

INFORMATION OF SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

Scientific workshop: “Eco-industrial park model and its applicability in Vietnam”

On June 27, 2022, in Hanoi, the Vietnam Institute of Economics (Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences) in collaboration with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation For Freedom - FNF (Germany) organized a scientific workshop “Eco-industrial park model and its applicability in Vietnam”, which attended by scholars and researchers both within and beyond the two institutes. Vietnam has relied on many legal frameworks quite early to accelerate the digital and green transformation and implemented ecological industrial parks and industrial symbiosis. Based on these legal frameworks, the workshop assessed the applicability of the eco-industrial park model in Vietnam shortly based on three issues as follows: (i) International experience and ecological indicators of the eco-industrial park model; (ii) Current situation, prospects, and solutions to apply this model in Vietnam; (iii) The possibility of applying the eco-industrial park model in Thang Long II industrial park (in Hung Yen province).

The workshop informed that the eco-industrial park model has been realized by several countries, in which, the industrial park system is not a separate entity but a whole complex of interconnected systems as an ecological one and excludes the concept of “waste” in industrial production and towards zero emissions. The model has been applied in Vietnam since 2015, but by 2020 there have been only six out of nearly 400 industrial parks in Vietnam,

so it is necessary to actively promote and overcome limitations to expand it. The case study of Thang Long Industrial Park II proves that it is a typical clean industrial park model, most companies have implemented energy savings and environmental protection; The industrial park infrastructure company also applied a pilot project to install solar panels. However, this industrial park hasn’t had an information sharing mechanism; a general information database has not yet been established; The roles and responsibilities of the infrastructure companies have not yet met the requirements of the ecological industrial park model.

The attendees agreed that to strongly develop the eco-industrial park model in Vietnam, it is necessary to perfect institutions and policies; strengthen supporting tools (financial, technical, human resource development, and association). In particular, it is necessary to encourage industrial parks across the country to pilot in the process of completing policy institutions to have a basis of experience and adjustment (shortening the pilot period); mobilize resources from the private sector for pilot implementation, especially for business activities. To complete the management framework for the eco-industrial park model, one of the management agencies should act as a leader and have the authority to make decisions; divide the specific responsibilities among actors in the eco-industrial park model; develop a specific management policy for the eco-industrial park model; adjust the

legal system related to the environment; offer preferable incentives for infrastructure companies and enterprises; and attract more local and stakeholders' involvement.

PHAM NGUYEN

Scientific workshop “Developing legal science in Vietnam today”

On July 26, 2022, in Hanoi, the Institute of State and Law (Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences) held a scientific workshop “Developing legal science in Vietnam today” which attracted the participation of several scholars and researchers. The workshop focused on four key issues related to the development of legal science in Vietnam today, including: (i) The economic and social role of the state in a changing world - Some arguments drawn from the research results; (ii) Further renovating the thinking about Vietnam and current law in Vietnam; (iii) Revolutionary viewpoints in building and perfecting the Socialist Rule of Law State of Vietnam by 2030, with orientation to 2045; (iv) The development of the law in the new context.

The role of the state is said to always change and adapt to the needs of society. The object of regulation of the state today is not merely the will of the state, but the state must serve the needs of development. In a changing world, an objective and urgent requirement is to change legal thinking. Many factors affect the mindset change. If these changes are consistent with the laws of nature, we will overcome difficulties and obstacles encountered in the development process. Therefore, 5 main orientations are proposed to change legal thinking as follows: (i) Forming and developing research thinking with a specialized, multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary nature on state and law;

(ii) Forming and developing thinking closely linked between basic research, training, policy consulting and practical application in the field of state and law; (iii) Forming and developing thinking to modernize, humanize the state culture and Vietnamese law, promoting the integration in the state and law; (iv) Forming and developing the legal thinking; (v) Forming new legal thinking in line with the new reality of state and law concerning society, democratization and market economy.

Regarding the development of law to meet the requirements and criteria of the socialist rule-of-law state that Vietnam is pursuing, it is necessary to take into account the new context arising from domestic and international changes, which requires stable, fair, and efficient legislation. International commitments that Vietnam has signed or emergency crises (such as the Covid-19 epidemic), climate change, etc. also contribute significantly to the development of legislation to meet new requirements.

In summary, the significant questions in building and perfecting the socialist rule-of-law State of Vietnam in the coming time were raised, including the socialist-oriented market economy; respect and protect human rights; socialist democracy; and judicial independence. These are considered major viewpoints in building and perfecting the socialist rule-of-law state in Vietnam by 2045.

PHAM NGUYEN

Scientific workshop “Two-year Implementation of the EVFTA Agreement: Socio-economic impacts and problems for Vietnam”

On August 4, 2022, in Hanoi, the Institute of European Studies (Vietnam Academy

of Social Sciences) in collaboration with the European Institute of Business and Investment Law (Central Vietnam Lawyers' Association) held a scientific workshop "Two-year implementation of the EVFTA Agreement: Socio-economic impacts and problems for Vietnam", which attracted the participation of several representatives from central and local management agencies, businesses and researchers from institutes, universities, and international organizations.

The workshop took place in two sessions, focusing on the following contents: 1- Trade and investment relations between Vietnam and the EU after two years of EVFTA implementation; 2- Two-years implementation of the EVFTA Agreement from the perspective of state management; 3- The advantages and disadvantages for Vietnamese enterprises in the implementation of the EVFTA Agreement after two years of looking back; 4- Impact of the EVFTA Agreement on economic relations between Vietnam and the Czech Republic; 5- Trade relations between Vietnam and Germany; 6- Experience of Thanh Ha and Hai Duong districts in promoting fruit exports to the EU market to take advantage of the EVFTA Agreement; 7- Social responsibility of agricultural enterprises/cooperatives in Son La province under the EVFTA Agreement.

Delegates commented that in the context of economic-trade trends and the world market negatively affected by the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the EVFTA implementation has not been as expected but promising. After two

years, many EVFTA commitments have been realized and the initial results of trade and investment between Vietnam and the EU are as follows. Two-way trade between Vietnam and the EU in 2021 reached 57 billion USD, up 14.5% compared to 2020. In the first 6 months of 2022, two-way turnover reached 31.7 billion USD, up 14.6% over the same period in 2021. The EU investment in Vietnam has increased rapidly, such as the Netherlands (up to nearly 26%), Denmark (240%), Sweden (63%), the Republic of Ireland (235%), and Belgium (284%).

Besides the positive results, Vietnam's use of preferential commitments in the EVFTA has been limited in some aspects. For example, the C/O ratio EVFTA to enjoy preferential tariffs is modest; exporting only reaches a few traditional markets; the connection mechanism between localities with ministries, sectors, and overseas agencies in promoting trade and investment has not been completed; and the implementation of policies on social security, environmental protection and sustainable development of agencies and localities have not been given due attention. Issues about new generation FTAs as well as opportunities and challenges for Vietnam's exports in the context of the effective FTA, bilateral relations between Vietnam and member countries, practical experience of sectors, localities, or arising social problems were clarified, thereby proposing solutions to maximize benefits from EVFTA in the coming time.

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