

Fulbright

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Newsletter FSPPM Spring 2021

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From the Editorial Board

Dear valued readers,

The pandemic resurgence at the beginning of 2021 could not hold back Fulbright community's advancement to greater knowledge in public services. As evidenced through the fight against COVID-19, community efforts are pivotal for success in any endeavours from building livable cities to forming growth alliances. In the seminar on **Entrepreneurial State and Industry 4.0** hosted at FSPPM in early March, we make it clear that any innovation, be it public or private, needs to enlist multi-stakeholder participation to navigate towards success and that a developmental state to guide and lead market movements is a proven success in some countries and worth further exploration for Vietnam situation.

As a public policy school based in the most dynamic metropolitan of the country, we try to pay it forward by championing ideas beneficial to the community where we are rooted in. On 24th March, Nordic Embassies in Vietnam and Fulbright School joined forces to organize **Nordic Day 2021** focusing on sustainable development and how Nordic countries turn embryonic ideas of green capitals into real vision. The event was well received and

attended by the public including green start-ups, environment NGOs, local and international policy makers. Diversified audience allows us to hear green stories from different perspectives for mutual understanding towards the common goal, building sustainable cities for Vietnam.

Last but not least, we embedded ourselves more vibrantly into national policy making activities. At **2045 Dialogue with P.M. Nguyen Xuan Phuc**, our faculty members, Dr. Vu Thanh Tu Anh and Do Thien Anh Tuan, as two academia representatives, posited that any nation aspiring to be great needs to be backed by leading corporations, talented entrepreneurs and excellent universities. Institutes like Fulbright School of Public Policy and Management, Fulbright University Vietnam are entrusted by public to educate next generation of capable entrepreneurs and policy makers.

We hope you have a great time reading this issue.

Warmly,

Editorial Board



Nordic Day 2021 “Nordic Green Capitals – Leadership, Governance, Sustainability and Innovation”

On the occasion of the Nordic Day 24th March, the Nordic Embassies in Vietnam (Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden), in coordination with Fulbright School of Public Policy and Management in Ho Chi Minh City, jointly organized a seminar on **Nordic Green Capitals – Leadership, Governance, Sustainability and Innovation**. The main purpose of the seminar was to facilitate and promote exchange of knowledge, experience and good practice between the Nordic countries and Vietnam on how to ensure that their capital cities grow in a green, innovative and sustainable manner.

The seminar took place both off-line and online through video links between Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and the four Nordic capitals and had broad participation of high-ranking representatives and policy-makers from the Vietnamese government agencies, local experts, academia researchers, etc.

For the past twenty years, Vietnam’s stable and impressive economic growth and growing urbanization rate have led to serious challenges that its cities have to cope with in regard to issues such as air pollution, congestion, water and waste management and climate resilient issues.

“We, the Nordic countries, are very pleased to be Vietnam’s long-term friends and strong supporters of the country’s poverty reduction and impressive social and economic growth. Now focus is on the transition to a greener and sustainable development. Economic security must go hand in hand with social and environmental security.” said the Nordic Ambassadors in Vietnam.

More information about [NORDIC DAY](#)



2045 Dialogue with Vietnam Prime Minister

In early March, former Prime Minister, H.E. Nguyen Xuan Phuc hosted a dialogue with business leaders and academic think-tanks on next course of Vietnam economic development. Two senior faculty members of Fulbright School of Public Policy and Management, Dr. Vu Thanh Tu Anh and Mr. Do Thien Anh Tuan, were 2 out of 3 academic representatives to deliver their speeches in the conference on future vision of national economy. Dr. Vu Thanh Tu Anh, Dean of Fulbright School of Public Policy and Management emphasized a strong nation must be backed by leading corporations and excellent universities, stating that "economic and domestic strength determines the global status of one country, its national security and its people's destinies."



In his speech, Mr. Do Thien Anh Tuan insisted that: "Vietnam economy must be owned by its citizens," and asserted his belief that "more public entrepreneurs will emerge in our country. They are aspiring leaders who are audacious in thinking and actions and are committed to serve their country and people under the spirit of "Responsibility – Integrity – Conscience".

[More information about 2045 Dialogue](#)



Panel Discussion on Entrepreneurial State and Industry 4.0

On 16th March, Fulbright School hosted a seminar entitled "*From the developmental state to the entrepreneurial state: The role of the State in Industry 4.0*" role of the state in economic development and the relationship between the state and the market, as well as the state and the business sector. Offering extended discussions from the theme of the book *The Entrepreneurial State: Debunking Public vs. Private Sector Myths* authored by Professor Mariana Mazzucato (University College London), the seminar featured the attendance of Dr. Vu Thanh Tu Anh, FSPPM Dean, Dr. Nguyen Si Dung, former Deputy Chairman of the Office of Vietnam National Assembly and Dr. Vu Duy Thuc, Founder of OhmniLabs.

Dr. Nguyen Si Dung analyzed how developmental state model has been deployed successfully in East Asian countries like Japan, Korea and Singapore to project their economies into Asian 'tigers'. In the same vein, Dr. Vu Thanh Tu Anh elaborated the concept of 'embedded autonomy', i.e., the state must be deeply involved in the market to gain insider understanding of business dynamics and yet manage to maintain its independence to avoid manipulation or corruption. Dr. Vu Duy Thuc, a thriving practitioner in innovation industries, proposed "policy sandbox", regulatory frameworks that allow some companies to experiment new technologies before implementing them in a larger scale. "These regulatory sandboxes give the governments the opportunity to test, to fail fast and learn fast," he commented.

[More information about Seminar](#)



New and Updates

Fulbright Review of Economics and Policy

Fulbright School of Public Policy and Management was pleased to announce the launch of Fulbright Review of Economics and Policy (FREP), an international journal to be published on the platform of Emerald Publishing. FREP is an academic, peer-reviewed, open-access journal which publishes theoretical and empirical results in all the areas of economics and public policy. FREP, by its name, chooses to focus on two distinctive fields of research: economics and public policy. Economics is a highly theoretical field of inquiry tapping into large datasets and utilizes sophisticated mathematical formulas in its approach. On the other hand, public policy explores more realistic problems making use of analytical observations in policies, law, and institutions which directly impact people's lives.

[More information about FREP.](#)



Policy discussion with Central Institute of Economic Management (CIEM)

On the 8th of March, a group of researchers from Central Institute of Economic Management (CIEM) led by Dr. Nguyen Dinh Cung (former Head of CIEM) visited and had an insightful discussion with Fulbright faculty members on the topic *“Promoting regional links for economic development in the South region: challenges and solutions”*. The South region in general and HCMC have been running out of steam compared to other localities in terms of economic development since many favorable conditions of the region have eroded over time including degraded infrastructure, stranded urban transport system, environment pollution and loosened links with surrounding growth centers. After insightful discussion between CIEM and Fulbright experts, it is agreed that coordinated efforts and regional outlook are required to unleash economic potential of the area.

[More information about discussion with CIEM](#)

NASPAA-Batten Competition

Bui Manh Tien, a student from Fulbright School of Public Policy and Management (FSPPM), was a member of the third-place regional winning team at the virtual site of the 2021 NASPAA-Batten Student Simulation Competition on March 6. The competition – a partnership between the University of Virginia Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy and the Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) – annually connects public policy students from a vast network of universities worldwide through simulated gameplay. Developed by experts at the Batten School’s Center for Leadership Simulation and Gaming (CLSG) and backed by real-world data, the simulation places students in leadership roles within a time-sensitive, fast-paced environment where they must work together to minimize the impact of Covid-19 pandemic.

[More information about NASPAA-Batten Competition](#)



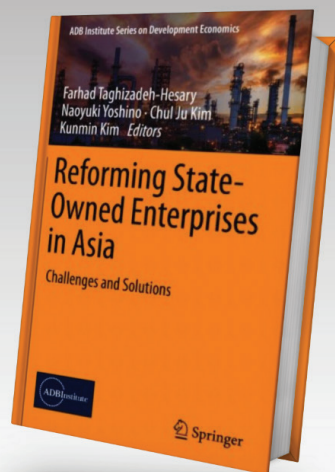


FSPPM's research is particularly relevant to local government entities. To ensure that local officials benefit from faculty research findings, FSPPM offers provincial governments a number of tailored outreach programs that aim to foster research, training, consulting, and partnership activities.

► Funded by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with the grant amount of \$70,000, FSPPM is commissioned to develop a proposal solicitation to identify and select innovative provincial governments for experimenting citizen powered solutions and conduct scoping study for development of syllabus on digital competencies for the public sector. Expected to complete in August 2021, this project aims to help identify and support provinces which are capable of recognizing and

successfully implementing Citizen Power Innovation solutions. In March, the final version of the proposal solicitation package is planned to submit and be accepted by UNDP.

► FSPPM continues to work with VCCI Can Tho to prepare for 2021 Mekong Economic Annual Report. In late March, FSPPM outreach team attended technical meetings with VCCI researchers, business leaders and policy makers to set forth the framework for this year's edition. The 2021 report is grounded on 3 interlocking topics: assessment of integrated regional planning for Mekong Delta until 2030 and towards 2050, agricultural transformation models for the delta and how to develop transportation infrastructure set in the context of agricultural transformation.



Research

In the quarter, three publications were accepted for publication, including one co-author journal articles, two book chapters, conducted by Dr. Le Thai Ha, all of which are available online.

► *Dynamic limit order placement strategies: survival analysis with a multiple-spell duration model.* Annals of Operations Research (SSCI, ABDC: A, Scopus Q1), 297, 241–275.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10479-019-03384-y>

► *Obstacles to Doing Business in Asia: Cross-Country Analysis for State-Owned Enterprises and Private Firms.* In: *Reforming State-Owned Enterprises in Asia: Challenges and Solutions*, pp. 297-321. Springer Singapore & Asian Development Bank Institute Series on Development Economics.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-15-8574-6>

► *Measuring Energy Security for China: A Multi-Dimensional Approach.* In: *China's Energy Security: ANALYSIS, ASSESSMENT AND IMPROVEMENT* (pp. 93-118). World Scientific.

https://doi.org/10.1142/9781786349224_0004

Last but not least, in the quarter, A/Prof. Pham Duy Nghia is working on a book chapter on Public Administrative Reform in Vietnam. The Book Project is "*Fundamentals of Asian Public Administration: Past, Present and the Future*"; Publisher: Edward Elgar Publishing (UK). The Chapter will be finalized in July-August 2021



Campus Policy Seminars

In this quarter, FSPPM policy seminar series resumed offline at Crescent campus. The three seminars in the quarter were not only organized for MPP students, alumni and faculty, but also welcomed public participants for attendance. The list of seminars include:

- ▶ On January 7, Dr. Do Thien Anh Tuan, lecturer of FSPPM, gave a seminar on *Macroeconomics and Foreign Exchange Policies in Vietnam*.
- ▶ On January 12, FSPPM invited Mr. Dang Hoang Hai Anh, senior economic expert, to share a talk on *The cost of successful anti-covid 19 campaign? The impact of pandemic on employment in Vietnam*
- ▶ Later in January, A/Prof. Tran Dinh Thien, former Director of Vietnam Institute of Economics and member of the Consultative Group of the National Assembly's Economic Committee, shared a topic *Zigzag pattern of economic transformation in Vietnam* to MPP students, alumni and faculty only.



Invited Conferences and Workshops

On March 29-30, Mr. Nguyen Xuan Thanh joined a meeting on the city development plan and financial center project at the invitation of People's Committee of Da Nang City, and then had meeting with SBV on supervision of commercial banks.

In this month, Dr. Le Thai Ha had meetings with management of ACB, Dragon Capital, Nike in March for collaboration/partnership opportunities with Fulbright.

At the end of March, Dr. Le Thai Ha participated in a by-invitation-only consultation workshop held on 31st March 2021 in Ho Chi Minh City by Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) about developing a new scholarly journal (in English) in the field of social sciences and humanities for MOST.



Upcoming events

March – May

Thesis Defense MPP 2021 (LM & PA)

April

MPP students fieldtrip to Central Coast of Vietnam

May

MPP Program Admission Cycle begins

