

ABSTRACTS

Cu Hoa Van - *Strategic position of the issue of nationality in national construction and defence.* In Vietnam's development, the issue of nationality always plays a great strategic role as Vietnam is a multi-national country. With the line of "equality, unity, mutual help for progress", the Communist Party and State of Vietnam have led people of all nationalities to carry out the national democratic revolution and the socialist revolution. During this process, ethnic minorities always received due attention. So far, many achievements have been recorded in the ethnic minority areas. They include infrastructure construction (development of millions of ha of wet rice fields, construction of inter-district and commune roads, universalisation of primary education, establishment of health care networks to hamlets and villages etc.), economic restructuring, and personnel training. However, for further development in the mountainous and ethnic minority areas, more investment is needed while efforts should be made to maintain political stability and preserve cultural identities of ethnic groups.

Luu Hung - *A sketch of forest management and protection tradition of the M'ning (through field studies in Lak district, Dak Lak province).* The communities and villages of the M'ning in the traditional society paid great attention to managing and protecting forests and forest land within their territorial boundaries. This is clearly shown through a field study conducted in 9 villages of the M'ning Gar in the two communes of Dak Phoi and Krong No, in Lak district, Dak Lak province in the Central Highlands. The aspects directly relating to forest administration and protection in the M'ning areas include the existence and operations of "forest land owners" (tom teh tom bri) and village elders (uranh bon) in the self-ruled system in the village; the tradition of land regulating, and forest land zoning and using for shifting cultivation; the forms of cultivation; awareness of and forest fire prevention; the tradition of "nurturing" woods etc. Also relating to those issues are religious impacts. All those factors contributed to effectively administering and protecting forests in the traditional society of this ethnic group.

Le Ngoc Thang - *Cultures of ethnic groups and tourism activities.* Tourism is a business that is closely linked with culture, particularly cultures of different ethnic groups. For this reason, the Ordinance on Tourism of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam takes national culture as the key foundation for all tourism activities. Along side with the revival of cultural values of ethnic groups since embarking on the renovation process, the Ordinance facilitates Vietnam's tourism development. In the paper, the author analyses advantages of eco-tourism and cultural tourism in Vietnam - the land of rich and diverse landscape and cultures of different ethnic groups. The author also points out some recommendations for the exploitation and development of the country's tourism potentials.

Nguyen Duy Thieu - *Ethnic disputes in the context of ASEAN integration.* Southeast Asian countries are multi-national states in which one ethnic group is the majority. In general, the social model in Southeast Asia at present has been designed unequally between the majority and the minority groups which are the subordinate. Therefore, the nature of the movements of ethnic disputes is the disputes between the ethnic minority groups and the central state governed by the majority. After the end of the Second World War, ethnic disputes bore the nationalist characters. During the current process of regionalisation and globalisation, ethnic disputes bearing the characteristics of separatism - the most typical one is in East Timor (Indonesia)- recur in this region. The main characteristic of the ethnic disputes in Southeast Asia is the borrowing religious dispute colour.

Le Duy Dai - *Contingent of ethnic minority cadres- real situation and issues.* The contingent of ethnic minority cadres plays a very important role in socio-economic development in the mountainous and ethnic minority areas. Through a field survey in Cho Don district, Bac Kan province and secondary materials and information sources, the author reports that there is a lack of ethnic minority cadres, particularly of the ethnic minority groups which have small population. Their educational and professional level is low and the proportion of females is small. Most of them have been trained in the fields of agriculture, forestry, education and health. In the future, to develop the contingent of ethnic minority cadres, priority should be given to the ethnic groups of very small population, and technical training. Preferential policies should be implemented to further the role of these people.

Do Minh Cao - *Traditional forms of fishing in the water-logging district of Y Yen, Ha Nam province.* Living in the water-logging district, people in Y Yen, Ha Nam province in the past had the tradition of fishing besides practising wet rice cultivation. This activity was very important in their daily lives. There were two ways of catching aqua products in the district- using fishing means and without using any means. For the second way, people can use their hands and feet to catch crabs, snails and shellfishes. The fishing means used to catch aqua products include fishing nets, dip nets, bamboo fish traps, fish-pots, eel traps etc. The fishing ways of the people in Y Yen district show the locals' adaptation to their surrounding environment.

Nguyen Thi Thanh Nga - *Traditional weaving of the Thai in Thanh Hoa and Nghe An provinces.* There are two groups of the Thai in Thanh Hoa and Nghe An provinces - Black Thai (also called Tay Thanh) and White Thai (also called Tay Muong). The Thai ethnic group in these provinces, particularly females, still preserve their traditional costumes. Therefore, the local traditional weaving is quite developed. To have different patterns, people combine different coloured yarns during weaving or embroider their cloths. They produce different fabrics for making trousers, scarves, blankets etc. They use natural colour from indigo plants, tinctorial yarn and other forest plants and leaves to dye fabrics and threads. The weaving of the Thai there has not only contributed to ensuring their lives but also preserving the traditional culture of this ethnic group.

Tran Thi Mai An - *Traditional social structure of ethnic minority groups in Binh Dinh province and its role in management of rural resently.* The mountainous areas of the south central province of Binh Dinh are inhabited mostly by the Cham, Bana and H're ethnic minority groups. Village was a unit of their ancient traditional society and the role of the council of village elders, village chief and military chief was very important. They administered the village based on the customary law. Today, villages of these ethnic groups have a new administration system, yet village elders and the customary law still play a certain role in the lives of those ethnic minority groups.

Hoang Luong - *Vestiges of the Thai in the areas of the Muong in Hoa Binh province.* The Muong which have the same origin of the Viet (the majority Kinh) live mainly in Hoa Binh province. However, through a field survey in four typical sites of this ethnic group - Muong Bi, Muong Vang, Muong Thang and Muong Dong - and the results of other studies, the author argued that the vestiges of the Thai have been deeply shown there. They are first of all shown in the place names such as muong which originated from the Thai. A Muong is a traditional administrative unit of the Thai which is larger than a hamlet; and na in the Thai language means the field. Besides, the vestiges are also shown in other areas such as economic forms and activities (the Muong learned wet rice cultivation from the Thai), in social organisation (the nha lang - aristocrat Muong regime was adapted from the phia tao - aristocrat Thai regime) and in some cultural motifs. Thai cultural features are shown in some festivals and ceremonies of the Muong. However, the author said this is just a hypothesis which need in-depth studies.

G. Condominas - *Mainland Southeast Asia.* It is a brief translation of Quach Thi Oanh from the book in French "Dictionnaire de L'Ethnologie et de L'Anthropologie". Presses Universitaire de France, Paris, 1991. The paper points out the diversity of ethnic groups in mainland Southeast Asia. These ethnic groups have created many cultural values contributing to mankind's cultural treasure.

Vu Thi Mai - *Buffalo stable construction festival of the Sedang in Kon Plong district, Kon Tum province.* The Sedang people raise a lot of buffaloes. Buffalo breeding plays an important role in their lives. Every year, the Sedang ethnic group organises a big festive day called the co via K'po festival of building buffalo stables. The festival is organised annually in February. It is an occasion for grand-parents, and parents to offer buffaloes to their children in the family. Together with other festivals of water pipe line repair, new rice and buffalo slaughter, the buffalo stable construction festival has contributed to forming typical national identity of the Sedang ethnic group.