

Fulbright

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Newsletter FSPPM Autumn 2020

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From the Editorial Board

Dear beloved readers,

As the Fall 2020 unfolded, the second wave of Covid-19 brutally hit Da Nang and central provinces of Vietnam. Despite the unexpected circumstances, we try to maneuver over turbulence by exercising leadership and innovation. Indeed, the MPP2020 Commencement Ceremony is the first blended graduation ceremony allowing graduates at affected areas to virtually join and share with others via conference platforms. On 26th of August, we gathered to congratulate 52 graduates for completing their arduous learning journey at FSPPM and entrust them to realize FSPPM's values in their career. In early September, we concluded our admission cycle after 4 months calling for applications. 83 successful candidates have proved themselves as valuable assets to be added to the Fulbright community and we are looking forward to welcoming them in October.

At campus, alongside with traditional classes in the MPP program, students of cohort MPP2021 took part in soft skill training program

designed to help them leverage story telling skills in public presentations. The instructor and coaches of the program are former VEF executive director and U.S. graduates and PhD fellows who are experienced and dedicated to help learners develop professionally.

In addition to education, our faculty members also advocate for digital transformation in local public administrative system in a nascent program funded by UNDP to probe and build technological capacity for provinces in Vietnam.

You can find details about our exciting initiatives and activities over the last 3 months in below sections. Hope you have a good time reading our Newsletter!

Regards,
Editorial Board

**“When you leave here,
don't forget why you came.”**

Adlai E. Stevenson

American lawyer, politician and diplomat

Highlights



MPP2020 Commencement Ceremony

The Fulbright School of Public Policy and Management (FSPPM) held the graduation ceremony for 52 students from the 2020 class of Fulbright's Master in Public Policy. The graduation ceremony took place in the context of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic with some students taking part online. All the faculty and students present at the ceremony gathered in the solemn yet cozy space of the school campus with their hearts filled with emotions as they ended a nearly two-year journey together.

Just like in previous years, FSPPM leaders and faculty named the graduation ceremony Commencement as they expected that FSPPM students will set off on a new journey for the next strides in their career and life after enriching their knowledge and academic skills with Fulbright's master program.

Prof. Pham Duy Nghia, MPP Program Director, reminded participants of many generations of FSPPM students who got access to a modern

education to become leaders, economic experts, managers, policy analysts, and responsible citizens who contributed their parts to the country's reform efforts. While Dr. Tran Thi Que Giang, FSPPM Faculty member, told students there are two sides of a degree scroll: its front honors the name of the new MPP20 Master, while its back embodies the entire journey leading to this honor.

Traditionally during FSPPM graduation ceremony, a keynote speech is delivered by someone who has social prestige and makes considerable contribution to the public policy and management segment. Lawyer Truong Trong Nghia, a National Assembly member, is that one in this year's graduation. He shared his personal story about how he kept updating knowledge and his thinking to make further progresses. He told students if they failed to enrich their knowledge, change their mindset and learn new things, they would not do their jobs well and would lag behind in this rapid changing society.

MPP2021 Soft Skills Training

To help our MPP students in developing and improving their soft skill during their time at school, FSPPM organized the three-day virtual course in July namely Introduction to Public Narrative for both PA and LM students. The course was instructed by Ms. Sandy Dang, former Executive Director of Vietnamese Education Foundation – VEF and supported by 9 experienced coaches mostly from Harvard University and other universities in the US. Public Narrative is the art of telling stories with the purpose of inspiring and motivating people to work collectively toward a shared goal. An effective leadership story conveys shared values and a sense of hope for the future. In this training, students learnt the Public Narrative framework, which is a leadership practice developed by Prof. Marshall Ganz at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. This framework is now being advanced by a growing network of practitioners worldwide. According to Prof. Ganz, "leadership is accepting responsibility for enabling others to achieve shared purpose in the face of uncertainty." Students then developed their own three stories: Story of Self, Us, and Now, to understand our shared values and to motivate us to achieve a collective goal. These stories enable us to create a sense of solidarity and hope to make a difference.



MPP2022 Admission

This year admission, 83 excellent applicants were selected to the MPP2022 with two concentrations: Policy Analysis, and Leadership and Management. The MPP Program in Policy Analysis is a full-time program (15 months) with fully-funded scholarship for policy planners, policy consultants, university lecturers, researchers, non-profit organization/ enterprise managers; while the MPP Program in Leadership and Management is a part-time one (18 months) with partial scholarship for experienced non-profit organization/ enterprise managers, and policy planners. The MPP2022 cohort will start their master's journey on October 26, 2020.

Eleanor Roosevelt
Former First Lady of the United States

**“The future belongs to those who believe
in the beauty of their dreams”**

New and Updates



Alumni Engagement

July 21, the Fulbright School Alumni (FSA) Friday's Talk - an initiative where FSA members share their own experience to current students, welcomed Mr. Le Minh Hoan, Party Chief of Dong Thap Province to come and talk to more than 50 graduate students and alumni. The topic was about real-life public management, how the province leadership helped maintain their top rankings at the Provincial Competitiveness Index, a program funded by USAID and implemented by VCCI.

August 10, FSA continued its community support pledge by donating VND 50 million worth of PPE to Danang health personnel as the second wave of Covid-19 hit the coastal city in early August. During the first wave of Covid-19, FSA had supported VND150 million to provide free meals for the poor in Ho Chi Minh City.

Graduate program alumni and students took active part in the Virtual Book Talk and Town Hall with philanthropist and author David Rubenstein “How to Lead: Wisdom from the World's Greatest CEOs, Founders, and Game Changers”, organized by FUV on September 23. This is one of the university's initiatives in fund raising.



Outreach

FSPPM continues to work on two important research projects:

The development of Ho Chi Minh City into an international financial center funded by Ho Chi Minh City Finance and Investment State-owned company (HFIC). The feasibility study is expected to be completed by the end of this year for the consideration of the City People's Committee.

Toward a Big Urban Data Facility - Computational Investigation of the Connectivity, Resilience and Demand of The Bus Network in Ho Chi Minh City granted by Vin Group Innovation Foundation. As part of the project, a manuscript entitled “A comparative study of topological analysis and temporal network analysis of a public transport system – case study in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam” has been submitted to the journal Computer, Environment and Urban Systems.

In September, FSPPM team including Drs. Huynh Nhat Nam, Le Viet Phu, and Le Thai Ha worked on a proposal for UNDP (United Nations Development Program) project on developing a mechanism and fair assessment to identify, engage with and support provincial administrations which are capable of recognizing and implementing innovative local solutions. The work also includes a scoping study for the development of a syllabus on digital competencies for the public sector. The project is funded by UNDP and will be implemented from October 2020 to August 2021.

Research

Four co-author journal articles by Dr. Le Thai Ha to be published:

- *The Impact of Tourism on Carbon Dioxide Emissions: Insights from 95 countries*, Applied Economics (SSCI, ABDC: A), Accepted, In Press.

 <https://doi.org/10.1080/00036846.2020.1804051>

- *Multiple duration analyses of dynamic limit order placement strategies and aggressiveness in a low-latency market environment*, International Review of Financial Analysis (ABDC: A, SSCI), Accepted, In Press.

 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.irfa.2020.101575>

- *Determinants of greenhouse gas emissions revisited: A global perspective*, Singapore Economic Review (SSCI, ABDC B), Accepted, In Press.

 <https://doi.org/10.1142/S0217590820500514>

- *Determinants of Agricultural Emissions: Panel data evidence from a global sample*, Environment & Development Economics (SSCI, Scopus Q1), Accepted, In Press.

 <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1355770X20000315>

Dr. Le Viet Phu in collaboration with the University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City conducted a research project on *Pricing a connection: The market for solar power projects in Vietnam* funded by the Environment for Development Initiative.

Conferences, Seminars and Guest lecturers

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) invited Mr. Nguyen Xuan Thanh to participate in the Country Private Sector Diagnostic, analyzing constraints facing Vietnam's private firms and the government's institutional reform agenda.

Nguyen Xuan Thanh delivering a presentation on Vietnam's experience with 30 years of market-oriented reforms and foreign direct investment strategy at the Conference on Côte D'ivoire's National Development Plan 2021-2025.

Dr. Le Thai Ha delivering a speech on *Does Financial Inclusion impact CO2 Emissions? Evidence from Asia* at the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)'s workshop organized from 12 – 14 August.

The faculty and students were honored to welcome the following guest speakers to FSPPM during Summer 2020: Mr. Phan Van Truong, former Commercial Advisor for the French government; Mr. Nguyen Dinh Luong, Former Chief Negotiator of the Vietnamese team for the Vietnam - US Bilateral Trade Agreement; Mr. Chau Ngo Anh Nhan, Director of Khanh Hoa Development Project Management Unit, FSPPM alumni



Upcoming events

October

- MPP2022 Inauguration: The Inauguration and Orientation for MPP2022 is scheduled on 26 October.

- Virtual Workshop on *Economic Impacts of Demographic Transition: Cases of Asia and Europe* jointly organized by Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) and Fulbright School of Public Policy and Management (FSPPM)

- The symposium on *Vietnam's growth model reform*, jointly organized by FSPPM and the Central Theoretical Council of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

November

- 25-year Anniversary of FETP/ FSPPM

- Biweekly policy seminar series organized by FSPPM. These seminars welcome non-FSPPM participants to register for attendance. Details of the seminars is available on FSPPM fanpage.

December

- An executive education on *Administrative Decentralization and Management for Myanmar* hosted by Fulbright School of Public Policy and Management (FSPPM) in cooperation with the Renaissance Institute (RI).

