

How to Make Copyrights Dynamic of Economic Growth

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In Vietnam, legal infrastructure has provided conditions for copyrights to become the dynamic of economic growth. All creative works could apply for patents from the Ministry of Culture and Information, and the Ministry of Industries. Patent owners could sell or lease their patents and illegal use of their works could be put on trial.

In recent years, more classrooms have been built and many Vietnamese students have won prizes in international contests for students, which proves that Vietnamese students are very good at many subjects (math, physics, chess, computing, etc.). There are also many technical contests for workers and scientific and technological institutes spend a lot of money encouraging new innovations and applications.

However, these prizes and patents have brought in nothing to persons who introduced new products or technical applications in Vietnam. The press has carried a lot of complaints, such as "No link between training and employing graduates," and a lot of them couldn't find well-paid jobs appropriate to their expertise. New innovations and applications presented by research centers, after being appraised and approved, are usually put on shelves to gather dust. How about copyrights of literary or software works? Any best-sellers are photocopied and sold at much lower prices in comparison with legally-published books. Software applications, VCD, DVD, etc. also face the same situation with the result that the authors couldn't make enough money to continue their jobs.

One of reasons for this situation is the fact that there is no combination of financial sources, authority and creative forces. Without this combination, works by grey matter could contribute nothing to the socioeconomic life. After 1975, intellectuals in the South were eager to devote themselves to programs to industrialize and modernize the united Vietnam but thirty years have passed and these goals are still beyond our reach. Many policies have been adopted to accelerate this process but

most of them didn't produce intended results in practice. There is a widening gap between training and employing of the talent; and between inventions and their application with the result that the estimated loss rose to 13%-30% when applying these technical innovations. The only solution to this problem is to provide the talent with power and financial resource.

In the wartime, only a handful of intellectuals were co-opted onto the Communist Party. This mentality kept on existing until now with the

assigned them to positions of district level and co-opt more and more young people. But it seems to me that its efforts hardly produce intended results. In my opinion, the Government must recruit officials based on their talent and expertise instead of the class and family they belong to. Talented persons must be assigned important positions. Business finance of state-owned companies and public expenditures must be disclosed. Students winning prizes in both national and international con-



result that they had no chance to be in places high enough for them to carry out reforms or introduce technical innovations or advances. Meanwhile, many officials (all of them are VCP members) have fallen into corruption and embezzlement. Their crimes are denounced day after day by the press. The Government has to adopt a policy to privatize state-owned companies and call for help from the press and the public to struggle against corruption. In such a condition, no policy to employ the talent could be realized.

In recent years, the VCP have tried to promote young officials and

tests must be given privileges. In other words, the Government must try its best to attract young talent to the public sector and the administrative machinery as well before they decide to work in the private and foreign sectors because they find no opportunity in the public one.

Such a policy could encourage creative forces, thereby turning the creativity of the young talent into the dynamic of the economic growth. Vietnamese inventions will make their appearance and their copyrights will be saleable on the world market and sought for by multinationals. ■