

Of Western concepts of progress, the concept of development has become popular since the eighteenth century, and one of the most controversial topics in modern time, or as Edgar Morin - a French sociologist - put it, development is the most essential word running through all

second around the human being. Development could take various forms and many models have been built but from the aspect of concept, they are the two most basic concepts of development with different variations.

1. Growth-centered development

This concept was very popular in the 1950s and 1960s when the people's mind was limited to pure economic issues and all efforts made by countries were concentrated on the question of how to increase GDP. For a long time, two conceptions of "development" and "growth" haven't been distinguished, some people even equated them.

Encouraged by pure economists, that is, those whose view are limited to their professional knowledge, the concept of growth-centered development was supported by many governments and was converted into various development policies. Originating from this concept, its supporters have agreed on certain measures to achieve their aims:

- accelerate the specialization in order to make the best use of existing resources to produce goods and services of the greatest comparative advantages.

- invest and encourage the fast exploitation of natural resources for export with a view to increas-

vestors and become more competitive internationally.

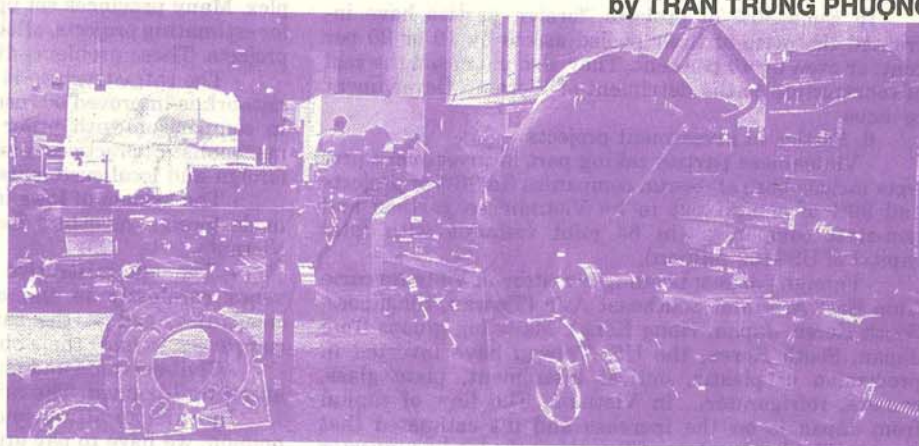
There were many other measures and all of them targeted at development only. Basically, the growth-centered development strategy has considered capital accumulated locally and foreign loans as main sources of capital needed for economic growth. And to accelerate economic growth, top priorities have been given to measures to expand these main sources and paid no attention to side-effects on the development process.

Coming into being in a special socio-historical situation and affected incessantly by the race for

TWO CONCEPTS OF DEVELOPMENT

political ideologies. In the transition from the twentieth century to the twenty-first one, the obsession of the humankind with development didn't decrease, but on the contrary, it became acuter along with a lot of worry, hope and despair. Some basic questions about development such as what the development is, why development is a must, how to develop, what and who development is for, where development leads the humankind to, etc. seem to be easy to answer or to agree on, but facing realities of development (and underdevelopment too) which are becoming more and more complex and diversified, one is forced to rethink about them and find out new approaches to development.

Generally, we can say that the history of development of the humankind in the last few decades, especially after the World War II, is the struggle between two concepts of development: the first centers around the growth and the



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According to David C.Korten, "development, in its original form, is only the growth in economic value made by production system and pays no attention to consequences suffered by natural resources and the environment, and even to real contributions to the human life. Progress and life in a country is described by a sole index: an increase or decrease in the total output expressed in market prices."

ing income in foreign exchange.

- attract foreign investment and make loans to projects requiring big investments.

- minimize restraints on both foreign and local private investors.

- concentrate capital in big groups in order to attain economies of scale and compete successfully in foreign markets.

- keep labor cost low in order to attract foreign in-

vestment between nations, the concept of growth-centered development has received ardent support from initiators and followers of the developmentalism. Nobody can deny great economic achievements brought about by this concept in different countries, including so-called underdeveloped ones. The face of the world has changed a lot since this masculine-featuring concept of develop-

ment was applied successfully in many countries. We can say that this concept of development is the inevitable product of the "quantitative civilization" which is dominating the world today. One of basic features of this civilization is its demand for the society to make the best use of potentialities. To do so, there must be schemes to tap all natural resources and create a social structure appropriate to these schemes. For a long time, the method of calculating and expressing the progress of an economy in per capital GDP has become a classical model of this dominating concept of development.

Like many other things and phenomena, when positive aspects of this concept are recognized to be of great service to the society, then its negative sides have brought about a lot of worry, despair and suspicion about development. After decades of racing for development, at present, the humankind is forced to face great challenges in both social and environmental terms. These challenges even become a menace to the survival of the human community:

- The rich represented 20% of the world population but possessed 83% of income and assets whereas the poorest 20% owned only 1.4% (after 30 years, the difference between the rich and the poor has doubled, from 30 to 60 times).

- Baby death rate in poor countries was 8 times higher than that in Europe (117 in comparison with 14 per 1,000 under-ones)

- Death rate of women in labour in Africa was 50 times higher than that in Europe.

- Over one billion people had an income of under one US dollar per day.

- Over 40,000 people died of starvation every day.

- Over 2 billion people fell prey to undernourishment and other serious diseases.



- Over one billion people hadn't got enough clean water.

- Over one billion people lived constantly in polluted environment.

- Important natural resources have been used up.

These data and many others have blackened the picture of world development. In the eyes of many people, including social activists and environmentalists, the concept of growth-centered development not only failed to solve crises in human society, but also made these crises more serious. That is why a new concept of development comes into being.

2. People-centered development

In the 1970s when the concept of growth-centered development still dominated, new ideas and views on development began to emerge in many forms. But up to the two latest decades of the century when the tragic increase in unemployment rate, poverty and violence took place everywhere in a world which became richer and richer, the concept of growth-centered development attracted heavy criticism and there was a demand for it to be replaced by the concept of people-centered development. People started to speak of the necessity to put human welfare above blind games of market forces. Any development producing both

economic growth and social inequality and pollution became target for criticism.

They started to look for a new definition of development: Development must be a process in which all members of a society could improve their abilities and institutions in order to bring into use and control all resources, to attain sustainable achievements and divide them equally with a view to improving the quality of life in a way appropriate to their aspirations. They realized that the concept of development should be placed in a system including natural, historical, social and cultural factors; and as long as the relation between economic and non-economic factors is hidden, everything which can't be quantified will be held in low regard.

The concept of people-centered development also originates from the idea praising the role of women in social life. According to followers of this feminist concept of developments (as a counterbalance to the former one), a society respecting and enhancing the role of women inside and outside the family will have abilities to deal with masculine violence, exploitation and competition which have dominated the human society for so a long time. The concept of femininity here could be considered as a symbol of a development aiming more at the harmony of human values than

at the blind conquest of nature.

Based on this concept of people-centered development, many development strategies have been initiated and carried out: sustainable development, participation development, community development, etc. All of them were based on the protection of the environment and the praise given to social and human values (equality, democracy, etc.). This concept maintains that of all factor inputs such as capital, technology, equipment... the human resource is of the most importance to the success of a development process. That is why the per capita GDP index is replaced by the human development index (HDI) as the measure of development. HDI took many indicators into consideration: literacy rate, life expectancy, etc. It isn't only an action of replacing this index with another one, but it is a symbol of a more humanitarian concept of development.

This concept argues that development is for people, not people for development, and it must be a mass movement instead of being a government project financed by foreign parties, and the government is under obligation to create equal opportunity for all citizens. This concept denies all development models that create no new jobs, launch no campaign against poverty and fail to mobilize everybody to take part in development or fail to protect national traditions and the environment. As Federico Mayor put it, a humanitarian and sustainable development is the only acceptable definition of development. Thus, development is a combination of material satisfaction and spiritual contentment, of economic growth and social equality, of economic efficiency and ecological balance, of social order and democracy, of individual and community, of tradition and modernity, of present and future, etc. ■