

DO HOAI NAM

Fifty-year construction and development of the national center for social sciences and humanities

This speech by Prof. Dr. Do Hoai Nam - member of the VCP's Central Committee, director of the national center for social sciences and humanities (NCSSH) - was presented during the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the NCSSH in Ba Dinh Hall on 26 December 2003. The speech has shown the growth steps in terms of organization structure and achievements with regard to research work and training of the NCSSH during the fifty-year construction and development. This process is linked closely to fundamental transformations through stages of the revolutionary cause under the party's leadership. The speech has also pointed out the difficult and honorable tasks facing the whole collective of the NCSSH due to urgent requirements of Vietnam's industrialization and modernization at present.

BUI DINH THANH

Sociology and social policies

The article has analyzed relations between sociology and social policies. According to the author, this is an important research direction of Vietnam's sociology nowadays. This direction is connected to social changes and impacts of *doi moi* and market economy.

The author has given a deep analysis of such issues as bases of social policies; objects, contents and aims of social policies; research viewpoints of social policies. Concerning relations between sociology and social policies, the author has assumed that social policies always aim at human beings in specific social relations. Satisfactory solving of this problem will contribute to the shared cause of social sciences when they fulfill the task of development of Marxist-Leninist theory and Ho Chi Minh's thoughts.

DO HUY

Culture and creation

Analyzing the essence and role of creation, the article has pointed out relation between creation and culture. The author has emphasized that an art creation becomes a culture phenomenon when it meets the shared norms of each culture. These norms are connected to ideology. Concerning relations between

culture and creation, the author has paid attention to the fact that at present some people evaluate creations in accordance with individual standards, completely ignoring or denying the traditional norms. The author has affirmed that combining traditions and modernity is a cultural norm for our all creation acts.

HOANG THU HUONG

Who are the Buddhist pagoda-goers and how do they perform rituals

Ha Noi is one of the Buddhist centers of the whole Vietnam. The number of pagoda-goers tends to increase during the recent years. The article has focused on who the Buddhist pagoda-goers are and how they perform rituals.

This issue has been addressed in terms of gender, age, offerings and the ways the pagoda-goers pray. The author has come to a remark that young and middle-aged people predominate in the research sample, and pragmatism in their pagoda-going behavior tends to increase.

LE THI QUY

Gender issue in ethnic minority groups in Son La and Lai Chau provinces at present

The article has examined and evaluated current gender factors in Son La and Lai Chau provinces. Changes in gender relations in research sites have shown impacts of the policies of the party and government through development projects. The article has also shown the gender roles in village development planning.

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In "FACTS -REMARKS" in this issue, the *Sociological Review* presents two articles: "Ha Tinh, a culture area with patriotic traditions before and after the August revolution" by Prof. Nguyen Truong Lich and "Family customs in the memories of a Nghe An's son" by Prof. Phong Le. Using a historic-cultural approach, the two authors have analyzed the patriotic traditions, kinship bonds and family customs in Nghe Tinh region. They regard this as a source of social capital for the present development.