

DOCTORAL THESIS IN BRIEF

**TRẦN THỊ HỒNG MINH. *Matters of preserving and promoting cultural heritage in Huế today***

*Specialty: Dialectical materialism and historical materialism*

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Thừa Thiên Huế is the centre of interesting national and international culture-tourism, preserving many tangible and intangible cultural heritages that hold symbolic values of the national mind and soul. Over the years, thanks to the Party and the State's concern, the international community's help, and especially local authorities' enthusiastic participation, restoration, preservation and promotion of cultural heritage in Huế have gained major changes and achievements, overcoming the difficult period and are entering a sustainable development way. However, all efforts in restoration, protection and promotion of cultural heritage haven't met requirements of such large, diverse, complex relics and not commensurated with this province's existing cultural potential.

For those reasons, the author has chosen the topic "matters of preserving and promoting cultural heritage in Huế today" for her dissertation. Besides the introduction, conclusion, reference and *Chapter 1 - overview of the study*, the main content of this dissertation is presented in three chapters (chapters 2-4).

*Chapter 2 summary of some theoretical and practical issues in preserving and*

*promoting cultural heritage in Vietnam today.*

Cultural heritage has an important position and role of the economic-social development. Firstly because cultural heritage is an important part of the cultural environment of ethnic communities, an integral part of the social spiritual basis, creating spiritual motivation for the society, resources to develop the economy. Besides, cultural heritage is a fundamental element creating the national identity, the basis for selecting and innovating new cultural values, creating conditions for the national culture development in future. Cultural heritage is the basis for international and native cultural exchanges, making national culture and human culture grow more and more diversely.

In recent years, with regard to preserving and promoting cultural heritage, in the Communist Party of Vietnam's opinion, the Party has always cherished, protected, inherited and promoted the nation's cultural values. The Communist Party of Vietnam has always affirmed that "Cultural heritage is an invaluable asset creating ethnic community cohesion, the core of national identity, the basis for creating new values and cultural exchanges. The Party attaches great importance to preservation, inheritance and development of traditional cultural values (erudite and folk), revolutionary culture, including tangible and

intangible culture". Law on Cultural Heritage was adopted by the 10<sup>th</sup> National Assembly at its 9<sup>th</sup> session on 14/6/2001. It is considered the most complete document so far on the issue of preserving and promoting cultural heritage in Vietnam, in which provides for such main contents as concept, content of cultural heritage, scope and adjusted subjects, policies and measures of the State to protect cultural heritage; the responsibility of state agencies, organizations, individuals and the entire society in protecting cultural heritage; determining the ownership right of the whole people and managed by the State and other ownership forms for cultural heritage; purposes of use and promotion of cultural heritage; prohibitions to protect cultural heritage...

*Chapter 3 clarifies the situation and some issues raised in preserving and promoting cultural heritage in Huế today.*

Huế concentrates a lot of cultural heritages of Vietnam Centre in particular and the whole Vietnam in general, being the convergence of all the national cultural elite. The Complex of Monuments and Ancient Capital and Huế court music were recognized by UNESCO as the world cultural heritage. Besides, Thừa Thiên Huế also has hundreds of temples and pagodas with unique architecture and a massive non-physical cultural treasure with categories of religious festivals, folk festivals, palace festivals. Huế has rich tourism potential with many natural and humanistic tourism resources. Huế's cultural heritage is the basis and

precondition for development of the local economy and society; its traditional craft villages are also the important basis of tourism and cultural exchange.

For years, local authorities have many strategies for preservation and promotion of cultural heritage, creating conditions to revive cultural potentials, considering them as strong internal resources to speed up economic growth. From the year 2006 to 2013, the province has conducted restoration of dozens of monuments. Specifically, The plan of construction, landscaping of the Complex of Monuments and Ancient Capital has been approved with a total investment cost valued more than 600 billion. Urgent preservation work as anti-leak, anti-crash, anti-termite, anti-erosion plants, reinforcement and replacement of deteriorated parts ... have been deployed on a large scale with hundreds of works. Relics' infrastructure as roads, lighting systems in such areas as Citadel, Ngo Mon Square-America Radio, power systems at tombs have been invested and upgraded. Monuments' landscaping systems have been fully restored, promptly meeting requirements of restoration and tourism service. Preservation and embellishment of urban environmental and natural landscape associated with relics have been also well done.

Besides restoring, embellishing and planning activities, over the years, Thừa Thiên Huế also has cooperated with more than 25 international organizations, dozens of research institutes, universities, departments at home and abroad on

conducting research, heritage conservation activities across both tangible, intangible culture and environmental landscape. Dozens of workshops, national and international conferences about research, preservation of cultural heritage in Huế were held. Dozens of important court musical works were collected and conserved; 15 typical royal dances have also been studied and successfully staged. Over 100 folk festivals, traditional festivals and modern festivals were restored and promoted by local areas.

However, slow economic development, low income, limited preference for cultural heritage, plus lack of human resources responding to preservation and promotion of cultural heritage are difficulties causing the fact that cultural heritage here haven't fully promoted its potential.

Causes of these problems are primarily is that the awareness of all levels, sectors and the whole society of cultural heritage's role and significance and the whole society's responsibility upon cultural have been improved but not deep and comprehensive, not yet being concretized by plans, programs and specific measures. Functional authorities still have confusion in handling a harmonious relationship between preservation and development. Besides, the owners of cultural heritage and those directly involved in preserving and promoting cultural heritage aren't really knowledgeable of cultural heritage they directly own, manage and maintain. Additionally, funding for preservation

and promotion of cultural heritage still limited, human resources haven't met requirements; weather's rigor and climate changes are bringing significant harms to cultural heritage.

From the current situation and issues mentioned above, in *Chapter 4* the author propose *orientations and basic solutions to improve the efficiency of preservation and promotion of cultural heritage in Huế today*.

The author proposes some basic solutions as followed:

- To boost propagation and education activities to raise awareness of the importance role of preservation and promotion of cultural heritage.
- To promote economic development, increase accumulation to facilitate increased investment in preservation and promotion of cultural heritage value.
- To propose action programs suitable for each type of cultural heritage.
- To improve capacity of cultural heritage management
- To strengthen and innovate the state management over preservation and promotion of cultural heritage.
- To closely connect cultural heritage with tourism development.
- To promote international cooperation in the field of preservation and promotion of cultural heritage.

The dissertation was successfully defended at the Assessment Council at the institute level, meeting at Hochiminh National Academy of Politics in 2014 □

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