, and airways also enable Quang Ninh to stay connected with the Northeast Asia, Southeast Asia, and the world. The province's socio-economic structure, particularly transport infrastructure and urban system, has developed in a synchronous and modern manner. Van Don international port, Hon Gai international cruise port, Ha Long - Hai Phong highway, etc. are special economic infrastructure of paramount importance for Quang Ninh and the whole country.

Thanks to early development of infrastructure, Quang Ninh received 136 foreign direct investment projects at the end of 2020 with a total registered investment capital of over USD 6.5 billion at the end of 2020. Up to now, there are 20 countries and territories investing in Quang Ninh, in which the USA holds the leading position with a registered capital of over USD 2.3 billion and 4 projects, accounting for 38% of total investment capital, followed by China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan with total registered capital of over USD 1.8 billion and 67 projects, and other investors from Singapore, South Korea, Japan, etc.

In the first half of 2021, Quang Ninh issued new investment registration certificates for 6 FDI projects with a total registered capital of USD 569,397 million, and adjusted investment registration certificates for 20 projects. The total investment capital attracted in the first 6 months of 2021 in

Quang Ninh reached USD 607.86 million. By the end of June 2021, Quang Ninh had 142 ongoing FDI projects with a total registered investment capital of over USD 7.66 billion (Vu Duc, 2021).

vii) Quang Ninh is the land of revolutionary tradition and spirit where the people are industrious and creative. Its culture and history, tradition and modernity have been built up by the 22 ethnic groups migrated from all over the country. The province's leadership demonstrates visions and creativeness that allow Quang Ninh to be the country's only locality where resources for building infrastructure are mobilized from the private sector: "using public investment to promote private investment" (N. An, 2021).

viii) Quang Ninh's economic growth in recent years has been particularly impressive. Its economy previously depended largely on tourism and coal mining, with a decreasing contribution of the thermal power industry, mechanical engineering, cement production, and construction materials as well. The proportion of the coal industry has even shrunk markedly in the recent years, from 21.3% in 2015 to 17.3% in 2020, facilitating the province's transformation from a brown to a greener economy<sup>1</sup>.

Quang Ninh has been considered a progressive and successful case of economic breakthrough. From a central government's budget dependent, it has advanced itself into one among few localities that are financially self-supporting. It was also named in Vietnam's top five localities in terms of GDP per capita in 2020 (USD 6,700) and collected a total budget revenue

of VND 163 trillion, of which 72.3% was from domestic activities. The province's economy is now more service-driven with tourism playing the key role. The number of hotels and resorts in Quang Ninh has risen by 68% accordingly, compared to that in 2015. In 2019, the province hosted 14 million visits in total and 5.75 million foreign visits in particular. On average, its economy grew by 10.7% per year in 2016-2020, even higher than Hanoi (8.3%) and Ho Chi Minh City (8.0%) (VH, 2019). Quang Ninh is also planned for Vietnam's development of the Northern economic triangle, which includes Hanoi and Hai Phong as well<sup>2</sup>.

ix) Quang Ninh has led the country in administrative reform for four consecutive years (2017-2020). Its scores for PCI, PAR Index, SIPAS, and ICT Index always ranked at the country's top (Lan Huong, 2021). The province had included the goal of improving the indicators of administrative reform (PCI, PAR, SIPAS, PAP) into the resolutions of the Provincial Party Congress. With strong political will and high determination, the province has introduced many practical solutions and measures to create a more open business environment, simplify administrative regulations, reduce red tape, and increase the satisfaction of its people, businesses, and investors in public services<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>2</sup> "Quang Ninh's Master Plan for Regional Development", *Quang Ninh Portal*, <https://www.quangninh.gov.vn/pinchitiet.aspx?nid=58111>, accessed on 18 August 2021.

<sup>3</sup> "Maintaining the lead in administrative reform indicators", *Quang Ninh Portal* dated 26 July 2021, <https://www.quangninh.gov.vn/bannganh/ttpvhcc/Trang/ChiTietTinTuc.aspx?nid=1022/>, accessed on 18 August 2021.

<sup>1</sup> *Quang Ninh*, [https://special.vietnamplus.vn/2020/09/20/quang\\_ninh/](https://special.vietnamplus.vn/2020/09/20/quang_ninh/), accessed on 18 August 2021.

Quang Ninh also quickly responded and succeeded in controlling the third wave of the Covid-19 pandemic in the province. The province had maintained a high economic growth rate of 8.02% in the first six months of 2021 (Van Duc, 2021). It had no new cases for three months in a row during the fourth wave and by October 2021, all the people had been fully vaccinated.

### 3. Conclusion

After 35 years of Doi Moi, with strong political will and visions and high consensus among the province's leaders and people, Quang Ninh has achieved encouraging results in socioeconomic development. Today's Quang Ninh is considered as a development pole in the country's northeast region. Its prioritization of investments and promotion of its economic hubs like Van Don and Ha Long has boosted the development of areas in surroundings, which reflects true to the core of the growth pole model.

The orientations set by recent Provincial Party Congress all focus on prioritizing public investment, attracting other resources to meet the demand and competitive advantages of its localities and economic sectors. This strategic goal had been tested successfully in Quang Ninh and is expected to continue generating growth stimulation from the central areas to the peripheries.

The most critical determinant is the human factor as people are to create and operate institutions and mechanisms. Only the leaders who have visions and dare to take responsibility can actively change or adjust institutions. Quang Ninh is known for its industrious and creative people with a 'dare to think and dare to act' mindset,

but leadership has been proven vital to the province's evolution and development in the passing years.

As a strong growth pole in the northern Vietnam, Quang Ninh province will surely advance into a major metropolitan area of regional and international stature. The province is aiming to increase its people's income to the level similar to those in developed economies, as set out in the Resolution of the 15<sup>th</sup> Provincial Party Congress □

### Reference

1. N. An (2021), "PM Pham Minh Chinh: Using public investment to promote private investment", *The Youth*, <https://tuoitre.vn/thu-tuong-pham-minh-chinh-lay-dau-tu-cong-dan-dat-dau-tu-tu-20210429110858791.htm>, accessed on 25 September 2021.
2. Avram, L.G. & Braga, V.F. (2017), "Theories regarding the role of the growth poles in the European economic integration", *Journal of Economic Development, Environment and People*, Volume 6, Issue 2, 2017, <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/192898392.pdf>, accessed on 18 June 2021.
3. "Quang Ninh's Socioeconomic Regular Reports by the Provincial People's Committee", *Quang Ninh Portal*, <https://quangninh.gov.vn/donvi/tpuongbi/Trang/Catalog.aspx?Cat=203>, accessed on 18 August 2021.
4. Darwent, D.F. (1969), "Growth poles and growth centers in regional planning", *Environment and Planning*, Vol. 1, pages 5-32, [https://www.tgc.ac.in/pdf/study-material/geography/GEOACORE08T\\_darwent1969.pdf](https://www.tgc.ac.in/pdf/study-material/geography/GEOACORE08T_darwent1969.pdf), accessed on 18 August 2021.

5. Dobrescu, Emilian M. & Dobre, Edith Mihaela (2014), "Theories regarding the role of the growth poles in the economic integration", *Procedia Economics and Finance*, 8 (2014): 262 - 267, <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/82410924.pdf>, /, accessed on 18 August 2021.
6. "Maintaining the lead in administrative reform indicators", *Quang Ninh Portal* dated 26 July 2021, <https://www.quangninh.gov.vn/bannganh/ttpvhcc/Trang/ChiTietTinTuc.aspx?nid=1022>, accessed on 18 August 2021.
7. Van Duc (2021), "Quang Ninh overcoming the COVID-19 waves with an GRDP growth rate of 10.2%", *Vietnamplus* dated 20 December 2021, accessed on 25 December 2021.
8. Vu Duc (2020), "Highlights from the news on 31 December 2020", *Quang Ninh Portal*, <https://www.quangninh.gov.vn/chuyen-de/nam-du-lich-quoc-gia/Trang/ChiTietTinTuc.aspx?nid=95838>, accessed on 18 August 2021.
9. Vu Duc (2021), "Highlights from the news on 28 September 2020", *Quang Ninh Portal*, <https://www.quangninh.gov.vn/Trang/ChiTietTinTuc.aspx?nid=102963>, accessed on 25 September 2021.
10. *Halong Bay: Outstanding Universal Value*, <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/672/>, accessed on 18 August 2021.
11. Lan Huong (2021), "Quang Ninh tops the country in four administrative reform indicators", *Financial Times* dated 2 July 2021, <https://thoibaotaichinhvietnam.vn/quang-ninh-dung-dau-ca-nuoc-ve-4-chi-so-cai-cach-hanh-chinh-63933.html>, accessed on 18 August 2021.
12. "Resolution of the 15<sup>th</sup> Provincial Party Congress for 2020-2025", *Quang Ninh Portal* dated 27 September 2020, <https://www.quangninh.gov.vn/chuyen-de/DH-Dang/Trang/ChiTietTinTuc.aspx?nid=94007>, accessed on 18 August 2021.
13. "Evolution and Development of Quang Ninh Province", *Quang Ninh Portal*, <https://www.quangninh.gov.vn/Trang/ChiTietBVGioiThieu.px?bvid=458#Cat=Quá+trình+hình+thành+và+phát+triển>, accessed on 18 August 2021.
14. "Quang Ninh's Master Plan for Regional Development", *Quang Ninh Portal*, <https://www.quangninh.gov.vn/pinchitiet.aspx?nid=58111>, accessed on 18 August 2021.
15. "Quang Ninh", [https://special.vietnamplus.vn/2020/09/20/quang\\_ninh/](https://special.vietnamplus.vn/2020/09/20/quang_ninh/), accessed on 18 August 2021.
16. Minh Thu (2021), "Quang Ninh on the journey of becoming an international metropolitan", *Quang Ninh Online*, <https://baoquangninh.com.vn/quang-ninh-tren-hanh-trinh-kien-tao-do-thi-mang-tam-voc-quoc-te-2529243.html>, accessed on 18 September 2021.
17. Dao Thi Thuy (2009), *Overall environmental assessment of Ha Long's coastal areas in Quang Ninh province*, <http://thuvien.vodic.vn/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/BCCDdanhgiamoitruongtongthevungbovinhHaLong-QuangNinh.pdf>, accessed on 18 August 2021.
18. VH (2019), "Quang Ninh hosted 14 million visits in 2019", *Communist Party of Vietnam Online Newspaper*, <https://dangcongsan.vn/kinh-te/quang-ninh-don-14-trieu-luot-du-khach-trong-nam-2019-545209.html>, accessed on 18 August 2021.