

PHAM KHOI NGUYEN***Environment, resources and sustainable development -Vietnam's commitment***

Sustainable development is regarded as a goal and a tendency of global development. Vietnam commits to this tendency. The article has analyzed the main points in fulfilling Vietnam's commitment to sustainable development and the directions and goals of Vietnam's sustainable development during the first decades of the XXIst century. The article emphasizes that Vietnam's government has committed to the principles approved of by the Rio de Janeiro conference in 1992. At the same time, it has renewed its call for the best efforts by all nations for a world long-lasting peace.

MAI HUY BICH***Understanding Vietnam's peasants during the doi moi period***

In an attempt to introduce two theories of Vietnam's peasants (by J. Scott and S. Popkin) to the country's social scientists, the article has briefly presented the two theories and their debate. It could be said that in Scott's view, peasants are safety-minded (in the sense that they do not take risk) and moral (i.e. norm obeying). By contrast, in the eyes of Popkin, peasants are rational (in the sense that they make rational choices), and norms might be broken.

Making use of some available evidence, the article has argued that peasants act like rationalists sometimes and other times - like moralists. Therefore one should not talk about types of peasants; instead, one should talk about their activities - some activities are rational, and some - moral according to situations. Activities are responses to particular situations, and since situations change, peasants act in different ways. At present, peasants who make rational calculations and maximize their interests in different aspects of life are responding to the situations, and this is not because of the types they belong to. To understand their actions, one should take into consideration the changes that have recently been occurring in the country.

MAI QUYNH NAM***Fathers, sons and their values***

The article has analyzed the role of values, the value formation, the value similarities and dissimilarities between father generations and son generations. The social transition from wars to peace, from central-planning mechanism to market economy are viewed as the main factors in the formation of new values that are gradually supplementing and substituting the previous value system.

The article has emphasized the role of cultural factors and social consensus in resolving the value conflicts between father generations and son generations.

NGUYEN VAN DUNG***Objects of the press impact***

Starting from the press role in modern social life, the article has pointed out that the audience is the object of the press impacts, and the press plays a role in creating mass consciousness. The article has also pointed out that the press impacts are directed to public opinion. The article proposes some directions for studying public opinion and audience.

NGUYEN HONG THAI

Highland marketplaces: a culture - market space and its continuation in modern supermarkets

Probably highland marketplaces are the ones that have preserved the most of traditional marketplaces' values and patterns. This social space is of decisive significance for market relations and communications, for cultural activities and needs of ethnic groups that co-reside in the same territories. With regards to market relations, highland marketplaces still preserve many social characteristics and traditional exchange customs. They also express the ethnic groups' distinctive features in participating in market activities. The most essential distinction of highland marketplaces is that they are also the space for meeting many cultural needs of ethnic communities. This is precisely the feature that modern supermarkets have been inheriting in order to affirm their status in the restructuring processes of modern society's market system.

MAI VAN HAI

An examination of the Viet village culture in the Red river delta through a change of matrimonial space over the last half century

Based on sociological data of three marriage patterns of three different cohorts the article has shown that over the last half century matrimonial space in rural areas of the Red river delta has expanded from village to commune and district. Indeed this expansion is affected by general socio-economic conditions. However, this also results from the changes in terms of culture and lifestyles, including the changes of marriage itself. The author has argued that the expansion of matrimonial space reflects the progress of marriage institution in Vietnam over the last half century. This fits in with the integration needs of market economy whose space has also expanded continuously.

PHAM DINH CHI

Some causes of adolescent crimes in Ho Chi Minh city

The article has described real situations and analyzed some causes of adolescent crimes in Ho Chi Minh City. The author has offered some recommendations for the state, law enforcement agencies and families so that law-breaking youngsters in the city can be restrained.

FRANCOIS HOUTART

Reflections on a transition to a market economy

This is the fourth chapter and the conclusion of the work "Hai Van: socialisme et marché: la double transition d'une commune vietnamienne". The author is a Belgian sociologist well-known for his sociological studies of development in Asia, Africa and Latin America. He is very interested in Vietnam - the country he has viewed as his second land. This work is a continuation of a previous book by F. Houtart and G. Lemerminier entitled "Sociologie d'une commune vietnamienne: participation sociale, modèles culturels, famille, religion dans la commune de Hai Van" whose Vietnamese version was published by Social Sciences Publishing House in 2001.

In his reflections on a transition to a market economy Prof. F. Houtart has analyzed the transition to an economic organization and socialist society started in 1945. In 1997 a reverse process of economic logic began in order to gradually integrate into market economy. The author has analyzed some issues of the market participation, for instance the reduced subsidies for public apparatus, the reinforcement of nuclear families as economic units, the establishment of new social relations and the change of social mentality.

Concerning the significance of the above analysis the author has argued that the questions raised by this work for the future of rural Vietnam is not whether social imbalance occurs, but when it occurs and how it is addressed. This remark is helpful for sociologists, social managers and policy-makers.