

**PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP STUDY IN VIET NAM IN THE CONTEXT OF MARKET ECONOMY AND INTERNATIONAL INTEGRATION****Ngô Ngọc Thang**

Public Private Partnership (PPP) is considered as one of the effective tools for the government to invest in essential infrastructures necessary for public interests and socio-economic development. The idea of PPP originally emerged in the West and the author calls for further studying it to adapt it to the Vietnamese reality. The paper presents an attempt to clarify and promote consensus understanding of the concept of PPP. On practical side, PPP is thought to help to overcome the current separation between public and private sectors, to ensure the linkage between the two sectors in socio-economic life, revitalizing the public sector while promoting equality between public and private sectors to serve development objectives. On institutional side, PPP for social development and management is a new issue that poses new policy and management challenges, which in turn call for further study of PPP to improve and modernize the institutional system.

**VIETNAMESE CULTURAL IDENTITY IN HISTORY AND IN THE CURRENT PROCESS OF GLOBALIZATION****Mai Van Hai**

The paper presents an analysis of the concept of cultural identity and Vietnamese cultural identity. Cultural identity is a product of historical development, adaptation, and acculturation. Dynamic aspect of cultural identity is emphasized in the context of cultural contacts and exchange, and during the process of acculturation. Reviewing historical evidence, the author shows that globalization has multi-dimensional impacts on Vietnamese cultural identity. On the one hand, it enriches the Vietnamese cultural identity by bringing in new development values, increasing information exchange, human and social capital, expanding social network and strengthening social cohesion. On the other hand, globalization also brings about undesirable changes that undermine Vietnamese traditional cultural identity and worry many Vietnamese. Taking as a whole, the author believes that Vietnamese cultural identity is not fading away in the globalization process as some people may think, but it is strong while changing, taking new form in a new historical period.

**MIDDLE CLASS AND ISSUES FOR STUDY OF CURRENT MIDDLE CLASS****Trần Thị Minh Ngọc**

Middle class has great influences on socio-economic, cultural, and political development of many countries in the world. Reviewing the role of middle class in development in the world

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and thinking about Viet Nam, the author attempts to identify the role, status, and development trend of middle class in Viet Nam. There are limited studies on middle class in Viet Nam. Recent studies only provide sketches of emerging middle class in the country. The author emphasizes the need to approach the study of middle class in Viet Nam in three different dimensions, namely (1) opportunities to access resources for economic development, (2) social prestige, and (3) political voices.

## **RURAL WOMEN IN COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Tran Thi Xuan Lan**

Under the impacts of the Reform policies, families become independent economic entities in agriculture. The new Reform policies that ensure the interests of farmers and families have encouraged women to participate in agricultural production to improve their household living standards. While women work for household economic development, they also contribute greatly to the community development. Using data from 2 case studies carried out in suburban Hanoi, the author has demonstrated the increasing role of women in community development in rural area.