

Fulbright

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

Newsletter FSPPM Winter 2020

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From the Editorial Board

Dear beloved friends,

From place to place, people are rushing in a haze to end an unfortunate year as 2020. The last three months at Fulbright School of Public Policy and Management also moved fast, yet in a productive ambience. As the alma mater for 1400 leaders across the country, in November, FSPPM celebrated its 25th anniversary with more than 400 alumni and previous leaders, faculty and staff. We believe an institution can only grow its strength within by embracing its shared values. Academic integrity, public services and commitment to community development are founding values that we still cherish until today.

And on the Inauguration Day for MPP2022 cohort, we see these values brimming on faces of new classmates. Despite different background and profession, these students come to Fulbright with zealous ambitions to realize and we believe an

outstanding education in leadership and public services can prepare them for greater aspirations ahead.

Meanwhile, our faculty are engaging more vibrantly into national policy-making activities, advocating for reforms which we deem vital for a wealthier and happier society. With the appointment of one faculty member, Lecturer Nguyen Xuan Thanh, into Prime Minister's Economic Advisor Group, we ensure our policy consultancy which are based on scientific evidence are being heard by key leadership figures. Other faculty members are also working hard in emerging knowledge frontiers, e.g. energy economics, big data, citizen participation, to promote public understanding of these issues.

You are welcomed to explore and share this issue with any of interest.

Truly yours,
Editorial Board



Inauguration Ceremony of MPP2022

On the morning of October 26th, 2020, Fulbright School of Public Policy and Management, Fulbright University Vietnam hosted a ceremony to welcome the Master in Public Policy cohort of 2020-2022 (MPP 2022), with over 80 new students in attendance.

During his opening speech, Dean of Fulbright School of Public Policy and Management, Professor Pham Duy Nghia 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.

This sentiment was echoed by Madam Marie C. Damour, U.S. Consul General in Ho Chi Minh City, who attended the inauguration. In her words, “in our uncertain times, one thing is clear: we need policymakers and leaders that can rise to the challenges of our uncertain times and find new ways of thinking and new approaches that can improve policy and improve lives.”

83 MPP22 students come from thirty cities and provinces in Viet Nam with 24% from the public sector, 56% from the private sector, 8% from universities & research institutes and 12% from social organizations. After the Inauguration Ceremony, the two classes (PA & LM) jointly attended orientation sessions in IT and academic skills and the first fundamental course (Introduction to public policy) in the program.



Policy dialogue with central government leadership

On October 2nd, 2020, Member of the Central Party Committee, Vice Chairman of the National Assembly, H.E. Phung Quoc Hien, led a delegation from the National Assembly to confer with faculty members of Fulbright of Public Policy and Management on the current and future state of Vietnam’s economy. The working group from the National Assembly included leaders and members of the Committee on Economic Affairs; the Committee on Financial and Budgetary Affairs, the Committee on Science, Technology and Environment; the Committee on Foreign Affairs; the Department of Economic Affairs and the Office of the National Assembly.

This is the second visit of National Assembly delegates to Fulbright School for policy dialogue. The discussion was grounded on research findings by FSPPM faculty members examining economic, financial, and institutional factors to drive future growth of Vietnam economy.



FETP/FSPPM: 25th Anniversary and Beyond

The most highlighted event in this quarter was the 25th Anniversary of FETP/FSPPM which was co-organized by Fulbright School and Fulbright School Alumni (FSA) network. With more than 400 participants who are returning alumni, faculty and staff members, the event highlights the importance of mission continuity from FETP to FUV, and further strengthens the bond among alumni and between alumni and their alma mater which is now FSPPM under FUV. Among the guests, FSPPM welcomed virtually Professor Brian Quinn, the first Director of FETP, and in-person, Professor Jonathan Pincus, Director of FETP during 2008-2013.



As part of the agenda, 25th anniversary featured a panel discussion on early days of FETP and its role in U.S. – Vietnam reconciliations. Panelist Nguyen Vu Tu, Former Vietnam’s Ambassador to the Philippines and Korea, recounted his experiences as one of the first proponents to transform Fulbright vision into a reality. Additionally, three policy seminars on world economics, data analysis, environment and energy were delivered by faculty members to present FSPPM’s achievements to take on new research endeavors.

Key Appointments

FSPPM Lecturer Nguyen Xuan Thanh was appointed as member of Economic Advisory Group to the Prime Minister. The Economic Advisor Group consists of 16 expert economists renowned nationally and internationally, and now counts two FSPPM faculty in their numbers. EAG is tasked with analyzing, forecasting, and evaluating the realities and progress of economic plans, strategies, projects and economic policies. In light of these findings, the group advises the Prime Minister and government with effective solutions to improve policy implementation or propose policy changes and reforms to achieve stated objectives.



ADB-IFSPPM Virtual Workshop

During 13-15th October, the virtual workshop on *"Economic Impacts of Demographic Transition: Cases of Asia and Europe"* was co-organized by ADBI and Fulbright School of Public Policy and Management. The workshop features thematic and country-level case studies of aged, aging, and young societies, exploring effective policies

and measures to address demographic transition and alleviate socioeconomic burdens. Dr. Le Thai Ha served as a co-organizer and session moderator while Drs. Huynh The Du, Tran Thi Que Giang, and Le Viet Phu participated as discussants reviewing other authors' studies on demographic trends and solutions.

Policy consultation with Central Theoretical Committee

On 4th November 2020, the delegation of the Central Theoretical Council led by Dr. Dang Kim Son, Member of the Central Theoretical Council, Director of the Agricultural Institution and Market Research Institute, Vietnam National Academy of Agriculture convened with Fulbright School. The topic was about "Transforming growth model based on science, technology and innovation". Dr. Dang Kim Son appreciated the candid and critical advice based on scientific observations of the Fulbright faculty on how to overcome growth bottlenecks and lift Vietnam out of the "middle income trap".



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.

During the quarter, FSPPM's outreach team continues putting effort into these 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 research project, expected to complete in February 2021, is on the defense period with various activities to ensure successful outcomes for the project:
- On November 27, FSPPM and the Ho Chi Minh City Finance and Investment Corporation (HFIC) organized a workshop on Ho Chi Minh City Financial Center. The research team at FSPPM presented key findings on the competitiveness of the city and suggest policy recommendations for HCMC to become an international financial center.
- During this period, Dr. Tran Thi Que Giang and Mr. Do Thien Anh Tuan, members of project, had several meetings with banks and financial institutions leadership in Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh city to survey or interview for their insights.



- *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. On 11th November, under the framework of this project, Dr. Huynh Nhat Nam attended a meeting with top management at Hai Phong Thermal Power Plant to discuss a proposal for digital transformation at the plant.

- *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*, granted by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with the total amount of \$70,000 that will be completed 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 December, the first period of this project, the UNDP project team (led by Dr. Vu Thanh Tu Anh) travelled to Hue, Quang Ninh and Ha Giang for project activities.



- As part of partnership between FSPPM and VCCI, the Mekong Economic Report 2020 conference are co-organized on 14, Dec at Can Tho. This is the first comprehensive economic report on the whole region of Mekong Delta in the last 10 years. The report was jointly conducted by FSA and FSPPM members in late 2019 under the auspices of Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The report (VN version only) could be found [HERE](#).



Dr. Bae received **the Best Paper Award (3rd Place)** on the 1st Public Leadership Paper Competition from Korea Institute of Public Administration on December 19, 2020 for the paper titled *“Agile, Design Thinking and Political Leadership for COVID-19: The Case of South Korea”*.

Mr. Nguyen Quy Tam, co-authored with a team of researchers from Climate Policy Lab, The Fletcher School, Tufts University, finished a research paper *“Banking on coal? Drivers of demand for Chinese overseas investments in coal in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia and Vietnam”*.



Five publications by Dr. Le Thai Ha were accepted for publication, including two co-author journal articles, two book chapters and a book, all of which are available online:

Governance, Environmental Vulnerability, and PM2.5 Concentrations: International Evidence (co-authors with Chang Youngho, & Park Donghyun *Energy Journal* (SSCI, ABDC: A, Scopus Quartile: Q1), Volume 42, Issue 6.

 doi.org/10.5547/01956574.42.6.thle

Foreign Direct Investment Inflows and Economic Growth in Singapore: An Empirical approach (co-authors with Le, Ha-Chi), *Economics Bulletin* (Scopus Q3, ABDC Rank: C), Volume 40, Issue 4, pages 3256-3273.

 www.accessecon.com/Pubs/EB/2020/Volume40/EB-20-V40-I4-P285.pdf

The co-author book “Energy Insecurity in Asia: Challenges, Solutions and Renewable Energy, Asian Development Bank Institute” (with Naoyuki Yoshino, Taghizadeh-Hesary, Farhad, Chang, Youngho). ISBN: 978-4-89974-111-4 (Print)/978-4-89974-112-1 (PDF).


 www.adb.org/publications/energy-insecurity-asia



The book chapter “Drivers of greenhouse gas emissions in Southeast and East Asia: Evidence from panel data analysis”, Chapter 4 In: *Energy Sustainability and Development in ASEAN and East Asia* (1st edition). Eds: Phoumin Han, Farhad Taghizadeh-Hesary, Fukunari Kimura. Routledge (London).

 doi.org/10.4324/9781003026075

The co-author book chapter “Energy, income, trade and environment nexus: Dynamic Data Analysis for India” (with Sangeeta V. Sharma, Phoumin Han, Vinod K. Sharma), Chapter 7 In: *Energy Sustainability and Development in ASEAN and East Asia* (1st edition). Eds: Phoumin Han, Farhad Taghizadeh-Hesary, Fukunari Kimura. Routledge (London).

 doi.org/10.4324/9781003026075

Campus Policy Seminars

As part of the *Law and Public Policy* course, in December, three guest speakers were invited to talk with MPP22 students and faculty in following topics:

- On 15, 16 and 17th December, Mr. Vo Thanh Lam, Director of General Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Information and Communications, gave a lecture on *Translating ICT policies into formal legal documents: Balancing regulatory objectives, firms' interests and community benefits*.
- On 19th December, A/Prof. Dr. Tran Huu Quang was invited to evaluate and share his expert opinions on Fulbright students' performance on simulated hearings debating development strategies of Southern provinces.
- On 29th December, Mr. Nguyen Manh Dung, Independent Arbitrator and Mediator, delivered a talk on *Law and Development: How to build a rule-of-law society in Vietnam*.



In the same quarter, FSPPM policy seminar series was resumed and open for public participation on following topics:

- On October 2, Dr. Yooil Bae, FSPPM lecturer, gave a seminar on *Agile, Design Thinking and Problem-Solving Leadership in COVID-19: The Case of South Korea*.
- On November 13, Dr. Tran Thi Que Giang, FSPPM lecturer, shared a topic *The competitiveness of Ho Chi Minh city as a regional/international financial center*.
- Later in November, Dr. Bae presented *Book Talk: Multilevel Governance and Effective Local Governments: The Story of 21 Developed Countries*.
- On December 11, Dr. Le Thai Ha, FSPPM Research Director and senior lecturer, delivered a webinar on *Evaluation of Test-kit Trade and Trade Policy in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic*.
- On December 20, FSPPM invited Ms. Pham Chi Lan, senior economic expert, to share her insights on a talk titled *Development policies towards a prosperous Vietnam* to MPP students, alumni, and faculty only.



Invited Conferences and Workshops

On 10th November, Mr. Nguyen Xuan Thanh was invited by the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) to speak to its corporate members in Ho Chi Minh city on the short- and medium-term economic policy outlook for Vietnam.

In the same month, on November 18, Mr. Thanh was invited by the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MOIT) to give a keynote speech at the US-Vietnam Trade Forum: 25 years of economic and trade relations and the journey ahead. The Forum was jointly organized by MOIT, Ho Chi Minh City government, AmCham, and the U.S. - ASEAN Business Council (USABC). Mr. Thanh's keynote speech was on the shifts in regional supply chains and the future US-Vietnam bilateral trade relations. At the panel discussion, Mr. Thanh raised the challenge of the U.S. goods trade deficit with Vietnam and potential avenues to resolve the rising trade tension between the two countries.



Later that month, on November 24, Mr. Nguyen Xuan Thanh participated in the annual macroeconomic conference organized by the Vietnam Interbank Market Research Association (VIRA). At the conference Mr. Thanh gave a presentation on the current state of the Vietnamese economy and the implementation of monetary policy.

On 05 Nov, Dr. Vu Thanh Tu Anh, presented his research on *The roles of private sector in building and implementing development strategies* in a seminar organized by Ministry of Planning and Investment collaborated with the United Nations Development Programme. The seminar focused on *"Viewpoints, objectives, strategic break-through and development focus on private economic sector, non-state-owned businesses during strategic period of 2021-2030"*.

From 14 - 15 Nov, Dr. Le Thai Ha delivered an online presentation on *The energy-growth nexus revisited: An analysis of different types of energy* in International Congress of Energy, Economy and Security, organized by The Istanbul Chamber of Commerce in Istanbul, Turkey.

Later this month, from 28-29 Nov, Dr. Ha presented an invited (online) speech at VANJ Conference 2020 (VANJ20), held in Tokyo, Japan by The Vietnamese Academic Network in Japan (VANJ) and Center for Spintronics Research Network, Graduate School of Engineering, the University of Tokyo with the theme on *Science and Technology in the New Normal*.

Upcoming events

Feb – Mar

Class of MPP 2021 (Policy Analysis) will defend their graduation master theses.

Mar

4 students drawn from class of MPP2021 & 2022 will represent FSPPM to attend Naspaa-Batten Students Simulation Competition.

