



FULBRIGHT SCHOOL ALUMNI TOWARD A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Fulbright

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

NEWSLETTER FSPPM WINTER 2023

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Dear Fulbright community,

As winter embraces us in its gentle chill, we are delighted to share the warmth of the Winter 2023 FSPPM newsletter with you. This edition serves as a closure for 2023 and a testament to the vibrancy that defines our academic community, showcasing noteworthy highlights and achievements.

In this quarter, our focus centers on extending a warm welcome to the incoming cohort of students joining the Master in Public Policy Class of 2025. Their embarkation on a transformative journey themed "Journey" symbolizes the essence of growth and learning that defines our academic pursuits. Additionally, the Fulbright School Alumni (FSA) recently marked its annual Homecoming, signifying a renewed chapter in fostering stronger connections between alumni and FSPPM across all activities. A notable achievement highlighted in this edition is Volume 3 Issue 2 of the Fulbright Review of Economics and Policy (FREP), dedicated to honoring Professor Ngo Van Long's significant contributions to economic theory.

The News and Updates section of this quarter is both Engaging and Impactful. You will find comprehensive insights from a Stakeholders Alignment Workshop on Digital Governance, as well as the enlightening "Mekong River System and Multi- Dimensional Change under Human and Climate Pressures" workshop under the Natural Capital Management (NCM) project. Noteworthy mentions include the "Annual Mekong Delta Economic

Report 2023" and a research seminar delving into the intriguing impact of superstition on Vietnamese businesses.

Excitingly, our FSPPM research team has secured a grant for "Developing National Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Policies for Vietnam," aligning with our commitment to net-zero goals, ZEV manufacturing, and urban innovation. This success underscores the driving impact of our research and policy dialogues. On an international scale, FSPPM actively participated in the 2023 NASPAA Annual Conference and contributed to the publication of research articles covering a wide array of topics.

Last but certainly not least, our focus on student and alumni activities centers around nurturing connections. FSA's pivotal role in fostering community connections continues through specialization groups and the implementation of a mentorship program.

In concluding our reflections for this quarter, we extend heartfelt gratitude to each Fulbright community member for their unwavering dedication. Let us eagerly anticipate the new year of 2024, brimming with impactful research, engaging dialogues, and enriching educational experiences.

Warm regards,

Editorial Board

Highlights



On the morning of October 23, 2023, the Inauguration ceremony for the Master in Public Policy Class of 2025 took place to welcome over 53 new MPP students and introduce them to the School. With the theme “Journey”, this year’s ceremony aimed to signify to the 53 new students that they have officially embarked on an expansive and practical knowledge journey in the field of public policy. The core values of genuine teaching, true learning, and respect for the truth were emphasized throughout the event.



On November 18, Fulbright School Alumni (FSA) organized its annual FSA Homecoming event in the spirit of Vietnamese Teachers’ Day (November 20). Over 200 attendees, representing various regions across the country, gathered at the school for this year's FSA Homecoming. They represented 28 generations of students from the first FETP1 cohort to MPP2025 at the Fulbright School of Public Policy and Management (FSPPM). The theme for this year's Homecoming Day is "Towards a New Chapter," symbolizing a fresh phase in the journey of the Fulbright Alumni Association (FSA), aligning with the overall development goals of the School of Public Policy and Management, Fulbright University Vietnam.

The most highlighted event in this quarter was the latest issue, Volume 3 Issue 2, of The Fulbright Review of Economics and Policy (FREP). This special issue, namely, “From economic theory to economic policy: Contributions of Ngo Van Long”, is an honor of the late Professor Long’s immense contributions to economic theory. This issue contains 11 articles, discussing a wide range of areas that Professor Long has made a lasting impact.

Link to the special issue:

<https://www.emerald.com/insight/publication/issn/2635-0173/vol/3/iss/2>



News and Updates



Events, Seminars & Workshops

Stakeholders Alignment Workshop - Leading Public Asset Governance in the Digital Era

On 6 October, under Digital Government Academy (DGA) Initiative funded by World Bank and the Swiss Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), The Stakeholders Alignment Workshop - Leading Public Asset Governance in the Digital Era was held at Fulbright University Vietnam.

The workshop involved the participation of over 30 delegates including top leaders of 8 provinces across all 3 regions of the country indicating their deep interest in the digital transformation process, as well as their desire and priority to address local digital transformation challenges. The workshop, which lasted a full day, featured a keynote presentation by Prof. Ashok Kumar from Carnegie Mellon University (CMU). During the morning session, the workshop received valuable contributions from delegates, heartfelt insights from the leaders of Dong Thap, Thua Thien Hue province, and constructive input from representatives of Nghe An, Cao Bang, Bac Lieu, Hai Phong, Can Tho and Da Nang. In the afternoon session, the workshop conducted in-depth consultations in three separate thematic groups. Each thematic group received numerous shares and contributions from researchers and experts in public policy and asset management.



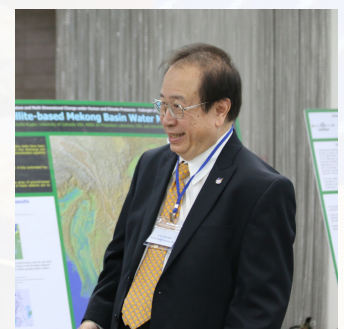
News and Updates



13-14 Nov, under the NCM project, the "Mekong River System and Multi-Dimensional Change under Human and Climate Pressures" workshop was jointly organized by FSPPM, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, and the Dartmouth Flood Observatory, University of Colorado.

Over the course of the two-day workshop, more than 30 delegates from various countries attended and contributed to 21 presentations and posters on current Mekong research and applications work in different regions worldwide, including Vietnam, Laos, Malaysia, Japan, Korea, USA, Poland and Switzerland.

Discussions in the conference open up new research directions in the field, as well as open up opportunities for international cooperation.



News and Updates



Launching Ceremony of “Annual Mekong Delta Economic Report 2023” on December 12. The Vietnam Federation of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) and Fulbright School of Public Policy and Management (FSPPM) jointly conducted this comprehensive report, lasting over a year of implementation. VCCI Chairman Pham Tan Cong oversaw the report's completion, with Mr. Nguyen Phuong Lam, Director of VCCI Mekong Delta region, and Dr. Vu Thanh Tu Anh, Director of FSPPM and a member of the Prime Minister's Consulting Team (2016-2020), serving as the chairs. Dr. Vu Thanh Tu Anh led the research team, consisting of 30 experts from various fields, who actively participated in the study. The economic data, meticulously gathered from diverse sources, was collected and compiled by the VCCI Mekong Delta branch and the authors.

An Admission Information Day took place in Hue University on December 16. A demo class, as part of this information session on the topic of Banking activities and the impact on macroeconomic stability, was delivered by Mr. Nguyen Xuan Thanh.



On 16-17 December, a Short-Term Training Course on Electricity market and its role in energy transition was organized in Da Nang. This training program was designed to provide participants with basic knowledge about competitive electricity markets, contract types, bidding mechanisms and support for large-scale and distributed renewable energy. The training course also provided international experiences on the renewable energy market and the role of the electricity market in electric energy transition. Through the training course, participants were provided with fundamental theories and practice simulating the role of the electricity market in sustainable energy transition.

News and Updates

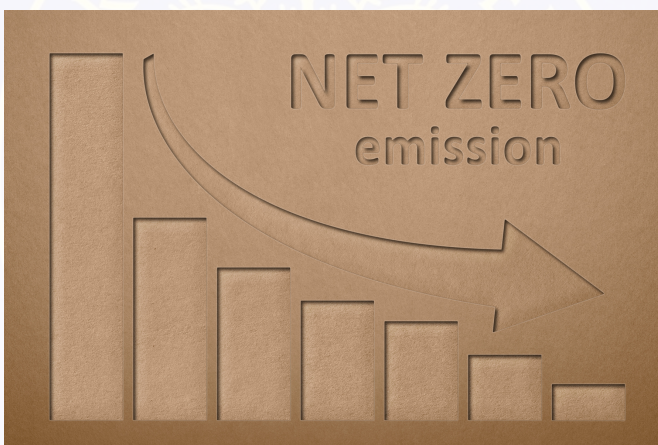


Research and Policy Dialogue

In this quarter, FSPPM research team that includes Dr. Pham Van Dai, Dr. Le Viet Phu and Dr. Huynh Nhat Nam has received a grant from the Drive Electric Campaign LEAP Fund, a joint initiative of Climate Works Foundation and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, to embark on the project "Developing National Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Policies for Vietnam". This grant will enable a study focused on crafting a comprehensive policy framework for ZEV sales mandates in Vietnam. The research project will include three parts: (i) A review of current applications of ZEVs in the world, with a focus on developing countries that share similar economic and social conditions with Vietnam; (ii) An assessment of the feasibility of applying a similar ZEV sales requirement in Vietnam; (iii) A proposed phasing strategy for ZEV sales requirements in Vietnam for the period from now to 2050. The project's anticipated outcomes are expected to have important impact in several crucial areas, including net-zero targeting, Viet Nam's ZEV manufacturing industry, and urban innovation.



On 11 – 13 October, Dr. Vu Thanh Tu Anh, Mr. Nguyen Xuan Thanh, Ms. Nguyen Phuong Chi, and Ms. Dang Thi Phi Huong Giang - a representative of the MPP24 Student actively participated in the 2023 NASPAA Annual Conference held in Pittsburgh, USA. This year's conference theme, "Impact, Growth, and Value: Conveying the Significance of Public Service Education," centers on exploring and promoting ways in which public service education can add value to communities. Throughout the event, FSPPM representatives dedicated their time to engaging in discussions on progressive educational ideologies, sharing effective educational practices, and integrating into the global community of educators in public policy.



News and Updates



Hội thảo nghiên cứu

ẢNH HƯỞNG CỦA MÊ TÍN ĐẾN HÀNH VI ĐẦU TƯ CỦA DOANH NGHIỆP VIỆT NAM

ĐẠI HỌC FULBRIGHT VIỆT NAM | TẦNG TRỆT
01.12.2023 | 12.00 - 13.30

Đăng ký tại đây:



TS. Phạm Văn Đại

Giảng viên Chính sách công
Trường Chính sách công
và Quản lý Fulbright



In this quarter, Dr. Phạm Văn Đại, FSPPM Senior Researcher had a sole article accepted on the Journal of Comparative Econs about “The effects of superstition on firms’ investment behavior: Evidence from Vietnam, an irreligious country”.

The abstract:

This study examines the impact of superstition on corporate decision-making in Vietnam, a highly irreligious country. We focus on the folk belief that the ages of 49–53 is considered calamitous and use a regression discontinuity design to show that companies significantly decrease their investment in fixed assets during these ages of their directors. The effect is more pronounced in smaller firms and is not accompanied by a decrease in employment growth. We introduce a novel two-stage difference method to identify the role of superstition in causing the ‘calamitous ages’ effect.



Dr. Le Viet Phu and co-author Do Trung Phuong Lam conducted Electricity modeling in an article on “Urban Heat Islands and Impact on Residential Electricity Consumption”.

The abstract:

Urbanization is increasing rapidly in the world, including Vietnam. This leads to a change in surface characteristics, reducing the land cover area and replacing it with impervious surface, significantly contributing to the increase in surface heat. The urban downtown areas with remarkably measured higher temperatures from 2 to 8 degrees Celsius are considered as urban heat islands (UHI) phenomenon.



The urban heat island is harmful to air pollution, public health, contributing to increased energy consumption for cooling demands, thereby indirectly increases the cost of living in the urban area.

News and Updates



Last but not least, members of NCM and TARA projects contributed and completed Fulbright-VCCI annual 2023 economic report, particularly on the content of Institutional challenges in resource management in the Mekong River Delta and potential remedies.

The abstract:

Due to important differences in ecological conditions in the sub-regions of the Mekong Delta, there are conflicts of interest in the need to build infrastructure, irrigation, exploit resources and develop support services for the government. agricultural books. Due to the lack of a regional level of management to coordinate development plans, exploitation and rational use of resources, it leads to a lot of waste in public construction investment, and conflicts of interest in exploitation. resource exploitation and conservation between provinces in the upstream and downstream of the Mekong Delta is increasingly evident.

However, currently according to the law, there is no administrative level of management according to ecological zones. In addition, institutional and market weaknesses also limit effective regional integration due to State administrative interventions. This chapter focuses on clarifying issues in water resource management, land resource management, and energy potential development, thereby posing urgent questions that need to be answered to create a premise for sustainable development. Build a solid regional connectivity mechanism to resolve problems and weaknesses caused by lack of connectivity. Answering the above questions will create a premise for building a solid regional linkage mechanism to ensure the goals of sustainable development and nature conservation in the Mekong Delta.

News and Updates



Student & Alumni Activities

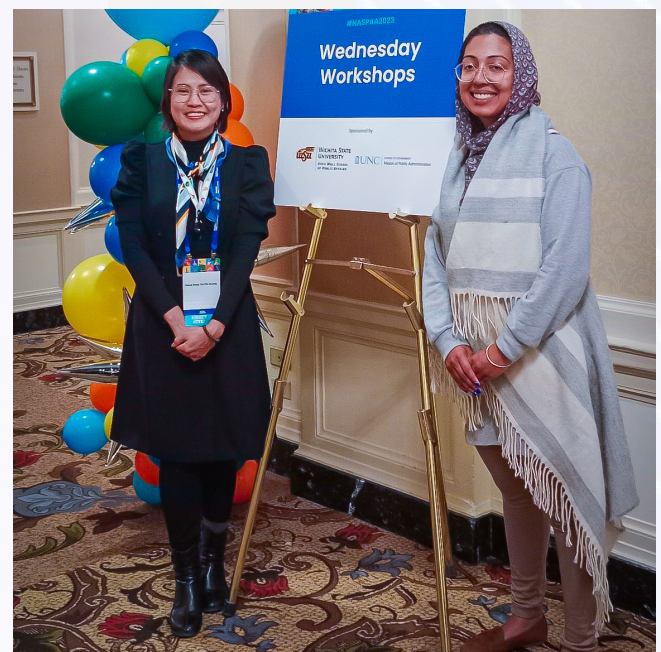
Fulbright School Alumni (FSA) in Quarter 4, 2023 continued to be an integral part of the Fulbright Community.

FSA specialization initiative: Four groups of specialization were formed by FSA members who are working in similar industries and professions. The groups are Healthcare, Law, Green Energy, and Urban economy. The purpose is to enhance learning among members who share the same interests and profession, to connect with other professionals in FSA's members circles of work and keeping breath of real-world development.

The first seminar on Telemedicine was organized by the Healthcare group that attracted more than 80 attendants both online and offline, with two-thirds of the audience consisting of professionals and business people in the healthcare sector who are not FSA members.

FSA works with Fulbright University Viet Nam to launch the FUVA Mentorship Program 2023: to connect the alumni of FSPPM graduates and FUV undergraduates to provide professional guidance, broaden networking opportunities, and nurture the Fulbright community.

Ms. Dang Thi Phi Huong Giang, a student from the MPP24-LM class, is one of the 5 students worldwide who won The NASPAA Student Essay Contest and secured an invitation to partake in the 2023 NASPAA Annual Conference held in Pittsburgh, USA.



Upcoming events



February

- Students MPP2024 and MPP2025 to attend the NASPAA Simulation Competition

March

- Executive Leadership Program (ELP) under the scope of World Bank project
- Nordic Day



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