

ACHIEVEMENTS MADE BY THE HCMC UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS BEFORE BECOMING THE COLLEGE OF ECONOMICS WITHIN THE VIETNAM NATIONAL UNIVERSITY HCMC

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The HCMC University of economics (HUE) was established by the Decision 426/TTg signed by the PM on Oct.27, 1976 by combining Saigon Faculty of Law and other law schools in the South which were taken over after the Liberation Day, and under direction of the Ministry of University and Vocational School (which became the Ministry of Education and Training today).

HUE, since its establishment, has been assigned the task of training managers of Bachelor, Master and Doctor degrees, and doing researches into application of economics to production, and particularly, meeting requirements posed by the economic renovation.

HUE has tried its best to develop and realize its assignment successfully and received the Labor Order of 3rd class on Nov.13,1986 and the Labor Order of 2nd class on Nov.13,1991. From then on, HUE has kept on making progress which showed itself in the following facts:

- HUE resources has been tapped and developed: its Party Committee, Labor Union, Youth League have won a lot of honorable titles; its teaching staff and management with firm political view have got enthusiasm and professional knowledge; its financial source and facilities have been improved; its cooperative relations with local and foreign institutions have been expanded; the atmosphere of democracy and equality have been created and maintained.

- Based on these resources, HUE has increased the number of students attended and improved quality of training courses given to students of all degrees, thereby satisfying to some extent the demand for well-trained managers in southern provinces.

- HUE has kept on doing researches into various topics. Many studies made by HUE were of great service to education renovation, economic renovation and to the Government in its tasks of making policies and controlling the economic activities.



- The position of HUE in the society, the system of Vietnam universities and in the Vietnam National University HCMC has been actually recognized.

The following are main achievements made by HUE in various activities:

1. Training

a. HUE has changed from training in narrow specialties to training in general knowledge along with reasonable specialization with a view to producing economists, business managers and managerial technicians. In order to achieve this aim, HUE has introduced five new branches and eleven new subjects.

b. HUE has realized a new process of training including two stages-foundation course and advanced one-to students of all classes. The first course of study including 34 basic and general subjects on economics and management has been perfected. For the second course of study, five economics and management syllabuses and eleven specialized syllabuses have been built.

c. Based on syllabuses for the first and second courses of study, the HUE staff has made real efforts to compile new textbooks and courses. Since 1990, over 219 new courses and textbooks have been published. Many of them have been perfected and evaluated by Scientific Commission.

d. Methods of teaching, studying and examining students have been renovated in the following directions:

combining study of economic theories and case study; referring to scientific achievements and lessons drawn from national and foreign economics; giving more exercises to students and encouraging discussion in class; using modern facilities for study (such as computer, video, TV set, lab, slide projector, etc.). New methods of teaching and studying have developed creativity in both teachers and students; have connected the school and the society, theory and practice; and have changed the process of teaching into the process of self-educating realized by students.

e. Relying on changes in syllabuses, methods of teaching and studying and educational objectives; the quality of output, especially of full-time students and postgraduates, has been improved considerably.

In the renovation process and the struggle for higher educational standards suited to requirements of the economy, HUE has offered a wide variety of training courses to learners of all kinds and classes with a view to helping them get different degrees.

Since the 1990-1991 school year, HUE has admitted 27,457 students, 7,810 of them were full-time students, representing 37%; 7,140 (or 26%) attended sandwich courses; 6,215 (22.4%) attended open training courses; 595 (2.16%) went on post-graduate courses (85 of postgraduates studied for doctorate).

From the 1990-1991 school year till now, HUE graduated 39 doctors

(including 6 foreigners), 106 masters, 12,410 bachelors (including 988 bachelors of advanced studies who attended 3-year training courses), and 4,024 learners got certificates of graduate and postgraduate levels.

2. Scientific research

From 1991 to 1995, the R&D activity has made good progress regarding the number, size and quality of studies. One of new features is the combination of scientific study and teaching and foreign cooperation, of scientific study and service supply; many studies were carried out to order placed by local and foreign companies and brought in considerable income. The Center for Economic Studies and Applications (CESAIS) formed by HUE has developed well, had good relations with, and won prestige of both local and foreign clients, and provided good conditions for practical training.

In the last five years, HUE has completed 9 studies to order placed by the Government (KX03, KX10), some studies placed by the Government and the Party, 13 studies placed by Ministry of Education and Training. Many of these studies with valuable conclusions and suggestions have been appreciated. Two hundred and nineteen textbooks and courses have been compiled and come into use. In three years, from 1993 to 1995, HUE made 88 studies to order placed by local and foreign companies and earned VND 5.8 billion (233 million were paid to the treasury and 420 million to the HUE funds).

3. International cooperation

HUE has had cooperative relations with many foreign institutions and international organizations since the 1980s. From 1990 till now, HUE international cooperation has developed well and produced many desirable effects.

- HUE has brought into operation 15 projects to train and push ahead with R&D with a total outlay of US\$ 14.6 million; given 10 training courses to some 300 postgraduates, completed 88 contracts for making studies, and organized many scientific seminars and conferences.

- By these cooperative relations, HUE has received scholarship to postgraduate degree from 13 countries for 86 professors and students; financed and sent 10 groups including over 100 professors and students abroad to attend short-term training courses or go on excursion.

- Thousands of books and many facilities for study have been given to HUE from foreign cooperators.

- In addition, the teaching staff, management and students of HUE

have benefited a lot from information and technology transfer from foreign sources.

4. Personnel development

Since the late 1980s, especially from 1991, HUE has attached the greatest importance to the task of developing HUE personnel.

HUE Party Committee has paid a lot of attention to the task of training in ideology (studying Party's documents, informing about developments in economy and other news, struggling against heterodox opinions, etc.). Of 439 cadres and teachers working in HUE, 171 were Party members, 405 labbr unionist, 80 members of the Youth League.

HUE has also taken various measures to encourage its staff to improve their knowledge: giving courses in foreign languages, informatics, new teaching methods; helping teachers and students go abroad to make studies, etc.

At present, of 295 members of the teaching staff, 3 were professors, 12 assistant professors, 3 doctors, 47 assistant doctors, 36 masters, 55 senior lecturers, 133 lecturers. Teachers with Master or higher degrees and titles represented 38%; teachers having B degree in foreign languages and higher ones 87%; and 90% of teachers could use computers for studying and teaching.

Many measures have been taken to improve the living standard of the HUE personnel. In the past two years, HUE has helped 131 staff members buy houses; increased the monthly benefit by 3.7 times compared with 1991; increased the teaching allowance paid to senior lecturers by 5 times, paid to assistant professors by 5.3 times, paid to professors by 5.6 times compared with 1991; and increased the managing allowance by 1.5 times compared with 1993.

As for retired staff members, HUE also pays retirement allowances according to their seniority (the highest payment made is VND 21.6 million).

5. Improvement of facilities

In the past five years, HUE has used funds allocated by the Government and its self-earned funds (around VND 16.5 billion) to improve its facilities: moving 74 teacher families from the campus, building three new campuses (with a total area of 14,310 sq.m.) and face-lifting old campuses. A lot of equipment used for teaching, studying and managing has been brought into operation (330 computers, two 40-seat labs, 25 slide projectors, 14 TV sets, 12 VCRs, 47 cassettes, 3 cameras, 1 high-speed printer, 12 photocopiers, 3 LCD sets,

etc.)

Such facilities have met basic requirements of the task of teaching and studying, and have enabled application of new teaching and managing methods.

6. Improvement of managing mechanism

The organization of HUE has been made more reasonable in order to operate more effectively. The cooperation and solidarity of the Party committee, the management, the Labor Union, the Youth League and the Student Association have been developed for years, thereby creating an atmosphere of democracy and equality in HUE. Based on this spirit, the tasks of appointing new positions, giving awards, giving salary rises, choosing members to go abroad to make studies... could be carried out well.

The management has tries its best to enhance school discipline and gained many encouraging results, especially, in the 1994-1995 school year. Activities of the Youth League and the Student Association have also helped to improve students' self-control.

HUE also regularly spent 5% of its self-earned funds on helping poor students and encouraging after-school activities. HUE also raised funds for scholarship, many scholarships were used to help students make studies abroad.

For these achievements, HUE has received many rewards:

- Labor Order of 3rd class in November 1986, Labor Order of 2nd class in November 1991 and Labor Order of 1st class in October 1996 from the Government.

- HUE Party Committee has been recognized as the Strong and Pure Party Committee, and has been awarded many pennants for this.

- HUE Labor Union since 1990 up to now has been recognized as an excellent Labor Union and it was awarded the Labor Order of 3rd class on May 8, 1996 by the Government.

- HUE Youth League has received many awards from HCMC Youth League and Central Youth League.

In addition, the Ministry of Education and Training has awarded HUE for its achievements in educational renovation.

With these achievements, HUE has really kept pace with the development and renovation process of the country, and has provided preconditions for the Vietnam National University HCMC to fulfil its tasks in the new stage of development of the country.