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Call for papers

Rethinking Asian Capitalism and Society in the 21st Century:

A comparative overview on 30 years of Vietnam's
achievements under *Doi Moi* and Challenges ahead

Ho Chi Minh City, 7-8 November 2019

Institut des Sciences Sociales du Sud – *Southern Institute of Social Sciences (SISS)*

Conférence organisée par:	Conference jointly organized by:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - L'Institut de Recherche sur l'Asie du Sud-Est Contemporaine (IRASEC-CNRS, Thaïlande) - L'institut des Sciences Sociales du Sud (SISS, Ho Chi Minh-Ville, Vietnam) - Le Centre de Recherche en Economie Appliquée à la Mondialisation (Université de Rouen Normandie, France) - L'Université ouverte de Ho Chi Minh-Ville 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Research Institute on Contemporary Southeast Asia (IRASEC-CNRS, Thailand)</i> - <i>Southern Institute of Social Sciences (SISS, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam)</i> - <i>Centre for Research in Economics Applied to Globalization (CREAM, University of Rouen Normandy, France)</i> - <i>Ho Chi Minh City Open University (Vietnam)</i>

I- About the Conference

The late 20th century was a time of major geopolitical upheaval in the world. The fall of the Berlin Wall in November 9, 1989 put an end to the Cold War and its divisions, which dated back to the Second World War. The fall of the Communist bloc brought about the end of a bipolar world built around the rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union. Economic and military structures such as Comecon (the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance) and the Warsaw Pact were dissolved in 1991. The events of the late 1980s also accelerated the path towards German reunification and a new round in the construction of the European Union.

In Asia, the year 1989 did not mark a historical "turning point" as it was in Europe. The communist countries of Asia, with the exception of North Korea, did not collapse by embarking in an unprecedented step in the history of world communism. Their economies were passing through the initial phases of transition from centrally planned to "socialist market" economies, which closely associate economic reforms with an "open door" policy on the model initiated by Deng Xiao Ping in China. Vietnam in particular, implemented the system of central planning during 1975-1985 after decades of devastating wars. However, in the wake of the economic system's failure, the Vietnamese government then embarked on a policy of "Renewal" (*Doi Moi*).



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Thirty years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the transitional economies of Asia are on different paths than their counterparts in Europe and yet, facing similar challenges. Turning to the Asian region first by joining the “enemy” alliance initially anti-communist, ASEAN in 1995 and later by joining APEC in 1998, Vietnam and its neighbors in South-East Asia (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, the so-called group of **CLMV** countries) have followed their own path to achieve a favorable economic outlook: highest GDP growth rates, alleviation of extreme poverty, acceleration of regional integration, progress in global business environment rankings (*Doing Business* of the World Bank, *Eurocham Business Climate Index* of the European Chamber of Commerce, *ASEAN SME Policy Index* of OECD) or in the country profiles using data from the OECD-WTO database on Trade in Value Added (*TiVA*). In addition to practically making Asia the only part of the world where the socialist regime remains, the historical “moment” of 1989 has opened up new perspectives for the organization of a world in which Asia, communist or not, plays a growing and determining role.¹ What the World Bank had defined in 1993 as an “East Asian Miracle”² initially led by Japan and the dragons (South Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan), has now being structured around China to draw a new path (even a “model”) of development in the region.

Since 1986, Vietnam has gone through a far reaching transformation from an inward looking planned economy to one that is globalized and market-based. Being the third most populous member country of ASEAN with 96 million inhabitants in 2018, Vietnam has become the 6th largest economy in the region. Behind the story, integration in the world economy has been the key driver of Vietnam’s economic and social outstanding outcomes. The country formally completed World Trade Organization (WTO) accession in late 2006, culminating a long process of efforts to integrate the national economy into global markets. It is clear that since the implementation of *Doi Moi* in 1986, Vietnam has resisted both the collapse of the Soviet bloc and international sanctions (the US embargo was only lifted in 1994). In 2018, the country recorded its highest growth rate (nearly 7%) since 2011. Spurred by a policy of rapid liberalization, economic modernization has also enabled the country to cope with a series of domestic and external shocks: macroeconomic instabilities, the economic and financial market crisis of 1997 in East Asia, the global crisis of 2008. This economic vitality opens up new perspectives and allows Vietnam to play a growing and decisive role in the region through a multilateral policy in which East Asia has its rightful place.³

The country is now entering a new phase of national development and has a set-up objective to become a modern and industrialised economy by 2020. Yet, significant gaps remain in renewing abilities to meet the needs of a modern economy, and to promote proactive international integration in order to address global as well as national challenges.

¹ Kishore Mahbubani, 2008, *The New Asian Hemisphere. The irresistible shift of Global Power to the East*, New York, Public Affairs.

² World Bank, 1993, *The East Asian Miracle. Economic Growth and Public Policy*, New York, Oxford University Press, 1993.

³ Le Hong Hiep & Anton Tsvetov, 2018, *Vietnam’s Foreign Policy under Doi Moi*, Singapour, Iseas Publishing.



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To make the best possible decisions for the future, it is therefore important to take stock of what has been achieved to date, while considering future issues in a regional and comparative perspective. In 2019, Vietnam is developing more than ever a political, economic and strategic multilateralism, in a context made unstable by the isolationist policy of US President Donald Trump and China's expansionist policy of Xi Jinping.⁴ At the beginning of the 21st century, it is important, through the Vietnamese *Doi Moi* experience, to rethink Asian capitalism by deploying a multidisciplinary approach.

Accordingly, the objective of this international conference is, on the one hand, to analyze the specificities of transition trajectories in South-East Asia and on the other hand, to identify the main challenges facing Vietnam and other countries in the region. The conference will discuss the challenges of Asian Capitalism and Society in many different country contexts, by crossing various disciplines in social sciences. In the decades ahead, **CLMV** countries will have to face major new challenges and large-scale requirements on the socio-economic, societal, geopolitical and environmental grounds. An important goal of the conference is to identify avenues for addressing some of them.

The conference will consist of plenary sessions with keynote speakers, sessions with contributed papers, and a round table policy with guest speakers.

II- Call for papers

The Research Institute on Contemporary South East Asia (IRASEC, Bangkok) and the Southern Institute of Social Sciences (SISS, Ho Chi Minh City) invite contributors to present original research papers at the international conference to be held on **November 7-8, 2019** in Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam). Of international scope, with a presentation in **French and in English**, the event aims to:

- Discuss results from recent work carried out by European and Asian researchers,
- Foster interaction and ideas exchange by bringing together senior and young researchers in social sciences.

For **accepted** participants, hotel accommodation can be provided for one author per selected paper, subject to available funding. Preference will be given to early-career researchers from developing countries. There is no conference fee.

III- Conference topics

Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

Part 1: Vietnam from yesterday to today. A regional and comparative perspective.

- The transformation from a centrally planned economy to a socialist market economy
- Changes in the Vietnamese society with its openness to the world
- Vietnam on the World map: from the Soviet bloc to a globalized world

⁴ See Claire Tran, 2019, « Vietnam Un parti communiste tout puissant face au défi d'un Doi Moi II », in *Asie du Sud Est 2019, Bilan, enjeux et perspectives*, Les Indes Savantes/Irasec.



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Part 2: Vietnam and challenges ahead in the 21st Century

- Regional challenges: new architecture in East and South-East Asia, maritime conflicts and geopolitical tensions, multilateral governance
- Societal challenges: social and cultural transformations, pitfalls of the middle-income trap (income inequality, gender inequality)
- Environmental challenges: climate change (migration, vulnerability, competitiveness), green growth (technological change, renewable energies)

Keynote speakers

Robert BOYER (the Institute of the Americas, France)

Robert Boyer is a heterodox economist, leader of the "school of regulation" born in the early 1970s. Since it is interested in how historically specific systems of capital accumulation are "regularized" or stabilized, this approach popularized by French economists is called the "regulation theory".

First, he argues that the concept of capitalism is not equivalent to the concept of market economy since it also refers to the study of social relations and dynamic patterns of evolution. Second, the 90s were probably a turning point in the analysis of contemporary societies since the built-in propensity of capitalism to innovate and ability to propel structural change and promote globalization, are easy to recognize. Third, given the multifaceted aspects of capitalism, all social sciences (legal studies, economic history, political sciences, sociology, economic theory, technical change analysis...) do shed some light upon this complex and evolving regime.

Anne CHENG (Collège de France)

Anne Cheng is a famous French Sinologist who is specialized in the history of Chinese philosophy at the prestigious Collège de France (Paris). For nearly thirty years, she has conducted her teaching and research work on the intellectual history of China, especially on Confucianism, initially at the CNRS (French National Center for Scientific Research), then at INALCO (National Institute for Oriental Languages and Civilizations), before her appointment to the Institut universitaire de France and her election to the Collège de France in 2008. The Collège de France is considered to be France's most prestigious research establishment.

Bertrand BADRE (Blue like an Orange Sustainable Capital)

Bertrand Badré is CEO and founder of Blue like an Orange Sustainable Capital. Previously, he was Managing Director of the World Bank; Chief Financial Officer of the World Bank Group; CFO at two of the world's largest banks, Crédit Agricole and Société Générale Group; and a partner of Lazard. In his last published book, Bertrand Badré looks at the destructive role finance played in the global economic crisis of 2007-2008 and offers a bold prescription for making it a force for good. He describes how finance can be harnessed to help us solve many of the world's biggest problems such as climate change, poverty, infrastructure rebuilding, and more. As he writes, "*When controlled and used intelligently, with benevolence and inventiveness, finance can accomplish great things*".

IV- Submission procedure

The **proposals**, in French, English or Vietnamese, present the communication project in approximately 4,000 characters, about 500 words or one page.

The submission file (entitled "**AUTHOR'S NAME_SURNAME**") must include:



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- A title of 70 characters (with the possibility of adding a subtitle);
- An abstract detailing the research question, the theoretical framework, the fieldwork or the methods and data, and the main results;
- Keywords with JEL Code, bibliographical references (not included in the character count);
- A separate page providing all author names, their status, and their institutional affiliations, as well as their email addresses.

The authors whose proposals have been selected will be invited to send a full-length paper which must follow the guideline below.

Papers will be written **in English** and must not exceed 40,000 characters, excluding the abstract and references. Previously unpublished papers presented at the conference will be considered for publication. For publication of the proceedings, the sources used, tables and charts inserted must be accompanied by all the references and adapted to the standards in use. An English abstract must clearly and fully reflect the text content, as well as a list of keywords and JEL codes.

V- Important dates

- **June 30, 2019:** Deadline for sending proposals (title, author(s) with affiliated institutions, email, abstract, keywords and JEL codes - **all on 2 pages maximum-**) to: conference@irasec.com
- July 14, 2019: target date for acceptance/rejection notification
- **October 20, 2019:** Deadline for sending papers by authors
- November 1st, 2019: Publication of the final conference program

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- 2- LE Thanh Sang (SISS, Vice-Chair)
- 3- TRAN Thi Liên Claire (IRASEC, Thailand)
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