

TUONG LAI

*Sociological approach to socio-economic issues in the process of Doi Moi*

The article presents a sociological approach to the process of socio-economic Renovation in Vietnam during the last 12 years. The author adequately reviews social goals of economic activities and attempts to measure the success of economic policies via the social effects, i.e. human services, improvement of living quality both materially and spiritually, and improvement of interpersonal relations in society. Upon the actual social situation, the author addresses four issues:

- Before stepping to the 21st Century, it needs to have an accurate view on social changes
- Review of economic theories to examine social aspects of economic activities
- A sociological approach to the current socio-economic situation
- New challenges and requirements for a renovation in Sociology

DAO THE TUAN

*Rural Society and agricultural issues at present time*

From a generalized point of view about the setting of the global development, especially the effect of the financial and economic crisis happened in the Asian Region, the author thoroughly analyses the Strategy for Economic Development and Rural - Agricultural Development.

Raising questions on the East Asia's and South East Asia's Development Models, the author expresses his view comprehensively on concerning points in Development Strategies of South East Asian countries.

Based on that, the author analyses socio-economic issues encountering the industrialization and modernization in rural Vietnam. Issues addressed in this article are:

- The current rural- agricultural situation in our country
- Co-operative - its forms and contents to adapt to new requirements
- Non-agricultural activities in rural areas at present time
- Civil society and institutions of rural development
- Farmer's issues

PHAN DINH DIEU

***Intellectual society and some thoughts about our course of integration***

During his life time, Norbert Wiener, the father of Cybernetics predicted that “*We have modified our environment so radically that we must modify ourselves in order to exist in this new environment*” (see [1]). In fact, over the last decades, with the effects of substantial achievements in science and technology, especially those in information technology, socio- economic environment has fundamental changes and is shifting toward an new environment of a knowledge economy and society. Human beings have created that environment, but in its turns, objective development of the environment, with its complexity, uncertainty and constant change, requires human beings to modify themselves in order to have more new knowledge, new intellectual capacities entirely different from the old ones, which will have help man adapt to the new environment and be able to deal actively with this complicated, uncertain, and easily changeable environment. Information technology (IT) plays an important role in establishing the new environment, and information technology itself actively promotes activities of knowledge in all sectors, supporting significantly man to bring intellectual capacities into full play in order to survive and develop in that environment

In this report, the author will discuss some scientific conceptions on the above-mentioned changes and give some reflexions on finding integration way into a global trend of a knowledge economy and society when the new century is coming.

BUI THE CUONG

***Cultural differences from viewpoint of living arrangements in Vietnam***

Based on data sets of the VLSS 1992 - 1993, VNICDS 1994 and two aging surveys conducted in Northern (1995) and Southern areas (1997), the author of paper links empirical results of these surveys with theoretical perspectives on location of Vietnam cultures in the Asian region. Reflecting regionally cultural characteristics, the living arrangements in Vietnam vary between extended and nuclear family, patrilineal and bilateral direction. Differentials of living arrangements among ethnic minorities are also identified in a table of regional distribution.