

Fulbright

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Newsletter FSPPM Fall 2022

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From the Editorial Board

Dear beloved friends,

We universally agree that destination plays a vital role in a journey. During this quarter, we gather to congratulate a class of MPP2022 for reaching their final destination of a two-year learning path in the Commencement Ceremony. Joining the program at the onset of the pandemic, MPP2022 have successfully maneuvered over breaking waves. Minister Le Minh Hoan, keynote speaker of the ceremony, came and talked with graduates on a career in public sector. As a man who had experienced various educational settings within Vietnam and abroad, Mr. Hoan noted that attitude is more important than knowledge and bestowed great hopes in MPP graduates for their leadership to help the country navigate over shifting currents. Also, in Commencement Ceremony, outstanding students in MPP2022 are recognized for their creative policy solutions in graduation thesis by Best Thesis Award.

During summer months, FSPPM is packed with insightful academic activities in multiple topics ranging from productivity, entrepreneurship to wind energy and agricultural transformation. As a trusted partners to many international and domestic think-tanks, FSPPM is chosen as the host for many policy conferences and workshops to disseminate research findings to the public. We believe it is important to build an independent academic sphere where everyone can pursue free inquiry and knowledge sharing is vital for the community to seek effective solutions for inflicting problems.

In addition, there are other academic events which might be of interest to our beloved readers. Please read along and share the issue with your colleagues, friends or family.

Warmest regards,

Editorial Board

Highlights

The quarter is highlighted by the commencement ceremony organized on 06 August 2022 to celebrate 64 MPP students of cohort 2022 (24 PA and 40 LM). As a tradition in the commencement, a distinguished speaker, H.E. Le Minh Hoan, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Vietnam was invited to be key-note speaker of the event. During the closing speech, Dean of Fulbright School of Public Policy and Management, Dr. Vu Thanh Tu Anh acknowledged the support of Vietnamese government and the U.S. Department of State to Fulbright school to train effective policy makers, devise sound policies in the economic, political, and social context of Vietnam.

The results of Best Master's Thesis Award were officially announced in the Commencement Ceremony. This year, out of 10 applications, the Awards were honorably given to 04 (four) students of PA & LM class whose excellent graduation theses displayed theoretical and practical contributions to public policy research, as follows:

- Huynh Ho Dai Nghia - the first prize
- Truong Van Dat - the second prize
- Ngo Nguyen Thao Vy - the third prize
- Le Van Dao - the third prize



On 02 Jul and 16 Jul, as part of the admission cycle to recruit new cohort MPP2024, two information days took place in Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City respectively, which attracted more than 200 participants. The events not only shared about the history, the mission and vision of School, but also provided excellent opportunities for applicants to experience real classroom settings through demo classes that were held as part of the information days, the lectures are (i) *From earth to the moon: What are our dreams with FinTech* by Dr. Tran Thi Que Giang, (ii) *Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) in infrastructure through case studies about "Hanoi Urban Railway Project, Cat Linh - Ha Dong line"* in compared with "Urban Rail Transit - case study in Bangkok and Hong Kong" by Prof. Pham Duy Nghia, and (iii) "The impact of oil price on inflation: Lesson from History and the case study in Vietnam" by Mr. Do Thien Anh Tuan. The events had also received great support from alumni and our current students. Furthermore, the consultation session at the end of the event provided applicants more information about application process, suitable concentration as well as scholarship and financial aid of the MPP.

New and Updates

Campus Seminars & Workshops

On 5th July, the academic seminar on *Tax increment financing: Using property taxes to promote economic development* by Ph.D. Nguyen Hoang Phuong - School of Planning and Public Affairs, The University of Iowa. In his sharing, Dr. Phuong Nguyen talked about Tax Increment Financing (TIF) - a property tax-based tool commonly used by local governments in the US to promote economic development.

Also on the same day, a workshop jointly organized by FSPPM and Center Institute for Economic Management (CIEM) on the National plan to increase Vietnam's national productivity. The workshop focused on discussing (i) factors that affect, (ii) the challenges in increasing Vietnam's labor productivity in the new economics context, and (iii) roadmap and some policy suggestions to increase labor productivity of HCMC in particular and Vietnam in general in the period of 2021 - 2025.



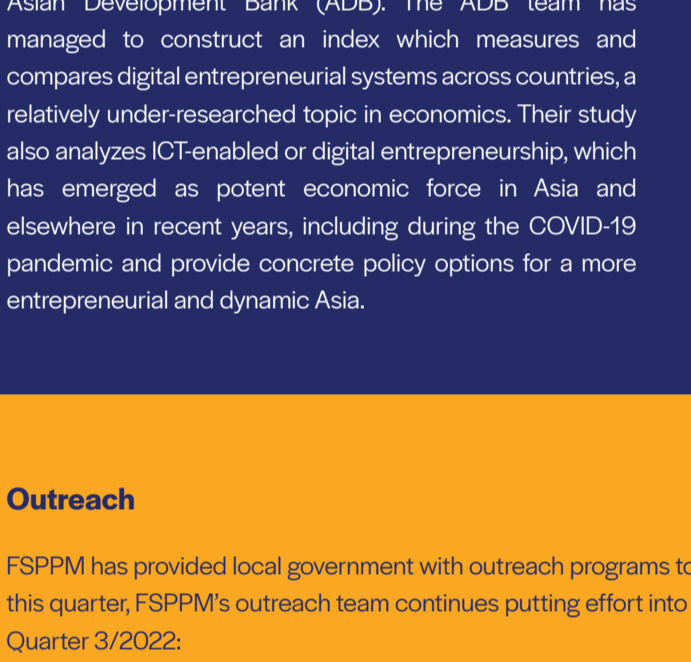
On 14th July & 30th September, two academic seminars took place under the framework of Natural Capital Management - NCM project. The first seminar focused on environmental issues in MRD region while the second one on energy transition in Vietnam. The two seminars gather various researchers inside and outside FSPPM for their insights on agriculture transformation, energy development, and site investigation for offshore wind energy development from in-situ to laboratory testing.



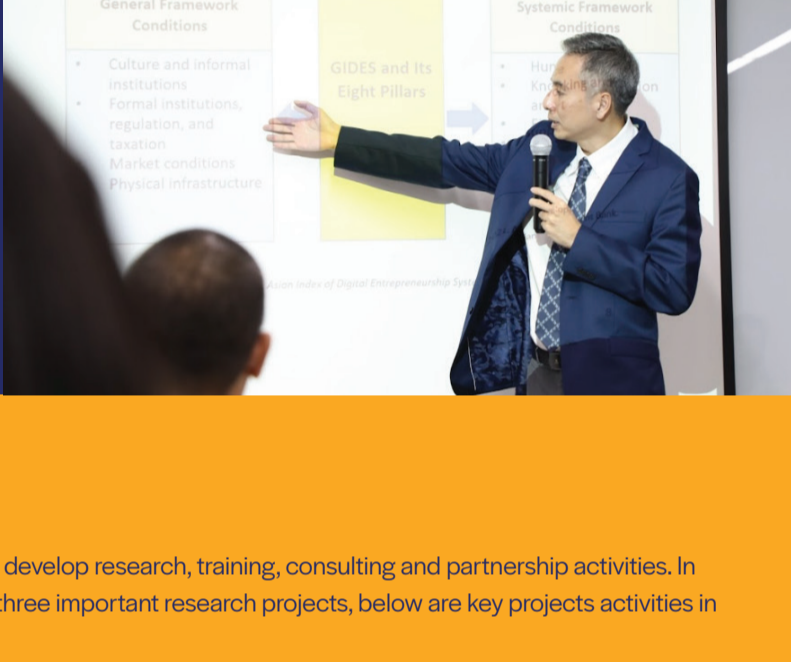
On 11th August, a workshop on *Green Finance and Sustainable Recovery post-COVID-19 Pandemic* organized by Fulbright Review of Economics and Policy. The workshop is a unique opportunity to welcome international scholars to present their work and exchange ideas to help build a resilient post-pandemic world.



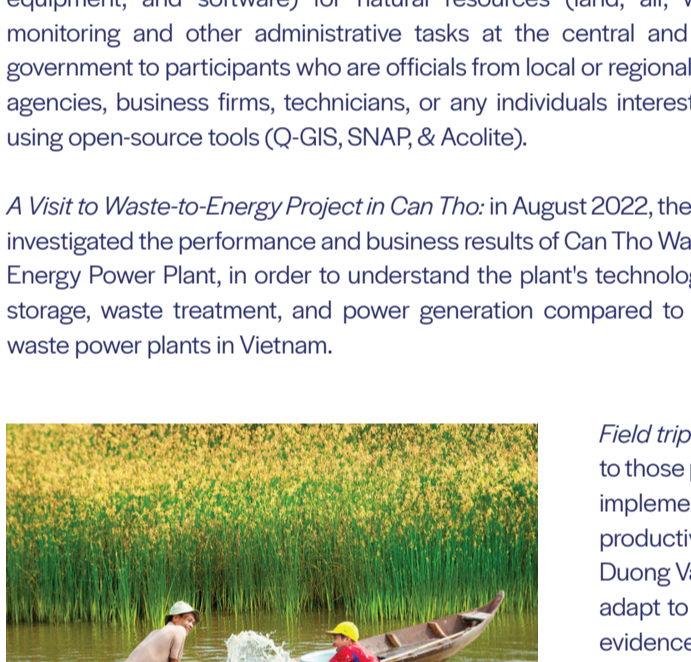
On 18th August, the seminar on *Stranded Assets in Energy Transitions in Asia: Effective Countermeasures?* By Professor Akihisa Mori - Associate Professor at Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, Kyoto University. Professor Mori discussed his latest research on future LNG lock-in and renewable energy transitions. This research aims to estimate stranded asset that Southeast Asian countries will have to bear in case they replace or add LNG power with coal rather than renewable energy sourced electricity.



On 6th September, the seminar on *Cybersecurity issues in Vietnam and the Information Technology job market in United State* presented by Mr. Duong Ngoc Thai - Chief Engineering in Google, U.S.



On 23rd September, a conference was jointly organized by FSPPM and International Monetary Fund (IMF) on *Innovation and Productivity in the Aftermath of the Pandemic*. This conference brought together economists, policymakers and practitioners to come up with useful policy lessons to boost innovation and productivity in Vietnam. The IMF team presented a preview from their upcoming report themed "Fostering innovation and digitalization in Asia to boost productivity post-pandemic," while the presentation by representatives from KPMG and the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (CEI) at Fulbright University Vietnam focused on the trends and benefits of corporate innovation in Vietnam. The panel discussion gathered representatives from KPMG, Netlix, Rutgers Business School (Rutgers University) and IMF to discuss measures to foster innovation and digitalization at micro and macro levels.



On 26th September, the seminar "Entrepreneurship in the digital age", which is presented by the economists from Asian Development Bank (ADB). The ADB team has managed to construct an index which measures and compares digital entrepreneurial systems across countries, a relatively under-researched topic in economics. Their study also analyzes ICT-enabled or digital entrepreneurship, which has emerged as potent economic force in Asia and elsewhere in recent years, including during the COVID-19 pandemic and provide concrete policy options for a more entrepreneurial and dynamic Asia.



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Outreach

FSPPM has provided the local government with outreach programs to develop research, training, consulting and partnership activities. In this quarter, FSPPM's outreach team continues putting effort into 3 more important research projects, below are key projects activities in Quarter 3/2022:

Natural Capital Management (NCM)

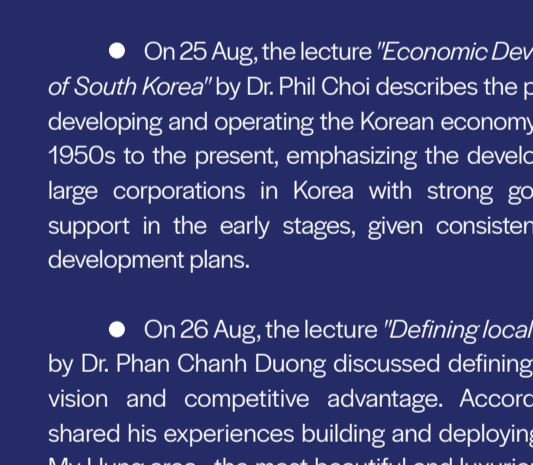
During the quarter 3/2022, the team project carried on a Field trip, training and outreach as listed:

GIS and Remote Sensing introduce some basic course organized in Can Tho in August 2022 to workshop a crash course knowledge of the geographic data and the geospatial technology (satellite data, equipment, and software) for natural resources (land, air, water) monitoring and other administrative tasks at the central and local government to participants who are officials from local or regional state agencies, business firms, technicians, or any individuals interested in using open-source tools (Q-GIS, SNAP, & Arcolie).

A Visit to Waste-to-Energy Project in Can Tho: in August 2022, the team investigated the performance and business results of Can Tho Waste to Energy Power Plant, in order to understand the plant's technology for storage, waste treatment, and power generation compared to other waste power plants in Vietnam.



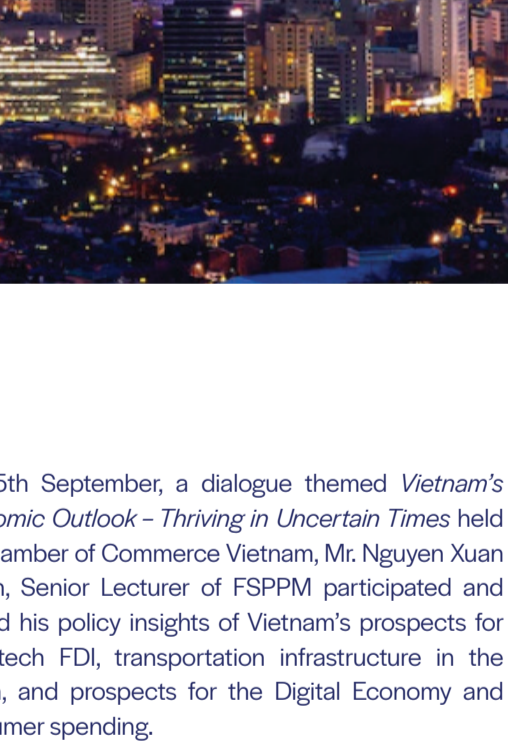
Field trip to Bac Lieu and Soc Trang: also in August 2022, the team traveled to those provinces to examine a sustainable livelihood model currently being implemented by the Mekong Conservancy Fund-MCF. The MCF's proactive grass-based livelihood model originates from the research of Dr. Duong Van Nui (Can Tho University) aiming at restoring local plant varieties to adapt to the changing environmental conditions of the Mekong Delta. The evidence show that the productive plants *Scirpus littoralis* help aquaculture (shrimp/crab) becoming more productive and less affected by saline water. The project identified a number of policy issues on environmental management, socio-economic development associated with sustainable livelihoods of people in the area. Specifically, due to inappropriate measures to deal with salination intrusion, a large proportion of the population (estimated over 1 million people) in Soc Trang, who lived on a livelihood from saltwater - brackish water, have migrated elsewhere.



Senior Visit by S.P.E.C John Kerry to Ben Tre: on 3 Sep 2022, S.P.E.C John Kerry paid a visit to Ben Tre to examine the impact of climate change in coastal provinces in the MRD. Ben Tre's acute climate challenge makes it a powerful backdrop for engaging the US and international governments on the need for urgent actions from members of the Vietnam climate coalition and opportunities for increased US-Vietnam cooperation

VINIF

The project team completed the cluster analysis of travel patterns of households in HCMC and are in the process of preparing a manuscript from this work for publication. As a case study, the team applied the methodology to the Travel Household Survey in 2014, the only such survey ever conducted for HCMC and included details of trips made by almost 60,000 individuals in approximately 20,000 households over a representative day. The analysis concluded that the travel diaries of the sample population can be best grouped into 9 or 10 distinct clusters that are characterized by attributes of the 3rd and 4th trips (travel mode, travel purposes and travel time). The 1st trip of the day has the least distinctive power because most people (in the survey data) make this trip for going to work using a motorbike and depart at relatively same time in the morning.



Guest Speakers

As an essential component of FSPPM's approach to public policy education, the guest lectures were invited to talk with MPP23 students through which students can approach a wide range of perspectives on policy issues:

► In *Public Budgeting and Financial Management* course, guest lecturers from academy and private enterprise body were invited to share in a wide range of topics in public budgeting and planning:

- On 06 Jul, Mr. Nguyen Minh Duc - Deputy General Director, Consulting Service - E&Y Vietnam, delivered lectures on *Public budgeting and Performance Management in Corporation*.
- On 09 Jul, Dr. Nguyen Nhu Quynh - Director of National Institute for Finance shared about *Review of public budgeting in Central and Local Government in Vietnam*.



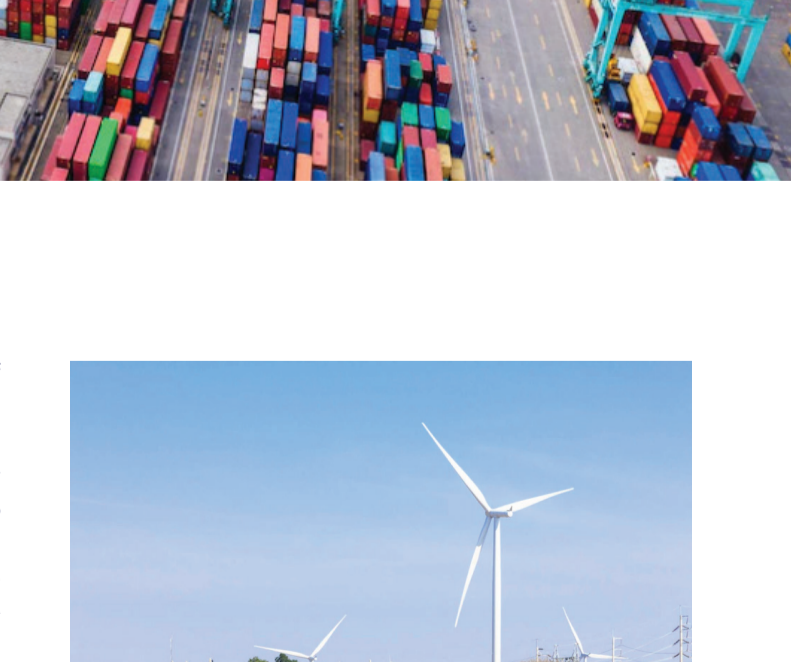
► Under the curriculum, on 21 Aug, Mr. Nguyen Xuan Thanh, lecturer of *Policy Implementation* course, has invited the speaker from Public sector - Mr. Nguyen Xuan Anh Nhan - Deputy Director of Khanh Hoa Department of Planning and Investment, to share about the process to implement the Waste treatment project for Nha Trang city.

► At the invitation of Mr. Nguyen Quy Tam, lecturer of *Negotiation*, two guest speakers had sharing with MPP23 students on following topics:

- On 23 Aug, Dr. Le Nguyen Minh Quang was invited to talk as a guest speaker with MPP23 class on *The Practice in Public-Private Negotiation in Vietnam*.
- On 27 Aug, Professor Joseph A. Massey - president of Global Reach (US), Inc., gave his talk about the experience in *Negotiation using the 3D (Tactics - Deal Design - Setup) framework*.

As a part of *Regional and Local Development* course, two inviting lecturers had lectured sessions:

- On 25 Aug, the lecture "Economic Development of South Korea" by Dr. Phil Choi describes the process of developing and operating the Korean economy from the 1950s to the present, emphasizing the development of large corporations in Korea with strong government support in the early stages, given consistent 5-years development plans.
- On 26 Aug, the lecture "Defining local strategy" by Dr. Phan Chanh Duong discussed defining the local vision and competitive advantage. Accordingly, he shared his experiences building and deploying the Phu My Hung area - the most beautiful and luxurious area in Saigon today - from the "Nha Be" area (the poorest area of old Saigon). The speaker emphasized that in order to strengthen local advantage competitiveness, it is necessary to create a culture on a broader scale (national level), whereby provinces/cities must have a development mindset through harmonized policy coordination.



Policy Dialogues and Conferences

► Dr. Vu Thanh Tu Anh, Dean of FSPPM and FSPPM research team members participated *Annual Mekong Delta Economic Report 2022* held by VCCI Can Tho on 01st August. This year, the report theme is "Transformation of Development Models and Integrated Planning" focusing on the transformation of agricultural model and assessing the impact of the Mekong Delta Integrated Plan for the 2021-2023 period.

► On 15th September, a dialogue themed *Vietnam's Economic Outlook - Thriving in Uncertain Times* held by Chamber of Commerce Vietnam, Mr. Nguyen Xuan Thanh, Senior Lecturer of FSPPM participated and shared his policy insights of Vietnam's prospects for high tech FDI, transportation infrastructure in the South, and prospects for the Digital Economy and consumer spending.



► On 04th August, Mr. Nguyen Xuan Thanh, Senior Lecturer of FSPPM, was invited as speaker at *Forbes Business Forum 2022* themed "Regenerating Growth" organized by Forbes Vietnam. In this 10-year annual event, Mr. Thanh analyzed the country's macro-economic prospects for the second half of this year and 2023, focusing on the risk of inflation.



► On 28th September, Assoc. Prof. Pham Duy Nghia participated in public discussion on revision of land law, law on housing, and law on real estate business (publish one short policy paper at **Tia Sang**) and delivered policy briefs at **Vietnam Association of Real Estate Business**.

Upcoming events

October 2022
Inauguration Ceremony for the Master in Public Policy Class of 2024

Nov-Dec 2022
Executive Training Programs for corporate participants

