

Non-Public Higher Education An Effective Contribution

by Dr. NGUYỄN THUẤN

The world is facing a historical event: the shift from industrialized to knowledge-based economy. Vietnam is required not to miss the opportunity again. Its strategy of human resource development should include features of a knowledge economy where higher education is globally recognized as the most effective instrument for the development of human resources and societies in all sides (Notice of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization).

At present, the number of students in universities and colleges all over the world reaches over 100 million. In developed countries, there are 50% of persons at the ages from 18 to 22 attending university courses. Regarding the U.S., over four-fifths (85 percent) of all adults 25 years or older (185,183,000) reported



they had completed at least high school; over one in four adults (27 percent) had attained at least a bachelor's degree in 2003. In Thailand, there are 1.87 million university students over its 63 million people, meaning 297 stu-

dents/10,000 persons (2002).

To meet the labor demand in the national industrialization and modernization, the Vietnam's educational development strategy for the 2001-2010 period also set the target: to increase the ratio of uni-

versity students over 10,000 persons from 118 in 2000-2001 to 200 by 2010. However, this target ratio is only three-fourths of the Thailand's figure in 2002.

If including all universities in the National Universities and regional

Table 1: SOME INDICATORS OF VIETNAM'S HIGHER EDUCATION
(Until February 2004)

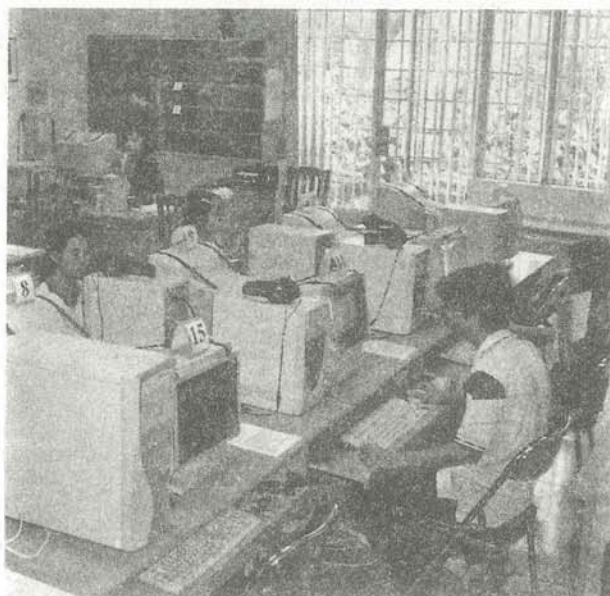
Indicator	Total	Including		
		Public	Semi-public	Private
1. Institutions	240	213	6	21
2. Students	1,131,030	993,908	42,428	94,694
2.1. Passing entry exams	653,718	529,587	30,863	93,268
2.1 Exempt from entry exams	3,365	3,365	-	-
2.3 In-service	357,491	355,406	2,085	-
2.4 In cooperation training courses	17,846	17,846	-	-
2.5 Studying for the second BA degree	28,462	25,880	1,156	1,426
2.6 Graduating from junior colleges and continuing to study for a BA degree	1,934	1,934	-	-
2.7 Distant training	68,214	59,890	8,324	-

Source: Statistics of Higher Education in 2003-2004



universities, until February 2004, Vietnam obtained 240 universities and colleges (not mentioning the School for University Candidates and the Vietnam RMIT University), including 213 public institutions and 27 non-public ones. These institutions may enroll 1,131,030 students annually, including 993,908 students in public institutions, accounting for 87.9% and 137,122 students in non-public institutions, or 12.1%. One public institution enrolls 4,666 students on average while the intake of non-public institutions reaches 5,079 students.

Non-public academic institutions have also established a strong army of staff. They employ 6,835



workers, accounting for 10.59%, including 5,071 lecturers, or 12.68%. There are 1,088 lecturers obtaining a Ph. D. degree, or 20.29% of the total doctors teaching in universities, and 1,350 teachers with an M.A. degree, representing 11.52%.

As such, the figures of staff and students in the two above tables show for the higher education in non-public institutions has recorded significant achievements in social and economic aspects. Despite 15 years of establishment and operation and insignificant financial supports from the Government, non-public academic institutions have made important contributions to the national development of human resources. ■

Table 2: MEASURES OF STAFF IN THE VIETNAM'S HIGHER EDUCATION SECTOR
(Until February 2004)

	Total	Including		
		Public	Semi-public	Private
1. Staff	64,542	57,707	1,339	5,496
2. Academic staff	39,985	34,914	849	4,222
2.1. Ph. D.	5,361	4,273	138	950
2.2. M.A.	11,719	10,369	293	1,057
2.3. Master I & II (For medical training)	548	547	-	1
2.4. University	21,070	18,495	415	2,160
2.5. Junior college	775	756	2	17
2.6. Others	512	474	1	37

Source: Statistics of Higher Education in 2003-2004