

INFORMATION

The conference: The folklore with the maritime issues

In Quảng Ngãi on July 15th, Association of Vietnamese Folklorists co-organized with Quảng Ngãi Culture and Sport Facilities to hold National scientific seminar “The folklore with the maritime issues”.

Participants were representative leaders of local authorities, associations and unions with numerous national cultural scientists, researchers. Seminar organization board received many speeches with different perspectives: folk culture and beliefs and traditional festivals of coastal regions, folk knowledge of seafarers, maritime landmarks in Vietnam etc.

At the seminar, participants listened to and discussed 38 presentations which clearly showed that the intangible cultural values passed down from generation such as Feast and Commemoration Festival for Spratly island Soldiers, Whale Worshipping, Nam Hải God Worshipping etc. show the production process of the residents, creating diverse, rich folklore values combining with communities living in the coastal areas and islands. Maritime folk beliefs, folk arts are evident through forms of story, folk poetry, folk songs and life of coastal residents. Experts also confirmed that folk

heritage associated with the sea is additional historical evidence to assert our ancestors' sovereignty over the Vietnam's East Sea Vietnam's East Sea. From scientific foundation to preserved folklore forms, they believed that, Vietnamese spiritual and cultural life was closely tied to the coastal life long ago and is kept up till today.

The participants agreed that the preservation, conservation and promotion of folklore value with maritime issues in the current period are vital. The issues of ecology and history of the sea, maritime factors in the cultural life of coastal communities, the exploitation of folklore values etc. are contributing to the development of marine tourism. At the seminar, the participants shared their studies' results, suggested new issues to assess the maritime potential and advantages of Quảng Ngãi province in particular and other coastal provinces in general; to promote the role of folklore associated with efficient, sustainable exploitation of Vietnamese maritime potential in the future.

The participants agreed that, the seminar topic has important implication. It has attracted numerous national scholars not only in cultural fields but also many different fields in order to affirm and defend our

country's sacred maritime sovereignty. For many generations, Quảng Ngãi locals always attach to the sea and thrive marine economy. Quảng Ngãi is always proud of unique, rich marine cultural features of the sacred land with extraordinary people. It is also a province with great contribution to the defense of the sacred maritime sovereignty of the country.

YẾN MINH

The conference: Communication management and crisis resolution in the context of social network communication

In Hanoi on July 20th, 2016, Faculty of Journalism and Communication (University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University, Hanoi) organized a conference on "Communication management and crisis response in the context of social media". Participating in the event are leading experts on communication management and numerous people working in the communication sector, press agencies.

In 1995, less than 1% of world population knew about the Internet. But today, according to the latest data of Internet World Statistics, nearly 50% of the world population uses the Internet. Another statistics in 2014 indicated that Vietnam was ranked the 8th in the world for Internet usage time with nearly 5 hours/day, and the 12th in

the world for average time spent on social networking (2.3 hours/day), mostly on Facebook. The seminar identified that, in the trend of globalization of mass media, new awareness of communication thinking and methods as well as communication management are becoming essential for local and global competitiveness in the media field. Communication management is not only necessary for people working in information and communication agencies but also for media and communication officials in all agencies, enterprises, organizations, ministries etc.

According to the participants, recently, the information explosion and the introduction of new forms of media, especially social network have made agencies, enterprises face crises frequently. The crisis comes suddenly and quickly spreads through media making the companies become unwise to response with inappropriate actions so it spreads further and easily lead to other negative incidents, directly affecting them and the community. One of the most important reasons for inefficient communication management and crisis response is the limitation of communication staffs. Skills of communication management of leaders and in-charge staffs are mainly from practical experience rather than from specialized knowledge acquisition and an approach based on scientific knowledge.

At the conference, the participants focused on more specific assessment of roles and duties of communication management in the new era, especially in the context of strong development of digital technology and social media with the multi-dimensional developments and impacts of globalization process. The conference discussed and gave many solutions to help media agencies to well-implement their roles as mass media agencies, to promote their main roles in ideology and culture, to help shaping the public opinion on national and international issues in the view of the Party and the Government, at the same time, to help enterprises and agencies in communication management and effective crisis response and handling. At the same time, the conference emphasized on the urgency of manpower needs in communication management sector and directions to implement this study major in Vietnam.

HOÀI PHÚC

The conference “Maritime Security and Development: International cooperation and European-Asian experience sharing”

On 9-10th June 2016, in Quảng Ninh, Diplomatic Academy of Viet Nam in collaboration with European Union (EU) Delegation in Vietnam through the EU-Viet Nam Strategic Dialogue Facility organized the conference on “Maritime Security and Development:

International Cooperation and European-Asian Experience Sharing”. The conference attracted more than 150 participants including experts and scholars from Europe, Asia and Vietnam.

At the conference, the participants mentioned fundamental and current issues of maritime security and development. The participants identified that, international order, maritime security and safety should continue to be maintained and improved; the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), considered as the Maritime Constitution, should be respected by parties. Relevant countries should act responsibly in the spirit of rule of law prevails, make greater and more practical contribution to maintain peace and stability in the region. ASEAN plays an important role in shaping the security architecture in the region and is an important forum to discuss Vietnam’s East Sea issues, develop management and control mechanism of maritime disputes.

According to scholars, the majority of non-traditional maritime security issues are essentially transnational ones, normally derived from economic motives. Therefore, relevant countries need to apply comprehensive approaches to address root causes from economic and social aspects, strengthen information sharing and cooperation. Moreover, the participants also emphasized on the need to leave

sovereignty disputes aside to focus on managing crises and promoting practical collaboration to build trust. In such context, developing a Code of Conduct (COC) in the East Sea is essential.

An opinion throughout the discussions was that, the political will, confidence-building measures, respect towards international rules and legal standards, mutual respect are keys to overcome the differences of sovereignty claims, waters, the gap in capacity to respond to cooperate in order to protect shared waters, co-living spaces of countries. The speakers approached recent developments in the Vietnam's East Sea and East China Sea from many aspects to identify opportunities and ideas on joined management and promote cooperation between countries directly related to the disputes. At the same time, ASEAN countries who share same ideals were proposed to change their approaches, focus more on promoting mutually beneficial cooperation in the sea on the basis of international law.

TA.

Seminar “Renovating and upgrading the social sciences reviews towards international standards”

On 20th June 2016, in Sapa (Lào Cai), on the occasion of the 91st anniversary of the Vietnamese Revolutionary Press (21/6/1925-

21/6/2016), Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS) organized a seminar “Renovating and upgrading the social sciences reviews towards international standards”. Participants in the workshop were leaders of VASS, a large number of staff working in journal departments of 34 journals of VASS and representatives from press agencies. Following the seminar “Developing social science journals under international standard” held in Cửa Lò Town (Nghệ An) in 2014, this seminar focused on clarifying international standards accredited for scientific journals; at the same time proposed solutions to gradually renew and improve scientific journals in general, social science journals of VASS in particular under international standard, involving some issues such as: organizational model, operation management mechanism, financial mechanism etc.

The seminar asserted that, in the current context of globalization and integration, Vietnam's scientific journals in general and VASS' social science journals in particular cannot resist the trend of integrating to the international standard of scientific journals. In recent years, these journals are gradually renewed and improved in terms of content, quality of science, presentation formats and forms under international standard, namely standards of journals ranked in the system of American Institute of Scientific Information (ISI)

and the largest Abstract and citation database (Scopus) of Dutch publishing house Elsevier.

As of March 2016, Vietnam had 356 scientific journals indexed in the grading list of the State council for professor title). Among the list only 1 journal was listed in the ISI list and 2 journals were indexed in Scopus list. VASS has 34 journals but none is indexed in ISI or Scopus list. This situation is partly due to Vietnam's scientific development level is still modest compared to the world and the region; scientific human and material resources to improve scientific quality for journals are limited; scientific tradition and reputation of VASS' social science journals in the world's scientific community is still in the

early stages of building and development etc.

After listening to speeches, opinions, recommendations and proposals, VASS' leaders confirmed that, the renewal and improvement journals under international standard are essential; however there should be a roadmap and VASS' journals should determine to execute. The Academy's leaders assigned editors-in-chief to prepare the proposal and specific roadmap to build the journal under international standard. Based on the proposals of journals, VASS' leaders will meet and decide to focus on investing on some potential journals to improve the quality, reaching ISI's standard.

LÊ HỮU