
LIFELONG LEARNING POLICIES AND BUILDING A LEARNING SOCIETY IN VIETNAM

The route from now to 2020

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING

VIETNAM

The ideology of lifelong learning has been promoted by President Ho Chi Minh since the country's independence



President Ho Chi Minh
(1890-1969)

- *"I only have one ultimate desire, that is how to attain complete independence for our country, complete freedom for our people, to ensure that everyone has food to eat, clothes to wear, and access to learning"*
- *"Learning should be a lifelong mission"*
- *"One may learn at school, from books, from peers, and from the people; not learning from the people would be a big mistake"*

Building a Learning Society in Vietnam

1. Political will and policy frameworks:

- The Resolutions of Central Party Congress IX (2000), X (2006), and XI (2011)
- The National Framework on building a learning society in the period 2005 – 2010 and 2011-2020
- Establishment of National Steering Committee on building a learning society for 2012-2020
- Human resource development strategy 2011-2020
- Education and training development strategy 2012-2020
- The information technology and communication development strategy by 2020

2. Roadmap towards a learning society

- To identify desired characteristics of a learning society and learning citizen, to develop an action plan to realize this vision.

3. Fundamental and comprehensive innovation of education & training

- To contribute to building a learning society.

1. Political will and policy frameworks:

- Resolution of the IX Central Party Congress adopted the concept of “**building a learning society**” in 2000
- Resolution of the X (2006) Congress noted that “**current educational model should be transformed into to the open one - learning society model with a lifelong learning system**”
- Resolution of the XI (2011) Congress focused on the fundamental and comprehensive innovation of education and training for building a knowledge-based economy and **promoting a learning society**.
- Resolution of the IX Congress (2000) stated, “... to promote learning for all through means of formal and non-formal education, **implement “Education for All” and transforming our country into a learning country.**
- Resolution of the X Congress (2006): “**Gradually transfer from current educational model to an open learning society model with its lifelong learning system**, regular training, interconnection between different levels of education; To build and develop learning systems for all and other flexible forms of learning and practicing to meet continuous learning demands; To create various possibilities and opportunities for learners; To ensure equity in education.”
- Resolution of the XI Congress (2011): “Conduct fundamental and comprehensive innovate of education and training based on the needs of social development; Improve quality according to standardization, modernization, democratization and international integration requirements, thus actively contributing to the development and safeguarding of the country. **Promote the building of a learning society and facilitate access for all citizens to lifelong learning.**”

Political will and policy frameworks

- ❑ Learning society linked to quality of human resources and people's lives.
 - ❑ Human resource development strategy period 2011-2020 states that: *Vietnam encourages the building of a learning society to ensure that all Vietnamese citizens have equal opportunities in:*
 - learning and training;
 - improving work-related skills and professional practice;
 - learning how to make oneself and others happy; and
 - learning how to contribute to the development of the nation and humankind.
 - The Vietnamese Government has reaffirmed its goal of improve the quality of human resources and social security. Welfare and employment is a priority area in policies and strategies.
 - Education development strategy 2012-2020 and the building of a learning society scheme 2012 - 2020 has always considered the allocation and training of human resources as a key task.
 - Social-Economic development strategy 2011-2020 and socio-economic development plan 2011-2015 have highlighted the development of human resources is an important element in implementing of socio-economic objectives.
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Policy Framework / Education Development Strategy

- Prime Minister's Decision No 711/QĐ-TTg dated 06/13/2012, on the approval of “**Education Development Strategy 2011 – 2020**”

- Some key issues:

- Improving quality of education with special attentions to disadvantaged areas;
- Reforming education management;
- Universalizing pre-school education;
- Innovating curriculum and textbooks towards competency-based approach;
- Giving Priority to investment in educational research;
- Innovating teacher training and professional development.

- Guiding principle of the Education Development Strategy 2011 - 2020:

*The learner is placed at the center of the learning process which will; give priority to educational quality lead to the comprehensive develop of the learners' capacities; **ensure equity of access to education; create lifelong learning opportunities for all citizens; and will contribute to building a learning society.** Educational development must meet the requirements of the country's socio-economic development.*

2. ROADMAP TOWARDS A LEARNING SOCIETY

Lessons learnt from the process of building a Learning Society 2005-2010:

- Awareness of different levels, sectors, institutions, organizations and local people about purposes, meanings, effects and benefits of building a learning society remains limited.
 - Legal frameworks and mechanisms, policies on lifelong learning and building a learning society from grassroots level, and a harmonious coordinating mechanism among state-businesses/ and employers/ employees are yet to be established.
 - There is a lack of well-defined duties, responsibilities and benefits of each party in training and utilizing human resources.
 - Continuing education networks are incompatible with local socio-economic development strategies and are not synchronously invested to meet all educational quality requirements.
 - The formal education systems has not become a major player; stake-holder have not realized that continuing education is an effective support to formal education and can plug it's areas of weakness.
 - Advisory work for Party's Committees, People's Council and People's Committee in issuing guidelines, policies and coordination mechanisms is insufficient.
 - Lack of active participation of unions, communities and the people.
 - Activities of international cooperation should be further enhanced.
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Roadmap for building a learning society 2011-2020

- **Establishing the National Steering Committee on building a learning society**

- Interdisciplinary approach
- Led by Deputy Prime Minister
- MOET is a standing agency/ Secretariat
- Other Ministries and sectors/ departments act as members.

- **Establishing Steering Committees on building a learning society at different levels**

- Steering Committees at province and district levels

- Assigning staff to participate in ASEM lifelong learning coordination and UNESCO's Global Network of "learning cities".

- *June 2011, the National Steering Committee on building a learning society of Vietnam was introduced and led by the Deputy Prime Minister with the participation of **22 ministries, organizations and representatives of the mass media.***

- *Accordingly, the provincial and district steering committees have been established.*

- *Main tasks:*

- *To provide recommendations and consultations to the Prime Minister on the orientation, mechanisms, policies and solutions to build a learning society in each locality;*
- *To monitor, supervise, evaluate the results of policy implementation for building a learning society from local to central levels.*

Members of the National Steering Committee on building a Learning society

(Chairman: Deputy Prime Minister)

Ministries	Organizations	Media representatives
Ministry of Education and Training (Secretariat and standing committee)	Vietnam Learning Promotion Association	Vietnam Television
Ministry of Labor-Invalids and Social Affairs	Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front	Voice of Vietnam
Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism	Vietnam General Confederation of Labor	People Newspaper
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	Vietnam Farmer's Association	Other national newspapers and radio
Ministry of Information and Communications	Central Ho Chi Minh Youth Union	
Ministry of Science and Technology	Vietnam Women's Union	
Ministry of Finance	Vietnam Former Teacher's Association	
Ministry of Home Affairs	Vietnam Elderly Association	
Ministry of Health;		
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development		

National Framework on Building a Learning Society 2012-2020

On 09/01/2013, the Prime Minister signed Decision No. 89/QĐ-TTg approving the “Scheme to build a learning society for 2012-2020”.

Guiding principles:

- Building a learning society is
 - key to socio-economic development;
 - a basic objectives of the education development strategy.
- A learning society is a society in which
 - every individual learns regularly and on a lifelong basis, fully utilizing all learning opportunities provided;
 - the State and society create favorable conditions for people to practice lifelong learning.

Strategic approach

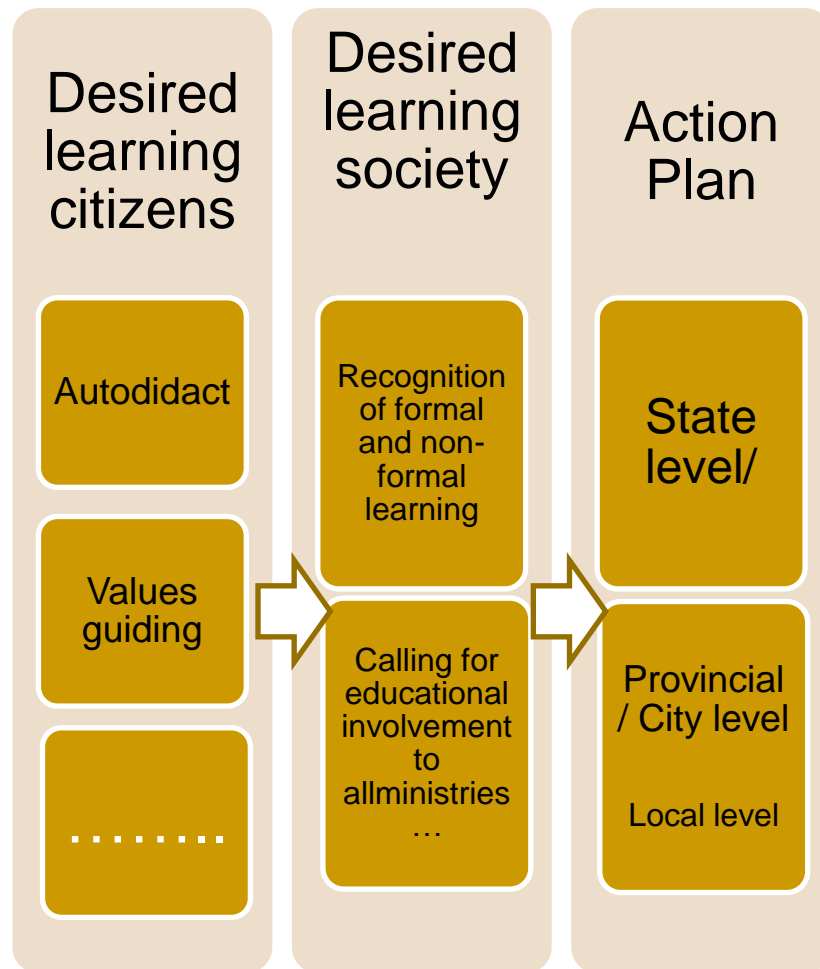
- Building a learning society is the responsibility of the Party, State and the whole society. The State shall invest in development educational institutions and issues policies to encourage and motivate people in lifelong learning.
- All agencies, social organizations, enterprises, administrative units, and families have responsibilities to create positive conditions for providing education and meeting people’s learning needs.
- Building a learning society based on the development, synchronous, connected, and equivalent basis of national education’s two components: formal and continuing education.
- Scheme to build a learning society for 2012-2020 primarily focused on promoting lifelong learning activities in disadvantaged groups: namely, ethnic minorities, women, those in out-of-school education and inhabitants of socio-economically challenging localities.

National Framework on Building a Learning Society 2012-2020

Major solutions

1. To raise awareness and **to** disseminate information about purposes, meanings, role and benefits of lifelong learning and building a learning society.
2. To organize lifelong learning activities in out-of-school educational institutions (mass media, libraries, museums, cultural houses, clubs, etc.)
3. To strengthen and develop an educational network to **contribute to in building a learning society** (formal, non-formal, etc.)
4. To promote distant and online learning; to enhance the use of ICT in teaching and learning
5. To implement supporting methods for learners to improve the quality and effectiveness of lifelong learning (supporting mechanisms, self-study encouragement, etc.)
6. To identify responsibilities and coordination mechanisms among different levels, sectors, organizations and businesses in lifelong learning and building a learning society
7. To promote international cooperation (collaboration, sharing experiences in ASEAN, ASEM, Global networking ...)

Agenda towards building a learning society



- Participatory methods
- National-level consultations
- Regional consultations
- Provincial consultations
- Refer to international experiences including Denmark, Germany, South Korea, Singapore, Japan ...
- Technical support: UNESCO Vietnam is lead agency which has support from UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning, UNESCO Bangkok and other UN Agencies in Vietnam, SEAMEO CELLL, ASEM Hub for LLL, UNESCO GNLC...

3. Education and training innovation to contribute to building a learning society

- *Fundamental and comprehensive innovate of education and training, based on the needs of social development*
 - *Improve quality according to standardization, modernization, democratization and international integration requirement*
 - *Effectively serve the requirement of the building and defending the country*
 - *Promote the building of a learning society and enable all people to practice lifelong learning*
- ***Educational development targets by 2020***

By 2020, Vietnam's education will have been fundamentally and comprehensively reformed, in which:

 - educational quality will have been comprehensively improved;
 - social equity in education and lifelong learning opportunities for everyone will have been ensured; gradually forming a learning society;
 - whole society participation in education will have been promoted, making education the primary national priority...

Education and training innovation to contribute to building a learning society: *Some evidences*

1. Developing curriculum towards the competency-based approach:

- ❑ *Synthetic, creativity and critical thinking;*
- ❑ *Self study, Self management and development;*
- ❑ *Foreign languages and ICT strengths;*
- ❑ *Meeting individual learner's needs...*

2. Some initial successes:

- ❑ *New school models proposed by Global Partnership for Education (GPE - VNEN);*
- ❑ *Project on curriculum and textbook reform for the period after 2015;*
- ❑ *Project on developing teaching force and teachers training schools until 2020;*
- ❑ *National Project on Foreign Language teaching and training until 2020*

...

Some final thoughts ...

- **A regional Network of experts** and practitioners is needed to organize activities related to building a learning society so that information, experiences and resources can be exchanged.
- Professional and technical guidance for this **Network**: Would UNESCO be the host and provide support?
- **Further comparative studies** on learning societies are needed, and should combine documentation of existing practices: including best practices and lessons learnt ...
- **Cooperative and joint research projects** on lifelong learning and building a learning society between countries in the Asia-Pacific region and ASEM should be further and strengthened.
- **Cooperation and resource sharing** among institutions and organizations, people, communities and the private sectors, as well as the State should be enhanced. Highlighting the responsibility of employers using a workforce provided by the education sectors...

Thank you
for your attention!



Community Learning Centre
in Ha Giang province

