



# DEVELOPMENT OF THE INTELLIGENTSIA IN HO CHI MINH CITY – OBJECTIVE DEMAND OF THE KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY

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## 1. Abstract

The scientific and technological revolution has officially brought the humanity from an industrial economy to the knowledge economy; the knowledge becomes a decisive resource for the prosperity of nations and a driving force for a rapid and sustainable development of each nation. Urgent issue for each nation today is therefore to strongly build intellectual resources, effectively promote human intelligence to integrate into a common flow if it doesn't want to be left behind. Vietnam, including Ho Chi Minh City has entered a transition period to socialism with a very low starting point: backward agricultural economy; small production scale; low labor productivity and quality and poor competitiveness. The Government, especially the competent agencies at all levels, committees and branches of Ho Chi Minh City has actively renovated, accelerated the industrialization, modernization process to promote all resources of the country in order to keep pace with the development trend of the times; in which, a key task is to effectively exploit and use the intelligentsia's intellectual resources.

**2. Keywords:** Knowledge economy, industrialization, modernization, knowledge and Ho Chi Minh City

## 3. Introduction

The emergence of knowledge economy has opened a new economic era - knowledge economy with influence of very fast advances in science and technology, especially information technology, economic and social environment creating the wealth creation era which is completely different from previous economic eras. Accordingly, for its existence, each nation and its people must actively integrate into the global economy or they will be left behind the common development process; it means that it is in the inevitable, volatile and complex development of such environment, each person must change himself to reach a new vision, new thinking and wisdom to adapt to the challenges.

In order to keep pace with the rapid changes of new situation, by a Resolution of the 12<sup>th</sup> National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the Party has outlined the direction and task of developing intelligentsia in a 2016-2020 period "Building the stronger intelligentsia of high quality, meeting the requirements of the country's development; Appreciating the intelligentsia by properly assessing their quality, capacity and dedication results; developing special mechanisms and policies to attract the country's talents" [Communist Party of Vietnam, 2016, p.121].

## 4. Results and discussion

### 4.1. Knowledge - the base of the knowledge economy

The 21<sup>st</sup> century is the century of knowledge, science and technology. The industrial revolution has brought a transition from a backward agricultural economy to a mechanical economy which has initially replaced human power and manual skills with machines with abundant material resources; thereby productivity and product quality have been much higher than the same of previous period. If the machines really dominated the production processes in the industrial revolution, the knowledge revolution would transform from local automation production to full automation one which multiplied the physical strength and intellectual power of people, brought the thinking capacity to a new level in domination and reclamation of the natural world, contributing to radically changing the traditional material factors of the productive forces, creating a system of more modern technology-based machines and techniques to the previous industrial revolution.

In the past, the human society mainly used information processed in the human brain; however, in the last few decades of the twentieth century, the information processed in the brain has been increasingly supplemented by the information processed in the technical system. Especially in the early years of this twenty-first decade, the advanced societies in the world have been thoroughly "informationized", they have been not only merely social system, socio-political system, socio-economic system and socio-cultural system, but also the information processing system. [See Tan Ngon Truoc, p.100].

In any society, in order to go through the period of industrial development, it also requires the transmission, collection and processing of information; especially for the countries undergoing industrialization and modernization, this requirement is becoming more and more urgent. The agricultural society has invented handwriting and paper, which could be considered as the first information revolution. The industrial society has built transportation networks and communication systems which could be considered as the second information revolution. However, only in the information society, the information production becomes a systematic and large-scale production activity. The value of physical products is increasingly determined by the amount of knowledge and information that makes up it. This factor also determines the success or failure of competition and rivalry between nations. Only when the people possess the knowledge and information, they conduct all economic activities and only by combining knowledge resources with material resources together, the production works well. Therefore, a person with the knowledge can defeat his competitors, win, if he knows how to use large-scale information and knowledge.

The information resources, information technology and information economy, in fact, may be used to assess the fast or slow development of a country. The combination of these is called information power. The reason why the information has such unparalleled power because it is inseparable from the increasingly important role in economic development. In today's era, the scientific and technical knowledge has become a decisive factor in the quality of labor force, optimal combination of production factors, level of exploitation and use of materials and energy resources. The human may use scientific-technical knowledge (information resources) to exploit and use most effectively the human resources, material resources and energy resources, strongly promote the development of social productive forces, rapidly improve people's material and cultural living standards. In his study "The Age of Knowledge Economy", Tan Ngon Truoc said: "When the information power and its products are widely applied in the fields of society, politics, economy, military and culture, etc., it will determine the strength of the entire country and eventually proceed to determine the actual position of such country in world politics and economy" [Tan Ngon Truoc, pp.132-133]. This is no doubt because it is very consistent with the actual situation at present. The power of knowledge and information becomes a leading factor of national synergy; information security also becomes the most

prioritized issue of national security and the right to dominate information will become the competitive power of major countries.

On the path of development, it is inevitable for Vietnam, including Ho Chi Minh City to move towards the knowledge economy because the factors of the times have shown that the development of knowledge economy is a development model in line with the general development trend of the world and Vietnam has deeply integrated into the global economy and has become a part of the world economy; as a result, the development of knowledge economy is an irresistible trend. On the other hand, the development of knowledge economy is also an urgent demand of the Vietnamese economy in the trend and new era. The applied economic growth model which brought a great success to Vietnam in the past is now no longer preminent; in the new situation, the economic growth model should bring a new development step to be more suitable for fierce competition conditions and new requirements in the context of many changes of the world.

#### **4.2. Development of the intelligentsia, an inevitability of industrialization and modernization - building the knowledge economy in Ho Chi Minh City**

If the industrialization is the transition from a purely agricultural economy to an industrial economy, the modernization is the intellectualization and technologicalization of production. The essence of industrialization and modernization is the process of transition from backward agricultural production with the low productivity to modern industrial production with high productivity and product quality in which the scientific and technological knowledge is used as a measure of economic efficiency. In other words, the industrialization and modernization is the intellectualization of the economy or the knowledge economy.

In the trend of objective and inevitable internationalization and globalization of the times, Vietnam has joined the WTO and deeply integrated into the world economy and is actively carrying out industrialization and modernization of the country; the 10th National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam emphasized the importance of industrialization and modernization with the development of knowledge economy [Communist Party of Vietnam, 2006, p.87].

The transformation of economic and labor structure towards industrialization and modernization linked with the development of the knowledge economy requires a rapid development of human resources, especially high-quality ones. The same becomes a main, leading force in the cause of industrialization, modernization and integration. The development of high-quality human resources is a breakthrough solution to successfully implement the shortened industrialization and modernization.

The high-quality human resources of intelligentsia are core factor in the development of each country, especially in the context that globalization and international integration have become an irreversible trend. The 9th Party Congress of Ho Chi Minh City therefore determined to improve the quality of human resources, considered it as the first breakthrough program in the process of industrialization and modernization of the City.

The industrialization and modernization are objective laws of the historical development process to fundamentally and comprehensively transform a social production of the use of main manual labor with low productivity, quality and efficiency to the use of more and more trained, higher quality and efficient labor which are based on industrial production methods, applied new achievements of advanced science and technology in order to bring productivity, high value-added product quality. Labor productivity, science, technique and technology are factors to evaluate the development and progress of different eras and economies [See Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, p.269]. The creation and application of knowledge in socio-economic development are nature and basic content of industrialization and modernization to create the rapid and sustainable development of a country. For Vietnam, to transform from the agricultural economy into the modern society, there is only one way to carry out comprehensive industrialization and modernization in all

fields of social life. Particularly for Ho Chi Minh City, the industrialization and modernization are not only a demand but also an urgent issue in its development process, due to its task set out "Building Ho Chi Minh City to become a civilized and modern socialist city", from now to 2025, the city must "...gradually become a center of industry, services, education and training, science and

The process of industrialization and modernization of humanity has gone through many stages with the first of the first industrial revolution (about the second half of the eighteenth century, the first half of the nineteenth century) which took place in England and then spread to France and Western Europe...etc.; especially since the 1970s, the social development has been brought to a new level; the production has been computerized, automated, and humanity has been integrated into the knowledge economy thank to the advent of personal computers. It can be said that all industrial revolutions are based on the development of science and technology; and accordingly, it always fundamentally and comprehensively changes the economy - society of participating countries towards the modernization. Vietnam moved to the socialism from a poor and backward agricultural country with low production level, labor productivity; weak physical and technical foundations; low level and capacity of employees; backward technology, equipment and economic structure and mainly agriculture, simple labor-based production ...etc. With aim to fulfill such task, the industrialization and modernization must be inevitably carried out, as the Communist Party of Vietnam has determined: "...industrialization and modernization are central tasks" [Communist Party of Vietnam, 2001, p.25] of the transition period.

The industrialization and modernization are "fundamental and comprehensive transformation of production, business, service and socio-economic management activities from mainly using the manual labor to universally using the labor power and advanced technology, advanced means and methods of industry and progress of science and technology, creating high social labor productivity." [National Dictionary Compilation Council, p.587]. However, the process of industrialization also raises problems to be solved such as: natural resources for industry which are more and more and tend to be depleted; environment pollution, climate change and explosion of urban population...etc. To overcome these negative impacts, the industrialization must be associated with the development and application of scientific and technological advances for sustainable economic and social development which requires the industrialization must be linked with the modernization. The word "Modernization" comes via 'modern' which is used to refer to the advanced, progressive and new things. The modernization in Vietnam is so essentially the process of applying and equipping modern and advanced scientific and technological achievements into the production, business, service, and socio-economic management.

For carrying out the industrialization and modernization, it is necessary to strongly develop the human resources in both quantity and quality. The quality of high-quality human resources is the actual ability to brilliantly, creatively complete the assigned tasks and make really useful contributions to the duties. Those standards can be specified to the following criteria: high professional proficiency, ability to adapt quickly to change, high integration; teamwork skills, communication ability, proficiency in using foreign languages, informatics; discipline spirit, sense of democracy, cooperation, high collective, community sense; will to overcome difficulties; self-study and self-research capacity; good healthy; and high and outstanding labor performance. The science and technology is one of the important factors with the direct and regular impact on improving the quality of high-quality human resources of Ho Chi Minh City since the same not only provides a endless knowledge for the labor forces to study to improve their knowledge and technology, with the rapid development of science and technology today, modern and high-tech technologies are increasingly applied popularly and constantly innovated in production and social life in Ho Chi Minh City, but also create the conditions and become a demand and motivation for the labor forces of the city to constantly improve the quality of life, the ability to work comprehensively to meet the increasing requirements of modern technology, organization and demand to master, improve and develop the technology.

For Ho Chi Minh City, the development of intelligentsia is not only an important issue but also a condition and an advantage to accelerate the process of industrialization and modernization to enter the knowledge economy. Accordingly, it requires the city to quickly develop the high-quality human resources to meet the reception, operation, research and development of high technologies of the knowledge economy. And Ho Chi Minh City is also one of the largest science and technology centers in the country, home to many universities, research centers and highly qualified multidisciplinary and multi-sector scientists which are conditions and advantages for the city to train and develop the high-quality human resources in order to serve the process of industrialization, modernization and development of the knowledge economy.

Currently, Ho Chi Minh City is one of the largest economic centers of the country with the abundant labor force. Its high-quality human resources are however still lacking and weak which do not meet the needs of socio-economic development as mentioned by the City Party Committee [Ho Chi Minh City Party Committee, p. 34]. This limitation is due to many reasons, including the lack of attention to the strategy in investing and developing intelligentsia (high-quality human resources), only paying attention to meeting the current human resource demand and no building the strategy in developing the high quality human resources of the city. In addition, there are still many companies with slow technological innovation". The production also focuses on processing, preliminary processing and relies on simple labor" [Ho Chi Minh City Party Committee, p.30], which reduces the demand on developing the high-quality human resources of the City.

## 5. Conclusion

The development of intelligentsia is also the process of promoting the human factor, improving the quality of human resources, and comprehensively increasing the human values in terms of human's physical, intellectual, moral, political bravery, creative capacity aspects...etc. in order to promote the socio-economic development.

For Ho Chi Minh City, the development of high-quality human resources is not only the goal and task of industrialization and modernization but also an urgent requirement and an advantage for the development of high technology and the knowledge economy as the contents stated in the 9th Party Congress of the City [Ho Chi Minh City Party Committee, 2010, p.53]. In order to build the high-quality human resources, it is necessary to have both education and training process equipped with scientific knowledge and modern technology, and training, practice in a modern industrial environment to improve the ability to master the modern technology, industrial style and political, ethical and professional qualities. This shows the role of science and technology impact on the development of high-quality human resources. For Ho Chi Minh City, it has achieved the achievements and results of the process of industrialization and modernization with the strong development of science and technology, education and training in the past time which have strongly promoted the process of developing the high-quality human resources. The high-quality human resources of its intelligentsia however have not yet met the quantity and quality demand and the structure in line with the demand of the process of industrialization, modernization, and building the knowledge economy and have not matched with the potential and strengths of such city. From that fact, the 9th Ho Chi Minh City Party Committee has determined the urgency in building the intelligentsia" [Truong Van Tuan, p.1], and proposed "A program to improve the quality of human resources" [Ho Chi Minh City Party Committee, 2005, p.60]; the same is considered as one of the breakthrough steps to enter into the industrialization and modernization.

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