

# Country Profile: VIET NAM

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# WorldCP-Asia

International Database  
of **Cultural Policies**

## COUNTRY PROFILE: VIET NAM

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## THE GRID

### VIETNAMESE CULTURAL POLICY

#### 1. Historical perspective: cultural policies and instruments

Basically, Vietnamese cultural policy has been divided into three periods which are as follows:

##### **1.1. Before 1954**

During this period, the cultural activities undertaken were, in fact, propaganda drives for the resistance movement. The values of patriotism and the struggle for national independence were given the highest priority. The image of the person–soldier became the basic inspiration for all artistic creations.

In the process of leadership of culture and arts, Viet Nam’s communist party had always been interested in setting up theoretical activities. Based on them, the party directed practical activities. The Cultural Outline of 1943 had proposed three principles: nation, science, popularity.

In 1948, at the second national cultural congress, Comrade Trường Chinh read his report on “Marxism and Vietnamese culture”. It was seen as the extended version of the Cultural Outline of the party.

In 1951, President Hồ Chí Minh sent a letter to Vietnamese artists, raising a very important viewpoint: “culture and arts are also a front. You are soldiers in that front”.

The major feature of resistance culture is the performance art movements of the masses. These movements promoted an exciting atmosphere in communities, and became a joyful source for revolutionary movements such as competing for patriotism, improving productions to support the frontier, and contributing to the victory of the nation.

##### **1.2. Period 1954–1986**

All ideas of building culture with socialist and nationalistic ideals were centrally expressed in the documents of the party’s fourth and fifth national congresses. That is:

- a. Culture and arts as part of the revolutionary works led by the party;
- b. Nationalist viewpoints on building culture and arts;

- c. Mass viewpoints on building culture and arts;
- d. Class and communist characteristics on culture and arts;
- e. Arts need to closely link with life and the realistic characters of socialist arts;
- f. Viewpoint on building new socialist persons;
- g. Viewpoint on the positions, roles and functions of culture and arts;
- h. Viewpoint on the freedom of the creation of artists;
- i. Viewpoint on the organisation of building grass-root cultural life.

In 1955, the Ministry of Culture was established. Some institutions of the former regime in Hanoi such as the Opera House, museums, National Library, stadiums, cinemas, broadcasting offices, etc. were retained by the revolution and then transformed into new institutions for the new government.

After that, new art schools for fine arts, music and theatre emerged one after the other. These institutions directly trained culture workers and artists to be key personnel of the cultural sector.

National cultural congresses were held to mark important milestones in the development of culture and arts in the whole country (the second congress was in February, 1957, the third was in November, 1962, and the fourth was in January, 1968). Other professional associations were also established around this time such as the Association of Architects (1948), Association of Writers (1957), Association of Fine Artists (1957), Association of Theatre Artists (1957), Association of Musicians (1957), Association of Photographers (1965), and Association of Cinema (1968).

The establishment of cultural institutions also took place similarly. The system of institutes on culture and arts studies, art and culture schools and networks of institutions on cultural dissemination from the central to grass-root level such as: cultural houses, clubs, museums, libraries, cinemas, etc., were always built according to the Soviet model.

### ***1.3. From 1986 to present***

Directly leading the Reform (Doi Moi) from 1986, there are some changes in the Party in terms of its view on culture. The culture that the party aimed to build up was a culture



based on the characteristics of nationalism, modernity and humanity. A system of cultural theories has been synchronised with general theories in the process of reform of the whole society.

Some documents were put forward by the party to deal with culture and arts such as the fifth resolution of the Party Central Committee (eighth tenure) on building and developing an advanced Vietnamese culture imbued with national identity, approved in June 1998; the conclusions of the politburo on culture and arts in November 1988; Directive 52-CT/TW of the party's central secretary committee on the reform and strengthening of the quality of culture and arts criticism in August 1989; Directive 61-CT/TW of the party's central secretary committee on the management of culture and arts in June 1990; Resolution 04 of the party's central committee on the short-term duty of culture and arts in January 1993; and the document of the fifth party's central committee meeting (eighth tenure) that put forward a very important resolution on building Vietnamese culture of advance and rich national identity in July 1998.

The spirit of the fifth resolution has drawn the whole picture of Viet Nam's culture, i.e. culture with the role of the spiritual background of society. It is both the aim and motivation of socio-economic development. It hinges on to the industrialisation and modernisation of the country and other issues that may arise in a global economic market.

The government has been managing culture through the institutionalisation of guidance and policies of the party by laws, ordinances, decrees, regulations, other policies, and so on. It has been using these action plans, movements and cultural institutions to motivate people; turning guidance, policies and resolutions of the party into movements; creating certain results to improve the cultural and spiritual life of people, and promoting socio-economic developments; and directly building the spiritual background for the society.

In the tenth national congress, the party had identified the need to continue to develop a deeper and wider, as well as improved quality of Vietnamese culture with an advanced and rich national identity. This move was an initiative to closely link culture with socio-economic development; to integrate culture into all aspects of social life; to develop and assimilate the values and dignity of Vietnamese identity; to safeguard and promote national identity in the context of industrialisation, modernisation and international integration; to foster cultural values such as healthy ideals, life styles, spiritual capacity, virtues and Vietnamese

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cultural identity amongst youngsters, students and pupils; to invest in the preservation and restoration of revolutionary heritage sites, tangible and intangible heritage elements; harmoniously combine safeguarding, promotion, inheritance, development and preservation of heritage sites with the development of tourism industry, volunteerism and self-management amongst people in building cultural life; and diversify the activities of the movement such that “all people are united to build cultural life”.

## 2. General objectives and principles of cultural policy

### 2.1. Main features of the current cultural policy model

First, it is closely linked with Marxist and Leninist viewpoints, as well as Hồ Chí Minh's thoughts on building and developing Vietnamese culture. There are five basic guidelines<sup>1</sup> and ten major solutions<sup>2</sup> for culture development that are put forward in the document of

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<sup>1</sup> Five basic guidelines are as follows:

- Culture is the spiritual foundation of the society, serving as both the objective and the momentum of socio-economic development.
- The culture which we are building is an advanced one deeply imbued with national identity.
- The Vietnamese culture is a culture which is uniform but diversified in the community of nationalities.
- Building and developing the culture is the entire people's cause under the leadership of the Party, in which the intelligentsia plays an important role.
- Culture is a front; building and developing the culture is a long-term revolutionary cause requiring a revolutionary will, perseverance, and caution.

<sup>2</sup> Ten solutions are as follow:

1. Stepping up education about socialism, fostering patriotism, making marked progresses in the political stuff, morality, lifestyle and intellectual competence of the Vietnamese people who are fully capable of successfully realizing the cause of national industrialization and modernization.
2. Concentrating on building healthy cultural surroundings. Raising the self-governance as well as the quality and effectiveness of the campaign on building cultural surroundings.
3. Taking care of building a clean and strong political system, practicing industriousness, thrift, integrity, selflessness and impartiality, promoting democracy, forming a cultured working style in the Party and State agencies, mass organisations, armed forces, non-business as well as business units.
4. Raising the quality of literary and art products and cultural works.
5. Developing in parallel with managing the mass media, perfecting the information strategy, improving the quality of the press and publications.
6. Raising the qualification and knowledge, including professional knowledge, foreign language and informatics skills, for officials, Party members and the people.
7. Conserving and promoting the nation's cultural heritages.
8. Conserving, promoting, and developing the cultures of ethnic minority groups.
9. Expanding cultural exchanges, absorbing the quintessence of the mankind's culture, perfecting the strategy on external cultural and information services, rapidly developing the potential of the national culture in order to actively participate in the international cultural integration and exchange.
10. Struggling to preclude and eliminate bad practices, social problems and evils, building healthy cultural surroundings.

the fifth party's central committee meeting (eighth tenure) on “building and development of an advanced Vietnamese culture deeply imbued with national identity”.

*Second*, it is to ensure the leadership of the party and the government's management of culture; to promote and train creative talent; to create improved and favourable conditions and policies that lead to the creation of high quality cultural and artistic products that match the era and the high status of the country; to create favourable conditions to improve the cultural enjoyment and creativity of people; to privatise and decentralise cultural activities in order to mobilise all sources to develop culture; to consider investment for culture as investment for human and sustainable development; and to link the development of culture with the development of economy and society.

*Third*, it is to direct all cultural activities to build a comprehensive Vietnamese identity on politics, ideology, intellect, virtue, health and creative capacity; to have a sense of community awareness, tolerance, friendship, a civilised way of life, good family, community and social relations; to make culture an agent to motivate people to achieve self-fulfilment and to absorb social life and activities, as well as all aspects of human relations, into the context of industrialisation and modernisation.

*Fourth*, it is to preserve and promote identities and cultural and artistic values of Vietnamese ethnic groups; to maintain the unity in diversity of Vietnamese culture parallel with expanding cultural exchanges; to absorb the quintessence of human culture; to make rich the national culture and create new values as well as being aware of opportunities and threats; to improve the capacity to receive opportunities and overcome threats to the development of culture in international integration.

## **2.2. A national definition of culture**

The Vietnamese view *culture* as a broad concept relevant to human life and civilisation. Thus, the Vietnamese usually use “*culture*” in phrases such as “cultural person” (meaning “a civilised person”) and “cultural level” (referring to their education level).

In daily life, culture is understood as literature and the arts, such as poetry, fine arts, theatre, films, etc.

In some Vietnamese dictionaries, “culture” is explained as follows:

- *Culture* refers to the material and mental values that were created by humans in history (*Great Vietnamese Dictionary*, published by the Ministry of Education and Training, 1998).
- *Culture* refers to human activities that satisfy the needs of mental life.
- *Culture* is scientific knowledge.
- *Culture* refers to a high level in social life, an expression of civilisation
- *Culture* is a term to refer to a period of ancient history, for example Hoa Binh culture, Dong Son culture (*Vietnamese Dictionary*, Institute of Linguistic Studies, 2004).

One of the most common definitions of culture is the way it was understood by the late President Hồ Chí Minh: "...human created and invented language, script, morals, laws, science, religions, culture and arts and daily tools for clothing, eating, accommodation ... using methods. All these creativenesses and inventions are *culture*."

Viet Nam has no proper national definition of *culture*. However, in a broad sense, culture is seen to be included in eight domains, namely ideology, morals and ways of life; heritage; education and training; science and technology; culture and arts; mass media; international exchange on culture; and cultural institutions.

In a narrow sense, *culture* is seen to refer to some domains that belong to the sphere of state management under the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism such as performing arts; cinema; fine arts and photography; library; heritage; grassroots culture; and ethnic culture.

### **2.3. Cultural policy objectives**

The Vietnamese government has the following key national priorities in arts and culture:

- Building healthy people, ways of life, cultural life and environment
- Safeguarding and promoting national cultural heritage
- Safeguarding and promoting cultural heritage of ethnic minority groups
- Developing the work of literature and arts

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- Paying respect to and promoting the good cultural and moral values of religions and beliefs
- Strengthening the work of mass media
- Intensifying international cooperation in culture
- Building a system of cultural institutions

## 3. Competence, decision-making and administration

### 3.1. *Organisational structure (Organogram)*

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Diagram 1. The structure of overall cultural management



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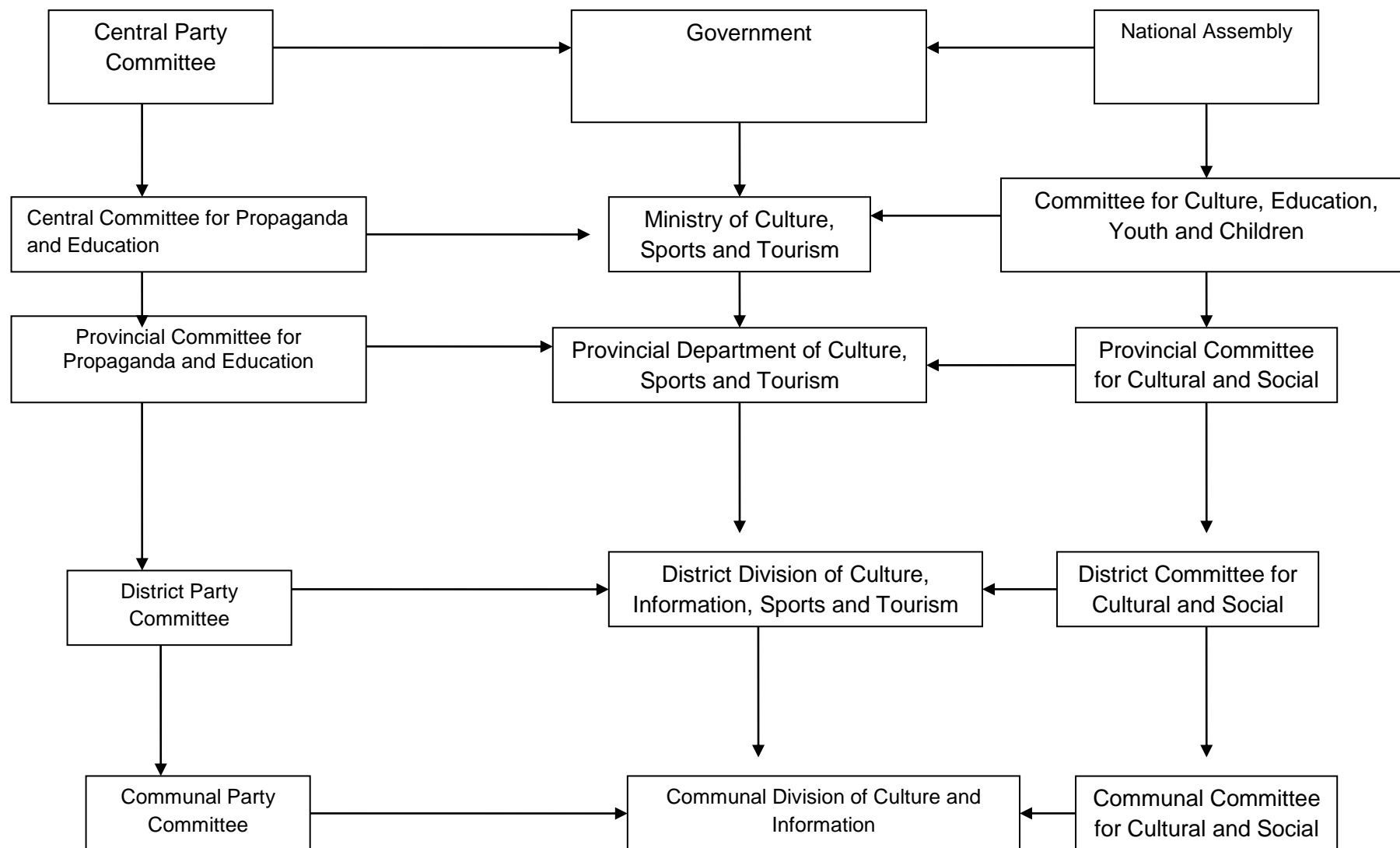
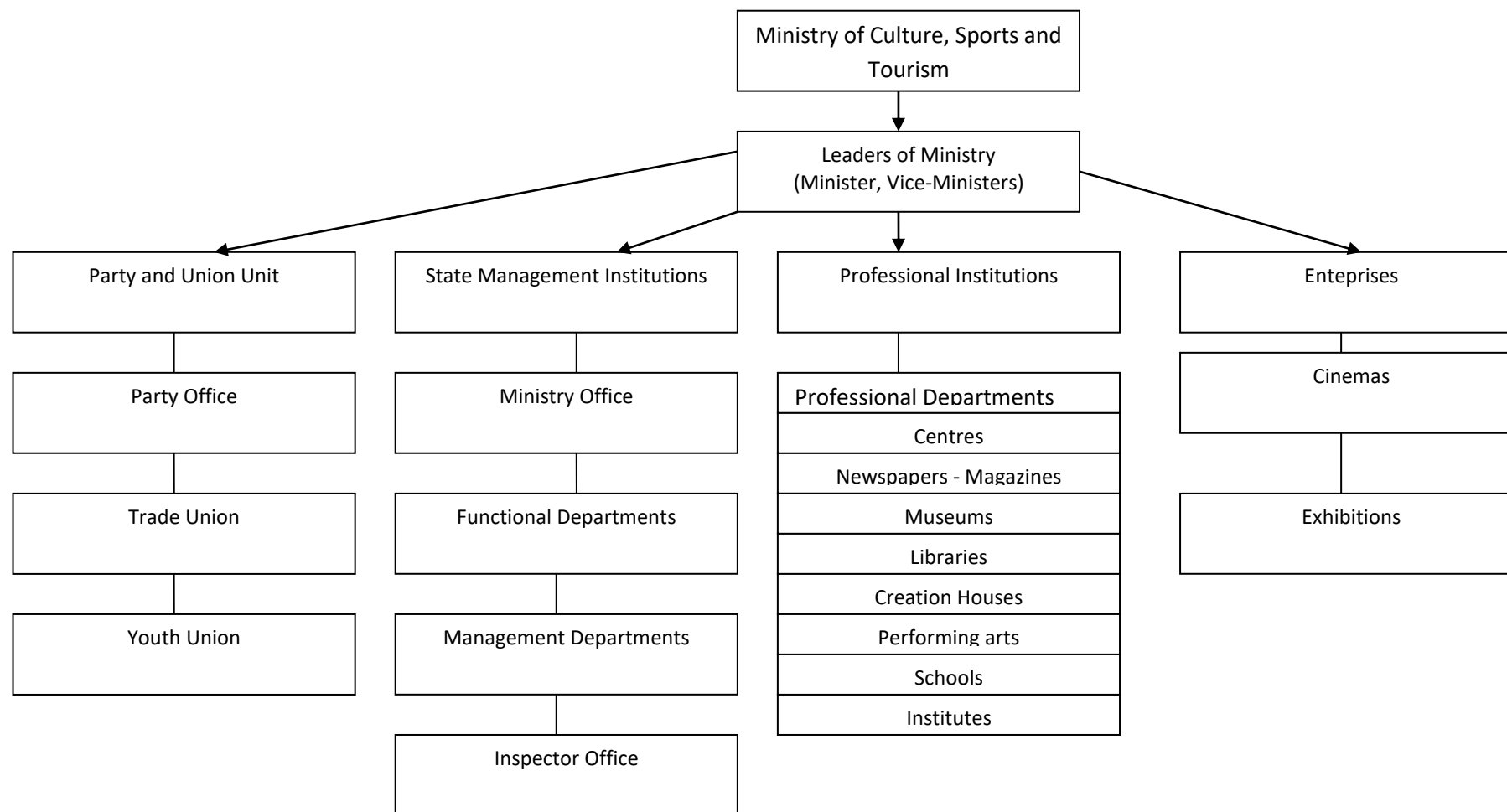


Diagram 2. Structure of Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism



## **State Management Institutions**

1. Department of Library
2. Department of Ethnic Cultures
3. Department of Family
4. Department of Science, Technology and Environment
5. Department of Planning and Finance
6. Department of Personnel
7. Department of Emulation Drive, Praise and Reward
8. Department of Training
9. Department of Legislation
10. Inspector Office
11. Ministry Office
12. Hồ Chí Minh City Representative Office of the Ministry
13. Department of Cultural Heritage
14. Department of Performing Arts
15. Department of Cinema
16. Department of Copyrights
17. Department of Grassroot Culture
18. Department of International Cooperation
19. Department of Fine Arts, Photography and Exhibition
20. General Department of Gymnastics and Sports
21. General Department of Tourism
22. Management Board of Viet Nam National Village for Ethnic, Culture and Tourism

## **Professional Institutions**

1. Viet Nam Institute of Culture and Arts Studies

2. Centre for Information Technology
3. Culture and Arts Magazine
4. Culture, Sports and Tourism Managers' School
5. Culture Newspaper

## **National Enterprises**

Cultural Construction Project Company

Cultural Construction Project Consultancy and Design Company

Cultural Development and Import-Export Company

Cultural Materials and Equipment Import and Export Company (CEMCO)

Cultural Products Import and Export Company (CULTURIMEX)

National Fine Art Company (CEFINAR)

Television Technology Development Company

Viet Nam Film and Television Equipment Import-Export Company (VINEMATIM)

Vietnam National Film Distribution and Screening Company (FAFIM Vietnam)

## **3.2. Overall description of the system**

### **3.2.1. The Communist Party of Viet Nam**

In Viet Nam, the Communist Party (CPV) plays a very important role in making all policies, including cultural ones. The CPV adopts Marxism–Leninism as well as Hồ Chí Minh's thoughts as its firm ideological foundations, serving a guide for its activities, promoting the nation's traditions and absorbing other nations' essential ideas. By thoroughly grasping objective laws, epochal trends and the country's realities, the Party has worked out sound political programmes and revolutionary policies to meet the aspirations of the people. The CPV has established a nationwide political system with the Party serving as the core that assists the Party leadership and mobilises the people to realise the goals of national independence, democracy and social progress. At present, the CPV has worked out a programme for national construction that may be described as: rich people—strong nation—equitable, democratic and civilised society. To achieve these goals, the CPV, in accordance

with the principle of "the people as the country's roots", has set up a wide and diversified political system.

The current political system of Viet Nam is comprised of the following entities: the CPV, political organisations, socio-political organisations, socio-professional organisations and mass associations.

The Party organisational system was established in line with the State administrative apparatus from Central level to provincial, city, district and communal levels as well as in administrative bodies, schools, enterprises, political/social/professional organisations, army units and police forces. The Party cells are the Party's grassroots foundation.

### *3.2.2. The National Assembly*

The National Assembly is the highest representative organisation of the people; the highest organisation of state power of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, the sole organ that has constitutional and legislative rights.

The National Assembly decides the fundamental domestic and foreign policies, socio-economic tasks, national defense and security issues, major principles governing the State machinery, social relations and activities of citizens. The National Assembly also maintains supreme supervision of all activities of the State.

The National Assembly has the highest authority to implement Constitution and Laws. Legal documents promulgated by the National Assembly are the Constitution, codes, laws and resolutions.

The National Assembly has three main functions: legislative, deciding the important issues of the country and carrying out the supreme supervision power of all activities of the State.

The National Assembly has some functional committees including the Committee on Education, Culture, Youth and Children. The Committee on Education, Culture, Youth and Children supervises the implementation of the Constitution, Laws and Resolutions of the National Assembly within its respective fields of responsibility. It may require the agencies, organisations and individuals under its supervision to provide documents and reports on the subjects under consideration.

### *3.2.3. The Government and Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism:*

The Government is the executive organisation of the National Assembly, and the supreme state administrative agency of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

The Government is in charge of tasks assigned by the State in the fields of politics, socio-economy, national defense, security and external relations; maintains effective operation of the State apparatus from the central to grassroots levels; ensures the respect for, and implementation of the Constitution and laws; promotes the people's sense of mastery in national defense and construction; ensures stability and improves the people's material and spiritual life.

The Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism is approved by the National Assembly at the Prime Minister's proposal. He is in charge of the management of his assigned branch or affairs in the State.

In accordance with Decree No.185/2007/NĐ-CP of 25 December 2007, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Viet Nam is the government organisation responsible for state management in the fields of culture, family, sports and tourism, and for the state management of public services in the fields of culture, family, sports and tourism, based on the provisions of Vietnamese law.

#### *3.2.4. Other social and political organisations*

In Viet Nam, social and political organisations have the role of voicing opinions on cultural policies. The biggest one is the Viet Nam Fatherland Front (VFF). It is a voluntary political coalition of political organisations, socio-political organisations, social organisations and individuals from all classes, social strata, ethnic groups and religions, including overseas Vietnamese. The VFF's objectives are to gather and build up a whole-people unity bloc, strengthen the people's political and spiritual consensus, encourage the people to promote their mastership, to implement the CPV's guidelines and policies and to abide by the Constitution and laws.

The Viet Nam Labor Confederation is the socio-political organisation of the working class and is a member of the VFF. The Viet Nam Labor Confederation is well-organised, has various levels and operates all over the country. The organisation is governed by the principle of democratic centralism. All its directing departments are formed through elections. The highest directing department of each level is the Union Congress of that level. In the period between the two Congress sessions, the directing department is the Standing

Committee, which is set up by the Congress. In terms of policy making, it cooperates with State organisations in building laws and policies on labour, salary, labour safety and other social policies concerning the rights, duties and interests of workers.

Apart from the Viet Nam Fatherland Front and the Viet Nam Labor Confederation, there are other political and social organisations, such as the Viet Nam Women's Association, the Hồ Chí Minh Communist Youth's Union, the Viet Nam Veterans' Association and professional associations. These organisations played an important role in the struggle for national salvation. In the cause of renovation, industrialisation and modernisation, they have continued to contribute to the implementation of the Party's guidelines and the Government's policies.

### **3.3. Inter-ministerial or intergovernmental co-operation**

#### *Co-operation between the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and other ministries*

Ministries other than the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism participate directly in public cultural development. Those principally concerned are the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education and Training, Ministry of Information and Communication and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A wide range of cultural projects are undertaken by these ministries in the fields of funding for arts and culture, training in the arts, bringing art and cultural information to people, especially in remote areas, cultural diplomacy activities and cultural initiatives outside of Viet Nam.

The Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism are carrying out many projects such as national target programmes on culture.

The Ministry of Education and Training and the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism are implementing a plan to bring traditional arts to schools.

In regard to international cultural relations, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is responsible for cultural diplomacy, is encouraging cultural and artistic exchanges through its embassies. Some cultural attachés were selected by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism to work in the embassies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

#### *Co-operation between the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and local authorities*

The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism controls and supervises certain cultural activities put in place by local authorities. In the structure of the culture sector, each

province has a provincial department of culture, sports and tourism. These departments work as professional units of the ministry on a local level.

Cultural events are divided into different levels. If it is a district or provincial event, it comes under the local authorities. On the other hand, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism plays a key role in regulating all partners to organise regional, national and international events. In particular, some international festivals such as the annual Carnival in Ha Long Bay, the Firework Festival in Da Nang, the Kite Flying Festival in Vung Tau, etc. are organised by local authorities with active support from the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism.

### **3.4. International cultural co-operation**

#### *3.4.1. Overview of main structures and trends*

The Vietnamese government considers cultural diplomacy, economic diplomacy and political diplomacy as the pillars of the comprehensive and modern diplomacy of Viet Nam. These three pillars are closely and mutually related, and contribute to the implementation of diplomatic policies of the Party and the State. Political diplomacy plays a directive role; economic diplomacy is the material background, and cultural diplomacy is the mental background of international activities.

The main trends in international co-operation have been:

- In terms of bilateral relations, it has continued to diversify international co-operations. Viet Nam gives priority to developing traditional relations and friendships with neighbouring countries and sharpening relations with major partners.
- As a member of ASEAN, Viet Nam takes an active and positive role in its responsibilities to work with the member countries to build a powerful ASEAN community; strengthening the relation with other partners, and maintaining and consolidating the important role of ASEAN in the co-operation framework of the Asia Pacific Region.
- In terms of multilateral relations, following the principle of being a responsible member of the international community, Vietnam expands its participation and active, positive and responsible contribution to multilateral mechanisms,



organisations, regional forums and international bodies, especially within the United Nations.

Viet Nam will actively co-operate with other countries and international organisations to deal with non-traditional security threats, especially with climate change.

- In terms of territorial borders, Viet Nam is accelerating the process of resolving any remaining issues on borders, territories, sea boundary and continental shelf with relevant countries on the principles based on international law and the behavioural principles of the region.
- In terms of other fields, Viet Nam provides guidelines to develop party diplomacy with communist parties, working class, left-wing parties, ruling parties and other parties, as well as to pay attention and enhance the activity of public diplomacy.

The principles of these trends are as follows:

- National benefits are both the highest aim and principle of cultural diplomacy.
- International integration is an important aim of international co-operation. It places economic integration at the centre and expands to other fields such as politics, security, culture-society, and at all levels i.e. bilateral, regional, multilateral and global.
- Viet Nam is a friend and trusted partner, as well as a responsible member in the international community.
- Building ASEAN community to be a central diplomacy and commit to build a successful ASEAN community.
- All diplomatic actions will be synchronously and comprehensively implemented on the basis of promoting the potentials of all sources to create a synergetic strength of all people in the diplomacy front.

The main purposes of cultural co-operation are as follows:

- To bring the established cultural co-operation into depth, activeness and stability and to expand relationships with other countries, regions and international cultural institutions.

- To strengthen cultural exchanges with other countries in different areas; to introduce Vietnamese culture, country and people to the world; to selectively receive humanity, science and advance values of other countries; and to prevent bad cultural products.
- To exchange and disseminate the products of arts and literature imbued with Vietnamese identity and spirit abroad.
- To co-operate with other countries to train cultural and artistic talent in cinema, performing arts, painting and professional skills and to enhance the capacity to use modern techniques in performing arts, cinema, museum, library, printing, etc.
- To create favourable conditions for the Vietnamese populace based overseas to receive cultural information and products from Viet Nam; to raise their patriotism, to encourage them to follow Vietnamese tradition and identities and to promote their talent in order to contribute to the nation building efforts. To actively develop projects to attract sponsorship budgets from governmental and non-governmental organisations, as well as enterprises.
- To issue legislative documents for the expansion of cultural exchanges with other countries including investment cooperation in the export and import of cultural products, offering museum objects for exhibition abroad, etc.
- To establish cultural centres in major countries in different regions in order to expand the exchange and cooperation in culture and arts.
- To coordinate with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in sending cultural attachés to Vietnamese Embassies.
- To strengthen the co-ordination between the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism and other ministries, sectors and local authorities for the purpose of introducing Vietnamese culture and arts with international organisations and foreigners in Viet Nam and abroad. To pay attention to cultural exchanges in border areas.

### *3.4.2. Public actors and cultural diplomacy*

Viet Nam organises cultural events in co-operation with foreign embassies and international representative offices in Viet Nam for celebratory occasions. Examples of such events include the celebration of the 35 year relationship between Viet Nam and Spain, 15 years of

Viet Nam—United States Relations, 40 years of diplomatic relations between Viet Nam and Norway, EU Jazz Festival, EU Film Festival, cultural weeks of Korea, Japan, Russia, etc.

Foreign cultural institutions located in Viet Nam present their culture and arts to the Vietnamese public. The most famous example is the French Cultural Centre—opened in September 2003—offers French language courses and promotes French culture. It incorporates a media library equipped with free internet and facilities to view CDs, DVDs, magazines, videotapes, books and comics; a cinema that screens a regular programme of French films with French or English subtitles; and a restaurant-cafe. Exhibitions, concerts, theatre, conferences and intercultural events are held there on a regular basis.

The Goethe-Institute (Viet Nam), established in 1996, promotes knowledge of the German language and fosters international cultural cooperation. It conveys a comprehensive picture of Germany by providing information on Germany's cultural, social and political life.

The British Council, operating since 1993, has participated in projects with Vietnamese partners and offered development opportunities for individuals, educational institutions, and government and business organisations in the following areas: *Arts, Culture and Creativity; Education and English Language; Governance and Information about the UK*. In the arts and culture field, the British Council aims to demonstrate the quality and level of expertise of the UK in the arts. It focuses on contemporary, creative and innovative art and aims to make a positive contribution to the rapidly developing arts scene in Viet Nam, as well as promote creativity and innovation of the UK today.

The Russian Centre for Culture and Science promotes cultural relationships between the peoples of Viet Nam and Russia. The programmes of the Centre are dedicated to the achievements of Russian culture and science. Among them there are literary and poetic evenings, meetings with artists, painting exhibitions, book-exhibitions, photo-exhibitions, concerts, performances and gala-functions, presentations, conferences, seminars and discussions.

The Korean Cultural Centre (Viet Nam) promotes Korean culture in an effort to facilitate international exchange between Korea and Viet Nam and conducts Korean cultural lectures, performances and exhibitions. The Centre also offers introductory courses on the Korean language, publishes and distributes promotional material on Korea, hosts Korean

movie festivals and operates libraries, in tune with the cultural demand of the Vietnamese people.

Viet Nam has two Vietnamese cultural centres - in France and Laos - to introduce its culture to these countries and the neighbouring areas.

Vietnamese institutions also promote foreign cultures such as national theatres and art organisations. These activities are coordinated with the Department of International Co-operation in the Ministry.

Local authorities can be networks, event organisers, general practitioners or sets of themes, on international co-operation. They are also involved in trans-border co-operation, in particular with Cambodia, China and Laos.

Cultural diplomacy is one of the pillars of modern Viet Nam's foreign policy and is seen to create soft power for the country. Cultural diplomacy has helped Viet Nam to develop in a sustainable manner during the process of international integration.

The policies for cultural diplomacy are run by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 2011, cultural diplomacy was, for the first time, included in the documents of the eleventh National Party Congress and then the Prime Minister approved the Cultural Diplomacy Strategy with effect until 2020. Various activities were held on the theme of building a shared awareness of cultural integration and combining cultural diplomacy with political and economic diplomacy.

### *3.4.3. European/international actors and programmes*

Viet Nam is actively involved in the co-operation with European countries under the framework of ASEM. Viet Nam is one of the founders of ASEM, and always promotes its role to participate in the cooperation of Asian and European activities in many aspects. In terms of culture, Viet Nam has participated and implemented some activities under ASEM such as proposing the initiative on safeguarding and promoting cultural heritage in ASEM (with France) approved by the second ASEM Summit (London 1998). With the coordination of Viet Nam, the 5<sup>th</sup> ASEM Summit adopted the ASEM declaration of dialogue between civilisations, to create a legislative framework to strengthen Asian–European co-operation in the culture sector. At the 7<sup>th</sup> ASEM Summit, Viet Nam had also put forward the initiative to coordinate

cultural activities to strengthen the images of ASEM. It all expresses the active contribution of Viet Nam to push for cooperation within ASEM.

Viet Nam ratified the 2005 *UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions* in July 2007. It is considered to be one of the most important international laws on culture in Viet Nam.

Viet Nam joined the International Organisation of Francophonie (OIF) and has played a central role as one of the founder members since 1970. It is one of the five countries in the Asia-Pacific region that are members of Francophonie, which includes 75 countries in total. It plays an important role because of its position, geography, and size of the population. As a member of ASEAN, Vietnam constitutes a link between Francophonie and Southeast Asia.

#### *3.4.4. Direct professional co-operation*

Viet Nam has increasingly been concerned with the importance of the professional co-operation with international organisations and institutions. To enhance performance skills of artists and to produce more new performances, Viet Nam has always paid attention to building programmes in coordination with arts institutions, artists and world-famous experts such as:

- the project between Fukumura conductors (Japan) and Viet Nam Symphony Orchestra (1992–2000).
- the upgrading project of the Viet Nam Symphony Orchestra by conductor, Professor Colin Metter (British Royal Conservatory) was implemented in the five-year period during 1998–2003.
- the project with conductor Tetsuji Honna (Japan) to enhance the performance skills of the Viet Nam Symphony Orchestra (2000–2005).
- the coordinating project between the Viet Nam Symphony Orchestra and French conductor Xavier Rist.
- the project between Viet Nam Music and Dance theatre with French theatres to stage the ballets of “Chestnut” and “Glint”.
- a project between Youth Theatre and a Canadian theatre.

Viet Nam has always paid attention to professional cooperation with other institutions.

- In broadcasting: Viet Nam is a member of the Asian Broadcasting Union (ABU) and Asia Pacific Institute of Broadcast Development (AIBD) since 1978.
- In theatre: Viet Nam is a member of the Association of International Theatre for Youth (ASSITEJ) since 1983.
- In cultural heritage: Viet Nam is a member of ICCROM since 1997, and ICOM since 2002 as well as being a signatory of the convention of world heritage protection.
- In music: Viet Nam has taken part in the Council of International Music (CIM) since 1981 and the Council of International Music of Tradition (CIMT) since 2001.
- In cinema: Viet Nam is a member of FIAF since 2000, SEAPAVAA since 1995, and CILECT since 1991.
- In archaeology and visual arts: Viet Nam is a member of the Regional Centre of Archaeology and Fine Arts that belongs to ASEAN Education Ministers (SEAMEO SPAFA) since 1995.
- In copyright: Viet Nam has taken part in WIPO and IFPI since 1997.
- In exhibition: Viet Nam is a member of IBE since 2003.
- In publishing: Viet Nam is a member of APPA since 1990.

### *3.4.5. Cross-border intercultural dialogue and cooperation*

Viet Nam shares its borders with Cambodia, China and Laos. Therefore, cross-border relations are numerous and there is a long history of cultural, historical and linguistic activity (Sino-Vietnamese, ethnic group languages, etc.). Cultural actions, exchanges of professionals and artists, performances, exhibitions, heritage projects, etc., are actions supported by the government institutions in collaboration with partners in the neighbouring countries.

Viet Nam's cross-border relations concern not only culture and arts, but also sports, employment, the environment, health and everyday life. Viet Nam specially takes efforts to strengthen the exchanges of cultural activities, arts and sports amongst neighbouring provinces, with the purpose of developing eco-tourism, creating favourable conditions for two countries to do business in each other's country as well as to encouraging neighbouring

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provinces to help each other in education, and thereby make human resource development compatible with the ability and demand on each side.

## 4. Current issues in cultural policy development and debate

### 4.1. Main cultural policy issues and priorities

#### 4.1.1. Nurturing healthy people, ways of life, cultural life and environment

Nurturing Vietnamese who meet the high demands of industrialisation and modernisation in the context of international integration and globalisation is a key task of cultural development. This activity needs to pay attention to create a comprehensive workforce, and consider virtues, knowledge and practical skill as major measures.

#### 4.1.2. Safeguarding and promoting national cultural heritage

Safeguarding and promoting national cultural heritage are important tasks of the strategy of cultural development. It is necessary to collect, research, preserve and promote the values of tangible and intangible heritage. Viet Nam makes it a priority to preserve and restore special national heritage sites, tangible and intangible heritage elements that are endorsed by UNESCO, ethnic groups' heritage, traditional unique art forms, folklore in each region and cultural area, Sino-Vietnamese documents, traditional craftsmanship, handwritings of ethnic groups and typical traditional ceremonies.

Viet Nam identifies the following key areas concerning safeguarding and promoting national cultural heritage:

- Investing in modern technical equipment to store and archive documents and artefacts in museums and centres. Synchronously combine the preservation and promotion with economic and tourism development.
- Creating favourable conditions for people to organise and enjoy traditional cultural activities. Introducing Vietnamese cultural quintessence abroad and to overseas Vietnamese.
- Training young artists in national art forms; bringing the education of traditional arts to schools through different activities.
- Conducting research, collection and setting up a data bank on Vietnamese culture.
- Implementing ways of rewarding traditional artists and artisans, as well as putting forward new mechanisms for artisans to transmit their knowledge and skills to the youth.



### *4.1.3. Safeguarding and promoting cultural heritage of ethnic minority groups*

The culture of ethnic minority groups is a precious asset that contributes to the richness and diversity of Vietnamese culture and preserving the diversity of this culture is an important political and social issue in Viet Nam.

Viet Nam's cultural policies pay attention to preserving and promoting traditional values as well as developing new values on culture, literature and arts of ethnic groups; preserving and developing the languages and scripts of ethnic groups; discovering, providing further training and organising ethnic artists, composers and researchers; training ethnic intellectuals; giving priority to investment for ethnic authors and artists who can create artistic works on ethnic topics and issues concerning life in the mountainous areas.

Viet Nam's cultural policies also focus on the following:

- To improve intellectual levels, erase backward customs and remove illiteracy; to build civilised lifestyles, cultural families and to stabilise and improve ethnic people's life.
- To strengthen the collection, restoration and promotion of the intangible heritage of ethnic people.

### *4.1.4. Developing the work of literature and arts*

The central task of culture and arts in the near future is to create many literary and art works with high artistic ideology, to absorb humanity and the democratic spirit, to effect the building of a new Vietnamese identity, paying attention to both traditional and revolutionary topics while being closely linked with today's key issues, to present significant art works that encourage and educate people and society and to prevent works that are immoral and have a negative effect on society.

This involves developing culture for the masses by creating favourable conditions for people to take part in the creation, organisation and enjoyment of culture; maintaining and developing competitions and festivals in the field of cultural and arts activities; and considering these activities as an important task in motivating and organising people to build grassroots' cultural life.

Another task is to develop talented artists with rich experience, patriotism and national spirit to serve people along with ensuring freedom and democracy for all cultural and

artistic creations in conjunction with promoting the civil responsibility of artists. Taking care of cultural and artistic talent; carrying out favourable regulations suitable for professional work and giving grants to artistic performers. Paying attention to the promotion and dissemination of valuable art works across different publication platforms.

Strengthening and improving the quality of theoretical activities, research and criticism of culture and arts; building consultancy and evaluation mechanisms for cultural and arts activities to help the leadership of the party and the management of the government; appreciating the opinion of the masses and their contribution to ideas and criticism on art works. Selecting and creating good conditions to publicise artistic and conceptually valuable art works and appreciating significant art works and discouraging substandard art works. Upgrading the content and activity methods of culture and art associations ranging from central to local ones.

Striving for the development of significant art works in the fields of literature, folklore, cinema, painting, sculpture, performing arts, etc is one of the tasks undertaken. Creating policies that provide support to patronage and order art works, especially those from ethnic people; supporting art works and popular cultural activities created and organised by the masses. Protecting copyrights and relevant rights.

#### *4.1.5. Paying respect and promoting the good cultural and moral values of religions and beliefs*

Implementing religious philosophy in the orientation of “good life, good faith”, “glorious country, bright faith”, “living gospel life in the heart of the country” to serve the happiness of people.

Building new and advanced lifestyle as well as preserving and protecting national identities along with erasing superstitious and backward customs. Building “cultural villages” in the areas where diverse religions can coexist.

Promoting active agents in religious culture; encouraging healthy values, goodwill, humanity, advanced sensibilities; creating good conditions for religious activities and beliefs that promote general benefits to the nation and the rights of the followers.

Continuing to rank historical and cultural worship sites according to the regulation of the cultural heritage law. The government supports budgets for the preservation and restoration of these endorsed sites; at the same time, meeting the suitable religious demands of

dignitaries and followers toward their place of worship, as well as religious publications to serve the research and study of dignitaries and followers, and training staff for performing religious affairs.

#### *4.1.6. Strengthening the work of mass media*

The government of Viet Nam has adopted a strategy for media development wherein the strategy expresses that all information activities and institutions must work under the leadership of the Party, the management of the state, and follow the regulations of laws; both expanding and promoting socialist democracy while giving priority to rules, discipline and laws.

In terms of mass media, the principle of cultural policy focuses on the development of the information system so that it will improve the work of distributing information, educating and protecting Marxism-Leninism and Hồ Chí Minh's thoughts; protecting the guidelines and policies of the Party, and the policies and laws of the state; as well as the forum for masses. The main topic of information activities in the short and long run is national independence and socialism.

#### *4.1.7. Intensifying international cooperation in culture*

In the period of economic integration, especially after joining the WTO, Viet Nam's cultural policies have focused on receiving development opportunities and overcoming new challenges to keep a healthy national identity as well as absorbing mankind's cultural quintessence, while avoiding the negative aspects of globalisation.

#### *4.1.8. Building a system of cultural institutions*

In order to build a system of cultural institutions the following are meticulously carried out

- Completing the organisational system of the cultural sector from central to grassroots level to ensure the leadership of the Party and the effective management of the state, as well as the ownership of mass and cultural actors. Building and implementing the coordinating mechanism with other ministries, sectors, unions and associations to strengthen the effectiveness of cultural managements and activities.
- Planning, synchronously forming and enhancing the effectiveness of cultural institutions; giving priority to institutions that support the community's cultural activities such as museums, libraries, theatres, cinemas, art statues, parks,

entertainment sites, etc.; building important cultural institutions in Hanoi and other big cities.

- Deeply investing in modern equipment and technology to upgrade the quality of cultural products, to meet the increasing demands of people in Viet Nam and its export abroad.
- Implementing legislative documents and policies on culture and arts in the market economy; promulgating incentive policies to cultural creations and special art forms to create favourable condition for artists to devote their talents; as well as strengthening the privatisation and decentralisation of cultural activities.
- Carrying out administrative reforms and arranging the management levels of the culture sector.

## **4.2. Specific policy issues and recent debates**

At the moment, there are some specific policy issue discussions and some debates underway which are as follows:

First, the culture sector is a multi-domain sector; hence, existing cultural policies cannot cover all aspects of activities that are in this sphere.

Second, the quality of cultural managers and workers do not meet the demands of ground reality, both in terms of numbers and quality.

Third, the system relevant for culture and arts, though improving with time, still requires to be worked on in terms of amending and improving laws and regulations.

Fourth, the budget for arts and culture is limited.

Fifth, the differing viewpoints of cultural managers and those making cultural policies affect the result and quality of the policy.

Sixth, rapid changes in ground realities in the field of arts and culture create obstacles in the path of effective cultural planning and policy making.

### **4.2.1. Conceptual issues of policies for the arts**

The government has the following objectives in developing the arts:

- (a) Vietnamese institutions and individuals in all economic sectors have the right to take part in the activities of performing arts and fashion shows; beauty and modelling contests; distribution and dissemination, conducting business in the audio and video recording of music, dance and theatre performances;
- (b) Investing in the collection, research, preservation and promotion of the values of traditional performing arts, and selectively accepting world art quintessence;
- (c) Providing sponsorship to organisations and individuals to host performances in remote areas;
- (d) Supporting and commissioning art productions, settings and performances of high quality to cater to young audiences;
- (e) Training and fostering young art talent.

To deal with these objectives, the government has some important policies which are as follows:

- Inter-ministry circular 1042/TTLB-VH-TC (22 July 1989) between the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Culture on the mechanism of financial management and sponsorship policy for performing art institutions: according to this circular, state budget allocates sufficient sponsorship for art performance activities, which ensures wages as per the current regulations; covers expenses for creating art performances in political demands; and encourages high quality performances to earn income, maintain social effectiveness and provide sound standard of living for the artists.

The distribution of income is as follow:

- From 30 to 40 percent of the income of a performance is used for paying wages and allowances for artists and staff.
- From 10 to 20 percent of the income is for setting up new performances including expenses for practices and rehearsal, copyrights, directors and incentive rewards.
- From 5 to 10 percent of the income is for setting an art development budget to buy equipment, property, creating new plays and incentive rewards.
- From 5 to 10 percent of the income is for setting a welfare fund to support practices and performances for political duty and in remote areas.

- Others are for performances.

At present, Vietnam has seventy-four public professional theatre organisations (including twelve national organisations) hosting a diverse range of performance arts: Tuong, Cheo, Cai Luong (Vietnamese traditional drama), puppetry and circus. Additionally, there are also private organisations, but they focus on only specific types of performances such as modern drama, Cai Luong and circus. These private organisations are operated by the market mechanism without government subsidies; hence their performance completely depends on the strength of audience figures. In contrast, there are organisations that receive funding from the government budget - central or regional authorities - they continue to work with subsidies. Each year these organisations receive the budget to complete at least one new play (regional organisations) and normally two to three on average, there would be more new plays and shows if there are festivals or annual performances.

#### 4.2.2. *Heritage issues and policies*

On 19 January 1993, the Prime Minister issued the ordinance of 25/TTg *on the policies of building and renovating cultural and art works*, which defined that the development of culture and arts with Vietnamese identity was the responsibility and obligation of all people. The state creates favourable conditions, builds infrastructure as well as equipment to develop cultural and arts activities with Vietnamese imprint. The ordinance also pointed out some detailed investment policies, aiming at preservation, correction, edition, long-term maintenance of folk literature, dance, music of ethnic groups; preservation of traditional handicraft; traditional arts on stage such as *Cheo*, *Dan Ca* (folk music), *Cai Luong* and puppetry as well as the policies on commending and rewarding people who help to collect and preserve national cultural values.

In the document 4739/KG-TW dated 26 August 1994, the Prime Minister had officially authorised the Ministry of Culture and Information (now Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism) to carry out the *state programme on culture*. This is a valuable investment on the basis of it being the right policy orientation of the Party and state toward the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage.

To implement the fifth resolution in the area of cultural heritage, the Ministry of Culture and Information has issued the following documents:

- Official letter 4432/VHTT-BTBT dated 20 October 1998 guide on how to reinforce the management of antiquities.
- Official letter 4882/VHTT-BTBT dated 18 November 1998 guide on how to register, catalogue and protect historical and cultural sites, and beautiful landscapes.
- Directive 60/CT-BVHTT dated 6 May 1999 from the Ministry of Culture and Information to reinforce the management and protection of heritage sites.

The law of cultural heritage was adopted by the national assembly (term X), ninth session on 14 June 2001, and has been effective since 1 January 2002. It is a fundamental legal basis to protect and promote cultural heritage in Vietnam. The law includes the following issues: concept and content of cultural heritage; legal domain, and regulated objects; State's important policies and solutions to protect heritage; the responsibilities of government institutions, organisations and individuals as well as the whole society to protect national cultural heritage; the explanation of key words about cultural heritage and the protection and promotion of cultural heritage; defining all people's ownership and state management as well as other ownership toward cultural heritage; the purposes of the use and promotion of the values of cultural heritage; some prohibitions to protect cultural heritage. In parallel with that there are some chapters mentioning the rights and duties of institutions and individuals toward cultural heritage; the protections and promotions of tangible and intangible heritage; the state management of cultural heritage; commendations, rewards and punishment; and execution provisions.

Another important document that influenced the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage is the *Overall Plan to preserve and to promote cultural and historical heritage sites and beautiful landscapes up to the year of 2020*. It was signed by the Ministry of Culture and Information in the Decision 1706/QĐ-BVHTT dated 24 July 2001 enlisting thirty two priority heritage sites that were in need of protection from being degraded and are to be restored by 2020. This project plays a key role in specific endeavours that preserve and promote the values of cultural and historical heritage sites and beautiful landscapes in Vietnam.

In terms of recent issues on heritage policies, they are as follows:

The first issue is about the *cooperation mechanism amongst institutions, departments and branches within policy making*. It focusses on the need to cooperate for the common aim of

protecting and promoting cultural heritage values. Although law, policymaking and other government decisions are the foundation for cooperation amongst institutions and branches, the policy implementation on cultural heritage is not run well due to different regulations. As shown in this report, there is cooperation between institutions in charge of cultural management and local government in many projects, especially in making master plans for each province on cultural heritage. However, in central institutions, departments and branches, this cooperation is sometimes not synchronous, especially among those involved in finance and planning.

The second issue emerges from *financial resources support to the work of protecting and promoting cultural heritage values*. In recent years, State budget has never spent beyond two percent of the total State budget for the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism activities. At the same time the Ministry's activities do not focus only on protecting and promoting cultural heritage values. This means that financial investment to protect and promote heritage values is limited and small. Not all intangible or tangible heritage can be protected as soon as it is demanded but has to wait for its turn in order of financial priority.

When the state budget is small and limited, the mobilisations of other financial resources do not run well either. The important thing in financial mobilisation is specific policies and regulations such as regulation on efficiently monitoring financial investments, benefits for institutions or individuals that sponsor to protect and promote cultural heritage, etc.

The third issue comes from *human resources to protect and promote cultural heritage*. The real situation has shown that badly implemented projects resulted not only from the lack of budget for protection and promotion of cultural heritage but also from the lack of knowledge and human resources in these projects. Having training policy and encouraging talented staff to join the work of protecting and promoting cultural heritage is a sustainable solution to deal with this challenge.

The last issue seen from the policy viewpoint is the *lack of guidance decrees, policies to concretise articles from law on cultural heritage*. The government has issued the law on cultural heritage and they have brought into force, guidance documents to apply this law. However, it is essential to have some more legal regulations to make them clearer:

- Regulation on the organisation and activity of museums (including state owned museum and privately owned one)



- Regulation on the organisation and activity of antique shops.
- Governmental ordinance on management and protection of under water heritage.
- Regulation on antique exploration and excavations.
- Estimating financial cost of restoring heritage, scientific preparation and entitling and building museum's display.
- Planning museum network in Viet Nam.

#### 4.2.3. *Cultural/Creative Industries: Policies and Programmes*

##### *The definition of cultural industries*

The definition of cultural industries is new in Viet Nam. It is usually understood to include the following:

- Press, television, radio broadcasting and internet;
- Publishing and printing;
- Film, video and photography;
- Music, visual arts and performing arts;
- Handicraft;
- Fashion;
- Software and computer games.

##### *Some issues of cultural industries in Viet Nam:*

- In terms of awareness, central and local leaders have not recognised the significance of cultural industries to the development of the economy and culture and arts as shown in macro operating terms wherein they are not included in the economic structure and there is no national statistic system in place and there is a lack of strategic planning for cultural industries, such as developing intelligent technology and trade, especially in the culture and arts field.
- Cultural industries have currently received reciprocal investments without emphasis on market oriented investment, especially in the field of state-subsidised cultural industries.

- The private sector has made progress in some areas and at some stages of the process of creative production and cultural product distribution yet they all have limitation due to the weakness of the institutional framework.
- Cultural industries in Viet Nam have great potential for development, especially in the fields of traditional culture and arts and cultural diversity. However, there has been a question regarding commodification of products in this field.
- Creative capability of artists and cultural and arts organisations in making products for the market and particular market segments is still limited; there is still no clear distinction between aesthetically artistic creativity and product creativity; staff tend to be old who are neither trained nor updated about the recent trends and there is a lack of consistency in professional and international exchanges. There is also a lack of good and adequate equipment and financial support.
- Lack of institutional framework for development due to inadequate awareness of the importance of cultural industries as well as the lack of internal association within the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, between the Ministry and other ministries such as the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the Ministry of Science and Technology, and the Ministry of Information and Communication.
- There is a demand for international consultants to develop and implement institutional framework, to enhance organisational capability, to identify the development extent of each field and sector (cultural mapping), to implement city strategies (Hanoi, Hồ Chí Minh City) and to develop key organisations.

*The main challenges to small and medium sized cultural industry companies:*

- *Leadership*—there is no clear leadership for sector development: individuals and departments deal with micro-elements of the sector (e.g. licensing, training etc.), without a holistic and structured approach that focusses on the overall growth, competitiveness, sustainability and value-added aspects of the sector.
- *Lack of genuine NGOs working in the sector*—to provide leadership, knowledge and to organise/distribute resources.

- *Excessive bureaucracy and opaque approaches to funding and financial management*—which slows down investment, hinders planning, blocks flexibility and removes responsibility and accountability.
- *Censorship on the grounds of aesthetics or perceived cultural value*—this stifles entrepreneurialism and dramatically reduces the growth potential of the cultural industries. It also invites decision-making based on personal taste and vested interests; is disincentive to innovation; and blocks diverse cultural expression. It also greatly reduces the potential to develop a distinctive, confident and connected cultural and creative economy in Viet Nam.
- *The lack of a mixed economy for the cultural industries*—with investment structured according to a “state subsidy” rather than “state investment” model. This blocks growth, reduces innovation and greatly reduces the value-added role of culture. There also seem to be a range of technical barriers to diversifying the business models of cultural organisations – —e.g. to develop commercial activities, attract philanthropic donations and develop membership schemes.
- *Weak/underdeveloped investment landscape overall*—e.g. with retail banks, VCs and business angels and trusts/foundations.
- *Few and unclear tax incentives for investment in the cultural industries.*
- *Restrictions on advertising*—making it difficult to grow and diversify audiences and markets.
- *Low levels of capacity, know-how and skills across the cultural industries*—with little creative education, the lack of targeted higher education to create “market ready” graduates, and little specialist business support for businesses.
- *Poor infrastructure*—e.g. for filmmaking; low internet bandwidth; lack of specialist and up-to-date equipment in general.
- *Mass copyright infringement across the market*—This limits the growth potential of certain activities, e.g. music, film, games and fashion.

- *Weak overall markets for high value cultural and creative goods and services*—from the public and along the supply chain (e.g. in tourism). This means there is also a lack of quality, e.g. in tourism, manufacturing and services sectors.
- *Sector-specific issues*—e.g. difficulty in obtaining a license for film locations, lack of quality in fashion showcasing, curfews for live music performance, and weak distribution of quality craft and design products.
- *Low levels of sector clustering and sector networks underdeveloped compared to other countries*—with little overall sector organisation and coherent representation.
- *Lack of an innovative ecology overall* including universities, businesses, organisations and government operating in the area of cultural exchange.

#### 4.2.4. Cultural diversity and inclusion policies

Viet Nam is a multi-ethnic country with over fifty distinct groups (fifty-four are recognised by the Vietnamese government), each with its own language, lifestyle and cultural heritage. The largest ethnic groups are: Kinh (Viet) 86.2 percent, Tay 1.9 percent, Tai Ethnic 1.7 percent, Mường 1.5 percent, Khmer 1.4 percent, Hoa 1.1 percent, Nùng 1.1 percent, Hmong 1 percent and others 4.1 percent.

The Government requirements show that ethnic minority groups consist of the following characteristics:

- An intimate understanding and long stay in the territory, land, or area of their ancestors and have close connection to the natural resources;
- Self-identification and recognition by neighbouring members due to their distinctive culture;
- A language different from the national language
- A long traditional social and institutional system; and a self-provided production system.

The equality and right of every ethnic person living in Viet Nam has been clearly stated at the highest level in the constitution of 1992. Article 5 of the constitution declares that: “The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam is the unified State of all ethnicities living in on the territory of Viet Nam. The State carries out a policy of equality, solidarity and mutual cultural assistance among all nationalities, and forbids all acts of national discrimination and division. Every

nationality has the right to use its own language and system of writing, to preserve its national cultural identity, and promote its fine customs, habits, traditions and culture. The State issues a policy of comprehensive development and assistance, and gradually improves the material and spiritual living conditions of the national ethnic minorities”.

The Government also has in place a number of programmes aimed at the integration of ethnic minority groups into overall Vietnamese society and in particular their greater participation in mainstream economic life. Most of the Government’s programmes for ethnic minority development are the responsibility of the Committee for Ethnic Minorities Affairs (CEMA). The Government is seeking to address the inequities of both development and infrastructure provision in remote and mountainous areas with its cornerstone initiative- Programme 135, which provides assistance to communities, which have a high proportion of ethnic minorities, experiencing special difficulties. The programme also provides educational support to poor students.

### *Some Key Development Policies for Ethnic Minority Areas*

Instruction 525/TT of November 1993 provides an overall policy framework for the accelerated development of mountainous areas and areas of ethnic minorities. The main points of Instruction 525 are: (i) the promotion of an economy based on consumer goods, instead of an economy of self-sufficiency; (ii) the development of the rural infrastructure, in particular the access roads to the villages and the supply of drinking water; (iii) the reinforcement of the existing education systems, the adaptation of education and training programmes to local conditions and the encouragement of informal education efforts; and (iv) the study of the causes of the insufficient food supply and the identification of ways to resolve this problem in each province.

Since 1968, Government policy has been aimed at settling the ethnic minorities and reducing shifting cultivation. This policy has been implemented in the form of programmes that encompass both natural resource management and reforestation, and the economic development of ethnic minority areas. Two main programmes have been the 327 Programme from 1992 to 1997, based on Decision 327 of September 1992 on the reforestation of deforested hills, and the Fixed Cultivation Programme targeted ethnic minority people in upland areas for many years. This programme has supported the resettlement of upland communities to lower-lying and less remote areas, and has

restricted sloping land cultivation and promoted irrigated paddy or long-season cash crops. A New Economic Zone programme targeted at people moving into upland areas has been ongoing at the same time.

Two subsequent large-scale national programmes are being implemented and address the development of the forestry sector and poverty reduction in upland areas in a separate manner. The 5 Million Hectare Reforestation Programme (5MHRP) based on Decision 661 has replaced Programme 327 and was on-going for a period of twelve years from 1998 to 2010. 5MHRP provides government funds for protected forest and special use forest. The 135 Programme, which started its second phase in 2006, implemented over a period of five years (2006–2010) planned and undertook infrastructure development in poor and remote communes, known as Zone III communes. Most of these communes are mountainous communes primarily inhabited by ethnic minorities people. Subsidies and donations of agricultural inputs are also made available, for example through the Hunger Eradication Programme. The Fixed Cultivation Programme and the New Economic Zone Programme are still ongoing. The Fixed Cultivation Programme now mainly funds material for housing construction for newly married young couples and for households having lost their homes after landslides, fire, or flooding.

#### *4.2.5. Language issues and policies*

Vietnamese (*tiếng Việt*) is the national and official language of Viet Nam. It is the mother tongue of Vietnamese people (Kinh), and of about three million Vietnamese overseas. It is also spoken as a second language or a first language by the many ethnic minorities of Viet Nam.

Vietnamese was linguistically influenced primarily by Chinese, which politically prevailed in the second century B.C. With the rise of Chinese political dominance came radical importation of Chinese vocabulary and grammatical influence.

As contact with the West grew, the *Quốc Ngữ* system of Romanised writing was developed in the seventeenth century by the Portuguese and other Europeans involved in proselytising and trade in Viet Nam. However, the Romanised script did not predominate until the beginning of the twentieth century, when education became widespread and a simpler writing system was found to be more expedient for teaching and communicating with the general population.

In terms of language groups, there are three big linguistic families in Southeast Asia, the linguistic family of the Southern islands and the Chinese-Tibeto linguistic family. The languages of Vietnamese ethnic groups belong to eight different groups:

**Việt-Mường Group:** Chứt, Kinh, Mường, Thổ.

**Tày-Thái Group:** Bố Y, Giáy, Lào, Lự, Nùng, Sán Chay, Tày, Thái.

**Mon-Khmer Group:** Ba na, Brâu, Bru-Vân kiều, Chơ-ro, Co, Cơ-ho, Cơ-tu, Cơ-tu, Gié-triêng, Hrê, Kháng, Khmer, Khơ mú, Mạ, Mảng, M'Nông, Ơ-đu, Rơ-măm, Tà-ôi, Xinh-mun, Xơ-đăng, Xtiêng.

**Mông-Đao Group:** Đao, Mông, Pà Thèn.

**Kađai Group:** Cờ Lao, La Chí, La ha, Pu Péo.

**Austro-Polynesian Group:** Chăm, Chu-ru, Ê đê, Gia-rai, Ra-glai.

**Chinese Group:** Hoa, Ngái, Sán Dìu.

**Tibeto Group:** Cống, Hà Nhì, La Hủ, Lô Lô, Phù Lá, Si La.

The Vietnamese Constitution guarantees equality between nationalities, each ethnic nationality has the right to use their own language and script, and the national culture and identity are preserved and developed.

Well aware of the importance of the language policy in its activity in the ethnic nationality domain, the Government of Viet Nam has early formulated sound guidelines and direction for the ethnic language policy, whose main contents are as follows:

- Popularising and developing the mother tongues of the ethnic minorities, and
- Popularising the Vietnamese language among the ethnic groups and turning it into the lingua franca of the entire nation.

To put the guidelines mentioned above into effect, the following main activities have been launched:

- Conducting studies to create scripts for those ethnic groups that never had one, and improving those already in existence.
- Teaching Vietnamese in all primary schools in the mountainous areas after the ethnic school children have learned their mother tongues for a couple of years and bilingual education is to be carried out during primary education.

- Practising literacy of adults in both the mother tongue and in Vietnamese under the stipulations of the Law on the popularisation of Primary Education. This is a very difficult task since the ethnic groups account for seventy-five percent of the total illiteracy in the 15–35 age group (about five million people). Along with textbooks in Vietnamese, there are quite a few textbooks in H'Mong, Jarai, Khmer, Thai and Tay.

Adult literacy in ethnic languages has helped develop the ethnic cultures and languages. The ethnic learners are very proud of their national scripts. The contents of the syllabuses for adult education are varied, including traditional culture, national history, customs and traditions, local geography, protection of the environment (forests, flora and fauna), household economy and science and technology. The forms of adult education in ethnic languages are also diversified. The ethnic learners may attend regular, informal, or in-service schools and classes.

- Providing a favourable environment for the use of ethnic languages. The ethnic languages exist in written and spoken forms that are utilised without restrictions in culture and art, administration and postal services, radio and TV broadcasting.
- Publishing bilingual books in Vietnamese-ethnic languages on science technology, business management, etc., and bringing out a few papers in the ethnic language in multinational mountain provinces. Quite a large number of literacy works in ethnic languages have been published. This is a good source of complementary materials for adult education in the ethnic areas.
- Every year, national and ethnic festivals are held in Hanoi, the capital, and other provinces as well. This is also a good opportunity to promote the development of cultural and linguistic exchanges between the ethnic groups.

#### *4.2.6. Media pluralism and content diversity*

Media in Viet Nam is tightly regulated by the Vietnamese government. First and foremost, the media is a tool for government information and propaganda. The government views the media as the voice of the party and of the masses, and sees its main function as being the propagation of the party's guidelines and policies. Though market competition has caused the Vietnamese media to embrace popular culture, newspapers, radio and television – they are still based on information to reflecting the fundamentals of Marxism–Leninism and Hồ Chí Minh's thoughts.

#### *Radio*



Viet Nam's national radio station, called the Voice of Viet Nam, is the largest radio station in Viet Nam. It broadcasts on many channels, repeated on Medium wave (MW) AM, FM and shortwave (SW) AM bands throughout Viet Nam and the rest of the world:

- VOV1 (MW and SW)—news, current affairs and music
- VOV2 (MW and SW)—cultural and artistic programmes
- VOV3 (FM)—music and entertainment
- VOV4 (MW)—ethnic minority language programming
- VOV5 (MW)—world service broadcasts in eleven foreign languages
- VOV News—a website containing news and other aspects
- VOVTV (Television Channel)—nationally broadcast which aims at delivering update news every thirty minutes per programme
- VOV newspaper “The Voice of Viet Nam”—a printed version with more in-depth contents of the VOV news website
- VOV transportation—updating information during rush hours to help people travel smoothly through traffic jams.

It was estimated that VOV’s programmes reached more than ninety percent of all households in Viet Nam.

## Television

Vietnam Television (VTV) is the biggest television company in Viet Nam.

VTV today has the following channels:

- VTV1: 24-hour news and current affairs broadcast
- VTV2: Science, technology and education.
- VTV3: Sports and entertainment.
- VTV4: An international channel, offering a best-of package of programming from the three domestic channels to Vietnamese based across the world
- VTV5: Channel for ethnic minority communities in Vietnam.
- VTV6: Youth channel.

- VTV9: South favour.

And some regional television branches as follow:

- VTV Huế
- VTV Đà Nẵng
- VTV Phú Yên
- VTV Cần Thơ 1
- VTV Cần Thơ 2

In addition, most cities and provinces have their own radio and television stations.

## **Newspapers**

Current prominent Vietnamese-language newspapers include *Nhan Dan (People)*, *Tuoi Tre (Youth)*, *Thanh Nien (Youth)*, *Nguyen Lao Dong (Labour or The Worker)*, *Tien Phong (Vanguard)*, *Sai Gon Giai Phong (Liberated Saigon)*, and *Ha noi moi (New Hanoi)*. Prominent French language newspapers include *Saigon Eco* and *Le Courier du Vietnam*. Prominent English language newspapers are *Vietnam News*, *Vietnam Investment Review*, *Economic Times* and *Saigon Times*. There are other smaller provincial newspapers in all provinces.

The largest online newspapers are VNexpress, Vietnam Net, Tuoi Tre, 24h.com.vn, Dan Tri.

### *4.2.7. Intercultural dialog: actors, strategies, programmes*

In cultural policy documents, interculturalism is understood as the philosophy of exchanges between cultural groups within a society. For Viet Nam, intercultural dialogue is included in the policy of cultural diversity. As a state member of UNESCO, Viet Nam appreciates the 2005 convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions as an international effort to implement and promote the cultural diversity. This international legal tool is for the protection and promotion of cultural expressions, and it is conveyed in cultural activities, goods and services as vehicles of identity, value and meaning; as well as to set up a favourable legal framework for all state members in the field of production, distribution, dissemination, assessment and enjoyment of cultural expressions from different sources.

On 15–16 September 2008, Viet Nam had organised a forum on cultural diversity in the framework of the ASEM Summit in Hanoi. The forum had the participations from representatives of nineteen European and Asian countries, different international institutions in Viet Nam and Vietnamese cultural researchers and managers. Three main topics on public policies about cultural diversity were focussed on: Asian and European experience; the balance of cultural exchange in Europe and between Europe and Asia; the influence of trade on culture and our common actions to develop cultural diversity. It could be said that this forum had provided cultural policy makers some good suggestions for the implementation of the 2005 convention.

On 27 July 2011, Vietnamese Government approved of the project on Preservation and Promotion of Vietnamese ethnic minorities' cultures until the year 2020 pursuant to Decision 1270/QĐ-TTg. The project focused on objectives such as: preservation and promotion of traditional cultural identities of Vietnamese ethnic minorities in accordance with reality, with particular emphasis on areas of ethnic groups whose cultures are in danger of being distorted; promoting the role of cultural actors in the development of traditional cultures of ethnic groups; praising their good traditional cultural values, etc., on which the unity in diversity of Vietnamese culture is preserved and promoted.

Other policies on intercultural dialogue are based on policies in the field of heritage (4.2.2), cultural diversity (4.2.4) and language (4.2.5).

At present, the national policy toward intercultural dialogue is being implemented by various state and local authorities in the field of diversity. Among the key actors are:

- The Ministry of Culture, Sport and Tourism (<http://www.cinet.gov.vn>);
- The Department of Cultural Heritage (<http://www.dsvh.gov.vn>);
- Vietnam Museum of Ethnology (<http://vme.org.vn>);
- Committee for Ethnic Minorities (<http://cema.gov.vn>);

#### *4.2.8. Social cohesion and cultural policies*

In a cohesive society, both the state and communities play a key role in ensuring the well-being of citizens. Opening a space for citizens to engage and play a role in defining public policies is key to achieving progress. Viet Nam constitution declares Viet Nam as a State of the people, from the people and for the people. All State power belongs to the people and is

based on an alliance between the working class, the peasantry and the intelligentsia. The Socialist Republic of Viet Nam is the unified State of all nationalities living on the territory of Viet Nam. The State carries out a policy of equality, solidarity and mutual assistance among all nationalities, and forbids all acts of national discrimination and division. Every nationality has the right to use its own language and system of writing, to preserve its national identity, and to promote its fine customs, habits, traditions and culture. The State carries out a policy of comprehensive development and gradually raises the material and spiritual living conditions of the national minorities. (Viet Nam's Constitution 1992)

On 30 May 2012, an international conference on social cohesion policies in Viet Nam took place in Hanoi. The event was organised by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Institute of Labour Science and Social Affairs (ILSSA), OECD Development Centre and Hanns Seidel Foundation. Representatives of these organisations, as well as the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) and various other participants followed the presentations and shared their thoughts in the discussions on the issue of social cohesion in Viet Nam. In this conference, various Vietnamese social issues call for action. Among them, especially important were the difficulties faced by people in mountainous areas in accessing social services. In urban areas on the other hand, there is an urgent housing problem, and migrant workers provide low-wage work and lack integration. Vietnam would have to assess where it stands in the process of becoming a socially coherent country, and decide whether it wanted to go that long way. More information and data about different groups of the population would therefore need to be collected, especially information about informal sector workers, who are the most vulnerable target group.

On 14 January 2011, the Government issued the decree 05/2011/NĐ-CP on ethnic affairs in which the principles of equality, solidarity, respect, support for each other to develop should be emphasised for the implementation of ethnic affairs; ensure, and carry out the policies of comprehensive development, step by step to improve the material and spiritual life of ethnic people.

On 19 May 2011, the Government also issued resolution number 81 NQ-CP on the orientation of sustainable reduction in poverty during the period 2011–2020 in which there is a policy to provide cultural products as well as to build cultural institutions in poor and remote areas.

To deal with social cohesion, Viet Nam established the Viet Nam Fatherland Front. This organisation comprises political alliance organisations, voluntary federation of political organisations, social-political organisations, social organisations and outstanding individuals representing various social classes and their strata, ethnic groups, religions and overseas Vietnamese. The Viet Nam Fatherland Front has the task to gather and be the building block of national unity, to strengthen the political and spiritual unanimity among the people; to collect people's opinions and their recommendations and propose to the Party and the State; etc.

#### *4.2.9. Employment policies for the cultural sector*

##### *Statistics on the number of people working in the sector*

According to the statistics of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism in 2009, the total number of employees in the sector is 505.393. Besides, there are 1.106.352 indirect employees. The structure of the employment is as follow:

- *Gender:* Female - 255.021 or 50.46 percent; Male - 250.372 và nam là or 49.54 percent of the total
- *Age:* Under thirty years old, 202.958 or 40.16 percent; from thirty to fifty years old, 226.928 or 44.90 percent; over fifty to retirement age, 70.802 or 14.01 percent; and there are 4.705 people over retirement age still invited to work or 0.93 percent of total.

##### *On professional areas:*

- *State management:* there are 12.394 people or 2.45 percent including 869 people working for central institutions, occupying 7.01 percent of management area or 0.17 percent total number of employees; and 11.525 people working for local management institutions occupying 92.99 percent of the management area or 2.28 percent of the total number of employees.
- *Professional institutions:* there are 30.533 people, occupying 6.04 percent of the total number, including 12.823 people working for public institutions, 12.695 people working for semi-public institutions, and 4.015 people working for private institutions.

- *Enterprises*: there are 462.468 people working for cultural enterprises, occupying 91.51 percent of total number.

#### *Employment policies for the cultural sector*

- The system of legislation on the employment policies for the cultural sector is as follows: Law on Education 2005; Law on Vocational Education 2006; and Labour Code 2007.
- These laws have created a legislative background to regulate the human resource development of the sector. Especially on 30 May 2008, the Government issued Decree number 69/2008/NĐ-CP on the incentive policy of privatisation and decentralisation on culture that helped to develop the human resource of the sector.

#### *4.2.10. Gender equality and cultural policies*

The Constitution of Vietnam enshrines the principle of gender equality, and specifically prohibits the violation of women's rights. In regard to legal rights, the position of Vietnamese women has improved over the past decades. In 2006, the National Assembly passed the country's first Law on Gender Equality. This law aims to address some key aspects of gender equality in all areas of social and family life, measures to promote gender equality, responsibilities of all public and private agencies and oversight of violations.

The Government had also applied measures to promote equality, particularly concerning the retirement age, retirement benefits and social insurance policies, among other things.

Achievements in the last five years to promote gender equality and enhance women's role in the family and society were significant. Gender gaps in most political, economic and social areas had narrowed, and women occupied forty-nine percent of the labour force.

Viet Nam ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1982.

On 27 September 2011, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism issued the Plan on gender equality in the culture, sports and tourism sector for the period 2011–2015. This document aims to identify the responsibilities of the agencies and units in the implementation of gender equality in the field of cultural, family, sports and tourism, contributing to the national target on gender equality.

#### *4.2.11. New technologies and digitisation in the arts and culture*

The Government of Viet Nam had devised national projects and programmes toward the development of information technology infrastructure and wide application of IT in state agencies, creating a basis for development of e-government and raising labour productivity, as well as reducing operational costs. Viet Nam has taken strong measures to implement administrative reform and modernisation of government agencies in order to build an e-government more effectively. Recently, the government has issued policies to apply the information technology in state agencies, which has gained the initial results in developing an e-government in the new period.

Most of the ministries, the provincial people's committees and cities have made efforts to fulfil the assigned tasks in applying IT to improve the efficiency of the state agencies' operations, implementing administrative reform and setting up a useful information portal for people and businesses.

The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism has set up a Centre for Information and Technology (CINET). This Centre aims to acquire and apply new technology in gathering, processing, exchanging and managing information by computer in order to serve the management and co-ordination work of the Ministry; to develop new overall plans in the field of culture and information; to build a national database on culture and information with a view to serve the requirements of Vietnamese society; and to acquire and apply both foreign and Vietnamese software in information activities and to transfer this to other organisations. CINET is directly responsible for the management of the Ministry of Culture's server and website.

On 17–18 April 2012, the sixteenth SEAPAVAA Conference was held in Hồ Chí Minh City (Viet Nam), which delved into the concerns and challenges faced by archives today as we respond to rapid developments in digital preservation technology. As archives evolve into digital ones, the conference theme of *Creating, Funding, Protecting a Digital AV Archive* is both relevant and timely.

The private sector has also paid attention to new technologies and digitisation in the arts and culture. For example, since 2010, Asia Arts Archive (AAA)—a non-profit organisation and registered charity in Hong Kong—has collaborated with Viet Nam's Saigon-based independent art space, *sàn art*, to digitise the organisational files of Blue Space Contemporary Arts Centre, which documents the exhibitions and art projects organised and

curated at the Centre from the early 1990s until the present. Over 400 exhibition photographs, clippings, invitations and other ephemera have been digitised.

## 5. Main legal provisions in the cultural field

### 5.1. General legislation

#### 5.1.1. Constitution

1992 Constitution of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam has institutionalised the thought reform of roles and positions of culture of the Party. It refers to culture in Chapter III, articles 30–34 as follows:

- *Article 30:* The State and society preserve and develop a progressive Vietnamese culture imbued with national identity; and inherit and enhance the values of the multi-ethnic Vietnamese civilisation, Hồ Chí Minh's thought, ethics and style; assimilate the quintessence of human culture; and foster all the creative talents of the people.
- The State assumes the unified administration of cultural development. Reactionary and depraved ideologies and culture are to be banned; superstition is to be driven out.
- *Article 31:* The State creates favourable conditions for citizens' all-round development; inculcates in citizens the sense of civic responsibility and the need to live and work in accordance with the Constitution and the law, to preserve fine customs and to build happy and cultured families; instils in citizens patriotism, adherence to the socialist regime and a genuine spirit of internationalism, friendship and cooperation among nations in the world.
- *Article 32:* Art and literature help nurture the noble personality and soul of the Vietnamese people. The State invests in the development of culture, literature and art, creates favourable conditions for the people to enjoy literary and artistic works of high value; sponsors the promotion of creative literary and artistic talents. The state develops diverse forms of literary and artistic activities; encourages popular literary and artistic activities.
- *Article 33:* Work in the field of information, press, radio, television, cinema, publishing, libraries and other means of mass communication is to be developed by



the State-Cultural of Information. Activities detrimental to national interests and which undermine the fine personality, morality and way of life of the Vietnamese people are prohibited.

- *Article 34:* The State and society shall preserve and develop national cultural heritage. Historical or revolutionary monuments, cultural relics, works of art and beauty-spots shall be maintained, restored, protected and their impact fostered. Due attention shall also be granted to preservation and museum work. All acts causing damage to or prejudicial to historical or revolutionary monuments, works of art and beauty spots are strictly prohibited.

### *5.1.2. Division of jurisdiction*

At the moment, Viet Nam has two political territorial levels: state and local ones. At the national level, the Ministry for Culture, Sports and Tourism prepares system solutions and performs administrative, advisory and other tasks in the area of:

**Grassroots Culture:** the development of basic culture throughout the country according to Communist Party guidelines and the policies and laws of the state. It draws up laws, ordinances and regulations relating to the policies and structures of basic culture and information throughout the country, develops short-term, long-term and annual plans for its development, undertakes scientific research, oversees the application of basic culture and information criteria and encourages co-operation with organisations and governments overseas in its field. Specifically, the Department seeks to improve cultural standards at community level throughout the country by means of activities in the fields of mass culture, propaganda, advertising, “families of culture” and “villages of culture” schemes, “emulation drives”, preservation and promotion of local traditions and the organisation of traditional festivals. It provides guidance to and oversees the activities of provincial and municipal cultural centres throughout the country and co-ordinates the design and nationwide distribution of government propaganda posters.

**Cinema:** the state management of the Vietnamese film and video industry functions according to the Communist Party guidelines and the policies and laws of the state. It controls all aspects of the Vietnamese film industry, including aesthetics, technology, finance, production, distribution, censorship and international relations. It drafts laws, ordinances and regulations relating to the development of the film and video industry,

drawing up film and video development plans and overseeing film and video development projects that encourage the development of young Vietnamese filmmaking talent; selects and approves screenplays; co-ordinates and develops international exchange and investment in the film and video sector; issues and withdraws permits to local and foreign film and video production companies; issues and withdraws distribution permits for local and foreign films, reviewing and where necessary, banning all film and video products that contravene the law; organises national and international film festivals and competitions to promote the best in local and foreign film; and co-ordinates Vietnamese film and video promotional events overseas.

**Ethnic Culture:** Implementing the state management functions and guiding the development of culture and information in the mountainous areas occupied by ethnic minority peoples, according to the Communist Party guidelines and the policies and laws of the State. Its functions include drafting laws, ordinances and regulations relating to the preservation and development of ethnic culture, drawing up plans and either directly managing or participating in projects concerned with the preservation and development of ethnic culture, organising cultural activities and disseminating information throughout the mountainous areas occupied by ethnic minority peoples, introducing and promoting the culture of the ethnic minority peoples both at home and overseas, and monitoring the implementation of laws and regulations of the Ministry regarding the preservation and development of ethnic culture.

**Family Issues:** In the area of family issues the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism performs tasks such as the following:

1. Taking the lead and coordinating with other ministries and related sectors in implementing the law to guarantee equal rights and stop violence in the family;
2. Taking the lead and coordinating with other ministries and related sectors in the task of building and developing the “family of culture” concept;
3. Organising and guiding the gathering and archiving of information relating to the family, and giving guidance on and reviewing practical experience in the broadening of the “family of culture” concept; and
4. Propagating and educating the public about lifestyle and how to behave in the traditional Vietnamese family.

Fine Art, Photography and Exhibition: the state management of the fine art and photography sector is according to Communist Party guidelines and the policies and laws of the state.

The Department drafts laws, ordinances and regulations relating to fine art and photography, issues permits to and monitors the activities of fine art and photography organisations and enterprises throughout the country, develops and co-ordinates fine art and photography development projects, encourages international exchange and investment in the fine art and photography sector, organises national exhibitions and competitions and co-ordinates Vietnamese fine art and photography promotional events overseas.

International Co-operation on culture: the state management of international activities in the fields of culture and information in accordance with Communist Party guidelines and the policies and laws of the state. Its functions include: drafting and submitting legislative documents relating to international cooperation to the Minister for approval; setting up short-term, long-term and annual plans relating to international exchange activities involving the Ministry; acting on behalf of the Ministry as the coordinating body in respect of external relations and international cooperation in the field of culture and information; maintaining contacts overseas and developing good relations with foreign counterparts; conducting exchange programmes at ministerial level with foreign partners both inside and outside of the country; and supervising and giving guidance and support in respect of international cooperation activities conducted by various ministerial agencies.

Library: the development of the library sector throughout the country according to the Communist Party guidelines and the policies and laws of the state. Its functions include drafting laws, ordinances and regulations relating to the libraries sector, drawing up short-term, long-term and annual plans for library development throughout the country, seeking co-operation with libraries and library organisations overseas, participating in various projects, programmes and activities concerned with librarianship and collaborating with related sectors to this end, organising national and regional seminars and conferences on different themes, offering guidance on the national book reading campaign and the establishment of the national library network, undertaking routine inspection work to check that laws and regulations are being complied with, implementing decisions of the Ministry with regard to the establishment of libraries throughout the country, rewarding excellence and dealing with violations in the librarianship sector according to laws and regulations, and

administering the staff and property of the Department according to state regulations currently in force.

**National Cultural Heritage:** the management of conservation and museums and the development of the conservation and museums sector throughout the country, according to the Communist Party guidelines and the policies and laws of the state. The Department drafts laws, ordinances and regulations relating to conservation and museums, draws up both long- and short-term plans for conservation and museums development, organises training and scientific research programmes for civil servants and office holders of the Department, and establishes links with foreign organisations and governments relating to conservation and museums. The specific responsibilities of the Department include: revising existing lists and establishing new files on historic and cultural vestiges and places of scenic beauty for submission to UNESCO with a view to their inclusion in World Heritage list; issuing permits for archaeological excavations and repairs to vestiges; overseeing the activities of museums around the country and ensuring that all new museums are established according to the regulations of the Ministry; providing guidance in relation to the preservation and use of historic and cultural vestiges and places of scenic beauty throughout the country and participating directly in the management of those monuments and vestiges listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites; coordinating and guiding the setting up of investment projects related to museums, historic and cultural vestiges and places of scenic beauty already receiving annual subsidy from the state; encouraging, guiding and assisting those Vietnamese and foreign individuals and organisations that contribute on a voluntary basis to the development of the conservation and museums sector; encouraging the dissemination and exchange of information, documentation and experience regarding various problems facing the museums sector through various types of scientific and mass media platforms; undertaking regular inspection and checking activities, rewarding good practice and taking action against those organisations and individuals responsible for violations against Ministry regulations relating to activities in the conservation and museums sector; and managing the staff, budget and property of the Department according to state regulations currently in force and according to the devolved responsibilities of the Ministry.

**Performing Arts:** the development of the performing arts throughout the country according to the Communist Party guidelines and the policies and laws of the State. Its activities

include drafting laws, ordinances and regulations relating to the performing arts, drawing up short-term, long-term and annual plans for professional and amateur performing arts activities of all kinds nationwide, providing guidance to performers and performing groups regarding the subject matter of performances and bringing into play the role of traditional ethnic arts with a view to creating pieces and plays that serve audiences both at home and abroad, providing guidance to performers and performing groups regarding the assimilation of certain overseas art forms, providing guidance to researchers in the performing arts, banning the performance of musical works, songs, plays and play extracts whose content runs counter to the Communist Party guidelines and the policies and laws of the State, guiding and participating in the organisation of competitions and festivals of performing arts at national and regional level and making proposals to the Minister regarding which groups and artists should take part and which pieces should be performed, initiating international exchange programmes in the performing arts, drawing up plans for scientific research, specialist training and skills development for administrative staff and performers in each area, managing the staff, property and accounts of the Department according to the law of the State and the regulations of the Ministry, and undertaking routine inspection to ensure the proper implementation of the law and regulations relating to the performing arts throughout the country.

**Training:** development for all those involved in culture and information work throughout the country, in accordance with the Communist Party guidelines and the policies and laws of the state. Its functions include: drawing up regulations and devising short-term, long-term and annual plans for the development of programmes to enhance skills and nurture talent throughout the country; developing a national training network; developing programmes and curricula in different fields and at different levels of study; managing and nurturing a body of teaching staff and developing and coordinating policies relating to their work at culture and information schools throughout the country; and undertaking routine inspection and checking work to ensure that training and skills development is being carried out effectively.

**Exercise and Sports:** implementing the state management functions and guiding the development of Exercise and Sports falls under the following:

1. Guiding and implementing national strategies, regulations, plans and programmes for the development of physical education and sports following the approval of the Prime Minister;
2. organising and giving guidance in the task of building a cadre of popular physical

education and sports guides and practitioners and strengthening the profession of physical education and sports guides and practitioners; and 3. taking the lead and collaborating with each sector and locality in carrying out investigations amongst the citizenry, applying and developing each branch of ethnic sport and each traditional method of training both in and outside the country; guiding the organisation of mass sports competitions at the national level; liaising with the Ministry of Education and Training, the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Police to lead the implementation of physical education and sports education in schools and in the armed forces; and guiding and registering the activities of each public physical education and sports club or organisation.

Tourism: the state management functions over tourist operations and activities throughout the country. It has full control in terms of business development, planning, public relations, personnel training, research, instructing and implementing the policies and other regulations of the tourism sector.

The local governments are obliged to:

- Ensure, in accordance with special sector laws, the functioning of libraries, museums and galleries, performing arts, etc and look after cultural heritage in their areas and at the same time to maintain cultural monuments owned by them.
- Cover other cultural needs of their citizens (local cultural centres, publishing, libraries, arts cinema, etc.) identified by the local cultural programmes; and
- Provide spaces that are intended for cultural activities in their area and upgrade their cultural infrastructure.

### *5.1.3. Allocation of public funds*

The procedures related to allocation of public funds in culture are included in the Public Finance Act (2002), which is important, above all, for the way public institutions are financed and the circular number 20/2003/TTLT/BTC-BVHTT-BNV dated 24 March 2003 between the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Home Affairs on the financial management of professional institutions of culture and arts.

The steps of the allocation are as follows:

- Annually the Prime Minister has a decree on the usage of the state budget;

- To carry out this decree, the Ministry of Finance will have an ordinance to guide ministries, including the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, and local governments to draft the budget estimate for the year.
- Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism will build the budget estimate of the year, and then propose to the Ministry of Finance. The Ministry of Finance will summarise to report to the Budget Council of the National Assembly.
- After the budget estimate gets approval, the Ministry of Finance will promulgate a guideline circular for the implementation of the budget estimate.
- After getting the guideline circular, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism will re-allocate to its organisations.

Theoretically, this allocation will be carried out by technical economic norms, but the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism has no such norm. The allocation of the state budget is implemented by the decree of the Prime Minister to follow the growth of GDP, the sector and the economy.

At the local level, the budget allocation for culture is taken the same way as it is in the central government but in its local budget size.

#### *5.1.4. Social security frameworks*

There are no specific social security measures governing the cultural sector.

#### *5.1.5. Tax laws*

There is no special tax law for cultural activities. Cultural and art enterprises are run under the corporate income tax in which preferential tax rates of ten and twenty percent for fifteen and ten years, respectively, are available for taxpayers engaged in different areas including culture and arts. In this law, article 4 specifies Tax-exempt incomes for received financial supports used for educational, scientific research, cultural, artistic, charitable, humanitarian and other social activities in Vietnam.

There is no special VAT rate for cultural products or cultural services. There are no specific tax breaks or other such benefits for artists.

#### *5.1.6. Labour laws*

In Viet Nam, artists who were employed in cultural institutions are public servants under the *Law on Civil Servant (2012)*. Other artists are regulated by *Labour Code (amendment 2007)*.

### 5.1.7. Copyright provisions

To join the World Trade Organisation, Viet Nam was required to meet international standards of Intellectual Property (IP) protection. Viet Nam passed the new IP Law in 2006 and adopted the Berne Convention on copyrights. The result is that today Viet Nam has relatively comprehensive set of laws covering most aspects of IP rights.

In the law on Intellectual Property Rights, Viet Nam defines the objects of intellectual property rights as follows: 1. Objects of copyright include literary, artistic and scientific works; objects of copyright-related rights include performances, sound recordings, video recordings; broadcasting programmes; and satellite signals carrying encrypted programmes. 2. Objects of industrial property rights include inventions; industrial designs; layout-designs of semi-conductor integrated circuits; business secrets; trademarks; trade names; and geographical indications. 3. Objects of rights to plant varieties are plant varieties and its propagating materials.

State policies on intellectual property rights are as follows:

1. To recognise and protect the intellectual property rights of organisations and individuals on the basis of ensuring equal benefits to intellectual property rights holders and the public interest; not to protect the intellectual property objects that are contrary to the social morality and public order, or harmful to national defense and security.
2. To encourage and promote creative activities, exploitation of intellectual property assets to contribute to the socio-economic development and to improve people's material and spiritual life.
3. To provide financial assistance to the assignment and exploitation of intellectual property rights for public interest; to encourage national and foreign organisations and individuals in financing creative activities and intellectual property rights protection.
4. To give priority to investment in the training and improving of the skills of officials, civil servants and other related people in the field of intellectual property rights protection and research, application of science and technology for intellectual property rights protection.



The Vietnamese Prime Minister also had an instruction No 26/2008/CT-TTg to strengthen the implementation of copyright and the protection of related rights. In this document, the Ministry of Finance must ask customs officials to prevent any imports or exports violating copyright laws, particularly on computer and recorded programmes. The Ministry of Industry and Trade has also been asked to introduce strict punishments for organisations and individuals involved in circulating pirated goods.

In Viet Nam, copyright violation occurred in many fields, particularly in music, literature, computer programme and television broadcast. The violations have negative effects on creative activities, the investment environment, social and cultural development, and the nation's integration into the world economy. The main cause of infringement is that organisations and individuals have little awareness of copyright and related rights.

National Copyright Office of Viet Nam was established on 27 February 1987 under the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism. The office is responsible on behalf of the Minister for guiding the development of copyright according to the Communist Party guidelines and the policies and laws of the state. Its principal functions include drafting laws, ordinances and regulations relating to copyright protection, registering copyright protection for the Vietnamese and foreign individuals and organisations and granting and revoking copyright certificates and operational licences for copyright services, providing guidance for municipal and provincial services of culture and information in exerting state management over copyright protection in the localities, organising and implementing co-operation projects involving foreign countries and international organisations concerned with copyright protection, organising the education and popularisation of legislation on copyright and disseminating information on copyright protection, and organising professional training courses on copyright protection for officials of the Ministry and related national and local organisations.

#### *5.1.8. Data protection laws*

Until now Viet Nam has had no law on data protection. However, together with the development of the application of information technology and e-commerce, state institutions are increasingly paying attention to this issue. Data protection has been included in some recent documents as follow:

In the Directive 27/CT-TU dated 16 October 2008 on the leadership of population and housing census for 2009, the secretariat of the Party had requested “paying attention to secure information to the requirements of laws, especially protection of individual information”.

Under the civil perspective, the Civil Code (2005) has some principles to protect individual information as in article 31, “The right of an individual with respect to his/her picture” and article 38 “The right to personal secrets”. Article 31 defines that an individual shall own the right to his/her picture. The use of a picture of an individual must be with his/her consent; in the case that such person has died, lost his/her civil act capacity, or is under fifteen years of age, the consent of his/her father, mother, husband, wife, adult children or representative is required, unless it is for State interests, public interests, or otherwise provided for by law. It is strictly forbidden to use pictures of other persons that infringe upon their honour, dignity and/or prestige. The article 38 identifies that an individual’s rights to personal secrets shall be respected and protected by law. The collection and publication of information and materials on the private life of an individual must be consented by that person; in cases where that person has died, lost his civil act capacity, or is under fifteen years of age, the consent of his/her father, mother, wife, husband, adult children or representative is required, except for cases where the collection and publication of information and materials are made by decision of a competent agency or organisation. Letters, telephonic conversations, telegrams, other forms of electronic information of individuals shall be guaranteed to be safe and confidential. The inspection of an individual’s letters, telephones, telegrams and/or other forms of electronic information may be performed only in cases where it is so provided for by law and decided by competent state agencies.

The highest legislative document on e-transaction is the Law on e-Transaction (2005). The article 46 defines that agencies, organisations and individuals shall have the right to select security measures in accordance with the provisions of the law when conducting e-transactions; agencies, organisations and individuals must not use, provide, or disclose information on private and personal affairs or information of other agencies, organisations and/or individuals, which is accessible by them or under their control in e-transactions without the latter’s consents, unless otherwise provided for by law.

In June 2006, Viet Nam's National Assembly adopted the law on information technology, which regulates information technology application and development activities, measures to ensure information technology application and development and the rights and obligations of bodies, organisations and individuals engaged in information technology application and development activities. The law has more specific regulations on the responsibilities of collecting, using, processing and storing individual information of other persons in web space such as in article 21 and article 22. Article 72 defines that lawful personal information of an organisation or individual being exchanged, transmitted, or stored in the network environment shall be kept confidential in accordance with law.

### 5.1.9. Language laws

In Viet Nam, there are a lot of language issues that need to be legitimatised. However, there is no language law at the moment.

In the constitution, Viet Nam has an article to regulate language diversity. See also 4.2.5.

## 5.2. *Legislation on culture*

In recent years, Viet Nam has issued some laws to effectively manage cultural and art activities. They are as follows:

Some important legislative documents:

- Law on cultural heritage (2001, amendment 2009);
- Law on press (amendment 1999);
- Law on publishing (1993, amendment 2004);
- Law on cinema (2006, amendment 2009);
- Law on intellectual rights (2005).

And other documents such as decrees, resolutions, directives and regulations such as:

- Ordinance on library (2000);
- Ordinance on advertisement (2001);
- Ordinance on Hồ Chí Minh award and State award on culture and arts (1985);
- Ordinance on the state's honour titles (1985);

- Decree number 87/CP dated 12 December 1995 of the Government on strengthening the management of cultural activities and services;
- Decree number 88/2002/NĐ-CP dated 7 November 2002 of the Government on the management of export and import of cultural products with no business purposes;
- Decree number 103/2009/ NĐ-CP dated 6 September 2009 of the Government on the regulation of cultural activities and public cultural business.
- Decree number 75/2010/ NĐ-CP dated 12 July 2010 of the Government on the regulation to punish administrative violation in cultural activities.
- Decree number 72/2000/NĐ-CP dated 5 December 2000 on the dissemination and distribution of cultural products abroad;
- Decree number 48/CP dated 17 July 1995 of the Government on the structure and activities of cinema sector;
- Decree number 76/CP dated 29 November 1996 of the Government on the guidance of some regulations of intellectual rights in Civil Code;
- Decree number 61/2002/NĐ-CP dated 11 June 2002 of the Government on royalties;
- Decree number 55/2001/NĐ-CP dated 26 August 2001 on the management, provision and usage of Internet service;
- Directive number 10/2000/CT-TTg dated 26 April 2000 of the Prime Minister on strengthening the management and promoting the activities of foreign exchange information.

### **5.3. Sector specific legislation**

#### *5.3.1. Visual and applied arts*

Vietnam has no law on visual and applied arts. However there are some regulations on the field such as:

- Regulation on fine arts exhibitions and gallery (1999).
- Regulation on the management of building statues and grand paintings (2000).

- Decree number 100/2006/NĐ-CP on detail regulations and guidance to implement the civil code, law on intellectual properties that have some articles on visual and applied arts.
- Decree on the management of fine arts activities (2012)—to be issued.
- Overall Plan on the development of fine arts until 2020 and vision 2030.
- Overall Plan on the statues of heroes and famous persons.

### 5.3.2. *Performing arts and music*

- Law on Intellectual Property Rights
- Decree number 75/2010/ NĐ-CP dated 12 July 2010 of the Government on the regulation to punish administrative violation in cultural activities.
- Decree number 103/2009/ NĐ-CP dated 6 September 2009 of the Government on the regulation of cultural activities and public cultural business.
- Decision number 47/2004/QĐ-BVHTT dated 2 July 2004 of the Minister of Culture and Information (now Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism) on the Regulation on the activities of performing arts and the organisation of professional performing arts.
- Licence procedure of the Department of Performing Arts for artists to go abroad for their performance.
- Registration procedure of the Department of Performing Arts for professional performances of international organisations in Vietnam.
- Licence procedure for the performance of music, dance, theatre and fashion.
- Licence procedure for publishing tapes and CDs, DVDs.
- Overall Plan for the development of performing arts in the year 2010 dated 28 March 2010.

### 5.3.3. *Cultural heritage*

- Law on Cultural Heritage (2001, amendment 2009).
- Decree number 98/2010/NĐ-CP dated 21 September 2010 of the Government on detail regulation on some articles of the Law on Cultural Heritage.

- Official Document number 4432/VHTT-BTBT dated 20 October 1998 of the Minister of Culture and Information to strengthen management of antiques.
- Official Document number 4882/VHTT-BTBT dated 18 November 1998 of the Minister of Culture and Information to guide the registration and inventory of historic, cultural and landscape vestiges.
- Directive number 60/CT-BVHTT dated 6 May 1999 of the Minister of Culture and Information to strengthen the management and protection of heritage sites.
- Overall plan of preservation and promotion of historic, cultural and landscape vestiges to the year 2020 based on the Decision number 1706/QĐ-BVHTT of the Minister of Culture and Information dated 24 July 2001.

#### 5.3.4. *Literature and libraries*

- Law on Intellectual Property Rights (2005).
- Law on Library (to be issued in 2012).
- Ordinance on Library (2001).
- Decision number 16/2005/QĐ- BVHTT dated 4 May 2005, of the Minister of Culture and Information on model regulation of organisation and activity of city's and province's library.
- Decision number 13/2008/QĐ- BVHTTDL dated 10 March 2008, of Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism on model regulation of organisation and activity of university library.
- Inter-ministerial circular number 02/2012/TTLT/BVHTTDL-BTC dated 7 March 2012 of Ministries of Finance–Culture, Sports and Tourism to guide the management and use supporting expenses from state budget to the creation of art and literature works in central and local literature and art associations during the period 2011–2015.
- Decision number 316/QĐ-TTG dated 1 March 2011 of the Prime Minister on the approval of project “building and re-assessing the policies on the activities of literature and arts, and artists; policies to sponsor and order literature and art works; incentive policies to create works in literature and art activities”.

## 5.3.5. *Architecture and spatial planning*

- Law on Urban Planning (2009).
- Decree number 38/2010/NĐ-CP dated 7 July 2010 of the Prime Minister on the management of spatial planning, architecture and urban landscape.
- Circular number 19/2010/TT-BXD dated 22 October 2010 of the Minister of Construction on the guidance of the management of architecture and urban planning.
- Circular number 08/2007/TT-BXD dated 10 September 2007 of the Minister of Construction on the planning, evaluation, approval of urban architecture.
- Decree number 29/2007/NĐ-CP dated 27 February 2007 of the Prime Minister on the management of urban planning.
- Circular number 04/2003/TTLT/ BVHTT-BXD dated 29 January 2003 between the Ministry of Culture and Information and the Ministry of Construction on the guidance of intellectual property rights on architecture works.
- Decision number 112/2002/QĐ-TTG dated 3 September 2002 of the Prime Minister on the orientation of Vietnam's architecture development until 2020.
- Decision number 91/BXD/ĐT dated 16 April 1993 of Minister of Construction on the guideline for the regulation of the profession of architects.

## 5.3.6. *Film, video and photography*

- Law on Cinema (2006, amendment 2009)
- Law on Intellectual Rights (2005)
- Decision number 63/2006/QĐ-BVHTT dated 2 August 2006 of the Minister of Culture and Information on the regulation of composing propaganda paintings and publishing covers.
- Decision number 171/2000/QĐ-BTC dated 27 October 2000 of the Minister of Finance on the regulation of fees on evaluation of film scripts, films and the license of cinema profession.

- Circular number 01/2009/TT-BVHTTDL dated 22 January 2009 of the Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism on the art and culture exhibitions in Vietnam and abroad.
- Circular number 11/2011/TT-BVHTTDL dated 19 September 2011 of the Minister of Culture, Sports and Tourism on the guidance of relevant regulations of administrative procedure in cinema field.
- Decree number 48/CP dated 17 July 1995 of the Prime Minister on the organisation and activity of cinema.

### 5.3.7. *Mass media*

- Law on Advertisement (to be issued in 2012)
- Law on Press (1989, amendment 1999)
- Law on Intellectual Property Rights (2005)
- Decision number 20/2011/QĐ-TTĐ dated 24 March 2011 of the Prime Minister on the promulgation of regulation of the management of pay television activities.
- Circular number 07/2011/TT-BTTTT dated 1 March 2011 of the Minister of Information and Communication on the detail regulation and guidance on licensing press activities in radio and television
- Decree number 02/2011/NĐ-CP of the Prime Minister on the punishment in administrative violations in press and publishing activities.
- Decree number 28/2009/NĐ-CP dated 20 March 2009 of the Prime Minister on the punishment in administrative violations in the management, provision and usage of Internet service and electronic information on Internet.
- Decision number 22/2009/QĐ-TTĐ dated 16 February 2009 of the Prime Minister on the approval of the overall plan on transmission of radio and television until 2020.
- Decision number 52/2008/QĐ-BTTTT dated 2 December 2008 of the Minister of Information and Communication on the promulgation of the regulation of examination of information source in press.



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- Decree number 97/2008/NĐ-CP CP of the Prime Minister on the management, provision and usage of internet service and electronic information on internet

## 6. Financing of culture

### 6.1. Short overview

In Viet Nam, the government (both local and central) is the largest funder of culture. Other forms of funding, by means of the market, donations from individuals/private institutions or sponsorship from companies are still in the early stages of development and are quite small in financial terms.

Before 1988, financing of culture or other sectors all followed the mechanism of subsidy and centralised planning. Public cultural organisations were all run under the financial support from the government budget. There was no private organisation in this field.

During the period 1989–1997, with the promulgation of the law on state budget, there was a policy reform on financing. Public services had to operate on the basis of self-management of their finance, self-doing business, and self-responsibility on their business results. They were not all subsidised and had to decide their products by receiving the signals from market. These policy reforms had made some conditions and opportunities to cultural organisations to promote their capacities. However, many cultural organisations also faced with lots of difficulties in the new context.

In 1997, to create the legislative background for the reform and management of public organisations, the National Assembly had approved the law on state budget to mark a milestone event to the clear division of duties and responsibilities of state organisations in the financial field such as: the right of the National Assembly and local people's councils in the determination of the estimate of state budget and approval of financial balance sheet; the right of government and local people's committees in the management and operation of state budget; the right and responsibility of financial institutions and government organisations in using state budget. At the moment, cultural organisations are financed in these backgrounds.

### 6.2. Public cultural expenditure

#### 6.2.1. Aggregated indicators

The share of cultural expenditure of total public expenditure in 2011 was 0.3 percent GDP.

Unit: Billion Viet Nam Dong (VND 20.000=USD 1)

	2008	2009	2010
Total budget	100.900	153.820	141,645.1
<b>Management level</b>			
-Central	34.200	63,950.0	42,735.0
-Local	66.700	89,870.0	98,910.1
<b>Select Ministries</b>			
Ministry of Industry and Trade	237.7	252.2	3602.0
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development	2,881.4	3715.9	5,080.0
Ministry of Education and Training	1,132.5	787.2	1336.5
Ministry of Health	932	1065.1	1050.0
Ministry of Construction	219.9	828.5	689.5
Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism	451.1	541.1	569.0

## 6.2.2. Public cultural expenditure broken down by level of government

Unit: Billion Viet Nam Dong (VND 20.000=USD 1)

	2007	2008	2009
1. State expenditure for culture (including the ministry, sixty-four provinces, cultural organisations in security and defence sector, and associations):	3,171.82	1,120.331	1,413.309
2. Permanent expenditure for culture (organisations under the ministry):	572.20	620.00	528.00
3. Expenditure for national target programmes run by the ministry:	430.00	423.00	570.00
Including:			
3.1. Development Investment:	270.00	280.00	360.00
-Investment through the ministry	17.00	19.00	33.00
-Investment through local governments:	253.00	261.00	321.00
3.2. Professional budget	160.00	180.00	210.00
- Investment through the ministry:	47.68	50.58	75.65
- Investment through local governments:	108.82	125.92	130.35
- Investment through Defence Ministry:	3.50	3.5	4
4. Other expenditure (price support):	23.41		

Source: Statistics of the Ministry of Culture 2008–2010

## 6.2.3. Sector breakdown

## 6.2.4. Trends and indicators for private cultural financing

Besides some international funds providing financial support to culture and arts of Viet Nam such as Ford Foundation, SIDA (Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency), British Council's Art Fund, the Embassy of Denmark in Viet Nam's Cultural Development and

Exchange Fund (CDEF), etc., Viet Nam has no private fund for arts and culture. Sponsorships have usually come to big events in the form of advertisements.

## 7. Public institutions in cultural infrastructure

### 7.1. Cultural infrastructure: tendencies and strategies

Most of the Vietnamese cultural infrastructure is still, directly or indirectly, in the public domain.

Since 1997, due to the policy of decentralisation and privatisation of the state, many cultural organisations become more autonomous, albeit they are mostly still financed by the public budget.

The State has taken more efforts to build infrastructure for key cultural and art activities that have important roles in orientating political, ideological, moral and aesthetic values to the society. The State is planning to build cultural institutions such as libraries, cultural houses, sport clubs, etc. in public organisations, schools, industrial zones, and enterprises. The State has also applied new technology to archive and restore heritage objects and sites.

### 7.2. Basic data about selected public institutions in the cultural sector

#### 7.2.1. Exhibition Centres

	2007	2008	2009
1. Total number:	47	238	697
Central	11	62	62
Local	36	176	635

#### 7.2.2. Film companies

State-run Film studios and Film Companies (2010)

No.	Names	Address
1	Viet Nam Feature Film Studio	No. 4, Thuy Khue, Tay Ho, Hanoi
2	Central Documentary & Science Film Studio	No. 465, Hoang Hoa Tham, Ba Dinh, Hanoi

No.	Names	Address
3	Feature Film Studio No. 1	No. 151 Hoang Hoa Tham, Ba Dinh, Hanoi
4	Viet Nam Animated Film Studio	No. 7, Tran Phu, Ba Dinh, Hanoi
5	Giai Phong Film Studio	No. 212 Ly Chinh Thang, District 3, Hồ Chí Minh City
6	Ngoc Khanh Film Studio	No. 523 Kim Ma, Hanoi
7	People's Security Film Studio	No. 10, Ho Giam, Hanoi
8	Army Cinematography	No. 17, Ly Nam De, Hanoi
9	Border Guard Cinematography	No. 40A Hang Bai, Hanoi
10	Viet Nam Television Film-making Centre	No. 59, Giang Vo, Hanoi
11	Viet Nam Sports Cinematography	R.204, B Bl., No. 36 Tran Phu, Hanoi
12	Viet Nam News Agency Audio-Visual Centre	79 Ly Thuong Kiet, Hanoi
13	Cinematography Association Film Studio	No. 51 Tran Hung Dao, Hanoi
14	Viet Nam Writers' Association Film Studio	No. 65, Nguyen Du, Hanoi
15	Youth Film Studio	No. 248 Cong Quynh, District 1, Hồ Chí Minh City
16	Ben Nghe Film Studio	No. 223R Vo Thi Sau, District 3, Hồ Chí Minh City
17	Young Film Studio	No. 286 Le Hong Phong, Ward 4, District 5, Hồ Chí Minh City
18	Green Viet Nam Film Studio	7B Lane 81/2/37 Lac Long Quan, Hanoi
19	Tay Do Film Studio	143/11E, Xo Viet Nghe Tinh, P25, Binh

No.	Names	Address
		Thanh district, Hồ Chí Minh City
20	Hồ Chí Minh City Television Film Studio	No. 9, Nguyen Thi Minh Khai, District 1, Hồ Chí Minh City
21	Hanoi Audio-Visual Company	No. 26 Hang Dau, Hanoi
22	Phuong Nam Film Studio	No. 964 3/2 St., District 11, Hồ Chí Minh City
23	The Guardian Film Studio	No. 110, Nguyen Du, Ben Thanh, District 1 Hồ Chí Minh City
24	Bong Sen Film Studio	No. 626 Ham Tu, Ward 6, District 5, Hồ Chí Minh City
25	Hanoi Cinematography Company	No. 45 Hang Bai, Hanoi
26	Saigon Cinematography Communication Stock Company	No. 77-79 Hai Ba Trung St., District 1, Hồ Chí Minh City
27	VTV6--(Youth and Children Film Production, VTV6)	Vietnam Television, 43 Nguyen Chi Thanh, Hanoi

Source: Department of Cinema, 2010

#### Private Film Studios and Film Companies (2010)

No	Names	Address
1	Vinagame Stock Company	459B Nguyen Dinh Chieu, District 3, Hồ Chí Minh City
2	Phuoc Sang Entertainment Investment Stock Company	No.271, Nguyen Trai, Nguyen Cu Trinh Ward, District 1, Hồ Chí Minh City
3	Ly Huynh Film Studio Ltd. Company	1314, 3/2 St. 2, Ward 2, District 11, Hồ Chí Minh City
4	Dong A Film Ltd. Company	Fl. 6, 185, Giang Vo, Hanoi

No	Names	Address
5	Thien Ngan Film Ltd. Company (GALAXY)	No.256, Ba Trieu, Hanoi
6	Cat Tien Sa Performing Consultancy, Advertisement, Organisation Ltd. Company	5B Nguyen Dinh Chieu, Da Kao Ward, District 1, Hồ Chí Minh City
7	CreaTV Media	360 Ben Van Don, District 4, Hồ Chí Minh City
8	BBC World Service Trust VN Project	
9	Dong Tay Promotion (M&T Picture)	200 Pasteur, District 3, Hồ Chí Minh City
10	FPT Media	48 Van Bao, Ba Dinh, Hanoi
11	Chanh Phuong Film Studio (Cinema Picture)	25 A Nguyen Binh Khiem, District 1, Hồ Chí Minh City
12	Hồ Chí Minh City Television Film Studio TFS	No.9 Nguyen Thi Minh Khai, District 1, Hồ Chí Minh City
13	Diep Van Film Studio	212 P2, 190 Lo Duc, Hanoi
14	Phuong Nam Film Studio	940 3/2 St., 15 Ward, District 11, Hồ Chí Minh City
15	BHD Film Studio	Fl. 18, 53 Quang Trung Hanoi
16	Hoan Khue Film Production (HK Film)	10/12 Tran Nhat Duat, District 1, Hồ Chí Minh City
17	Lasta	
18	Film Development Fund	
19	Red Bridge	No.1 Trang Tien, Hanoi
20	Vietba Media	No.6, Lane 97/24 Van Cao, Ba Dinh, Hanoi.
21	Vimax Films	67 Tran Phu, Hanoi



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Source: Department of Cinema. 2010.

## Basic statistics index of Vietnam cinema (2010)

	2007	2008	2009
Production (Serial)	292		
Feature Film	41	27	28
<i>Among them: Video Film</i>	25	16	16
News-film, documentary, Science-film	35	28	37
<i>Among them: Video Film</i>	27	24	32
Cartoon	8	7	8
Others	208		
Film Releasing (Serial)			
Domestic films	203	300	331
Imported films	244	238	258
Film Broadcasting			
Agents	380	374	385
Cinemas	84	85	90
Shows (unit: thousand)	128.2	130.4	138.4

Source: National Statistics 2010

### 7.2.3. Libraries

	2007	2008	2009
1. Total number	16.546	16.791	17.936
- Public Library	16.509		
+ National Library	01	01	01
+ Provincial Libraries	64	64	63
+ District Libraries	608	613	626

+ Communal Libraries	1.503	1.543	4363
+ Grassroot's Reading Houses	14.333	14.533	12.837
- Private libraries	37	37	46

Source: Department of Library (2010)

#### 7.2.4. Professional art organisations

##### - Professional art organisations

	2007	2008	2009
<i>1. Total professional art organisations</i>	<i>132</i>	<i>133</i>	<i>133</i>
<i>Central art organisations</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Local art organisations</i>	<i>105</i>	<i>106</i>	<i>106</i>
<i>Other art organisations run by other ministries</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>15</i>

Source: Department of Performing Arts (2010)

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No.	Content	
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- Activities of art organisations

1	Total number of professional art troupes in Vietnam	
	- Central art troupes:	12
	- Local art troupes:	106
	- Art troupes affiliated to other ministries:	15
2	Total number of stage plays, song and dance programmes and performances in public, of art troupes affiliated to the culture sector in the whole country:	
2.1	Central art organisations (affiliated to the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism):	
	Song and dance:	
	+ New programmes:	230
	+ Revised and upgraded programmes:	62
	+ New items:	05
	- Stage:	
	+ New plays and new Stage programmes:	17
	+Revised and upgraded plays, extracts and programmes:	18
2.2	Local art organisations (full reported statistics):	
	- Song and dance:	65
	+ New programmes:	53
	+ Revised and upgraded programmes:	54
	+ New items:	55
	- Stage:	
	+ New plays and new Stage programmes:	20
	+Revised and upgraded plays, extracts and programmes:	67

3	Total number of annual art festivals:	05
4	Total number of annual art performance contests:	02
6	Total number of shows of art troupes affiliated to the Cultural sector in the whole country:	
	- Central art organisations (show):	3.480
	- Local art organisations (show):	7.041

### 7.2.5. Culture and Information Centres

	2007	2008	2009
1. Total number	6.527	6.114	
-Province's and city's culture and information centres	54	57	49
-Province's and city's cultural houses	05	6	06
-Province's and city's information and Exhibition centres	05	04	03
-Centres under other names:	04	04	03
-District's culture and information centres	388	410	497
-District's culture and information divisions	671	670	715
-Communal cultural houses	5.078	4.441	3.911
-Provincial cultural houses for youths	111	184	153
-Provincial cultural houses run under other sectors	202	338	679

### 7.3. Status and partnerships of public cultural institutions

The trend of decentralisation and privatisation has been encouraged by Decree number 90/CP dated 21 August 1997 of the Prime Minister on the policy of decentralisation and privatisation in culture, education and health. In this document, the status and partnerships of public cultural institutions are changed as follow:

- Public art organisations are re-arranged as: focussing on building typical arts organisations in central level such as Tuồng traditional theatre, Chèo traditional theatre, Cải lương traditional theatre, circus, drama, traditional dance and music, symphony orchestra, ballet, puppet; only maintaining typical organisations for the area in local level; giving permission to family, private or community art groups to do their business in the framework of laws, with the management of the government on arts content and quality.
- Besides the student quota from the State, it is given to the schools of music, dance, theatre, cinema, crafts and fine art to extend their education on the financial contributions from learners; the State's art troupes are allowed to get training quota in accordance with training in service at their troupes; encouraging to open private schools in the arts.
- Besides the State's organisations, other economic sectors are allowed to publish films under the control of the government. It is legal to permit cultural organisations, film and video companies to coordinate with other economic sectors to invest in the upgradation and improvement of the infrastructure of cinemas and theatres.
- Expanding the network of cultural product publishing with the participation of other economic sectors. Permitting the State's printing companies to be equitised with the selling proportion of equities based on the importance of each company.
- The State focusses on building museums and preserving and restoring cultural and historical national sites. The State also permits the setting up of private and communal collections.

Thanks to those policies, there are many private cultural organisations emerging since 1997. They are run privately but are controlled under laws and the management and partners of the Ministry or provincial departments of culture, sports and tourism.

However, the state's main partners in cultural policy implementation are still the provincial departments of culture, sports and tourism. The latter have their own, local cultural calendar; approve and follow their own cultural budgets; support provincial cultural

institutions and contribute to the financing of state cultural institutions, as agreed by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism.

The Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism also promotes partnerships between the governmental and non-governmental sectors. Joint financing, activities and projects between the Ministry and NGOs, as well as sponsorship by for-profit NGOs, have become a common practice in many spheres.

## **8. Promoting creativity and participation**

### **8.1. Support to artists and other creative workers**

#### *8.1.1 Overview of strategies, programmes and direct or indirect forms of support*

- In recent years, the State has created favourable environment and conditions for the activities of intellectuals and artists. It includes the promulgation of the democracy regulation of cultural and art activities; to supplement and complete the mechanisms and policies to create favourable conditions to intellectuals and artists to devote their talents and be honoured by the society.
- It has also continued to implement an incentive policy. Annually the State allocates a permanent budget to support the creation and dissemination of literature, art, architecture, press, and folklore by sponsorship and ordering. Enterprises are encouraged to contribute financial support to produce art works.
- Organising contests on creating literature and art to gain valuable ideological and artistic works to serve social demands.
- Diversifying financial sources (the state, sponsorship, donations, etc.) in establishing and raising cultural funds.
- Implementing to protect intellectual property and relevant rights, and royalties attached with the sale of art products. It has continued to carry out different forms of rewards and titles toward cultural and art works.

#### *8.1.2. Special artist's funds*

Viet Nam has been trying to create a national fund for artists but it will take time for it to succeed. At the moment, there are some small NGOs funding the arts as follow:



- Hanoi Cultural Fund is a governmental organisation with the following main tasks: contributing to introduce, preserve as well as bring into full play cultural heritages (cultural relics and values); sponsoring, bringing up talents, encouraging and developing all kinds of art; collecting and introducing artistic and cultural heritages, cultural elites at home and abroad; supporting and sponsoring cultural activities; promoting culture and education; and organising cultural exchange programmes and contests.
- The Cultural Development and Exchange Fund (CDEF) provides support to contemporary artists and cultural performances in Viet Nam and to cultural exchange activities between Denmark and Viet Nam.
- The British Council Arts Fund (BCAF) aims to support Vietnamese artists and Vietnamese art organisations in Viet Nam. It also aims to enhance collaborative practice between artists and arts organisations in Viet Nam and the United Kingdom and promote understanding of the two cultures among the wider public.

### *8.1.3. Grants, awards and scholarships*

Annually, the state spends some budgets to support the creation and dissemination of literature and art works, press, architecture, film scripts and folklore. These budgets are allocated by the government through literature and art associations. The state also encourages enterprises to contribute to investments in building art works.

In Viet Nam, the Hồ Chí Minh Award, the State Award for Literature and the Arts and the title of People's Artist and Meritorious Artist are noble prizes, recognising the writers and artists' important contributions to the country's cultural development. The system of title and award was set up by the ordinance number 16/LCT/HĐNN dated 4 June 1985 of the State Council on the regulation on Hồ Chí Minh award and State award and Decree 252-CP dated 12 June 1981 of the State Council on the regulation of artist's titles. It is included as follows:

Hồ Chí Minh award for literature and the arts is a title of Viet Nam to honour scientific and technical works, and excellent work of education, literature and arts. It is the first noble award of Viet Nam. This award is usually announced every five years on the National Day, 2 September.

The State Award for Literature and the Arts is the national title to honour excellent work of education, literature and arts. It is lower in rank than the Hồ Chí Minh award, and announced every two years on the National Day, 2 September.

People's Artist and Meritorious Artist titles are awarded for exceptional achievements in the arts. The title of People's Artist is higher than the title of Meritorious Artist. The title of People's Artist is usually for artists working in the area for more than twenty years.

#### *8.1.4. Support to professional artists associations or unions*

Public support for the activities of artists associations or unions is regulated by the inter-ministerial circular number 02/2012/TTLT/BVHTTDL-BTC dated 7 March 2012 of the Ministries of Finance—Culture, Sports and Tourism to guide the management and use supporting expenses from the state budget to the creation of art and literary works in central and local literature and art associations during the period of 2011–2015. According to this document, local and central professional artists associations or unions make their financial support request and submit to given authorities to approve as the regulation of the law on state budget and other current documents.

## **8.2. Cultural consumption and participation**

### *8.2.1. Trends and figures*

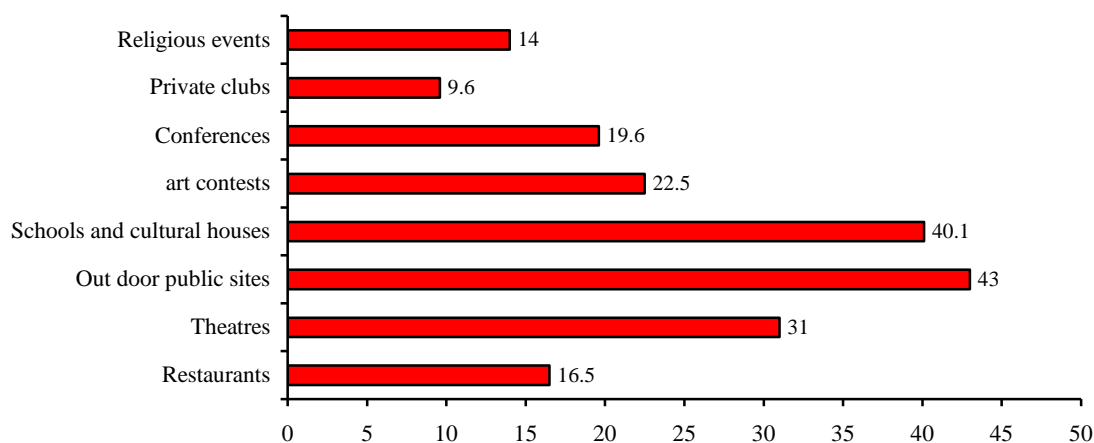
Latest statistic numbers for Vietnamese cultural consumption and participation are from 2008 thanks to a national project survey in three places (Hanoi, Hồ Chí Minh city, and Nghe An province).

Cultural and art activities in 2008 (percent)

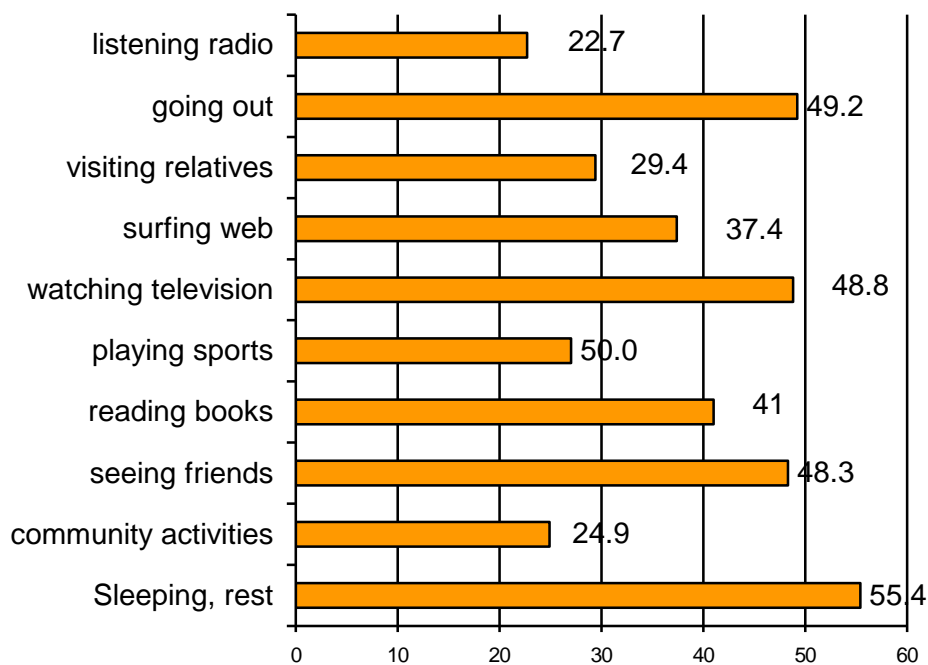
No.	Activities	Not attended	One time	Several times
1	Going to cinema	46.7	28.0	25.3
2	Going to traditional art performances	77.2	11.5	11.3
3	Fashion shows	71.2	15.8	13.0
4	Going to music shows	42.9	21.1	36.0

5	Going to theatres	68.6	18.3	13.0
6	Going to exhibitions	64.4	18.8	16.8

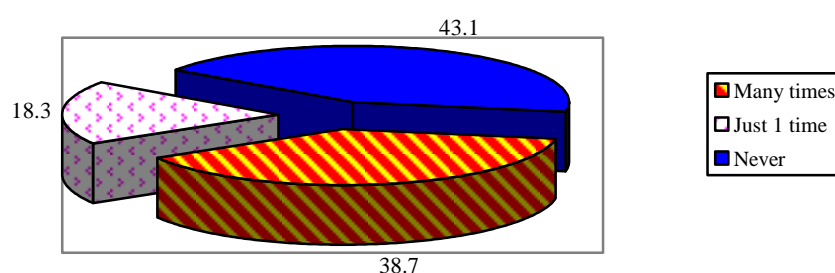
## Places to enjoy art performances



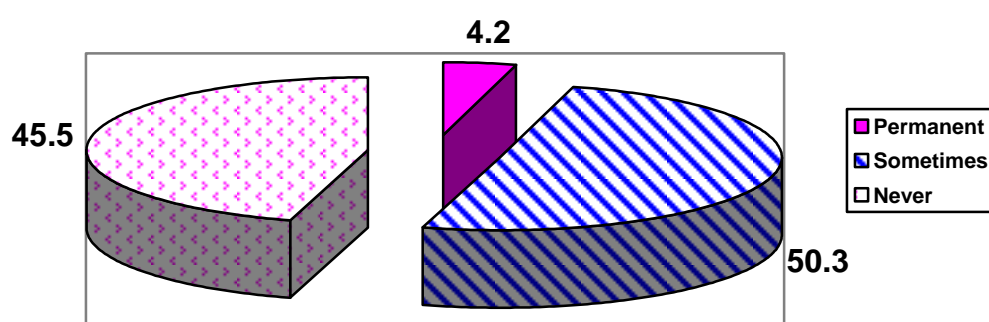
## Leisure activities



## Going to libraries and reading places



## Going to museums



### 8.2.2. Policies and programmes

In recent years a few cultural institutions, NGOs, and international organisations have introduced audience education programmes and have increased co-operation between schools, cultural institutions and artists. For example the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism has implemented the project of school theatres to bring traditional arts to education system for more than ten years and the government of Denmark approved a fund for the promotion of *art education* in primary schools in Viet Nam in 2010. Different theatres also conduct audience development initiatives by setting up fan and children's clubs to attract public and increase their potential audiences.

## 8.3. Arts and cultural education

### 8.3.1. Institutional overview

The Ministry of Education and Training is responsible for arts education at the primary and secondary level. The programme started in 1990s in big cities of Viet Nam such as Hanoi and Hồ Chí Minh city, and the expanded to other provinces in early 2000. Statistic data in 2008 showed that the public art education system employed 31.523 teachers for music

and painting (occupied 4.9 percent of total of teachers nationwide). The National University of Art Education is the biggest institution in this area.

The purpose of this programme was to help pupils have a rich spiritual life and a capacity to arrange their life more scientifically. However, in many people's opinion, subjects such as music and fine arts are extra courses in primary and secondary level and therefore pupils usually learn them passively, and moreover teachers from social sciences teach music and fine arts at the same time.

### *8.3.2. Arts in schools*

At present, art education in Viet Nam is still in early stage to provide basic knowledge and skills on arts. Art education has been brought into schools for music and painting since 1996. From the school year 1997–1998 to 2001–2002, art education had done a pilot project in 429 primary schools in twelve selected provinces and cities nationwide. Art education has been popularised since the school year 2002–2003. In grades 1, 2 and 3, the total hours of art education is 7.96 percent of total teaching hours; in grades 4 and 5, it is 1.76 percent of total teaching hours.

On 5 November 2008, the Minister of Education and Training signed the regulation on cultural activities at schools in which schools will organise clubs for their students/pupils to take part in art activities in literature, music, painting, theatre, cinema and other art forms, as well as hold frequent art performances and film shows to their students/pupils.

The Minister of Education and Training also set up a system of pedagogy schools/faculties on art education to provide teachers to schools nationwide.

Art education receives interest from international organisations and some funds, such as from the Embassy of Finland.

### *8.3.3. Intercultural education*

The official Vietnamese educational system does not cover issues related to intercultural dialogue and multiculturalism. In many aspects, Viet Nam seems to be a culturally diverse country. However, the subject of interculturalism has been seemingly neglected in national education. There are some lectures mentioning national and ethnic identity and groups but do not address or draw attention to other aspects such as the dialogue between ethnic groups and with other countries.

### *8.3.4. Higher arts education and professional training*

If the Ministry of Education and Training is in charge of pedagogy schools of arts, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism is responsible for arts education at higher art education and professional training. There are sixteen art institutions belonged to the Ministry. Amongst them, there are three music academies (Hanoi, Hue and Hồ Chí Minh city), three fine arts universities (Hanoi, Hue and Hồ Chí Minh city), two theatre and film universities (Hanoi and Hồ Chí Minh city), one institute and other universities of culture. In sixty-three provinces there are art schools belonging to the department of culture, sports and tourism or its province depending on their level. In the academic year 2010–2011, there were 14.720 students enrolled to art universities. In addition to the existing public universities, private ones are being established.

### *8.3.5. Basic out-of-school arts and cultural education*

Cultural and arts education, performed outside the school educational system, is based mostly on programmes offered by various cultural institutions. Some examples come from the activities of theatres such as Museum of Ethnology (see: [http://www.vme.org.vn/Events\\_Programs.asp?ID=3](http://www.vme.org.vn/Events_Programs.asp?ID=3)), Youth Theatres and Circus Federation brought their performances to schools. Annually on Children's Day, 1 June and the occasion of Children's Festival (around 15 August, lunar calendar) many schools bring their pupils to theatres, museums and cultural centres to enjoy art performances.

## **8.4. Amateur arts, cultural associations and civil initiatives**

### *8.4.1. Amateur arts and folk culture*

On 24 February 2005, the Prime Minister signed the Decision number 36/2005/QĐ-TTg on Vietnamese Cultural Heritage Day on 23 November annually to promote tradition and raise responsibility awareness of all society to cultural heritage. Thanks to that occasion, many activities have been carried out including amateur arts and folk culture.

The National Associations of Vietnamese Folklorists also plays an active role in promoting amateur arts and folk culture. Annually, the association selects a number of artisans to honour the title of the national folklore artisans. It started in 2003 with the first fifteen national folklore artisans. Until now more than 150 folklore artisans have been honoured.

### *8.4.2. Cultural houses and community cultural clubs*

Before 1986, cultural houses were very important institutions for cultural activities in Viet Nam. It was difficult to find their equivalent in other non-communist countries. Today, due to many reasons, cultural houses are less important than they used to be. The system of cultural houses has tried to strengthen their activities by reforming the modes of organisation and activities, upgrading their equipments and infrastructure, and updating with the cultural demands of people. However, their low efficiency and insufficient level of adaptation to contemporary requirements is acknowledged.

In 2012, Viet Nam had seventy-two provincial cultural houses under different names including sixty cultural centres, three cultural houses, four centres for information and exhibition, and five other names such as exhibition house, centres for exhibition, fairs, advertisement, etc. At district level, there are 542 cultural houses under the names of centres for culture and information, centres for culture and sports or district cultural houses. It occupies seventy eight percent of the total district in the whole country. At communal level, there are 4.823 cultural houses per 11.100 communes (or 43.4 percent of total communes). At village level, there are 45.259 cultural houses per 101.231 villages (or forty five percent). These village cultural houses are usually combined with broadcasting units and reading rooms to organise cultural and art activities.

Beside these cultural houses run by culture sector, there are many cultural institutions operated by different ministries and associations such as the Culture House of Labour Union of Viet Nam; cultural palaces or children cultural houses from Hồ Chí Minh Youth Union of Viet Nam, and cultural houses from the Ministry of Defence.

An important programme had been launched by the overall plan for the development of grassroots cultural institutions until 2010, and the strategy of cultural development until 2020 signed by the Prime Minister to set the target of 90–100 percent total number of districts, from 80 to 90 percent communes; and 60–70 percent villages having cultural houses until the year 2015 and 2020. To meet with this target, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism is now creating guideline documents on the regulation of cultural houses.

#### *8.4.3. Associations of citizens, advocacy groups, NGOs and advisory panels*

Under the Prime Minister's Decision No. 68/2010/QĐ-TTg dated on 1 November 2010, Viet Nam has twenty eight Professional Associations nationwide, including some art and cultural

associations as follow: the Viet Nam Union of Literary and Arts, Viet Nam Writers' Association, Association of Vietnamese Folklorists (AVF), Viet Nam Musicians' Association, Viet Nam Cinema Association, Viet Nam Dancers Association, Viet Nam Association of Architects, Viet Nam Association of Fine Arts, Viet Nam Ethnic Minorities' Literature and Arts Association, Viet Nam Association of Photographers. These associations have their central committees and branches in provincial level.

These associations usually have funds to support their artists. For example, the Hà Nội Literature and Arts Creation Fund is an NGO set up under the auspices of the Hà Nội Union of Literature and Arts Associations with the aim of facilitating research, documentation and new creativity in literature and other fields. It issues small grants to individual artists and publishes the monthly Thăng Long Văn hiến (Thăng Long Civilisation) Magazine, which provides a platform for new writing.

Besides these associations, there are some advisory panels such as the association of cultural heritage (advisory unit for the Prime Minister on heritage issues), the Central Theory Council (advisory unit for the Party Central Committee Secretariat's on theoretical issues), and Central Council for Theory and Criticism of Literature and Arts (advisory unit for the Central Committee for Propaganda and Education on theoretical issues of culture and arts).

## 9. Sources and Links

### 9.1. Key documents on cultural policy

*The National Strategy for the Development of Culture to 2020.*

Documents of the fifth Congress of the Party Central Committee (eighth tenure) (1998). Hanoi: National Politics Publisher.

Ministry of Culture and Information (1999). *Building and development of an advanced Vietnamese culture deeply imbued with national identity: Real situation and solutions.* Hanoi: The Ministry's Office, Culture Newspaper, Magazine of Culture and Arts published.

Ministry of Culture and Information (2003). *The State Regulations on the activities and management of culture and information.* Hanoi: Culture and Information Publisher.

Nguyễn Khoa Điềm (editor) (2002). *Building and development of an advanced Vietnamese culture deeply imbued with national identity.* Hanoi: National Politics Publisher.



[http://www.culturalprofiles.org.uk/viet\\_nam/](http://www.culturalprofiles.org.uk/viet_nam/)

## **9.2. Key organizations and portals**

- The Government of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, 01 Hoang Hoa Tham street, Ba Đình district, Hanoi.

<http://www.chinhphu.vn/>

- Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism (MOCST), 51 Ngo Quyen street, Hoan Kiem district, Hanoi.

<http://www.cinet.gov.vn/>

- Viet Nam Institute of Culture and Arts Studies (MOCST), 32 Hao Nam street, Dong Da district, Hanoi.

<http://www.vicas.org.vn/>

- Department of Cultural Heritage (MOCST), 51 Ngo Quyen street, Hoan Kiem district, Hanoi.

<http://www.dsvh.gov.vn/>

- Department of Finance and Planning (MOCST), 51 Ngo Quyen street, Hoan Kiem district, Hanoi.

- Department of International Cooperation (MOCST), 51 Ngo Quyen street, Hoan Kiem district, Hanoi.

- General Statistics Office, 6B Hoang Dieu street, Ba Dinh district, Hanoi.

<http://www.gso.gov.vn>