

ISSUES OF SOCIAL PARTICIPATION AND SOCIAL DISCOURSE

Trịnh Duy Luân

The paper presents social discourse (phan bien xa hoi) concerning policy development in Vietnam recently. There has been notable progress since the first attempts of social discourse observed in legal documents and various forms of activities by many social actors. Nevertheless, there are limitations of these activities on the part of ordinary people as well as among government officers.

The actors of current social discourse include government agencies, business community, civil societies, international and national NGOs, ordinary people via public opinion and mass media. An important issue is how to institutionalize social discourse activities. There should be a comprehensive legal framework on social discourse, development of its models and methods to ensure broad social participation and professionalism of the social discourse activities. At the same time, there should be awareness raising for people to have better understanding of meaning and significance of social discourse in the areas in which people's consultation and feedbacks are necessary.

INITIAL EFFECTS OF GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS ON FARMERS

Vũ Tuấn Anh

In 2008 there are many complex socio-economic changes that strongly affect agriculture, farmers, and rural areas in many aspects. Most of these impacts are negative. The paper focuses on 4 issues: (1) changes in agricultural products prices that affect business orientation and cause instability of life and production of farmers; (2) monetary crisis and inflation has led to difficulties in credit access and investment, as well as in purchasing agricultural products from farmers; (3) industrial and handicraft businesses of specialized villages (lang nghe) are facing bankruptcy, job lost and underemployment becoming more serious; and (4) dramatic increases of prices of key commodities have caused difficult problems for people in rural areas, especially the poor people.

IMPACTS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHANGES IN 2008 ON URBAN AREAS

Nguyễn Xuân Mai

2008 is a year with many socio-economic changes in Vietnam and in the world. The instability of macro economy such as inflation, excess of imports over exports, tightening of monetary policies, global financial crisis and economic recession have seriously influenced social life in urban areas-the areas which are under the most direct impacts of globalization. These impacts in Vietnamese urban areas are strong and

widespread. The paper synthesizes existing literatures and provides analysis on (1) increase of unemployment, especially at the end of 2008 when deflation was most serious, (2) inflation and economic recession have led to decrease of living standards, making labor relationships more complex, (3) informal sector in urban areas as a way out of the crisis in the short and long terms, and (4) the expansion of Hanoi and social equity.

MIGRATION FROM VIET NAM TO RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Riazanxep X.V, Kuznhexop N.G and Trịnh Duy Luân

The paper presents characteristics of migration from Vietnam to Russia, including labor migration, migration for education purposes, and illegal migration. The analysis highlights the most recent agreements on the topic between Vietnam and Russian governments. The paper provides mapping of Vietnamese immigrants in various areas in Russia. The authors emphasize that recent changes in Russian immigrants policies for Vietnamese immigrants have reflected improvements in immigration policies and conveyed good images of Russia as a civilized country whose leaders are flexible in regulating migration policies taking into account of Russian interests as well as the interests of the partner countries.

SEMIPUBLIC SPACE AND FORMATION OF SOCIAL OPINION: A CASE STUDY ON CAFE SHOPS IN HA NOI

Nguyễn Quý Thanh - Trịnh Ngọc Hà

Cafe shops-a semi-public space is the place where people can come and talk about issues of common interests. However, there is a selection effects of this space. People participating in the social debates here tend to be the elite groups of the society than ordinary people. Topics for discussion here are diversified, but few are socio-political topics. When public spaces become limited during the process of urbanization, semi-public spaces increasingly play the role as spaces for social groups to come to talk about public issues. This is the space where public opinion is becoming formed.