

New Theoretical Awareness in the Documents of the 12th National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam

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Abstract: The paper analyzes the new theoretical awareness of the Communist Party shown in the Documents of the 12th National Congress. According to the author, the 12th National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam is viewed as the Congress of Renovation, Knowledge, Democracy, Solidarity, and Development. The Report of the 11th Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party (the Political Report) is focused on following issues: to strengthen the purity and strength of the Communist Party; to bring into play the power of the national great unity and socialist democracy; to accelerate comprehensively and synchronously the process of renovation; to safeguard the national defense and consistently keep an environment of stability and peace; and, to strive to make our country soon become industrialized and modernity-oriented. The Political Report is made with care and consideration, aiming at getting objectivity and specific historical viewpoints in evaluating the 5-year implementation of the Resolution of the 11th National Congress and the 30-year implementation of Doi moi. The report shows the Party theoretical development in the key fields.

Key words: The Communist Party of Vietnam, the 12th National Congress, Document of the Congress, theory, new awareness.

1. Introduction

The 12th National Congress of the Communist Party (opened in Hanoi on January 21st 2016) is the most important and remarkable political event in political life of Vietnam. The congress attracted attention from all Party members and all the people. Other Communist parties and socialist countries in the world as well as ruling parties and the nations that have cooperation with Vietnam are very interested in this important event.

The 12th National Congress of the Communist Party was held, when Vietnam experienced Doi moi (Renovation) for fully 30 years (1986 - 2016). Since Vietnam started Doi moi, the opening policy and international

integration, every national congress of the Communist Party marked a new step of national development. The 12th National Congress of the Communist Party is really a congress of renovation, knowledge, democracy, solidarity, and development.

Before the Congress, the Party made meticulous preparations involved with documents and personnel in the hope that it would be held successfully. To prepare documents to be submitted at the 12th National Congress, Vietnam carried out summary evaluations of theoretical and practical issues for 30 years of Doi moi

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generally and the past 10 years particularly (2006 - 2016), according to the direction from the Central Committee. Based on the local summary reports, provincial and city committees of the Communist Party were assigned to make assessments in specific fields. In the meanwhile, the Central Steering Committee on Renovation Summary directed the Editorial Team to prepare “a summary report of theoretical and practical issues for 30 years of Doi moi (1986 - 2016)”. A draft report was revised for many times on the basis of discussions and opinions from different institutions, sectors, and experts. Finally, it was passed by the Central Committee to be promulgated.

Draft documents of the National Congress were announced in the mass media to appeal for contribution of opinions from all Party members and people, including those who were working or residing overseas. Opinions contributed to the draft documents, especially the draft Political Report, were really copious, showing great attention, responsibility, and enthusiasm from members of the Party as well as people of all classes towards the State and the Party. According to the experience learned from 30 years of Doi moi, important decisions and policies will result in creative and enthusiastic activities, if there is a general consensus between the Party and the people, because the decisions and policies will satisfy practical requirements and demands of the people as well as keep pace with the tendency of development of the time. When the policy of Doi moi (Renovation) was initiated at the 6th National Congress of the Communist Party thirty years ago, the Party succeeded in doing it. At the present 12th National Congress, owing to knowledge and

experience learned continuously for 70 years since the victory of the August Revolution in 1945 up to now, including also 30 years of Doi moi, the Party surely will be successful in undertaking new missions and satisfying the trust and expectations of the people. A lot of comments and suggestions were contributed to the Documents of the National Congress, showing the people's trust in the Party as well as requirements drawn from practical life towards significant decisions of the Party that will cause direct impacts on daily life of the people and future of the nation. The fact that all Party members and all people paid attention and made contribution of suggestions towards the Documents of the National Congress of the Communist Party is a really lively manifestation of social and political democratization, which not many parties or countries can obtain. Thanks to the democracy, the people's voice in the political life has caused direct and positive impacts on activities of the political regime and the political circles as well. This is a bi-directional effect, top-down and bottom-up, from the Party to the people and from the people to the Party. Numerous suggestions and comments of the people were screened and “theorized” to be added to the documents for discussion and decision-making at the 12th National Congress. This helped to increase the practical vitality of the Party's theoretical grounds. It also illustrates the consistency of the Party in pursuing goals for the people and trying to be evaluated as well as recognized by the people. This is the very value and vitality of the Party.

Based on analyzing and summarizing comments and suggestions from the people, receiving reasonable and appropriate opinions from the people's knowledge as

advice of life or intuitive and non-theoretical wisdom in order to “touch the truth”, the Party revised and completed its documents, crystallizing knowledge of the Party and the people together at the 12th National Congress.

2. New theoretical awareness in the Documents of the 12th National Congress

Based on the practical viewpoints and the people’s opinions as well as requirements of renovation and development, considering them as necessary and inevitable references, we can realize that the Documents of the 12th National Congress reflect obviously the Party’s new theoretical awareness and set up reliable grounds for new developments in the country. Many new points that show the Party’s theoretical awareness and development are described mainly in two important documents of the 12th National Congress, including firstly the Political Report and then the Summary Report on Implementation of the Five-Year Socio-Economic Development (2011 -2015) and Socio-Economic Development Plan for 2016 - 2020 Period (the Socio-Economic Report).

2.1. Regarding to the composition of the Political Report

The Political Report is designed by issues, of which the key one is the Party development. Its composition, however, is not similar to that of other Political Reports at the previous national congresses. It describes systematically 15 major issues, providing a broad overview on achievements gained from implementation of the Resolution of the 11th National Congress; showing specifically shortcomings and limitations; analyzing causes and reasons for the shortcomings

and limitations, especially emphasizing subjective ones; and, identifying consequently the new situation and tasks as well as setting up present measures and targets. Based on the above-mentioned content, the Political Report makes forecasts for the country and the Party as well as predicts potential impacts caused by the international tendencies and the world context on Vietnam.

With the 15 major issues, the Political Report not only provides a panorama of all fields of social life that the Party and the State have to tackle in coordination with socio - political organizations and people, according to their leadership and management roles, but it also emphasizes activities of the Party development with strategic plans to accelerate synchronously economic renovation and political renovation, especially for the political system, in which the Party plays a key ruling role.

The 15th issue described in the Political Report has particular importance and attracts outstanding attention from those, who have a look at the document. It is to make the Party clean and strong, increasing its leadership and combat capacity. The prerequisite to ensure the political goals, as defined by the Party, is that the Party must be really clean and strong. This is a key and pressing issue at present.

Thus, the approach and the method of manifestation in the Political Report have changed; the task of strengthening and reorganizing the Party is viewed as a significant highlight through the entire document. It is a new stroke not only in form but also in expression of theoretical ideas involved with the Party’s viewpoints,

guidelines, and policies before requirements of the time.

2.2. Regarding to the theme of the 12th National Congress

The full text of the 12th National Congress' theme is determined by the Central Committee as below: "to strengthen the purity and strength of the Communist Party; to bring into play the power of the national great unity and socialist democracy; to accelerate comprehensively and synchronously the process of renovation; to safeguard the national defense and consistently keep an environment of stability and peace; and, to strive to make the country soon become industrialized and modernity-oriented" [2, pp.9, 55].

The theme of the National Congress plays a very important role, as it shows the Party's political orientation and directs the attention of all 1,510 Congress participants, who represent more than 4.5 millions Party members all over the country, to the core contents for discussion and decision-making at the Congress.

As all may know, the highest representative body of the Party is the National Congress, where the Party's knowledge is amassed. It has the responsibility and authority to make decisions about guidelines and policies; Resolutions of the Congress play a very important and strategic role involved directly with national development, the people's life, and foreign relations of Vietnam; it is also reflected obviously in the Party's foreign guideline and the State's foreign policy.

The Congress' theme is filtered from the most fundamental and important contents that show the Party's theoretical awareness and practical efforts to deal with missions for the coming tenure. It demonstrates the

political determination and responsibility for the national development and satisfaction of the people's requirements. In conclusion, the Congress' theme is really valuable and significant as a message of development sent by the ruling Party to all Party members and all the people. It can be seen as a political declaration on the internal and external affairs, which the Party is responsible to undertake towards the people as well as international friends and partners.

Based on the above-mentioned conception, we can realize some outstanding points implied in the spirit and style of the Congress' theme, as below:

- The first task is to strengthen the Party purity and strength. Only when it is really strong and clean, can its leadership capacity be improved. In the current context of the Party and requirements of the national development towards sustainability and modernization, it is particularly necessary to: enhance the Party members' moral and cultural standards; increase the organic cohesion; and, carry out synchronously the tasks of the Party's political, ideological and organizational development as we used to talk about very often in the past.

In the past, the Party development was also determined as the core task. Why is it emphasized again as the "first task" at present? This can be understood, as a considerable part of the Party members, especially those who keep a management position, has deteriorated in terms of the political sense, morality, and lifestyle. The deterioration is now rather common and increasingly severer, lowering the trust of the people in the Party and increasing the risk of "peaceful evolution", "self-evolution", and "self-transformation"

among Party members. The eventual target, at which the Party and the regime aim, is to protect the people. In addition to negative impacts caused by the market economy in Vietnam, the international as well as regional complicated political situations have been also resulting in negative social implications for social life and the Party as well. This may drive us away from the socialist line and distort development into anti-development, if the ruling party is not strong and pure to accomplish well its leadership role.

To build a pure and strong party must be seen as the top priority, since it is demonstrated in reality that the Party's sound leadership is always a decisive factor for success in Vietnam. In order to get the sound leadership, the Party surely must be pure and strong, especially in the current complicated context, when new challenges require proper development of the Party.

- The task of bringing into play the power of the national great unity and socialist democracy is highlighted in the Congress' theme, as it is a dynamic factor for the national development. The power of the national great unity is a comprehensive power that results in the internal force for development; it consists of material and spiritual resources, economic and political forces, development elements and national defense against any enemies who have an evil intention of invading Vietnam independence and sovereignty or vandalizing the renovation. It is necessary to build socialist democracy, aiming at promoting democracy and mastery of the people. It is not only the power of development dynamics but also the nature and the target of Vietnam social system.

- It is certainly essential to safeguard the national defense and consistently keep an

environment of stability and peace. This content of the Congress' theme is helpful to enhance the sense of responsibility among Party members and people. At the same time, it shows the Party's viewpoint that considers: national interests as the most important; national development as the core interest of our nation; and, environment of peace and stability as an essential condition for national development and renovation. In the complicated situation of sovereign disputes over the East Sea (South China Sea), this content of the Congress expresses clearly the political view and attitude of Vietnam Party and State; it is also the very will and heartfelt aspiration of Vietnam people reflected via the Party's manifestation.

- Finally, the Congress' theme laid emphasis on an orientation for socio-economic development, which is "to strive to make Vietnam soon become industrialized and modernity-oriented". We can see a new point in the theme of the 12th Congress, which is to adjust the outlook and evaluation of the development in the transition from an agricultural country to an industrialized one. To correct the shortcomings from the 11th Congress, which were inaccurate evaluations of the situation and imprecise forecasts about difficulties in national development, at the 12th Congress of the Communist Party the target of making Vietnam industrialized by 2020 was not mentioned. To tell the truth, it is impossible for Vietnam to become industrialized by 2020. The simple, subjective-like, and voluntarist outlook is now replaced by a more careful and practical one; the quantitative criteria have been replaced by more qualitative ones; as a result, the strive to make Vietnam soon become basically industrialized and modernity-oriented. The deadline is flexible, showing a more flexible recognition that is "to backward

a step in order to forward three steps steadily afterwards”. To correct previous shortcomings, the Party has applied a practical viewpoint in adjusting the targets. It is really an advantage and a new outlook expressed in the theme of the 12th National Congress.

2.3. Evaluating achievements gained for five years of the 11th National Congress Resolution implementation and 30 years of Doi moi (Renovation)

In the Documents of the 12th National Congress, the Communist Party shows its careful consideration, objectivity and specific historical viewpoint in making assessments of the 5-year implementation of the 11th National Congress Resolution and achievements for 30 years of Doi moi.

- Based on its accurate recognition of the context and the situation for 5 years of implementation of the 11th National Congress Resolution with every effort made by the Communist Party, the State and all the people to take full advantage of development opportunities and overcome challenges, the Party has made a precise and practically appropriate evaluation of the 5 years as below: “The Party, the people, and the army have all striven to gain significant achievements”.

Regarding to the reasons, based on the sense of self-criticism, the Political Report emphasizes that the subjective reason is the very weakness in management and leadership in the Resolution implementation.

“Although there were objective reasons for the above-mentioned shortcomings and limitations”, the direct and decisive reasons leading to those shortcomings and limitations is really subjective [1, p.62]. We made inappropriate evaluations and

forecasts about inherent shortcomings and weaknesses of our economy; we, therefore, set up too high targets for economic tasks and norms that we could not achieve; summary evaluations and theoretical research works were not sufficient to provide proper measures to solve problems occurring during Doi moi; there were still a lot of shortcomings and weaknesses in management work of the officials and Party members in various Party organizations and local governments; the predictive capacity still remained limited; as a result, some of the guidelines and policies were not appropriate at all [2, pp.62 - 63] .

- Making an assessment of 30 years of Doi moi (1986 - 2016), the Political Report affirms that it is an important period in the history of Vietnam development; it marked the maturity of the Communist Party, the State and the people in all aspects. The stature and revolutionary significance of Doi moi is shown via a fully comprehensive and thorough renovation for the purpose of “making the country prosperous with wealthy people, social justice, democracy, and civilization”.

Achievements of 30 years of Doi moi are greatly significant for the socialist building and national defense. Based on practical realities for the past 10 years, however, the Party has also realized that there are still a lot of big and complicated problems as well as shortcomings that Vietnam have to strive to deal with, in order to get rapid and sustainable development [2, p.65].

- Looking at the past 30 years, the Party has emphasized some prominent shortcomings and limitations, which can be summarized as below: the practical evaluations and theoretical research works are still inadequate; economic development

is not sustainable; for the past 10 years, the rate of economic growth has declined; the economic competitiveness still remains low; development is not sustainable in all economic, cultural, social and environmental aspects, resulting in many urgent and pressing problems, especially those involved with social management; there are latent risks and factors for social instability; in some fields and some sectors, a part of people have not benefited from achievements of Doi moi; and, the political renovation has not yet synchronized with the economic one [2, p.67].

For those shortcomings and limitations, the Party has straight admitted that Vietnam have not achieved the goals of building the grounds for making the country become basically industrialized and modernity-oriented, as set up at the 11th National Congress [2, p.68].

In the spirit of looking straight at the truth, making correct evaluations, and telling the truth, the Party emphasized in the Political Report at the 12th National Congress: “Four risks mentioned at the mid-term National Congress of the 7th Party Central Committee (in 1994) are still remaining with complicated developments such as bribery, corruption, waste, and peaceful evolution launched in new ruses by hostile forces; especially, they took full advantage of the mass media in the Internet to carry out hostile activities and rouse the manifestations of “self-evolution” and “self-transformation” among Party members. Thus, the trust in the Party and the Socialist regime among the State officials, Party members, and people has somewhat decreased in some aspects” [2, p.68].

The Party laid particular emphasis on this risk, as the ideological struggle is really

complicated and severe in reality. If nothing is done to strengthen the Party development and correction to prevent and push back the regression as defined in the Resolution of the 4th Plenum of the 11th Party Central Committee, the phenomenon of self-evolution and self-transformation will erode the Party nature, making it weaken more and more and resulting in threats to the Party as well as the current regime. There are, certainly, other difficulties and challenges to the Party and the people at present. Vietnam are facing the risk of getting away from the Socialist orientation; the economy may become increasingly more backward in comparison with the world development; the bureaucracy, bribery and corruption may be severer for a long time without being dealt with appropriately. Those warnings was already made at the mid-term national congress of the 7th Party Central Committee over 20 years ago, but they are still remaining as topical questions today; they are really great hindrances to the national development. Before such a context, at the 12th National Congress, the Party has to find out effective measures and policies to overcome those hindrances and create a motive force for rapid, sustainable and healthy development in Vietnam.

- Of all experiences learned from 5 years of implementation of the 11th National Congress Resolution and 30 years of Doi moi, remarkable ones are: “Vietnam have to attach special importance to making the Party pure and strong”; “Vietnam have to look straight at the truth, making accurate evaluations and telling the truth”; “it is important to get close coordination and synchronous implementation of tasks, of which: socio-economic development is seen as the central one; the Party development is

the core; cultural and human development is the spiritually fundamental; and, national defense and social security are the essential and regular” [2, pp.63 - 64]. This is a new point highlighted in the Documents of the 12th National Congress.

Based on the experience learned from the past five years, in addition, the Party also emphasized: “it is necessary to pursue consistently long-term targets and perform basic missions; at the same time, resources must be concentrated on executing effectively urgent and immediate tasks and definitively dealing with shortcomings and hindrances in order to create breakthroughs in maintaining and increasing the pace of development” [2, p.64]; “it is essential to take the initiative in carrying out actively international integration on the basis of national defense, sovereignty, independence, while considering national interests as the top target” [2, p.65]. This is also a new point of the Party theoretical awareness that has been drawn from practice; the sense of national sovereignty is attached closely to the national interest protection. At present, one of the persistent concerns for the Party leadership is to improve the real national capacity and reliance as well as to pay more attention to development of the national resources. The profound significance of this issue is that the whole national power can be promoted and the connection between the Party and the people, which is the most important social foundation for the Party development, can be strengthened.

Of the five lessons learned from 30 years of Doi moi, a prominent one is: to pursue consistently the targets of national independence and socialist building; to apply creatively Marxist-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh’s thought; to promote national

tradition; to acquire the quintessence of mankind culture; and, to make use of appropriate international experience. They are general lessons for the national development, according to the Party’s consistent viewpoint. The Party also laid particular emphasis on the lesson in Doi moi: it is necessary to keep thoroughly the viewpoint of considering the people as the foundation and promoting the great national unity for the interests of the people. This is the nature, the dynamic as well as the goal of Doi moi.

It is essential to carry out renovation comprehensively and synchronously with appropriate steps, while respecting the objective rules and relying on practices. It is the very combination of scientific conceptions and creative application, the attachment of theories to practices, while using practice as the standard of the truth. Practical and development viewpoints are fundamental to provide guidance for the process of Doi moi in Vietnam. One lesson, which the Party emphasized in the documents of the Congress, is: “to view national interests as the top target, while keeping consistently national independence and self-reliance, taking the initiative in carrying out actively international integration, and combining the power of national unity with the power of the time for national development and defense of Socialist Vietnam”. This is the relation of regularity in renovation that should be realized correctly and tackled successfully. The 5th lesson is involved with the Party. It is necessary to carry out regular activities of renovation, correction and improvement in order to enhance the leadership capacity and strength of the Party; the quality of Party officials, especially strategic ones, must be improved so that they can get

sufficient competence and quality to accomplish assignments; the effectiveness of the State institutions, the Fatherland Front, socio-political organizations, and the entire political system must be enhanced; the close relationships with the people must be strengthened” [2, p.70]. We can see a close connection between the 5 experiences drawn from the tenure of the 11th National Congress and the five lessons learned from thirty years of Doi moi. The consistent development of the Party theoretical awareness on the basis of practical summaries has led to following lessons: +/- Renovation must rely on the creativeness of the people and for the sake of the people, as the people are the foundation of the country and they are the very owners of society; +/- Renovation must aim at sustainable development, so it is necessary to respect the objective rules and have creative methods to carry out renovation with appropriate steps; +/- Renovation must be implemented under the sound leadership of the Party. In order to achieve those goals, the Party must be clean and strong; the great national unity must be strengthened; democracy and justice must be performed; and, social consensus must be reached.

2.4. Development of the Party theoretical awareness in the key areas

- In the economic area: New points of the Party theoretical awareness in the economic area are shown in the model of economic growth, the economic restructuring, the acceleration of industrialization and modernization, and especially the improvement of development institutions for the Socialist - oriented market economy.

+ In terms of the model of economic growth, it is necessary to continue the

transition from the breadth to the in-depth in development, combining effectively the factors of breadth development and those of the in-depth development; in the meanwhile, special importance should be attached to those of the in-depth development such as quality of economic growth, national competitiveness, and social labor productivity.

+ To do this, it is essential to take full advantage of scientific - technological achievements, enhance the quality of human resources, and promote comparative advantages. For the orientation towards improvement of the growth quality via renovation of the model of economic growth, it is necessary to harmonize the short-term with the long-term targets as well as synchronize economic growth with cultural development, performance of social progress and justice, environmental protection, and improvement of the people’s spiritual and material life. For the above-mentioned conception, we can see clearly three aspects of sustainable development that Vietnam have to satisfy, including: the economic, the social, and the environmental sectors. This is what many countries in the world have experienced and summarized. For Vietnam, to get sustainable development via renovation of the model of economic growth and economic restructuring, it is inevitable to have cultural and political impacts, particularly from the management institutions, in which the key role is played by high-quality human resources and human sustainable development conditions; and, it is extremely necessary to show concern about social security and human safety.

+ Based on the social development viewpoint, the Party highlights that it is necessary to bring into play the decisive

role of the internal forces, while attracting effectively external forces. It is important to take advantage of sciences - technology and apply scientific - technological achievements as well as creative initiatives in increasing labor productivity. Modern management and administrative modes should be used to develop human potentialities and encourage the spirit of production and trading among the people, aiming at exploiting thoroughly the comparative advantages and improving the value-added as well as national values for effective participation in the global value chain. Thus, economic growth must be attached closely to social development and it should aim at improvement of human development and human living quality (for individuals and communities as well).

Based on the conception of the above-mentioned model of economic growth, the Party has realized clearly the humanity quality and social targets in economic development; economic development does not aim at its own purpose; it does not use itself as the end, but it aims at social effects. It is, therefore, necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of economic renovation policies from the perspective of the Communist Party.

+ Since the policy of Doi moi was initiated, the Party already highlighted that it was at first necessary to change the economic thinking for the transition into commodity economy and the application of market economic mechanism, in order to carry out successfully an economic reform. At present, the task is to make rapid development of the market economy in order to unleash labor forces, which still remain backward and under-developed due to inappropriate economic models, policies, and management mechanisms. Actual

practices in the process of Doi moi, especially after Vietnam took part in international integration in the economic area and other areas afterwards, demonstrate more clearly and profoundly the sound orientation of the Party. The Political Report submitted at the 12th National Congress suggests comprehensive and synchronous restructuring for the entire national economy, attaching all sectors and fields closely to the model of growth and concentrating resources on important areas. For the investment restructuring, the focal area is the governmental investment. For the financial market restructuring, it is the commercial banking system; bad debts must be dealt with to ensure the public debt is kept at the safety line. In the meanwhile, the focal area in the State-owned enterprise restructuring is involved with the State economic corporations.

Especially, it is important to pay attention to the agricultural restructuring, aiming at increasing the value-added and attaching it closely to rural economic growth and new rural development. To overcome bottlenecks in development, as mentioned by the Party in the Socio-Economic Plan towards 2020, it is necessary to carry out three strategic breakthroughs, particularly the breakthrough in the Socialist-oriented market economic institutions, in order to unleash production forces, mobilize and utilize effectively resources.

As Vietnam still remains agricultural, there is a merely agriculture-based economy in many vast rural areas. It is therefore necessary to intensify new rural development, carrying out synchronously "Tam nong" (agricultural, rural, and peasants' development) and viewing agriculture as a fundamental economic

sector. It is completely essential to carry out agricultural and rural industrialization as well as make new rural areas become socio-economic communities of industry-oriented development; and, peasants must be masteries of rural development. Making investments into agricultural, rural, and peasants' development is absolutely strategic, aiming at performing the guideline on regional development and linkage, in order to narrow the gap of development extent and quality between various areas and ensure peasants' social justice in benefiting from the process of development.

+ Industrialization and modernization enable Vietnam to become basically modernity-oriented and industrialized soon. It is one of the eight directions for socialist building; it is relating to the rule of development towards socialism in Vietnam, which is to advance step-by-step to socialism, bypassing the stage of capitalist development.

At the 8th National Congress of the Community Party (1996), it was highlighted that after solving successfully the socio-economic crisis in the mid 1980s, Vietnam set up grounds for a new period of development, in which industrialization and modernization would be accelerated with an industrialization-shortened strategy that laid emphasis on some aspects, including: to strengthen export and take full advantage of the world scientific - technical achievements; to improve import; and, to apply advanced technologies to make the country move rapidly towards modernity.

From the 9th National Congress to the 11th one, the Party made a lot of efforts to set up a new theory of industrialization and modernization, which was basically different from the theory of

industrialization in the 1960s. According to the new theory, industrialization is a necessary condition and a measure to modernize the country; industrialization and modernization are thought to be a process and a combination of economic-technical development and socio-economic development; at the same time, industrialization and modernization can be seen as an economic - cultural process. In addition, the Party laid emphasis on acceleration of industrialization and modernization in combination with development of knowledge economy. It is important to exploit and utilize reasonably natural resources and pay attention to environmental protection. Besides, industrialization and modernization must be carried out in agriculture, rural areas, and for peasants.

At the 12th National Congress, the Party's theoretical awareness of industrialization and modernization contains new remarkable points, as shown in the Political Report.

Firstly, a set of criteria for a modernity-oriented and industrialized nation has been defined. Three major groups of criteria are specified, including: (1) the group of criteria that show the level of economic development (such as GDP per capita, the proportion of value-added in manufacturing industry, the proportion of agriculture, and the rate of urbanization etc.); (2) the group of criteria that show the level of social development (such as human development index, average life-expectancy, inequality in income allocation, the proportion of trained laborers, etc.); and (3) the group of criteria that show the level of environmental development (such as, the proportion people using clean water, the

rate of forest coverage, the rate of reduction in emission of greenhouse gases, etc.).

Secondly, for the process of industrialization and modernization in the coming time, Vietnam have to attach special importance to science - technology, knowledge, and high-quality human resources, as they are the key dynamics for development.

Thirdly, specific stages of industrialization and modernization have been identified as below: To create a foundation and favorable conditions for industrialization and modernization; To strengthen industrialization and modernization; To improve quality and effectiveness of industrialization and modernization.

In terms of the theoretical awareness of agricultural development, the Party has mentioned that it is necessary to accelerate development of high-technological industries, clean industries, and energy industries, etc. and step-by-step develop bio-technology, environmental industries, and cultural industries.

The Political Report also mentions development of regional and inter-regional economy as well as regional planning and regional policy, and establishment of special economic zones, aiming at overcoming the economic separation by administrative boundaries. These points are very new in the socio-economic management theory. At the same time, they are burning issues that need solving properly in Vietnam at present.

+ One of new important and prominent points in the Party's theoretical awareness of economic development is that it has realized fully and clearly the conception of Socialist-oriented market economy and has

determined to improve the ownership institutions and strengthen development of all economic constituents and various types of enterprises as well.

It is highlighted in the Documents of the 12th National Congress: "Vietnam's socialist-oriented market economy is the economy run fully and synchronously according to the market economic rules, while the socialist - orientation is also maintained appropriately to every development stage of the country. It is a market economy of modernity and international integration under the leadership of the Socialist Rule of Law led by the Communist Party of Vietnam for the purpose of "making the country prosperous with wealthy people, social justice, democracy, and civilization" [2, p.25].

+ The Party's viewpoint on the private economic sector described in the Documents of this Congress is also seen as a new conception that considers the private economic sector as an important factor for national development; the market is affirmed to play a key role in mobilizing and distributing effectively development resources; it is the very motive to unleash production forces and institutionalize property rights, including: ownership; the right to use; the right of disposal; the benefits from using property of the State, organizations, and individuals according to the 2013 Constitution; the equality in access to public property for all economic actors, etc. It is necessary to complete the institutions on protection of investors, ownership and property as well as the institutions on protection of customers. At the same time, it is essential to promote fully the role of customers and customer protection associations. To implement successfully the new conceptions and

initiatives in practice of economic development, it is important to enhance the Party's socio - economic development policy - making capacity and the State's management role; the socio-economic advisory capacity and effectiveness must be improved at all levels and in all sectors; and, it is indispensable to increase the quality of local officials in the socio-economic sectors [2, pp.25 - 26].

- In the area of education-training and science - technology

- + This is a very large area of issues that cause direct impacts on human development for both individuals and communities. It is, therefore, necessary to have new thinking, new policies, and new mechanisms to create motivation for improvement of living quality as well as quality of social services, especially that of public services.

- + Mentioning the requirements of basic and comprehensive renovation in education and training, the Political Report emphasized a key point: "Education is the top national policy" [2, p.26], specifying that development of education and training aims at enhancing the people's knowledge standards, preparing human resources, and fostering talents, in order to make a transition from merely knowledge equipment for learners to comprehensive development of learners' capacity and quality in Vietnam educational system. Education needs to help Vietnamese people to get comprehensive development and bring into play full potential and creativeness of all individuals, educating them to love family, the country, and the people as well as encouraging them to do well their work. This is a new point in the Party's theoretical awareness that

emphasizes the perfection of human dignity and educational democratization and humanity. The new and basic conceptions mentioned above suggest new ideological orientations for formation and implementation of a theory on Vietnam's modern education in the process of Doi moi and international integration. At the same time, they help to set up a foundation to: carry out educational renovation; improve the quality of teachers and educational management officials; establish an open educational system; build a learning society according to the rule of continual education and the whole-life education; and, make a change from education to self-education as well as from training to self-training.

- + The Party has specified an important task of the educational and training sector, which is to develop human resources of high quality and build strategies of human resource development for the country in future.

- + The area of science and technology is also identified as one of the top national policies [2, p.27]. The Party, consequently, has emphasized some key points involved with management of scientific - technological development, as below: it is necessary to: implement the mechanism of self-control and self-responsibility in the State-run scientific - technological organizations; strengthen linkages between scientific - technological organizations and businesses, etc.. Revolutionary efforts to improve the State management in the scientific - technological sector, including the financial management for scientific - technological activities, should aim at making science - technology become the national policy of top priority and creating the motivation for socio - economic

development as well as strengthening Vietnam scientific - technological potential. This is extremely significant, as it not only improves the national capacity and competence in international integration, but it also helps to meet requirements of Vietnam socio - economic development in the context of globalization and integration and step-by-step performs the orientation towards a knowledge economy.

- In the socio-cultural area

+ Since Vietnam have achieved more in-depth development owing to Doi moi, especially after the market economy has developed vigorously and international integration has been greater, we can realize more the role of culture and the importance of the strategy for human factor promotion. As defined in the Resolution of the 9th Plenum of the 11th Party Central Committee, it is necessary to build Vietnam's culture advanced and full of national identity with four basic distinguished features: National - Humanistic - Democratic - Scientific. Cultural development is carried out for the purpose of human development and improvement of human dignity. It is the major role of culture. A system of Vietnam's human values must be set up appropriately to the cultural characteristics. Human values are the most significant among all cultural values; they are more valuable than any other values. Human capital, human resources are the most important and they constitute a decisive part in social capital. Strategies for human development and high-quality human resource development are indispensable to satisfy requirements of sustainable development and national modernization.

+ For cultural and human development, the Political Report of the 12th National

Congress mentions some focal points relating to directions and viewpoints, as below: "to make culture become a really sound spiritual foundation in society" [2, p.29]; "to make cultural values become a significant internal power for sustainable development" [2, p.29].

+ Talking about the morals and dignity of Vietnamese people, the Political Report highlighted: "It is necessary to help Vietnamese people have: good dignity, spiritual and moral qualities; advanced knowledge, capacity, and skills; good physical health; high sense of social responsibility and civic duties; and, full compliance with the law. They should make the most of their creativity for the purpose of national development and national defense" [2, p.29].

The above-mentioned orientation of the Party is the basis for deployment of a range of theoretical research activities on Vietnamese culture and people, education of values, and lifestyle practice. It encourages Vietnamese culture and people to develop healthily and actively according to "the true, the good, and the beautiful" standards.

+ In addition to comprehensive development of Vietnamese people, it is also necessary to build a healthy cultural environment suitably to the current context of the socialist-oriented market economy and international integration.

Especially, culture is not only an area of social life and a factor of development, but it is also involved with all other areas. It is, therefore, indispensable to improve the role of culture in political and economic areas; particularly, it is necessary to build healthy culture in the Party, the State institutions and social organizations, considering it as

an important factor for a clean and strong political system.

+ It is necessary to carry out development of literature and arts, creating favorable conditions for artists to enhance creativity. Development of cultural industries should go together with improvement of cultural market; furthermore, cultural international integration is very important to acquire the quintessence of the mankind culture. This is a new point in the Party's theoretical awareness of cultural issues. To realize those new points in practical activities, the Party has determined that it is essential to change the Party's leadership ways, aiming at increasing the effectiveness of the State management in the cultural sector so that culture, literature, arts, and the press can develop according to the Party's political and ideological orientations. At the same time, freedom and democracy of individuals in creative activities must be guaranteed on the basis of promotion of social responsibility and civic duties for legitimate purposes; the management looseness, lack of democracy, and restriction on creative freedom must be remedied. Regarding to the State management, it is firstly necessary to: accelerate the institutionalization and specification of the Party's viewpoints and guidelines on culture; complete cultural institutions, legal documents, mechanisms, policies, the copyright and other relevant rights appropriately to the international standards and practical reality in Vietnam. At that time, the Party leadership and the State management can satisfy the demand for scientification, democratization, and humanism in the cultural area, which are very essential for cultural and human development.

The Documents of the Congress also describe those requirements specifically and practically in the field of social management through policies and solutions to employment, healthcare, social security and welfare, public service, environmental protection, and climate change. In fact, all social issues must stem from practical life of the people and all social policies must aim at improvement of living quality and security of the people.

2.5. Renovation of political awareness and political system in synchronization with economic renovation

As a long-lasting process to get development according to the socialist-orientation, Doi moi requires the synchronization between economic renovation and political renovation, including renovation in the political system. This is not only a requirement for the Party's leadership in the process of Doi moi, but it is also a significant relationship as a rule between renovation and development in Vietnam. Based on the achievements from economic renovation and market economic development, in the 12th tenure the Party has to attach special importance to political renovation. Especially, the Party correction and development should be considered the first task. This spirit is expressed obviously in the Documents of the 12th Congress. Following are new points in the Party's theoretical awareness in this area:

- *Firstly*, democracy is attached closely to development of the rule of law. In the context of the Party's ruling, there is an organic relationship between democracy in the Party and democracy in society. To implement social democracy, it is at first necessary to promote

democracy in the Party, which will be seen as the key to bring into play fully democracy in society afterwards.

- To talk about the rule of law means to talk about the role and the effective power of the law. The law is not only a tool used by the State to do its social management, but it is also a tool used by the people to supervise and examine the State power. The law must go together with morals. The country should be administered by the law, but it is also necessary to pay attention to development of social moral standards.

In reality, this conception of the Party stems from application of Ho Chi Minh's thought on the law and humane.

The Party has determined clearly mechanisms for the State power allocation and coordination, particularly the mechanism for taking control over powers, the mechanism for coordinating activities in implementation and supervision of local governments' powers. It is essential to intensify the connection of the supervisory work of the National Assembly with that of the Party, the Fatherland Front, Socio-Political Organizations, and the people as well.

- To accomplish this, in addition to improvement of the State apparatus and the governmental structure, it is necessary to carry out a comprehensive administrative reform, in order to set up a democratic, modern, professional, dynamic, and affective administrative system, together with implementation of the judicial renovation to build a clean, strong, and democratic judicial system.

- For the State management, it is essential to continue and strengthen the work of urban management and rural management, while paying attention to

local particularities of management forms and levels in the administrative model of local governments in specific urban, rural, coastal, and island areas as well as in special economic - administrative zones.

Great importance should be attached to enhancement of the qualification, professionalism, morals, and disciplines of the State officials and civil servants. It is necessary to struggle against bribery, corruption, wastefulness, while encouraging practicing thrift. In order to intensify performance of democracy, renovation of the State apparatus, and improvement of the quality of officials and civil servants, it is indispensable to pay attention to satisfaction of some requirements, including: legal institutions, regulations and sanctions on training, re-training, and capacity building for civil servants at all levels.

- It is necessary to make the Party clean and strong, improving its leadership and combat capacity. This plays an important and decisive role in performing successfully Doi moi, especially in the political and economic renovation.

Of all fifteen big issues, the 15th one is "to make the Party clean and strong, increasing its leadership and combat capacity". The Party's viewpoint on this is mainly shown in the new points of the Party's theoretical awareness of the ruling party. Remarkably, the Party still maintains the emphasis on what mentioned in the Resolution of the 4th Plenum of the 11th Party Central Committee on urgent issues relating to the Party development; and, there is a consensus of opinion and action plan about this.

Evaluating positive changes and shortcomings in the Party building for the

past five years of the 11th tenure, especially in implementation of the Resolution of the 4th Plenum of the 11th Party Central Committee, the Political Report presents important judgments according to the principle of “looking straight at the truth, making correct evaluations, and telling the truth”, as below:

(1) Owing to positive results in the Party building, the Party has always held firm to its political standpoint, scientific and revolutionary nature and it has consistently pursued the target of national independence and socialism as well as Doi moi policy. It deserves to be the ruling force of the State and society. [2, p.191]

(2) There have been, however, a lot of shortcomings remaining in the Party building for the past five years. Prominently, there has been no breakthrough in the personnel work. Personnel appraisal has been most ineffectively done for many sessions, but no specific criteria and scientific measures have been made to overcome it.

(3) The above-mentioned shortcomings and limitations have made the Party not really clean and strong as well as they have reduced the trust of officials, Party members, and the people in the Party, the State, and the regime” [2, p.197]. This honest and courageous self-criticism helps to heighten the sense of responsibility and the political will for the Party correction and development - the first task in the coming 12th tenure.

- Enhancement of the Party’s theoretical awareness relating to the Party development shown in the Political Report of the 12th

National Congress mainly consists of following points:

+ To lay emphasis on the morally Party building: “it is necessary to make the Party clean and strong in terms of politics, ideology, organization, and morality”. Activities of studying and following Ho Chi Minh’s thoughts, morals and lifestyle should be continually promoted and viewed as regular for local Party bodies, local governments, and social organizations. This is closely attached to struggles against deterioration and various manifestations of “self-evolution”, “self-transformation”, bureaucracy, corruption, wastefulness, and individualism.

+ To attach special importance to cultural building in the Party’s bodies, the State institutions, and the political system. The leadership mode used in the system of the Party’s bodies should be improved; working methods, styles, and manner in the leading organizations of the Party, from the Central to the local level, must be positively innovated. It is essential to set up a scientific and democratic working style, enabling Party members and the State officials to have a closer relationship with the people. At the same time, they must show more respect for the people, comprehend fully real practices, and match deeds with words.

+ An outstanding point in the Party development theory and practice was proposed as a task for the 12th tenure, namely: To change the Party’s leadership and ruling mode; to continue the practical summary and evaluation as well as theoretical research on the ruling party, specifying the ruling purpose, the ruling

mode, ruling contents, ruling conditions, the promotion of democracy in the context of the single ruling party, and the risks, to which the ruling party should pay attention in order to have proper prevention.

The new and profound questioning, which was raised for the first time at the 12th National Congress, will speed up theoretical research activities in our country. If Vietnam succeed in accomplishing this issue, it will be seen as a breakthrough in the Party's theory.

+ Regarding to the Party's apparatus and the political system, the Documents of the 12th National Congress for the first time highlighted clearly that it is indispensable to complete and implement strictly mechanisms for power control, prevention of the power abuse, and handling of violations of laws and rules. For the institutional renovation (renovation of the apparatus) particularly, the Party has promulgated a new important guideline, which is: to carry out pilot implementation of unifying some Party bodies and State institutions, which undertake relatively similar functions and duties [2, pp.203 - 204]. There will be surely a lot of difficulties in deploying this guideline. Yet, if it is done successfully, it will be seen as a great success in the political renovation, which the Party has expected to get for a long time in *Doi moi*.

3. Conclusion

The above description mentions some key issues that reflect new points in the Party's theoretical awareness with abundant, comprehensive and systematic contents in the Documents of the 12th

National Congress, especially in the Political Report.

Renovation of the ruling Party's theoretical awareness will lead to vigorous and positive changes in practical activities of the Party, the State, and the people. A lot of State officials, Party members, and people have paid special attention to the Party's decisions, hoping those sound decisions will help Vietnam succeed in renovation, development and modernization as well as create new dynamics, new belief, and new activities among the Party and the people for the purpose of national independence and socialism to be proud under the leadership of the glorious Party and great Uncle Ho.

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