

**LE HUU TANG****On the Distributional Principle to Ensure Social Equity in Our Country**

On the basis of analysis of the distributional principles mentioned in the Documents of the Party Congresses VI, VII, and VIII, the author proposes that, in order to ensure social equity during the transitional period toward socialism in Vietnam today, the distributional principle “for each according to his/her labor” in the past should be extended to the principle “for each according to his/her contribution.” Specifically, if in the past social equity was understood in terms of the labor-based distributional principle, now it should be understood in terms of contribution-based distributional principle which takes into consideration contributions of labor, capital, and all forms of other contributions to the society in general, and not just contributions to production, although the distribution based on contributions to production remain the key factor.

**PHAM XUAN NAM****Socio-economic Reform in Vietnam (1986-2000) - An Overview**

The author discusses following issues:

- The socio-economic crisis during the middle of the 1980s and urgent needs for the Vietnam Communist Party to develop a comprehensive reform strategy;
- Major contents of the reform, its forms, steps, and methods during the process of implementation of the reform guideline;
- Major achievements in social and economic development during the last 15 years;
- The remaining weaknesses and challenges in further economic development along side with social progress and equity in Vietnam in the coming years;
- Some of the theoretical and practical issues which call for further elaboration and recommendations concerning systematic view-points on ways to address current problems in order to promote industrialization, modernization to realize the goal of making people rich, the country strong, and the society just and civilized.

**BUI QUANG DUNG****Viet Village Studies: Issues and Prospects**

The topic for discussion raised in this article is why during the economic Reform there appear a number of special events relating to the village life in the North of Vietnam, which can be called as the process of “restructuring” village social life.

In an attempt to find a better way to address this social process, the author draws attention to the needs to select theories and methods in order to overcome the limitations of the commonly-used descriptive approach.

A part of the article is devoted to discussions on critical “rereading” history of research on Vietnamese village, from “Indo-China authors” to contemporary sociologists.

## **BUI THE CUONG**

### **Aging and Aging Policy in Vietnam**

The article presents the analysis taken by an international research team under the direction of John Knodel on Vietnam's aging trends. The aging of this country would be dramatically started after the year 2010. However, the aging within the cohorts 60+ began already: the rate 75+/60+ was increasing since the middle 1990s and would be very fast increased during the first decade of the century XXI. It would be 29% in 2010, a highest rate in Asia at that time. The sex ratio of the elderly group would be also very high. Given such aging trends and strong social changes in the next 10-20 years due to the processes of industrialization and modernization, a comprehensive framework of the national aging policy should be immediately formulated.

## **NGUYEN QUANG VINH**

### **A First-Priority Sociological Issue of Urban Upgrade-Renovation: Reduction of Vulnerability for the Poorest**

The article presents sociological analysis of the process of urban upgrade-renovation in Ho Chi Minh City and its impacts on vulnerability of the poorest group.

Urban upgrade and renovation in the inner city are considered as necessities of the development process which have special impacts on the lives of poor people and women living in the city. The analysis is centered around the following issues:

- Positive impacts of the Urban Upgrade-Renovation Project as evident from sociological observations; and
- Emerging social issues.

The author proposes policy recommendations for urban management to reduce negative social consequences for the poor groups during the urban upgrade-renovation process.

## **SOCIOLOGICAL FORUM**

### **TRINH DUY LUAN, MAI QUYNH NAM, VAN THI NGOC LAN & NGUYEN QUANG VINH, VU HAO QUANG, TRAN THI KIM XUYEN**

#### **Discussions on “Coordination in doing research and teaching sociology”**

There was a boom of sociological studies in the past years during the course of the Reform. This was also a period of development of sociology training institutions. The growth of the discipline requires more coordination between research and teaching activities. To address this requirement, the Institute of Sociology had organized a Workshop “Coordination in doing research and teaching sociology in Vietnam” from 3-5/2/2001. The workshop was organized in the framework of the Project “Capacity Building for Teaching and Doing Research in Sociology to Meet Requirements of Industrialization and Modernization” of the School of Social Sciences and Humanities, the Hanoi National University, with support from the Ford Foundation.

The Sociological Forum presents some of the papers presented in this workshop.