

Newsletter FSPPM Spring 2023

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Dear beloved friends,

We hope this message finds you well and filled with enthusiasm for the new season. It brings us great joy to reconnect with our extended Fulbright School of Public Policy and Management family as we unveil the Spring 2023 edition of the FSPPM Newsletter.

In this issue, we've gathered a wealth of insightful content that showcases the remarkable endeavors and achievements of our institution, faculty, students, and alumni. From conferences and policy dialogues to research publications and student activities, the newsletter provides a comprehensive overview of our thriving community's contributions to the fields of public policy and management.

Highlights include the recent Conference on "Green Nordic Solutions for Circular Economy and Waste Management," which explored innovative approaches to addressing environmental challenges, and the Fulbright Review of Economics and Policy (FREP) conference,

honoring the late Professor Ngo Van Long's contributions to economic theory.

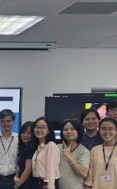
Furthermore, our research initiatives have yielded valuable insights into various pressing issues, including air quality, water quality, and urban planning in the Mekong region, all of which hold significant implications for the future. We are immensely proud of our researchers' dedication to advancing knowledge and addressing critical challenges. In the midst of academic pursuits, our students and alumni remain active and engaged when we celebrated the achievements of our students in the NASPAA Student Simulation Competition on Wildfire.

As we navigate the ever-evolving landscape of public policy and management, your support and participation remain invaluable to us. We invite you to explore the wealth of knowledge and accomplishments within these pages, and we look forward to continuing this journey together.

Warmest regards,

Editorial Board

Highlights



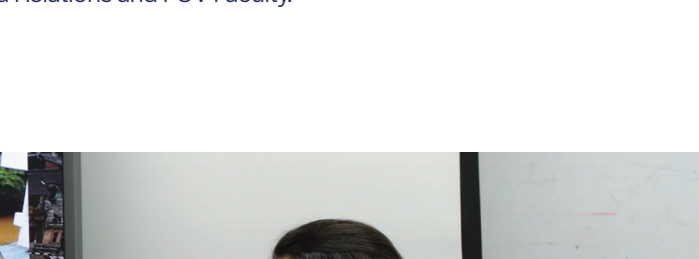
Nordic Day

On 22 March, Conference on **"Green Nordic Solutions for Circular Economy and Waste Management: Experiences and Policy Implications for Vietnam"** was co-organized by FSPPM and the Nordic Embassies in Vietnam (Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden). The event aims to provide insight into Nordic policies, initiatives, and innovation in green transition, which can be relevant and applicable to Vietnam in eliminating waste and pollution, circulating products, and regenerating nature.



Organized for the fifth time, the event is attended by about 100 representatives from the Vietnamese central and local government agencies, chambers of commerce, business leaders and startups, civil society actors, researchers, innovators, and young people. The Nordic region is known for its commitment to the environment and circularity, and this seminar highlights how the region is leading the way in green innovation. The seminar also provides opportunities for key Vietnamese actors and stakeholders to learn from the Nordic model, driving growth and contributing to Agenda 2030, the Paris Agreement and a full and green recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

On February 22 – February 23, Fulbright Review of Economics and Policy (FREP), the academic journal of the Fulbright School of Public Policy and Management, successfully organized the conference, **From Economic Theory to Economic Policy: Contributions of Ngo Van Long, in honor of the late Professor Long's immense contributions to economic theory.** This conference presented theoretical research alongside empirical research that will then be gone through standard peer-reviewed process, eligible papers will be published in FREP journal.



Presented by Mr. Ashok Kumar, Director, Digital Government Executive Education, Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), Pittsburgh, USA

In his presentation, the speaker mentioned the concept of data iceberg - "databerg" and the danger of underground data sources - "darkdata", which exists in many different forms: in data centers, data center, in existing personal data files or documents,... (except for 12% of actual data that is used effectively and for the right purpose) and that is the problem that science Data analysis did not mention. We need to clearly understand the type of data we need to find for the purpose of using it. He emphasized the importance of data because artificial intelligence will not be useful without data.

Dr. Ashok Kumar emphasized it is important that we ask the correct questions, and start an analytics project from the business problems, not from the data that we have and certainly not from the technology that we invested.

Campus Seminars & Workshops

Dialogue on **"Public Intellectuals Program VII – Taiwan & Southeast Asia Trip"**: 09 January 2023

A closed discussion about China economy, society, politics, and the China's impacts on Vietnam with the participation of the delegation of Public Intellectuals Program, National Committee on U.S.-China Relations and FUV Faculty.

Hybrid Seminar on **"CogniCity Open-Source Software (OSS)"** by Dr. Nashin Mahtani, director of Yayasan Peta Bencana (Disaster Map Foundation) on 24th February 2023.

In this seminar, Dr. Mahtani shared her experience building and maintaining CogniCity Open Source Software (OSS) - one of the largest open source and citizen-informed projects to help adapt to climate change ever.

Dr. Mahtani's presentation focused on creating decentralized, socially-integrated climate adaptation systems. These systems, initially developed for monsoon flooding in Indonesia, promote information sharing among residents, agencies, and responders. The project's success stems from collaborative research involving various experts. This interdisciplinary approach ensures user-centric design and adaptability to different hazards and regions. The presentation highlighted ongoing developments in the Philippines, India, and Pakistan, emphasizing the need to scale up collaborative systems for the climate emergency.

Hybrid Seminar on **"Data in the 21st Century: a valuable asset"** - 31 March 2023

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Accordingly, Dr. Tuan uses DEMON rules for applying AI in financial analysis, which are 1) Data First, 2) Expert's Opinion, 3) Machine Learning/AI, 4) Output, and 5) New Insights/Analytics. Finally, he discussed trust in the banking system with the class, sharing the view on analyzing the P/B ratio of banking stocks and accounting standards in Vietnam and globally.

Guest Speakers

On 09th Feb, **Mr. Phan Chanh Duong**, Director of Lawrence S. Ting Memorial Fund, discussed "defining local strategy" through sharing one of his experiences in building and deploying the Tan Thuan Export Processing Zone from the "Nha Be" area (the poorest area of old Saigon). Given that experiences, Mr. Duong considers current theories, thereby pointing out the accuracy and adaptations in the specific context of Vietnam. The speaker also emphasized the important factors in a construction of a new urban area include (i) the transparency of planning and information from government and (ii) the roles of state and enterprises in a project to ensure the strategy are feasible and carried out in the right order.

Prof. David Dapice - Senior Economist, Vietnam and Myanmar Program, Harvard Kennedy School was invited as guest lecturers to speak to MPP24 students on 26 Mar about "Economic Development - History and Current Issues". His lecture focused on the contexts of (i) Ideas of Economic Development and Trade in the World Wars II to World Wars II period, The 1945-75 period, The 1975-2008 period, Dutch Disease - the impact of a mineral boom, Globalization - upsides and downsides (ii) Current development Trends, (iii) Climate change and other issues and (iv) New debt problems.

Prof. David Dapice emphasized the difficulty in isolating national from global issues, and the less resilience of closed societies and economies. Given these describes, the lesson for the future is focused on investing in education, health; moving up global value chains; diversifying supply and markets; movement towards a "green" economy.

On 11th Feb, **Ms. Nguyen Thi Le Hang**, Deputy Director of District 4 Hospital shared practical experiences in performing health public management at District 4 Hospital in Ho Chi Minh city during the peak period of the Covid-19 pandemic (Jul-Oct 2021), focusing on the following topics: (i) introducing the current situation of human resources and medical equipment at the district hospital immediately before and during the pandemic highlighting the common shortcomings and limitations of the city's basic healthcare, (ii) providing comments on the importance of proactively planning for pandemic responses; (iii) discussing the adaptability of public managers when making decisions and performing due to changing practical contexts with insufficient management information, lack of resources, and VUCA situations (volatility, uncertainty, complexity, and ambiguity); and (iv) presenting assessments of the implementation outcomes.

Policy Dialogues and Conferences

On 05th Jan, Dr. Le Viet Hung and Dr. Ha Quang Hung, under the framework of Natural Capital Management – NCM project, joined the panel discussion at the conference **"COP27: Opportunities and Challenges in Vietnam"** organized by Climatworks Monash and FUV.

In light of the recent COP27 held in Egypt early November, Fulbright and the Climatworks Center, Monash Sustainable Development Institute decide to hold a corporate briefing with the aims to share the main outcomes of COP27, global emerging trends in climate actions at corporate levels, other international agreements/commitments on climate change that Vietnam has entered into, as well as what those mean for businesses operating in Vietnam. At the event, speakers representing the Government, NGOs, corporates, and other higher institutions the main outcomes of COP27, global emerging trends in climate actions at corporate levels, other international agreements/commitments on climate change that Vietnam has entered, as well as what those mean for businesses operating in Vietnam.

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Research

In this quarter, Dr. Ha Quang Hung, FSPPM Fellow Research, has been working on some articles as follow:

- A research paper (presented at the International Meeting on Air Pollution in Asia – Inventories, Monitoring and Mitigation, Hanoi, Vietnam, Vietnam National University and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), 02/2023) on **"The Impact of Thermal Power Plants on Air Quality in Vietnam: A Perspective from Remotely Sensed Data"**. Dr. Hung, together with Dr. Le Viet Phu & Dr. Doan Thi Thuy, have applied MODIS data to quantify time-series PM2.5 emission around the thermal power plants in Vietnam from 09/2022 to 01/2023. The results indicated a degraded air quality over time, where all PM2.5 were higher than 30 µg/m3 (WHO's threshold < 5 µg/m3). The authors concluded that the air quality was worsened by thermal power plants. Also, the commitment of "net zero emission by 2050" may not be achievable given the current plan for reduction of coal consumption.

- A research paper (presented at the 4th Boeing CSIRO Advanced Earth Observation Forum in Vietnam: Applications for the Mekong Delta) on **"Water Quality in the Mekong River Valley, a Perspective from Remotely Sensed Data"**. The author has analyzed over 1,300 Landsat images (Landsat 8 & 9) from 2013 to 02/2023 to evaluate the implementation of the Circular 120 in Mekong Delta regarding the water quality. The results showed that much 'nutrient' and pollutants were brought from upstream, which contributed to more severe water degradation throughout the river. The overall pattern of eutrophication along the Mekong River gets worse over time. Circular 120 emphasized the 'adapt-to-nature' approach, but localities have not adapted to degraded water quality very efficiently.

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Publication

A/Prof. Pham Duy Nghia, MPP Director, has published a book chapter, Chapter 16, Public administration reform within the socialist party state: the case of Vietnam, in M. Shamsul Haque (editor et al) (2023), Handbook on Asian Public Administration, available at

Elgar Publishing (2023)

Dr. Ha Quang Hung, FSPPM Fellow Research, has published an article with his co-authors (Hong-Ha Tran, Luyen K. Bui, Thi Thu Huong Kim, & Christoph Butscher), on Advances in Geospatial Technology in Mining and Earth Sciences about "Proposal of Study on InSAR-Based Land Subsidence Analysis as Basis for Subsequent Hydro-mechanical Modeling: A Case Study of Hanoi, Vietnam" in International Conference on Geo-Spatial Technologies and Earth Resources. Available at

https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-20463-0_34 (pp. 535- 548).

Bui Manh Tien, researcher assistant to Dean, published two papers as follow:

- a paper with co-author (Thai-Ha Le, Phoumin Han, Ha-Chi Le) published on Utilities Policy about "Electricity market development in Vietnam: Historical trends and future outlooks" available at

Electricity market development in Vietnam: Historical trends and future outlooks - ScienceDirect.

- a paper with co-author (Thai-Ha Le, Sabri Boubaker, Donghyun Park) on Energy Economics about "On the volatility of WTI crude oil prices: A time-varying approach with stochastic volatility" available at

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As mentioned in Quarter 4/2022, FSPPM is honored to be chosen as one of the 11 global sites to host the 2023 NASPAA Student Simulation Competition on the topic of Wildfire. After the screening round, six FSPPM students were selected and had two-month coaching by two FSPPM lecturers - Dr. Huynh Nhat Nam and Mr. Nguyen Quy Tam, to represent FSPPM at the competition.

This year's competition features the Forio Wildfire Simulation designed by Professor Matt Koschmann from the University of Colorado Boulder. The simulation competition teaches contestants communication and negotiation skills, which helps them balance their roles against their team goals to collaborate on a joint wildfire

mitigation plan for the fictional town of Westmount. Each team, composed of five representatives from five different schools, will assume distinct roles with their individual interests and powers to tackle this challenge. Through negotiations and discussions, they will work towards creating a cohesive policy design, addressing concerns, and mitigating the stakeholders' interests.

Among other FSPPM contestants, Nguyen Minh Hieu (MPP23-PA) and Dang Thi Phi Huong Giang (MPP24-LM) were members of the winning team.

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Upcoming Events



Executive education program on PPP: **From financial, legal, and dispute settlement** call for application.

Global Immersion Course by Delegation from Harvard Business School (HBS)

Executive education program on **Economics and Financial Aspects of Real Estate: Macroeconomics, Management** for public applicants

