

**2<sup>ND</sup> Round Table**  
**ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks (AINTT)**

**Deepening ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership**

**Cultural and Educational exchange between India and Vietnam**  
**In the context of a rising India**

**Prof. Dr. Do Thu Ha,**  
VNU, University of Social Sciences and Humanities

Over the past time, the relationship between Vietnam and India is grounded by unshakable faith. The fine sentiment between the two peoples is time tested. In the recent years, the relationship between our two countries was upgraded to a new height.

We can say that Vietnam and India has got a very special relation rarely seen in the world, it is considered “a cloudless sky” by President Ho Chi Minh. Before going into the proposed project in detail, we would like to look back the role which India has been playing in Southeast Asia in general and Vietnam in particular so that we can bring out the most suitable issues to both sides.

**1. India’s position and the importance of India- Vietnam relation**

***1.1. India’s position in the world***

- Home to the ancient Indus Valley Civilization and a region of historic trade routes and vast empires, the Indian subcontinent was identified with its commercial and cultural wealth for much of its long history. Four of the world's major religions—Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism—originated here, whereas Zoroastrianism, Christianity, and Islam arrived in the 1st millennium CE and also helped shape the region's diverse culture.
- A nuclear weapons state and a regional power, it has the third-largest standing army in the world and ranks ninth in military expenditure among nations. India is a federal constitutional republic governed under a parliamentary system consisting of 28 states and 7 union territories. It is one of the five BRICS nations.
- India is a pluralistic, multilingual, and multiethnic society. It is also home to a diversity of wildlife in a variety of protected habitats.
- India is the seventh-largest country by geographical area, the second-most populous country with over 1.2 billion people next to China and the most populous democracy in the world.
- The Indian economy is the world's tenth-largest by nominal GDP and third-largest by purchasing power parity (PPP). Following market-based economic reforms in 1991, India became one of the fastest-growing major economies; it is considered a newly industrialized country.
- India’s experience of wielding power on the global stage of late, boosted by its temporary seat on the United Nations Security Council.
- However, India continues to face the challenges of poverty, illiteracy, corruption, and inadequate public healthcare.

In conclusion, India is certainly an emerging power with huge potential.

## ***1.2. India's position in Southeast Asia***

**The transmission of Indian culture of distant parts of Central Asia, China, Japan, and especially Southeast Asia is certainly one of the greatest achievements of Indian history or even of the history of mankind.** None of the other great civilizations - not even the Hellenic - had been able to achieve a similar success without military conquest

**From about the 1st century, India started to strongly influence Southeast Asian countries.** Trade routes linked India with southern Burma, central and southern Siam, lower Cambodia and southern Vietnam and numerous urbanized coastal settlements were established there.

**For more than a thousand years, Indian Hindu/Buddhist influence was therefore the major factor that brought a certain level of cultural unity to the various countries of the region.**

The Pali and Sanskrit languages and the Indian script, together with Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism, Brahmanism and Hinduism, were transmitted from direct contact as well as through sacred texts and Indian literature, such as the Ramayana and the Mahabharata epics.

**From the 5th to the 13th century, South-East Asia had very powerful Indian colonial empires and became extremely active in Buddhist architectural and artistic creation.** The Sri Vijaya Empire to the south and the Khmer Empire to the north competed for influence.

**A defining characteristic of the cultural link between South East Asia and the Indian subcontinent is the spread of ancient Indian Vedic/Hindu and Buddhist culture and philosophy** into Myanmar, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaya, Laos and Cambodia. Indian scripts are found in South East Asian islands ranging from Sumatra, Java, Bali, south Sulawesi and most of the Philippines.

After actively involving in Indonesian freedom movement, assisting Myanmar (Burma) to maintain stability and security in the turbulent days following Aung San's assassination and the benign role in Geneva at the end of the First Indo-China War, Southeast Asia unfortunately came to be neglected by the Indian Foreign Office. However, the end of the Cold War provided an opportunity for both to mend fences. Without the distorting prism of the Cold War, the two began to view each other in a more constructive way.

**India's efforts to "rediscover Asia" are taking place at a time when New Delhi is vigorously pursuing its "Look-East policy";** on the Southeast Asian side, it must be stated that after decades of dependence on the West for strategic and economic compulsions, these countries have realized that engaging India in a benign manner would provide them multiple options in the pursuit of foreign policy objectives.

Nowadays, the leaders of Southeast Asian countries regularly visit India; Indian leaders, in turn, visit Southeast Asian countries and are engaged in strengthening relations at political, strategic, economic and cultural levels.

## ***1.3. The importance of India–Vietnam relations***

### ***1.3.1. Cultural dialogue between India and Vietnam of note in the past***

In the late half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC, two Indian Buddhist Zen monks known as Mahajavaka and Kalyanacuri came to Vietnam. Kalyanacuri became the head bonze of Dau Pagoda (in Bac Ninh Province) combining his teachings with indigenous beliefs of Tu Phap (cloud, wind, thunder, lightning) and founded Buddhism in Vietnam.

At the start of the 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD, K'ang-seng-huei, of Sogdiane origin, migrated to India and then to Giao Chau (Vietnam) with his family. He learned religious teachings and later on became a famous Zen monk. He translated the Astasahasika on the topic of Sunyata and Nagarjuna (the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> century AD) and developed the famous theory of Madhyamaka. This theory had a large impact on the teachings of Zen as well as on Buddhism in Vietnam, especially Buddhism during the Ly- Tran dynasties (the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries).

In the 5<sup>th</sup> century, famous Vietnamese Buddhist Zen monks came to China to popularize Buddhist teachings such as Hue Thang, Dao Thiem or men wise in both Buddhist and Confucian teachings such as Dao Cao, Phap Minh held dialogue with Chinese officials and governors on Buddhism.

At the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> century, Virutaruci, an Indian Zen monk, came to Giao Chau (Vietnam) to found the first Zen branch in Vietnam, and expanded the principles of eight negations of the Nagarjuna. This Zen branch lasted until the early 13<sup>th</sup> century with 19 generations.

In the beginning of the 11<sup>th</sup> century, the Zen monk Sung Pham, the 11<sup>th</sup> generation of the Virutaruci branch, came to India to study Buddhism for 9 years, and then returned home to bring strong development of Tantrism which has existed since the 10<sup>th</sup> century. Many other Tantrist monks from India such as Yogibrahman (the 13<sup>th</sup> century), Bodhist (the 14<sup>th</sup> century) came to Vietnam, and were well received by the Tran dynasty.

The early exchanges between India and Vietnam took place peacefully through trading on the sea. Lured by the attraction of Suvarnabhumi and spices in Southeast Asia, many Indian traders sailed to sea with monks on board to offer prayers in case of natural disasters. They usually brought along statues of Dipamkara, the Bodhisattva Avalokitesvara, famed for merciful rescues, a Bodhisattva, worthy of note of the Mahayana and Pureland teachings. Indian monks during the first few centuries could have come to Vietnam from Middle India on land through Three Pagodas Pass to come to Menam Chao Phaya delta, cross the Mekong into Laos and then climb the Truong Son mountains into the provinces of Thanh Hoa, Nghe An and Hue.

As such, since the beginning, Indian culture had spread peacefully to Vietnam through three branches – Zen, Pureland and Tantrism. A mentality of peace and friendship is the crucial basis in cultural exchanges to achieve the desired cultural diversity seen in Vietnam's history.

### *1.3.2. Vietnam- India cultural exchange in history*

**In these bilateral cultural relations in history, Vietnam received more than it contributed.**

**The most evident factor is probably Buddhism.** Buddhism has had a strong and constant influence on Vietnam's history over the last 2000 years. No matter which sects, Buddhism knowledge all come from the first teachings of the Buddha in the Deer Park after his enlightenment about the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path. Buddha's preaches that mankind suffers both physically and mentally. Each person must free themselves from the cause of suffering. Later on, Zen teaching expanded this spirit of freeing the self in the famed phrase "Look straight into your Self and become enlightened". The universal truth does not lie anywhere far from us but instead right inside of us, it is the unchanging heart. The teachings of the Supreme Buddha and Zen have become embedded in the mind of the Vietnamese in any aspects.

Vietnamese have considered this self- freeing spirit as “magic power” to help them overcome obstacles in the course of history.

As a small country that has been around for roughly 2000 years, the Vietnamese people have faced no less than 18 invasions campaigned by the most ruthless forces of the times (Qui, Han, Liang, Sui, Tang, Nan Han, Song, Yuan, Ming and Quing) and then French and American...and they have emerged victorious thanks to the merging of the destiny of the individual self with that of the country, and with patriotism. This connection has become a constant factor in the mentality of Viet people and lives on till today.

**Cultural and economic links between India and Vietnam date back 2000 years ago.** The Indic Champa kingdom had a profound impact on Vietnamese art and architecture even now. Many other similarities may be recounted as proof of the cultural exchange between India and Vietnam that has taken place in an atmosphere of peace and have helped diversify Vietnamese culture. These similarities can stem from the sacred- the core of all religions and faiths- in life. The sacred speaks of the relationship, on the one hand among people, individuals and the community with supernatural powers and on the other hand, between people, individuals and the community. The sacred in life bring people closer by itself. It is the sacred that has linked Indian and Vietnamese cultures and created the foundations for relations between the two since the beginning. It manifests in the mentality of the people, in actions, behaviors of the common man to that of the leaders.

**India- Vietnam cultural dialogue not only increases the diversity of their culture but also acts as an assurance for peaceful coexistence.** This is a beautiful example of cultural dialogue, especially in the context of today when the globalization is quickly happening and the cultures of people stand on the brink of being “assimilated” by military and economic powers of superpowers.

## **2. The Republic of India and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam enjoy strong bilateral relations**

**In different periods of history, the relations between the two countries have got different characteristics and levels.** The relations between India and Vietnam in the modern time began in 1927 when President Ho Chi Minh and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru met each other in The League against Imperialism Conference in the Egmont Palace in Brussels, Belgium, on February 10, 1927, in presence of 175 delegates, among which 107 came from 37 countries under colonial rule. After Dien Bien Phu Victory, the first foreign leader came to Vietnam within a few weeks to congratulate and support was J. Nehru. Throughout the time Vietnam struggled for independence, it was India who continually supported both in spirit and material for Vietnam, When Vietnam not yet carried out the open- door policy, it was India who was the door for Vietnam to English speaking world...

India supported Vietnam's independence from France, opposed U.S. involvement in the war and supported unification of Vietnam. India established official diplomatic relations in 1972 and maintained friendly relations, especially in wake of Vietnam's sensitive relations with the People's Republic of China.

1972 was a very important landmark in our bilateral relationship which has grown strongly over the years. India was actively supporting Vietnam and was strongly behind Vietnam. Then, after implementation of economic reforms, popularly known as Doi Moi, many new opportunities for

cooperation between the two nations came up in the fields of capacity building, infrastructure development and other areas.

In 1992, India and Vietnam established extensive economic ties, including oil exploration, agriculture and manufacturing. The relations between the two countries, especially defense ties, benefited extensively from India's Look East policy. Bilateral military cooperation includes sale of military equipment, sharing of intelligence, joint naval exercises and training in counterinsurgency and jungle warfare.

**In the last 10 years, we have tried our best to strengthen and widen the multi- faceted relations between the two countries**

In 2007, India and Vietnam signed the 'Strategic Partnership' agreement which was very important, with the aim of taking our relationship to higher than before. To date, Vietnam and India have strongly cooperated in many fields of politics, national defense, security, trade and investment, culture, education and capacity building.

*2.1. Development of bilateral and commercial ties*

India granted the "Most Favored Nation" status to Vietnam in 1975 and both nations signed a bilateral trade agreement in 1978 and the Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement (BIPPA) on March 8, 1997. The Indo-Vietnam Joint Business Council has worked to promote trade and investment since 1993. In 2003, both nations promulgated a Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Cooperation when the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Nong Duc Manh visited India and both nations are negotiating a free trade agreement. In 2007, a fresh joint declaration was issued during the state visit of the Prime Minister of Vietnam Nguyen Tan Dung. Bilateral trade has increased rapidly since the liberalization of the economies of both Vietnam and India. India is the 13th-largest exporter to Vietnam, with exports have grown steadily from USD 11.5 million in 1985-86 to USD 395.68 million by 2003. Vietnam's exports to India rose to USD 180 million, including agricultural products, handicrafts, textiles, electronics and other goods. Between 2001 and 2006, the volume of bilateral trade expanded at 20-30% per annum to reach USD 1 billion by 2006. Continuing the rapid pace of growth, bilateral trade is expected to rise to USD 2 billion by 2008, 2 years ahead of the official target. India and Vietnam have also expanded cooperation in information technology, education and collaboration of the respective national space programs. Direct air links and lax visa regulations have been established to bolster tourism...

One of the most important expectations of our partnership is business to business relationships. In Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang's official visit to India in October 2011, leaders of the two countries reemphasized that economic and trade cooperation is the core of the bilateral cooperation, and that the two countries will try to increase bilateral trade. Thus, the two sides always hope for the most favorable conditions to have more Indian companies invest in Vietnam, as well as encourage Vietnamese companies look for business opportunities in India.

Many Indian companies have established representative offices in Vietnam in various sectors, including agriculture, rubber, coffee, cashew nut, carbon black and tea. Particularly, India also has a US\$5 billion steel plant project by Tata Steel in the province of Can Tho.

In the year of friendship 2012, the Vietnam India Business Forum was set up by VCCI, the Indian Embassy and Indian Chambers of Commerce in Vietnam, with the aim of creating an active mechanism for further cooperation and enhancing the mutual prosperity, development and friendship of our two nations. Also, it will be a bridge to exchange general information for

businesses and other concerned agencies on both sides.

In terms of trade, the two-way trade turnover reached US\$4 billion in 2012 and is expected to hit US\$7 billion by 2015. Bilateral investment relations have flourished with many Indian projects in different fields worth billions of USD. Vietnam's economic policies have brought great opportunities to Indian investors in taking advantages of developing markets of both Vietnam and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and exporting their goods to other countries. Both countries' businesses should actively exploit each other's market place given the great potential, especially when the ASEAN – India Free Trade Agreement comes into effect.

## *2.2. Strategic cooperation*

*In my opinion, the advantages we need to concern on having cooperation with India*

### *Advantages*

- India is among worlds youngest nation with the median age of 25 years old.
- India has largest number of listed companies 10000 across 23 stock exchanges.
- India has a healthy banking system with a network of 70000 branches.
- India's middle class will swell over by 10times by 2025 from current size of 50 million to 538 million.

### *Factors adding to India's competitiveness:*

- Cheap labor
- Emergence of consuming class
- Growing middle class
- Increase in the number of workingwomen
- Prevalence of double income groups
- English speaking people
- Youth and optimism, democracy in the country
- Engaged Diasporas
- And sprawling soft power

That's why India possesses the right tools to build a grander, more sustainable prosperity, and to drag herself within a single lifetime, perhaps—from abject poverty to global dominance.

India and Vietnam are members of the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation, created to develop to enhance close ties between India and nations of Southeast Asia. Vietnam has supported India's bid to become a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council and join the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). In the 2003 joint declaration, India and Vietnam envisaged creating an "Arc of Advantage and Prosperity" in Southeast Asia; to this end, Vietnam has backed a more important relationship and role between India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its negotiation of an Indo-ASEAN free trade agreement. India and Vietnam have also built strategic partnerships, including extensive cooperation on developing nuclear power, enhancing regional security and fighting terrorism, transnational crime and drug trafficking. Vietnam has also welcomed Indian Navy ships in their region which would enhance India and Vietnam military relations.

Various significant achievements in the last two years have contributed to the strengthening of the bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation. These have been reflected by a number of exchanges of high level visit, especially the State visit to Vietnam by H. E. Smt P. Patil, President of India in 2008, and the visits to India by H. E. Ms. Nguyen Thi Doan, Vice President in 2009, by H. E. Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong, President of the National Assembly in 2010 and by President Nguyen Minh Triet in 2012. Dialogue channels have been maintained. The relations among mass organizations have been further consolidated. Our cooperation in international and regional for continues to be strengthened and developed. Taking the "Look East" policy to new heights, former President of India Pratibha Patil embarked on a 10-day visit to Vietnam and Indonesia in 11/ 2008 to further expand India's bilateral ties with India's ASEAN neighbors. Vietnam also had a great pleasure to welcome H. E. Shri. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, former Prime Minister of India in Ha Noi in November 2001 and Jan 2011; H. E. Shri. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India in his visit to Vietnam to participate in the ASEAN – Indian Summit and East Asia Summit meetings in Hanoi by the end of October 2011. And in 1/2013, Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari's four-day official visit to Vietnam manifested vividly the cordial relationship between the two nations...

### *2.3. Cultural and educational relations between India and Vietnam in the last few years*

**In this part, I would like to mention the cultural and education co-operations between the two countries.**

**Up to now, India has helped Vietnam to train high education with many Ph.D., M.A. BA's degrees' holders.** Among the trainees who studied in India, there have been many high- ranking staff such as former Ministers of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, many scholars and professors in Vietnam's premier universities and National Academy, officials in other institutions in Vietnam...Nowadays, integration and cooperation for development have become the universal tendency in the world, the relations between India and Vietnam have got more favorable conditions to develop.

**Education and training had been fruitful with the establishment of a high quality information and communication technology human resource centre (ARC-ICT)** funded by the Indian government in Hanoi, English language training centers in Hanoi and Da Nang city and a vocational training centre in Ho Chi Minh City. As a world- leading country in software, India has helped Vietnam to train IT programmers in order to export soft wares abroad and M.A. degree holders in the same field in the last 15 years.

**Every year, India gives Vietnam about 100 scholarships to train students** in such fields as history, philosophy, literature, IT, national defense, biology, agriculture, journalism, political science, MBA,...and some scholarships for post-graduates, researchers and apprentices ...The rate of Vietnamese students in India is higher and higher and the scale is more and more widened.

**At the beginning of the year 2000, in both Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, Departments for Indian Studies were established** in University of Social Sciences and Humanities. In the departments, students can study Hindi, English and subjects of Indian Studies with the strong support from Indian Embassy and Government. The numbers of students who applied for the department have increased year by year, in some cases outnumber those of Department for Japanese Studies and Southeast Asian Studies.

**Currently, Indian government has decided to double the number of scholarships that they offer through the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programs.** These scholarships are for short and medium term courses in various sectors like finance, banking, management, information technology, many engineering and water management related issues. India has already set up the Entrepreneurship Development Centre in Hanoi.

**In September 2012, they negotiated with the People's Committee of Hanoi to inaugurate the Vietnam-India Advanced Resource Centre in Information and Communication Technology with a grant of \$2 million.** Thus, education exchanges are quite strong.

**Besides, the two governments have built up good relations in culture.** Cultural exchanges between the two nations have been maintained for a long time and such Indian arts as film, music and dance are popular in Vietnam. Recently, we signed the cultural exchange program for the next 3 years. India has also announced a US\$3 million project for conservation and restoration of temples at My Son, and we hope this project will start very soon. We are also looking at the possibility of starting a research project between Vietnamese and Indian scholars on the links between the Cham civilization and India. Thus, I think this project will highlight the relationship between our two countries. On the side of Buddhism, we have already had many strong exchanges; many Buddhist scholars from Vietnam have gone to India for higher studies and participating in conferences. Just in 2012, we organized an international conference on Buddhism in Hanoi. In 11/2012, we organized an important seminar, entitled 'Life and legacy of Rabindranath Tagore' on the occasion of his 150<sup>th</sup> birthday (1861-1941). The Indian government has also announced plans to open a cultural centre in Hanoi, aiming to promote Indian culture and education activities in Vietnam, and we hope very much this centre will be opened 2014. In 2012, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences established Institute of Indian and South West Asian Studies.

### **3. Some suggestions on India- Vietnam relation in term of cultural and educational co-operation**

In Jan 2011, when H. E. Shri. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, former Prime Minister of India visited Ha Noi, he met 10 leading Vietnamese scholars to consult how to promote the relations between the two countries. I think that this conference has got the same meaning. To meet the complicated requirements of every-day-changing reality in both India and Vietnam and focus on how to adapt with globalization, at the same time, keep up with the rapid development and exploit as much as possible the potentials in the relationship between India and Vietnam, with my limited capacity, I would like to raise some issues as follows:

- 3.1. **The numbers of scholarships currently not yet inflected correctly the real demand and quality of students.** We should recruit more carefully about their command of English. The education quality in many Indian universities is fairly good but those who apply for Indian scholarships are mostly poor at English. Indian students often rank Vietnamese students the worst only next to Chinese students! Their listening and comprehension skills are not good enough to understand the lessons and complete their tests. You might know that Vietnamese students rank number 8 in quantity in the USA and their achievements there are also good. The problem here is that we should select more strictly to get the best students for study in India.

3.2. The number of **Vietnamese students going to study in India should be consulted in choosing the subjects they study**. It will be wasteful if they study only few fashionable subjects and can't make them their careers when they are back to Vietnam.

*Focusing on some educational fields which should be taken into consideration because India is good at when we send students and scholars to India*

- Performing Arts: movie, traditional dancing, traditional theatre ...
- Social sciences and humanities: philosophy, linguistics, culture, literature, sociology, journalism, negotiating (one of the best in the world), history, ...
- Economics, business administration, finance, banking...
- Technology: I.T., nuclear power, telecom...
- English short courses.

3.3. In the past, Indian movies were very popular in Vietnam. In my opinion, Indian movie are fairly healthy, having good movie magic, artistic settings, the contents keep up with modernity but still keep Asian morality, suitable with Asian people. It is not at random there are Indian movies every where in the world. However, the choices Vietnamese side has made to Indian movies are not very exact, which drive Vietnamese viewers away! We should be more professional after careful surveys.

3.4. We should widen Indian Studies in Vietnam because Vietnam is located in Southeast Asia with strong influences from India. Nowadays, when the tendency returning to Oriental values has attracted more and more people in the world, we need to go back our Asian origin. In my opinion, Indian Studies should be paid more and more attention to because Indian culture is one of the two greatest civilizations having got the strongest influences on Asia in particular and the world in general.

3.5. Herewith some proposals from my university:

**VNU LONG-TERMED GOALS:** Building up the biggest Institution for Indian Studies in Vietnam in all levels such as undergraduate and post graduate to train the experts in Indian Studies.

- Besides continuing the training graduates and Master degree holders at the moment, we will widen the training and education curriculum to Doctorate degree like the other Departments in Faculty of Oriental Studies in VNU, University of Social Sciences and Humanities.
- Doing research on all aspects of Indian Studies with high quality from ancient history to the contemporary hot issues; focusing on urgent needs created by the reality.
- Creating a group of outstanding experts in the long run to contribute to Governmental policy-making by putting theoretical studies into practice. They will be the links between the both sides.

With such long-termed goals, it is easy to understand that we are badly in need of your precious help and cooperation. Thus, to fulfill such important tasks, VNU suggests:

## **WIDENING IN TRAINING AND EDUCATION FOR INDIAN STUDIES IN VNU**

*3.5.1. Upgrading the Department for Indian Studies in USSH, which is still insufficient, to become the biggest Institution for Indian Studies in Vietnam in all levels such as undergraduate and post graduate to train the experts in Indian Studies. Thus, we would like to have the*

*precious help and cooperation from Indian side about training and education for our new lecturers and students as soon as possible.*

- We hope to receive some exchange lecturers and professors from India regularly to give lecture to our students. They should give lecturers in English so that our students can be updated with the current information about India during the contemporary time and improve their command of English at the same time.
- Creating the favorable conditions so that our students can do prentice in India after graduating or higher education.
- Exchanging students between our university and others in India following your advice and guidance as well as the real requirements in Vietnamese side.
- Granting for Vietnamese students who apply for study Sanskrit, Hindi or Indian Studies in India as you have done for a long time.

*In detail, in term of the teaching staff, we would like to receive the kind and precious help from India's government to:*

- Train 01 Vietnamese lecturer per year in English and professional subjects (South Asian Studies) in short courses. The training should begin the sooner the better for the lecturers. Time for training and education depends on the concrete situations.
- Sponsor us one Professor- Chair in History or Culture granted by ICCR like those in Ho Chi Minh City... to give lectures in our Department in order to improve the qualification for teaching and studying as soon as possible.

### *3.5.2. Supplying and granting for teaching and doing research materials*

Up to the beginning of 2013, the Department for Indian Studies in VNU, University of Social Sciences and Humanities has had nearly all the lectures supplied with documents and books in print or soft copies edited, compiled and written by the lecturers of the department. I myself have written 11 books about India.

The Department also has translated 07 books published in India into Vietnamese for lecturers and students to refer.

*We hope to receive the kind help from Indian side to supplement the documents and textbooks:*

- Grants to compile textbooks for undergraduates and post-graduates
- Grants to write the textbooks written by Vietnamese lecturers
- Grants to translate Indian books and documents which are so essential for our students.
- Provide us books and documents about India in all kinds, especially those meet our curriculum herewith (In English, French or Hindi) so that we can set up a good library for Indian Studies in VNU.
- Get the copy right to publish the books translated already in the form of reference books.

## **DOING RESEARCH AND TAKING PART IN COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES**

Everyone knows that between India and Vietnam, we have had a very long and precious legacy of friendship and cultural contacts but because of special conditions in history, we still haven't known much about each other.

Therefore, we would like to:

- Being granted for scientific seminars, workshops and conferences on Indian Studies in all aspects.
- Have exchange programs regularly between the Indian lecturers, scholars and professors and Vietnamese ones to strengthen mutual understandings and co-operations because we know that in Jawaharlal Nehru University, Calcutta University, The Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies set up at the joint initiative of the Government of India, Department of culture, Ministry of Human Resource Development and the Government of West Bengal...and many others in India there are Departments for South and Southeast Asian Studies too.

#### **4. Conclusion**

During the past few years, we have witnessed with satisfaction the development of friendship and cooperation between Vietnam and India. We are confident that, with the continuous efforts of both sides the relations between Vietnam and India will be further strengthened and developed with every passing day so that we can develop and enhance not only the friendship but also strengthen the scientific research and teaching in Indian Studies, enforce the labor forces to meet the urgent requirements in globalization, contribute to opening a new chapter in the relations between our two countries.

We would like to conclude by quoting what the poet Rabindranath Tagore said about the purpose of education and learning. He said "The highest education is that which does not merely give us information but makes our life in harmony with all existence." What we are trying our best today is to create a brighter future and a stronger friendship between our countries.