

INFORMATION OF SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

National Scientific Conference: “Safe Spaces for Women and Children: Policy Recommendations”

On June 24, 2019, in Hanoi, Vietnam Women’s Union and Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS) held a conference “Safe Spaces for Women Children: Policy Recommendations”. Attending the conference were representatives of leading agencies and more than 100 delegates from ministries, departments, research agencies, educational and training institutions, international and non-governmental organizations in Vietnam and many experts, scientists, policy makers and social activists.

The conference consists of four sessions: (1) Theoretical and legal basis of safe spaces for women and children; (2) Safe spaces for women and children in public places; (3) Safe space for women and children in the family; (4) Building a safe space in terms of policies and intervention measures.

Nearly 40 presentations focused on clarifying basic concepts and dimensions of safe spaces for women and children; describing fairly comprehensively the situation of women and children facing insecurity in all spaces, from families, schools to public places in many different forms; summarizing theoretical and practical issues about safe spaces for women and children; identifying support services and activities, and discovering gaps in existing policies and legal frameworks to propose appropriate recommendations and solutions towards

building a truly safe living space for women and children.

Safety for people in general and for women and children in particular is a vital factor of a nation, a measure of social civilization. In the context of Vietnam’s economy, culture and society, there are fundamental changes under the impact of market economy, economic integration and international cultural exchanges, the application of contemporary approaches to build safe spaces for women and children, combined with the current cultural, political, economic and social characteristics of Vietnam, is needed to ensure safe and inclusive spaces; rights of women and children; and their better contribution to the country’s socio-economic processes.

The speeches and opinions partly provided scientific and practical arguments to create and plan strategies to ensure the comprehensive development of women and children, promote scientific research to a new higher level, expand opportunities, and strengthen coordination capacity between scientific researchers and social activists.

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International Workshop: Collaborative Practice for Establishing a Base of Academic Information between Japan and the Three Countries in Indochina “Towards Sharing the Information Resources of Area Studies for Southeast Asia”

On September 17-18, 2019, in Hanoi, the Institute of Social Sciences Information (under the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences - VASS) in collaboration with the Center for Southeast Asian Studies

(CSEAS, under Kyoto University, Japan) organized an international workshop: Collaborative practice for establishing a base of academic information between Japan and the three countries in Indochina “Towards sharing the information resources of area studies for Southeast Asia”. Attending the workshop were leaders, managers, specialists, librarians working at library - information centers of Japan, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam.

The purpose of the workshop was to realize the benefits of information sharing, unified exchange of library operations according to international standards to establish academic information bases and mechanisms for cooperation, linkage and sharing of academic information among library - information centers; facilitating international research cooperation, discovering valuable and new issues of significance in the field of social sciences.

The reports and discussions at the opening session focused on potentials, opportunities for cooperation, exchange and share experiences of library - information operations, managing and building databases; seeking feasible solutions to establish academic information bases between Japan and the three countries in Indochina.

The symposium “Towards sharing the information resources of area studies for Southeast Asia” highlighted the issues proposed to realize cooperation, linkage and sharing of scientific information sources (periodical publications in Southeast Asia) in the context of Industry 4.0 such as cooperation roadmap and mechanism, copyright, technical infrastructure construction, lookup systems, data mining, etc.

At the exchange sessions about library operations in the workshop, participants discussed the following issues: (i) Developing a shared database according to the model of the central - member library network of Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences; (ii) Format MARC21 for bibliographic data; (iii) Connect database at the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences and the examples of the construction of endogenous material repositories; (iv) Introduction of small-scale databases for multilingual publications: CSEAS database for periodicals journals published in Southeast Asia; (v) Principles of document preservation and practice.

The two-day workshop succeeded in opening up cooperation prospects between information and library centers of Japan, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, creating a foundation towards cooperation, linkage and sharing of scientific information resources among Southeast Asian countries in the future.

NGUYEN VAN THINH

Scientific Workshop: “Some Issues of Starting a Business in Vietnam Today”

On July 10, 2019 in Hanoi, the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union of the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS) held a workshop “Some Issues of Starting a Business in Vietnam Today”. Attending the workshop were representatives of the VASS leadership, the executive committee of the union branches co-organizing the workshop, delegates from the Youth Union of the Ministry of Science and Technology, the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology, and many youth union members - the VASS’s young scientists.

Nearly 30 papers were delivered to the workshop, presented in 2 sessions. The first session (Overview and international experience on promoting entrepreneurship spirit) focused on entrepreneurship trends in a number of countries around the world, thereby identifying and analyzing the positive and negative factors to promote and restrain entrepreneurial spirit respectively; and drawing some lessons on entrepreneurship that Vietnam can refer to. The second session (Actual situation of starting a business in Vietnam and policy suggestions) analyzed and evaluated the current situation of starting a business in Vietnam, pointing out the successes and limitations of incentive policies to start a business in Vietnam, thereby making suggestions to promote entrepreneurship spirit in Vietnam in the near future.

Starting a business is considered a breakthrough driver in growth models in Vietnam. Therefore, in recent years, the State and the Government of Vietnam have had many mechanisms and policies to support and encourage startups. The government has worked hard to create a startup ecosystem that is currently ranked as the third largest in the ASEAN. 2016 was called the “Year of start-ups” in Vietnam and the year of implementing the Project “National Program to Support Innovative Startup Ecosystem in Vietnam by the year 2025”. The Law on Support for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in 2017 has promulgated general provisions on support for small and medium-sized enterprises, including both small and medium-sized startups. This is the general legal framework for the State’s support for innovative startups in terms of: credit access, credit guarantee, tax

and accounting, manufacturing premises, technology and facilities, incubation, co-working space, market expansion, information, legal consultancy, and human resource development. In addition, the Law also stipulates general investment for innovation startups, which is the basis for the Government’s Decree No. 38/2018/NĐ-CP dated March 11, 2018 on investment for innovative start-ups.

Given with these policies, starting a business has become a trend in Vietnam in recent years, partly reflected in the increasing number of newly established businesses since 2015. By the end of 2016, there were about 3,000 innovative start-ups, which nearly doubled the estimate number at the end of 2015. Starting a business in Vietnam in 2018 attracted a sudden increase in investment capital which reached US \$ 889 million, three times higher than that of US \$ 291 million in 2017.

However, Vietnam’s mechanisms and policies need to be renewed to be more suitable to reality to promote entrepreneurship spirit in the coming years, such as simplifying administrative procedures; tax incentives; collaborate with ministries, branches, localities, socio-political-professional organizations to carry out activities to develop innovative startup ecosystems, etc.

PHAM NGUYEN

International Workshop: “Vietnamese Confucian Examination System (1075-1919) and Its Legacy”

On August 15, 2019, in Hanoi, the international workshop “Vietnamese Confucian Examination System (1075-1919) and Its Legacy” was hosted by the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences

(VASS), partially supported by the Harvard-Yenching Institute (Harvard University, USA), organized by the Institute of History and the Institute of Sino-Nom Studies, which attracted the great participation of scholars, specialists and delegates at home and abroad.

It is the first academic forum that outlines the entire history of Vietnamese Confucian examination system. Nearly 60 reports focused on its cultural and historical values through the stages of formation, development, culmination and regression. In addition, scholars also consider the relationship and the profound influence of the Vietnamese Confucian examinations in comparison with that in the East Asian region as well as its values and lessons for modern education today.

Vietnam did not have examination system until the Ly dynasty. The history of Vietnamese Confucian examination system began with *Tam trường* (three rounds) and *Minh kinh bác học* (doctoral laureate) examinations which was held in 1075 during the reign of King Ly Nhan Tong. Although, the Confucian-based education has shown many advantages, it gradually revealed weaknesses. By 1919, the last *Hội* Examination in Central Vietnam put an end to traditional Confucian examination. After 844 years of existence in Vietnamese social history, the Confucian examinations was replaced by a new type of education system in the early decades of the twentieth century. Apart from the opening and closing sessions, the workshop was divided into three panels with 14 international and 41 national reports.

- Panel 1 (consists of 17 reports) focused on analyzing a number of issues on

Vietnamese examination such as the role of education promotion activities in villages; Confucianism and Confucian examination system under the Ho Dynasty; Confucian education in the Later Le dynasty, etc. At the same time, they compared Vietnamese Confucian examination system with that of other countries and territories such as China, Japan, and Taiwan.

- Panel 2 (20 reports) discussed the Confucian education and examinations under Nguyen Lords and Nguyen Dynasty; Vietnamese Confucian examination seen from the 21st century; causes of ending the imperial examination system and its impact on education in East Asia from international comparative perspective.

- Panel 3 (18 reports) discussed the history of Vietnamese examination system in the 15th - 16th centuries, and in the 17th - 20th centuries; Confucian examination and Vietnamese culture.

The reports and opinions on examination system from the historical, Sino-Nom and cultural perspectives have made many valuable and positive contributions to traditional as well as modern education and examination issues in East Asia in general and in Vietnam in particular. Looking back on the 100 years of Vietnamese Confucian examination, national and foreign scholars have introduced new dimensions in studying the history of an important intellectual period that has not been properly evaluated. Despite the ending of the traditional examination system and the Confucian education institution, its legacies seems to be firmly embedded in social life of East Asian countries, including Vietnam.

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