



25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE HCMC UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS

MILESTONES AND MAIN FACTS

by TRÍ DŨNG

1. The HCMC University of Economics (1976-1996)

- The HCMC University of Economics (UOE) was established by Decision 426/TTg made by the PM on Oct. 27, 1976 by merging the Saigon University of Law and faculties of economics in other universities in Saigon, and was under direct management of the Ministry of Higher Education and Technical Secondary Education (now Ministry of Education and Training)

- Main tasks of the UOE are to train managers at bachelor, master and doctor degrees, carry out economic researches, cooperate with foreign partners, conduct application of economics to production and service sectors, and contribute to the economic reform.

- By October 1996, its teaching staff of 295 included three professors, 12 assistant professors, 50 doctors, 36 masters, 55 senior lecturers and 133 lecturers. Of this staff, 38% had master degrees or higher, 87% had foreign language A level, and 90% used computers for management, teaching and research tasks.

- In the years 1990-1996, the UOE admitted 27,457 students: 7,810, or 37%, in full-time courses; 7,140, or 26%, in part-time courses; 6,215, or 22.4%, in open courses; 595, or 2.16%, in graduate courses (85 of them were for doctorate). In these years, graduates from the UOE included 39 doctors (six of them were foreigners), 106 masters, 12,410 bachelors (988 of them from advanced training courses), 4,024 got certificates of undergraduate and graduate courses.

- In this 20-year period (1976-96), the UOE completed 117 scientific researches: 57.3% of them were of economics; 26.5% of economic planning; 7.7% used for teaching staff; and 87.2% were considered as good researches. In addition, 61 textbooks were compiled; and 65% of them were directed by the UOE.

- The cooperation with foreign partners also made good progress in various forms:

(1) Foreign-financed projects to give training courses in Vietnam: Fullbright-Vietnam, SAV, UOE-ISS, UOE-AUPLF and UOE-CFVG.

(2) Foreign exchange students, researchers and teachers working in the UOE within framework of such projects as VIA (the U.S.), VVOB, APEFER (Belgium), etc.

(3) Project UOE-UQAM (Canada) to train masters in business management.

(4) Cooperation in giving short-term courses and workshops with Georgetown University (USA), Aix-Marseilles (France), ANU (Australia), UQAM, etc.

2. HCMC University of Finance and Accounting (1976-96)

- The HCMC University of Finance and Accounting (HUFA) was established in October 1976 as the HCMC branch of the Hà Nội University of Finance and Accounting. On Oct. 15, 1988, the Council of Ministers issued Decree 155/HDBT to officially establish the HUFA under the management of the Ministry of Finance. On Oct. 23, 1994, the Government issued Decree 178/CP stipulating rights, duties and organization of the Ministry with the HUFA as an unit controlled by the Ministry.

- Main tasks of the HUFA are to train bachelors of finance, banking and accounting, and to supply economic analyses to local governments in the South. From 1991 on, the HUFA have given graduate courses in finance, accounting and economic analyses.

- In 20 years from 1976 to 1996, the HUFA gave 20 4-year full-time courses, 50 part-time courses in various provinces from Thừa Thiên- Huế to Minh Hải, and 5 master courses to some 200 learners. In this period, some 13,000 graduates from the HUFA have worked for many industries and businesses.

- Regarding the foreign cooperation, the HUFA gave three undergraduate courses in Phnom Penh to some 300 students. In addition, over 50 exchange students from Cambodia are studying at the HUFA. The HUFA also has good cooperation with the Qinan National University in Guangzhou, China.

3. HCMC University of Economics (1996-2001)

- The HCMC University of Economics (HUE) was established by Decree 16/CP issued by the PM on Jan. 27, 1995 on the formation of the HUE under the HCMC National University, and by Decision 2819/ GD-ĐT by Minister of Education and Training on the formation of the HUE by merging the UOE, HUFA and faculty of economics of the HCMC University.

- On Oct. 10, 2000, the PM made Decision 118/2000/ QĐ- TTg on changes in organization of the HCMC National University in which the HUE was separated from the HCMC National University. And the HUE has enjoyed the status until now.

- Up to the school year 1999-2000, the HUE personnel consist of 690 officials working for the HUE and some 300 contracted employees working for centers and institutions run by the HUE. Of this personnel, 445 are in the teaching staff including one professor, 14 assistant professors, 113 senior lecturers and 317 lecturers. Regarding their academic titles, 98 of them are doctors, 218 masters and 129 bachelors. The HUE personnel consist of some 1,000 persons.

- In the school year 1999-2000, the HUE had 50,983 students; 25,762 of them attended full-time courses;

24,000 part-time courses and 1,221 graduate courses. In this school year, the HUE admitted 7,809 students: 3,050 for undergraduate courses; 1,000 for advanced training courses and 259 for graduate courses (29 of them were studying for their doctorate). HUE graduates in this year include 8,438 bachelors, 131 masters, 19 doctors and 10 assistant doctors. The number of HUE students in the year 2000-2001 is estimated at 51,000.

- As for scientific researches in the year 1999-2000, the HUE completed 112 researches: two of them were done to orders placed by the Government, 48 to orders by ministries, two by the HCMC National University, five by the HUE, 49 by faculties and six by foreign organizations. The program to train 1,000 managers by 2003 is carried out steadily and after five courses, over 300 learners have graduated. The HUE also carried out four researches in cooperation with foreign partners. One of them was the work "Socioeconomic Benefits from Mỹ Thuận Bridge" contracted by an Australian partner.

- In cooperating with foreign partners in providing foreign training courses to local students, the HUE is engaging in seven projects of the phase 2 (the 5-year phase 1 of these projects was completed in 1997). The HUE maintains its cooperation with UQAM in the project DIREG to "Enhance Capacity and Develop Zones" financed by the Canadian government, goes on with the phase 2 of the project Fullbright-Vietnam and the project SWISS-AIT-VN to train masters of development

economics. The French government keeps on financing the project CFVG. Many other projects in cooperation with foreign partners (such as the Woosong University from South Korea, Tour University from France and Curtin University from Australia) have been agreed on and carried out. The Business Hotline Program financed by the Georgetown University is also carried out successfully. In the last school year, the HUE also received over 500 books, mainly from the UQAM University.

- Regarding facilities for study, the HUE has six campuses and three dormitories and 888 computers. It's planned to buy 19 new ones in 2001.

- The HUE organization includes a directorate, various boards and civic organizations, nine faculties (economic politics, development economics, public finance, business management, trade-tourism, business finance and money trading, accounting and auditing, statistics and computing, and law) and three branches (philosophy, foreign languages and physical and national defense education) giving courses in 44 subjects. The governing body includes two management boards (graduate education and part-time education), six management departments (personnel and administration, planning and finance, education and student affairs, scientific research and foreign cooperation, assets management, and political affairs), two libraries (for graduates and undergraduates separately). Supporting facilities include three dormitories (two dormitories for 1,628 local students and another one for foreign students), a health care

center, a printing firm, three information and research centers (the Phát Triển Kinh Tế magazine, Institute of Development Economics and Institute of Labor and Population) and eight service centers (Economic Computing Center, Center for Economic Research and Application, Foreign Language Center, Employment Service Center, Center for Accounting and Financial Services, Kinh Tế Printing Company, Preparatory School, and Office of Financial, Accounting and Economic Advisory Services).

- On the occasion of the 25th anniversary, the HUE was awarded the Independence Honor of the third grade. ■

