

*INFORMATION OF SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES***International scientific workshop “State, Market and Society: International experience and implications for Vietnam”**

On 18/5/2017, in Hà Nội, the University of Social Sciences and Humanities (Hà Nội National University) in collaboration with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (Germany) held an international workshop titled “State, Market and Society: International experience and implications for Vietnam”. The participants in the workshop included a large number of domestic and international scientists, researchers and scholars.

During four sessions of discussion, the Workshop focused on the basic contents of the relationship between the state, market and society, i.e., the social development theory models of the triangular relationship between the state, market and society; the changes of each factor in the triangle relationship and each pair of factors: state - market, state - society, market - society; the harmonious combination of market's hand and state's hand in the new economic model suitable to the specific conditions of each country; exploiting social capital of all types, strengthening assurance of rights of citizens and businesses; the role of civil society in socio-economic development of some countries; the role of the State of Vietnam in implementing social equity and social equality in areas of social life (hunger eradication and poverty reduction, increased investment in and expanded access to health, education), etc.

Based on analyzing and discussing the characteristics, trends and differences between the development models of some countries on the basis of the relationship between the state, market and society, the Workshop clarified the relationship between the state, market and society in the new current international context with modern market economy development, transition to knowledge economy development, impacts of the fourth technology revolution, strong ongoing globalization and international integration processes; assessed the relationship between the state, market and society in Vietnam during renovation process over the past 30 years.

The reports also highlighted Viet Nam's achieved results and pointed out the difficulties and limits in harmoniously and effectively handling the relationship between the state, market and society, especially considering the specific subjects of the society as business entities in the relationship triangle between the state, market and enterprises; considering the relationship between the state, market and social classes.

The delegates at the Workshop emphasized that from the harmonious coordination between the state's hand and the market's hand in a new state model, it was important to value the synchronism and pay attention to the duality of key solutions of diversifying and coordinating domestic and international resources; to potentially increase forecasts, communication,

protect consumers and maintain market trust, consolidate national prestige and international strategic beliefs in Vietnam's more highly integrated and sustainable institutional breakthroughs.

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**Scientific workshop “Current conversion and trends of religion in central Vietnam: Policy orientations”**

On 30/6/2017, in Nha Trang, Khánh Hòa, the Institute for Religious Studies (Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences) in collaboration with the Religion Committee of the Department of Home Affairs of Khánh Hòa province held a scientific workshop titled “Current conversion and trends of religion in central Vietnam: Policy orientations”. The participants in the Workshop came from the Institute for Religious Studies, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences, Department of Home Affairs of Khánh Hòa Province, Commission for Mass Mobilisation, Vietnamese Fatherland Front of Khánh Hòa Province and a large number of researchers, scientists and some domestic press agencies.

In the past years, the changes in economic and social life, along with intensive and extensive international integration in Vietnam and renovation of religious policy and law, made Vietnam's religious situation and life change dramatically. The reports at the Workshop contributed to clarification of theoretical and practical issues; the reality and trends of religious conversion; the contents of religious conversion in terms of religious beliefs, religious practices and religious communities; the means and modes of religious conversion; the impacts of

religious conversion on social life in Vietnam in general and in the Central region in particular.

At the Workshop, the delegates focused on discussing the following topics: i) The Party's and State's main views and policies on religion from the Renovation up to now and the State's acts in implementing the policies and laws on religious conversion in Vietnam; ii) The current state of religious conversion in Vietnam and in the Central Region; iii) The trends of religious conversion and the current social impacts on religion in the Central Vietnam. In particular, many currently raised issues that the delegates were particularly interested in, exchanged views on and discussed such as the complexity of current religious beliefs, the decline of sacredness due to the increase of secularism in the context of market economy; the mix of religious practices in the context of globalization; increased pressure on management levels for an increased number of followers, requests for the State's equal treatment for religion and religious organizations; the issue of recognizing religious legal entities and religious property; meeting the religious communities' requirements to allow them to participate in education, health and social security; religion and creeds in cultural exchange and acculturation in the Central Vietnam; some issues of religious life conversion in the Protestant community in the Central Vietnam; promoting the value of Catholicism in the changing trend in Vietnam; the issue of the Law on Creeds and Religion that takes effect from 1/1/2018, etc.

On the basis of the reports presenting the comments that were discussed and exchanged on conversion in current religious life, the Workshop initially had relatively uniform assessment and identification, provided much important information to quantify the issue of religious conversion in order to identify this issue more transparently, thereby making recommendations for policy and law making and state management in the field of religion at present and in the future.

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**Workshop “Land Accumulation and concentration for agricultural research - Problems and solutions”**

On 25/8/2017, in Hà Nội, the Central Theoretical Council in collaboration with the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences held a scientific workshop “Land Accumulation and concentration for agricultural development - Problems and solutions”. The attendees at the workshop were the representative leaders of the Party and State, ministries, central and local departments and branches and numerous scientists, experts and managers.

To make an introductory report at the workshop, the Vice Chairman in charge of the Central Theoretical Council, Assoc. Prof. and PhD. Nguyễn Văn Thọ stressed that our Party and State set out the guidelines to strengthen land accumulation and concentration to develop large-scale production agriculture, industrialization, modernization and high technology for many years. Although land accumulation and concentration were led and directed by the party committees and authorities at all levels and took place in reality but still

encountered a lot of difficulties and obstacles causing significant social influence and impact, posing many problems required to be addressed. More than 30 reports provided the workshop with the information, materials, views and perspectives on land accumulation and concentration for agricultural development in Vietnam, contributed to provision of the scientific ground for the Party and State to lead and direct effective implementation of this important guideline.

At the workshop, the delegates mutually exchanged views on and discussed the real situation of land accumulation and concentration in recent years, pointing out the opportunities and challenges for Vietnam’s agriculture in the context of international integration. Accordingly, the opinions were stated that the Land Law of 2013 was considered as an important legal key to land accumulation and concentration for large-scale agricultural production. This law and sub-law documents initially created more favourable conditions, priorities and incentives for enterprises in association with farmers to build large fields, accelerating the accumulation and collection of cultivated land in agriculture.

According to experts, the current land limit policy was a barrier to land accumulation and concentration during construction of large-scale fields. The inadequacies of such a policy tied farmers to their land and made investors feel insecure for their investment in agriculture. Therefore, in order to promote agricultural land accumulation and concentration, it was required to simultaneously deal with many issues,

including effective development of the secondary market for land use rights and on-land assets and flexible implementation of agricultural and rural land limit policy at the same time.

In addition, the delegates also denoted the propaganda and mobilization by the Party committees and authorities at all levels to help farmers realize the benefits of land accumulation and concentration and concurrently to introduce successful models and examples; The state management must

be very strict, which did not let the policy be taken advantage of, disguised, used for speculation for profits or speculation of agricultural land not for agricultural purposes, etc. The State should have policies to encourage the enterprises to locate their production facilities in rural areas, use rural labor force. Attracting enterprises' investment in agriculture was of decisive significance to Vietnam's agricultural development.

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