

Fulbright

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Newsletter FSPPM Winter 2021

Inside this issue

1. From Editorial Board
2. Highlights
3. News and Updates
4. Upcoming Events

From the Editorial Board

Dear cherished friends,

With increasing vaccination rates and improved COVID-19 situation in HCMC, starting from October, Fulbright School of Public Policy and Management rumbled back to its normal pace of activities. In early December, we welcomed first offline students to campus after months of hard lockdown, complying with stringent endemic precautions.

As ferrymen guiding students on their search for knowledge, we are rejoiced to witness generations of talents entering and leaving the school. On 17th October, we gather as one Fulbright to welcome new MPP 2023 cohort in the virtual Convocation Ceremony. New entrants have shown their commitment towards greater knowledge so that they do not fall victim to the unknowns in a VUCA world. On final days of 2021, in the Commencement Ceremony, we celebrated the departure of MPP 2021 graduates from FSPPM and back to the community where they are expected to wield greater

impacts on public welfare. We congratulated new graduates for their strenuous efforts pushing through difficulties for success and ensure them that with FSPPM as their alma mater they are not alone in their future endeavors.

Given the gradual transition of the country into “new normal”, our faculty resumed their research projects in areas which they believe are most helpful for the country’s recovery from the crisis. In important policy dialogues and forums, faculty members elaborated on ideas and solutions to lift up affected industries out of predicaments caused by the pandemic. We also work closely with provinces at which we predict future growth of Vietnam is located to help them unlock their potential by consulting them with innovative policy initiatives.

We hope you find this issue an interesting read and feel free to share with it anyone who might be of interest.

With warmest,

Editorial Board

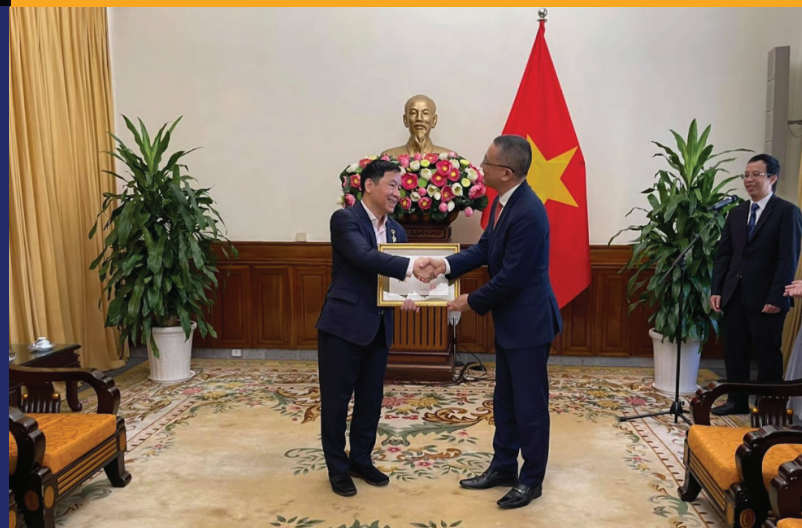
Highlights

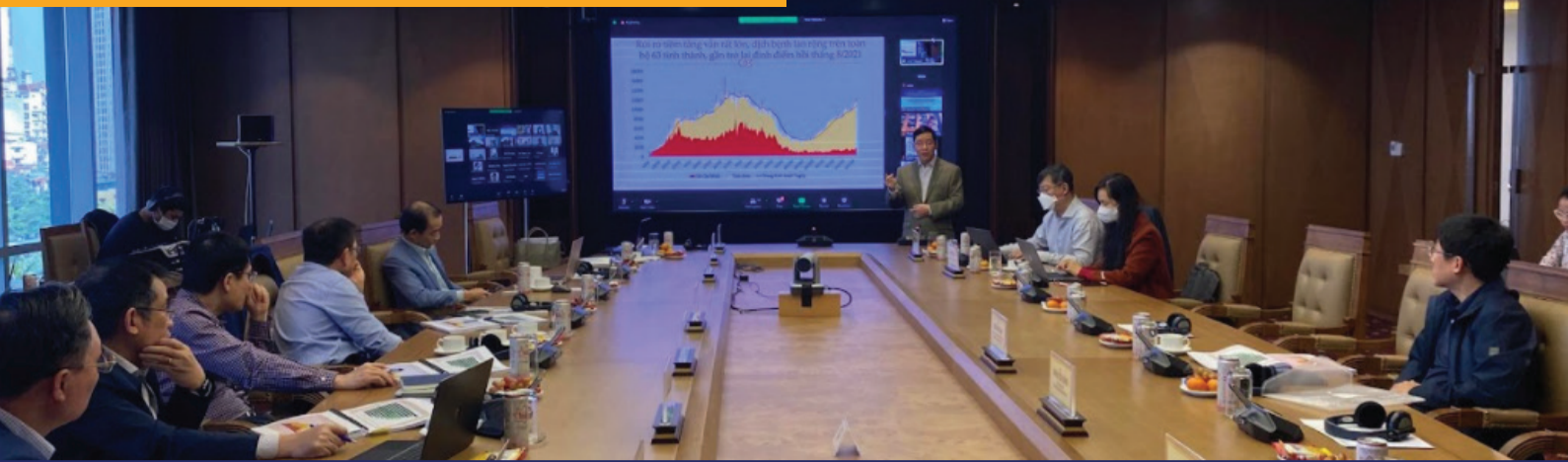
On the morning of October 17, 2021, the virtual Convocation Ceremony, a joint ceremony for both the Undergraduate Class of 2025 and the Master in Public Policy Class of 2023, took place to welcome over 80 new MPP students in attendance and introduce them about the school. The Ceremony had a special honor to receive the attendance of Ms. Ann Marie Yastishock, Mission Director, USAID Vietnam and Dr. Nguyen Lan Hieu, Associate Professor, Director of Hanoi Medical University Hospital cum Medical Director of Emergency Resuscitation Center of Becamex International Hospital.



The commencement ceremony was held on 26 December 2021 to celebrate 44 MPP students (19 PA and 25 LM). This year the keynote speaker was H.E. Vu Khoan, former Deputy Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. During the opening 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 train effective policymakers, devising sound policies in the economic, political, and social context of Vietnam.

Dr. Vu Thanh Tu Anh was recently honored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) for his contributions to the training, research, and consultancy of economic policies over the past years. The medal represented the recognition and appreciation of Dr. Tu Anh's significant contributions to the country's foreign affairs in general and economic diplomacy in particular. Specifically, Dr. Tu Anh actively engaged in the training, research, and consultancy of economic policies, enhancing the country's global integration and economic development.





Executive Education Program

On 4-5 Dec, Fulbright School of Public Policy and Management (FSPPM) and Vietnam Oil and Gas Group (Petrovietnam – PVN) jointly organized a Leadership Executive Education program on the topic “Navigational Leadership in a VUCA world” for members of Board of Management and Board of Directors of PVN and its subsidiaries. The program objectives include providing different perspectives on global economic issues and Vietnam development policies through up-to-date and independent economic policy research conducted by leading academic institutions and think tanks like FSPPM and Harvard University. The two-day program also looked to improve strategic vision, policy analysis capabilities, and

adaptability for leaders of Petro Vietnam and its subsidiaries to successfully cope with new changes in the modern world. Due to complications of the Covid-19 pandemic, the program was organized in a hybrid format, with both online and offline components in many locations. The two-day program was delivered by FSPPM’s most senior lecturers, including Dr. Vu Thanh Tu Anh, Mr. Nguyen Xuan Thanh, and Dr. Le Viet Phu. The program also invited international lecturers on economics, energy, and leadership, namely Prof. David Dapice, Prof. Edward Cunningham – Harvard Kennedy School (US), and Prof. Zeger van de Wal – Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore.

Policy Dialogues and Conferences

Dr. Le Thai Ha with Bui Manh Tien (Research Assistant to FSPPM Dean) and Chu Duc Manh (FSPPM Teaching Assistant) represented FSPPM to participate in DevLab-Duke Center for International Development (DCID)-Duke University’s joint workshop series with three leading universities/research centers in Vietnam.

On 14 October, Mr. Nguyen Xuan Thanh, FSPPM’s senior lecturer, participated in the AmCham seminar “Navigating the Bounce-back”. Speaking to the AmCham corporate members, Mr. Thanh discussed the government’s latest Covid-19 measures and the re-opening roadmap for Ho Chi Minh City.

Dr. Le Thai Ha, FSPPM’s Research Director, was invited as a guest speaker at the Asian Development Bank Institute’s Book Launch event “Demographic Transition and its Impacts in Asia and Europe” held virtually on 19 October 2021. Dr. Ha was one of the co-editors of this book.



Dr. Le Thai Ha virtually participated and presented research paper titled “Modeling the West Texas Intermediate Crude Oil Price Volatility: A time-varying approach with stochastic volatility” at International Congress of Energy, Economy and Security, held in Istanbul, Turkey on 13 & 14 November.

On 16 Nov, Dr. Vu Thanh Tu Anh, Dean of FSPPM, was invited to moderate the first and second session on “Renovate the mechanism of financial and budgetary management decentralization” and “Driving forces for Vietnam’s economic growth” in the Vietnam Finance Forum 2021 with the theme of “Financial Strategy for the 2021 – 2030 period, Solutions for Economic Recovery and Development in Vietnam” organized by the Ministry of Finance’s National Institute for Finance (NIF).

Dr. Le Thai Ha was an invited participant at the Consultation meeting for the draft version of the World Bank’s Vietnam Country Climate and Development Report (CCDR) held virtually on 6 December.



New and Updates

Dr. Le Thai Ha was a speaker on the topic titled “The Trade-Environment Nexus: What are the Implications for Vietnam?” at Webinar #1: Exploring linkages between circular economy and trade, organized by UNDP Vietnam and Viet Nam Circular Economy Hub on 15 December.

Dr. Vu Thanh Tu Anh, Dean of FSPPM participated and moderated at a conference “Transforming agriculture and rural sectors in Mekong delta – Realities and Policy Implications” which was hosted by VCCI Can Tho on 16 December. The conference received the participation of agricultural researchers, agriculture firms and particularly Netherlands Embassy. Participants contributed input for the annual Mekong Economic Report expected to publish in Q1/2022.

Dr. Vu Thanh Tu Anh, under the invitation of Vietnam Textile and Apparel Association (VISTA) attended General Meeting 2021: Joining hands for greater value and shared his views on the topic “The World and Vietnam economy in the context of Covid-19 – Problems for Vietnam textile and garment industry” on 17 December.



Dr. Vu Thanh Tu Anh, as the honored guest, joined the forum Mekong Connect 2021 themed “Integrating key products and services of the Mekong Delta provinces into the global value chain” held in Dong Thap Province on 21 December. Mekong Connect is the annual forum for entrepreneurs, public officials, domestic and international experts who are interested and have a stake in the development of Mekong Delta. The conference is hosted annually by the joint effort of four provinces, i.e. An Giang, Ben Tre, Can Tho and Dong Thap and Leading Business Club (LBC) and Business Association of Vietnam High-Quality Products.

Dr. Vu Thanh Tu Anh gave his sharing at Vietnam Export Promotion Forum 2021 with the virtual seminar “Export Promotion Contribution to the Economic Recovery and Development” hosted by Central Institute for Economic Management (CIEM) in the framework of Macroeconomic Reforms/Green Growth Program in Viet Nam (GI2) on 29 December.

Policy Seminars at Campus

The webinar conducted by Mr. Do Thien Anh Tuan – Lecturer of FSPPM on 13 Nov discussed the topic “Anomalies in 2022 budgeting decisions: A countercyclical or against the world policy?”, attracting about 180 participants. Under current curriculum in which the epidemic is well-controlled, the economy is starting to reopen, but there are still many uncertain factors, and the immediate difficulties are not small. In view of the Government's target in (i) the estimated budget revenue in 2022 to increase by 3.4% compared to 2021 and budget deficit to continue within the "allowable threshold" of 4% GDP and (ii) the expectations regarding spending on social security and packages to promote economic recovery, Mr. Do Thien Anh Tuan had discussion about application of some international practices or

fiscal rules in response to Vietnam’s economic cycle rather than a formula opposite to the rest of the world.

The webinar on the topic of “Public entrepreneurship, wisdom of the crowd and renovation in Vietnam” was presented by Dr. Huynh The Du – FSPPM Lecturer on 11 Dec, attracting around 200 participants. Looking back to the history of Vietnam in general and Vietnam Communist Party in particular, renovation was a conscious choice grounded in wisdom of the crowd. The renovation was led by public entrepreneurs (who knew the system clearly, have entrepreneurial spirit and has a conception for solutions). Dr. Huynh The Du provided an explanation about the factors which led to 1986 Doi Moi and discussed the possibility of nurturing audacious entrepreneurs in current period.

Outreach

In this quarter, FSPPM’s outreach team continues putting effort into different important research projects, below are key activities in Quarter 4/2021:

UNDP – CPII Project

In this quarter, the team submitted final reports on evaluating digital competencies of provincial leadership and on evaluating the readiness of provinces in participating in the Citizen Powered Innovation Initiatives to UNDP. In October 2021, the team presented the findings in these reports to provincial leadership in Thua Thien Hue and Ha Giang in half-day workshops. The report on evaluating digital competencies of provincial leadership was published on PAPI website and is available in the link below:

 https://papi.org.vn/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/DigitalCompetencies_ofLocalLeaders_CaseStudies_Final_ENG-2.pdf



VINIF Project

On Dec 16, the Project presented the results of the HCMC bus network connectivity, the analysis of bus network operational variability using bus location data and the results of the HCMC synthetic population at the workshop “Data-driven decision-making: the key for digital transformation and socio-economic recovery of Ho Chi Minh City”. The workshop was chaired by Mr Phan Van Mai, Chairman of the People’s Committee of HCMC, and Ms. Carolyn Turk, World Bank Country Director for Vietnam.



Thua Thien Hue Master Plan Bidding

In October 2021, Thua Thien Hue Department of Planning and Investment had called for re-bidding the TTH Master plan project. FSPPM participated in the bid as a subcontractor for the leader of the consortium, Haskoning DHV. The consortium successfully won the Project in mid-December. Because the project is required to implement in a very urgent and short time (10 months), the Consortium has quickly set up a meeting with the Investor at the end of December to negotiate the contract and draw a tentative implementation plan for the project.





Research

In Dec 27, the second issue of Fulbright Review of Economics and Policy (FREP), an international journal has been published on the platform of Emerald Publishing. This second issue is a collection of the best papers selected from the FREP virtual workshop held on September 15, 2021 on the theme of “*Policy responses for sustainable post-COVID-19 recovery.*” Link to the journal’s issue can be found at Fulbright Review of Economics and Policy: Vol. 1 Iss. 2 | Emerald Insight.

During this quarter, 03 publications conducted by Dr. Le Thai Ha, all of which are available online:

- 01 journal article “Performance comparison of state-owned enterprises versus private firms in selected emerging Asian countries” (co-author with Park, Donghyun, & Cynthia Petalcorin), Journal of Asian Business and Economic Studies (ESCI).

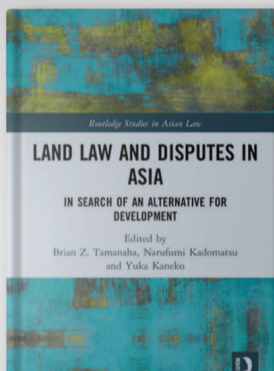
<https://doi.org/10.1108/JABES-08-2021-0116>

- 01 book “Demographic Transition and Its Impacts in Asia and Europe”, (co-editor with Sang-Chul Park, Naohiro Ogawa, Chul Ju Kim, Pitchaya Sirivunnabood), Asian Development Bank Institute.

<https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/738926/demographic-transition-web-ready.pdf>

- 01 book chapter “The nexus between trade openness and foreign direct investment, amid structural economic vulnerability in developing countries” (co-author with Quynh Chi Nguyen – MPP21 class), In: Paul J., Dhir S. (eds) Globalization, Deglobalization, and New Paradigms in Business (pp. 61-86). Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.

https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-81584-4_4



Prof. Pham Duy Nghia had his book chapter published by Routledge: Chapter 14 "The Role of Administrative Courts in Vietnam in Solving Land Disputes: Legal and Political Boundaries" in “Land Law and Disputes in Asia: In Search of an Alternative for Development”, Edited By Yuka Kaneko, Narufumi Kadomatsu, Brian Z. Tamanaha.

Dr. Le Viet Phu, FSPPM lecturer, had a research on “*The Power Sector in Vietnam: Past Successes, Bottlenecks, and the Prospect for Increased Private Sector Participation. Policy memo*” discussing cost-effective energy solutions for the country through electricity market and private sector’s participation.

Also, in this quarter Dr. Phu was working on policy report for VCCI Can Tho on title of “*Energy transition in the Mekong Delta: Identifying advantages, implementation and policy barriers*”.

Admission

Under the framework of Mekong-US Partnership-Master in Public Policy (MUSP-MPP) program, a five-year grant of US\$800,000 from the U.S. Department of State, from now to 2026 for 20 rising young public officials from Mekong countries, starting with Laos to attend Fulbright School of Public Policy and Management (FSPPM) for a Master degree in Public Policy – Policy Analysis (MPP-PA). With the aim of providing skills to increase local capacity while enhancing trust and building cooperative

relationships among the participating countries and young public sector professionals, the MUSP-MPP program will be open to three cohorts from Laos with six (06) fellows in the first year, and seven (07) fellows in each subsequent year. The U.S. Department of State through participating country Embassies will actively engage in selecting the most promising public officials. At the end of the 5 years, 20 participants will obtain the Master Degree in Public Policy.

Upcoming events

- The thesis committees are planned to hold in the Quarter 1, 2022 to evaluate the Master theses of 21 MPP22-PA students.
- Nordic Embassies in Vietnam (Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden) and Fulbright School will join forces to organize Nordic Day in March 2022.

