

INFORMATION OF SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

Annual National Scientific Conference on Sino-Nom Studies in 2021

On October 1st, 2021, the Institute of Sino-Nom Studies (Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences) organized the 5th annual national scientific conference on Sino-Nom Studies in 2021. This webinar, which inherited the model from the annual Sino-Nom Announcement Conference since 2017, prioritized research and exploitation of original Sino-Nom documents; and welcomed both translations and summaries published in foreign languages to update the Sino-Nom studies in the world. A large number of scholars and researchers from research institutes, universities, and churches attended an overview report on the annual national conference on Sino-Nom studies over the past 5 years at the plenary session and 30 papers presented in 4 subcommittees.

Subcommittee 1 discussed issues related to Buddhism in Vietnam through Sino-Nom documents, namely, some information about Khuong Viet Grand Master through his notes in the *Thiền uyển tập anh* (Collection of Outstanding Figures of the Zen Garden); introduction of the text *Chú đại bi* (Great Compassion Mantra) with the *zhuyin* characters of Pham Dinh Ho, Head Master of the Imperial Academy; changes in attitude towards Buddhism of Confucianism Le Quy Don; documents about Am Vai pagoda in the Buddhist space of Tay Yen Tu; learning about Outer Land Buddhism of the 18th century reflected in making offerings, etc.

Subcommittee 2 focused on epitaphs and epitaphs for *Hậu thần* (canonized

person) in Vietnam with reports such as the contributions of some concubines of the Trinh lords through the election of canonized person inscribed on the epitaph; the custom of electing canonized person in An Thi, Hung Yen revealed in epitaphs; Buddhist customs and beliefs of Hung Yen province through the epitaph for canonized Buddhist in the 17th century; epitaphs for canonized Buddhist in Ninh Binh province of Nguyen Dynasty (period 1884-1945); Collection of epitaphs by Pham Phu Thu; epitaphs for canonized Catholics, Sino-Nom epitaphs for Chinese in the North of Vietnam, epitaphs for canonized persons of Hanoi families.

Subcommittee 3 presented papers on Sino-Nom studies in the fields of language, writing, ethnicity, literature, culture, etc., in which Sino-Nom documents are taken as the central factor for interpretation, such as relics of Nguyen Van Truong, the Doan Hung Lord in An Cuu village (Hue City); Indo-European Catholic vocabulary with Sino-Vietnamese structure: bibles of the Catholic Dioceses in Vietnam; administrative units in Quang Nam province from the Nguyen Lords to the beginning of the Nguyen Dynasty; study promotion of the Literary Association in Vietnam, etc.

Subcommittee 4 studied Sino-Nom documents to explore following issues: *An Nam chí nguyên* (Geography of Annam) in *Đại Minh nhất thống chí* (Gazetteer of Dai Minh); Sino-Nom heritage on clans and villages in Duy Xuyen district, Quang Nam province; the editing, digitizing, cataloging and documenting the printing woodblocks of Tu Dam pagoda, Hue city; two printing

woodblocks related to the *Hải Thượng Lãn Ông y tông tâm lĩnh* comprehensive medical work series discovered at the Ha Tinh provincial museum, etc.

The conference papers presented several new results of Sino-Nom studies, fresh perspectives, and likewise issues and aspects that need to be examined and explored in future Sino-Nom studies.

PHAM NGUYEN

Scientific Workshop: “Quang Ninh Province: Factors to Form a Growth Pole”

On October 21st, 2021, the Institute of Social Sciences Information, under the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences organized a webinar workshop “Quang Ninh Province: Factors to Form a Growth Pole” with attendees from the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences and representative leaders of departments and agencies of Quang Ninh province.

The workshop presentations focused on the factors forming a growth pole; the geopolitical and geo-economic role of Van Don seaport in the national development; potential for logistics development; digital transformation and building digital government; advantages and challenges in developing island, marine, and spiritual tourism; information resources about Quang Ninh province at the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences, etc.

The attendees at the Conference indicated the advantages of geostrategic location of Quang Ninh province, in terms of politics, economy, military and foreign affairs; as well as its natural resources, economic openness, historical and cultural heritage, etc. They highly appreciated the breakthrough efforts of Quang Ninh province in renewing management thinking, administrative reform, and improving the

business investment environment; in the development of local strong industries; in handling conflicts arising to ensure sustainable development. Quang Ninh province has also made outstanding achievements in economic restructuring towards a green growth model, using public investment to attract private investment in building transport infrastructure, other public utilities, and important economic constructions; especially the formation of Van Don Economic Zone as a foundation to promote the dynamic and static advantages of the process of industrialization and modernization in the context of globalization and international integration.

In 2020, for the first time, all four indexes, namely, PCI - Provincial Competitiveness Index, PAR Index - Public Administration Reform Index, SIPAS - Index measuring people’s satisfaction with services of the state administrative agencies and PAPI - The Provincial Governance and Public Administration Performance Index of Quang Ninh province are at the “top” position among 63 provinces and cities in the country. In which, PCI and PAR Index have held the top position for 4 consecutive years (2017-2020). The readiness index for the development and application of information and communication technology (ICT Index) has maintained the 3rd position for 2 consecutive years (2019-2020).

There are 6 main recommendations that Quang Ninh province needs to consider when orienting to create breakthrough development and ensure sustainable development in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.

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