

Fulbright

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Newsletter FSPPM Spring 2022

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From the Editorial Board

Dear beloved readers,

As the world gradually step out from the fallout of COVID-19 pandemic, we are awakened by the fact that people must find peace with nature. Environment became a focused consideration in growth agendas of many countries including Vietnam with its commitment toward net zero emissions in COP-26. Living sustainably is no longer an option but a responsibility going forward. Sustainable growth is a prominent and recurrent topic in this issue, demonstrating FSPPM's efforts to spearhead inquiries into new knowledge fronts. In this quarter, we joined forces with internationally and domestically recognized bodies to explore alternatives to achieve green growth goals.

To celebrate Nordic Day 2022, in late March, FSPPM partnered with Nordic embassies in Vietnam to organize the conference *ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) – Business Model for Sustainable Development*. The event gathered high profile speakers from private and public sectors

elaborating on how to translate ESG protocols into operational practices and raise awareness to the public and business community that sustainability is of equal importance as profitability. Also in the same month, FSPPM research team working on the consultation project for Hue province made their first overseas fieldtrip to Kyoto. By drawing parallelism between the two old capital cities, Fulbright experts try to shed light on how to balance between the two goals, i.e., preservation of traditional cultures and economic development.

Besides these overarching themes, our faculty and guest speakers continued to share their expertise to students and public via policy seminars on significant topics; for instance, legal contract systems, economic outlook, governance models which you can find more details in below sections.

We hope you enjoy this quarter's newsletter and feel free to share with anyone of interest.

Truly yours,

Editorial Board

Highlights



The most highlighted event in this quarter was Nordic Day 2022 which was co-hosted by FSPPM and Nordic Embassies in Vietnam (Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden) on 24 March. With the aim to provide experiences from the Nordic countries on a variety of issues to Vietnamese audiences, the event attracted delegates representing Vietnamese Government ministries, agencies, businesses, and variety of Nordic experts from public and private sectors, academia, civil society to share experience in presentations and panel discussion focused on the topic *ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) – Business Model for Sustainable Development*. While ESG is first and foremost a concept developed by and for the private sector, it addresses many issues that are indeed most effectively handled in a public-private partnership. Ensuring sustainable use of energy and resources, building up social protection schemes as well as fighting corruption are tasks where both public and private actors play essential roles.

In the middle of January, 22 out of 26 MPP2022 - PA students completed their final theses and were accepted to defend in front of the thesis committees. Given that the School's operation has been back to "New Normal" and hybrid mode has been applied from last December, school management team decided to organize these defense sessions of MPP2022-PA also in hybrid mode by online (via ZOOM) and offline on campus as scheduled from 1 – 25 March 2022.

New and Updates

Policy Dialogues and Conferences

On 18 Jan, Dr. Le Thai Ha, FSPPM Director of Research, was invited to present her research paper titled *"Modeling the West Texas Intermediate Crude Oil Price Volatility: A time-varying approach with stochastic volatility"* at Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) School of Business's Seminar Series.

On the travel of H.E. John Kerry to FUV in late February, Dr. Le Viet Phu, FSPPM lecturer, had a discussion with H.E. John Kerry on climate and environment in the Mekong River Delta.

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Assoc. Prof. Pham Duy Nghia, MPP Director, was invited to discuss the Strategy to Build the Rule of Law in Vietnam toward 2045, chaired by the Country President Nguyen Xuan Phuc and five other Politburo members of the CPV in the Conference on Rule of Law on 16 March.

Assoc. Prof. Pham Duy Nghia, under the request of the Australian Embassy, had a meeting on 30 March to discuss about political and social development in Vietnam.

Outreach

FSPPM has provided local government with outreach programs to develop research, training, consulting and partnership activities. In this quarter, FSPPM's outreach team continues putting effort into important research projects, below are key project's activities in quarter 1/2022:

Thua Thien Hue Master Plan

From February, the project team has prepared report on socioeconomic status for the Province, and conducted the second field trip from February 28 to March 4. The 2nd fieldtrip was to gather in-depth information and test the hypotheses on the fields be in charge of. In this trip, the project team focused on industry and service sectors with many visits to local industrial parks and enterprises. From March 19 to March 31, the project team has conducted the third field trip in Kyoto-Japan, aiming to learn about Kyoto's experience of harmonizing development and conservation, along with finding out solutions for regional linkage development and industrial and tourism development in Thua Thien Hue in the long run.



Natural Capital Management (NCM)

The NCM project launched the search for three research fellows in December. Following an extensive interview and background check, out of 19 applications, the project has recruited three candidates from the pool with expertise in human ecology, GIS/remote sensing, energy economics and policy. At the moment, to generate specific ideas and feasible research proposals, the team is conducting desk study, synthesizing and analyzing existing evidence, identifying most important issues, and communicating with various stakeholders (local and central government, academic network, NGO, and local people). The NCM team will contribute to a study on agricultural transformation policies in the MRD. This paper is part of the annual economic report which FSPPM has been doing with VCCI Can Tho. Separately, Dr. Phu has been working on another chapter on energy transition. These chapters will be discussed at a regional logistic conference in Long An in March 18. The entire report is expected to be ready for the Mekong's Annual Economic Forum in July this year.



Policy Seminars at Campus

On 08 January, a webinar was presented by Assoc. Prof. Pham Duy Nghia – MPP Director on the topic *"Fragmentation: Risks of a fragmented legal contract system in Vietnam"* with more than 670 participants. Through identifying problems in legal contract, this sharing proposed legislative priorities and legislative oversight to let legal contract be stable, transparent, and trustworthy.

On 22 January, a webinar titled *"An overview of Vietnam economy in 2021 and prospects for 2022"* was delivered by Mr. Nguyen Xuan Thach that attracted nearly 300 participants. In the wake of the 4th wave of the COVID-19 outbreak in Vietnam, Mr. Thanh gave an overview of Vietnam's economic growth in 2021, then provided in-depth analysis about Vietnam economic outlook in 2022.



Guest Speakers

On February 15, as part of the *Public Management* course, Dr. Nguyen Si Dung, former Deputy Chairman of the Office of Vietnam National Assembly, was invited to talk as a guest speaker with MPP23-LM students and faculty on "Politics, Institutions and Culture: The long march in reforming Public Management and Public Administration in Vietnam". From his view, Dr. Nguyen Si Dung had a deep analysis of the close relationship between the history - culture context and political institutions as well as public governance model of Vietnam; and between the public management reform efforts and the possible options in the country.

At the invitation of Dr. Vu Thanh Tu Anh, Lecturer of *Public Management*, on 16&17 February, for the talk titled "From concept to design, advocacy, and implementation: The success of the Saigon South development project", economic expert Pham Chanh Duong revealed the effective creation and implementation the strategic thinking in the public sector that will be inherited by future generations.



Research

A publication on "Income shocks and food insecurity prediction Vietnam under the pandemic" of Dr. Vu Thanh Tu Anh, Dean of FSPPM, and his co-author (Khoa Vu, Nguyen Dinh Tuan Vuong, Nguyen Ngoc Anh) was accepted on World Development journal in 28 Jan.

During this quarter, 3 journal articles conducted by Dr. Le Thai Ha, all of which are available online:

■ *"Effects of economic, social, and political globalization on environmental quality: international evidence"* (co-author with Le, Ha-Chi), *Environment, Development & Sustainability* (SCIE, Scopus Q2, IF: 3.219).

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10668-022-02243-4>

■ *"How do sources of carbon emissions affect life expectancy? Insights from 68 developing and emerging economies"*, (co-author Mahalik Mantu Kumar, Le Ha-Chi & Hrushikesh Mallick) *World Development Sustainability* (associated with World Development).

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wds.2022.100003>

■ *"Impacts of fiscal decentralization on local development in Vietnam: a disaggregated analysis"* (co-author Tien Bui Manh and Donghyun Park), *Economics of Transition and Institutional Change* (former title: *Economics of Transition*; SSCI, Scopus Q1).

<https://doi.org/10.1111/ecot.12323>



Dr. Tran Anh Thong, FSPPM Research Fellow, published an article *"Responding to transboundary water challenges in the Vietnamese Mekong Delta: In search of institutional fit"* (co-author Tortajada) on *Environmental Policy and Governance*, 1-17. DOI: 10.1002/etp.1980.

Alumni & Student Activities

#FSAtalks featured Dr. Nguyen Thanh Trung, FUV adjunct faculty, Director of the Center for International Studies and the Department Head of International Politics at the University of Social Sciences and Humanities (USSH), Vietnam National University in HCMC, to talk about the current war in Ukraine from international legal perspective.

Upcoming events

Joint Workshop with World Bank to present the 2022 Vietnam Poverty & Equity Assessment report – *From the Last Mile to the Next Mile*.

Workshop with CIEM on the Regional Governance Cooperation Index and the Proposal for a model of cooperation in governance of the Southern key economic region

