

NECESSITY TO APPLY HO CHI MINH'S IDEOLOGY IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN VIETNAM AT PRESENT

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Abstract: President Ho Chi Minh lived and operated in an era where the consequences of the industrial economic development have not been really severe and the environmental pollution has not become popular, in other words, there has not been a basis for the sustainable development trend as at present. However, in the theory as well as instruction on the country's development reality, he always paid attention to human as the center for the development, economic development must attach to the cultural, social development and natural resource and environment protection. This perspective of President Ho Chi Minh is not only suitable to the current situation in Vietnam, but is also consistent with the perception on sustainable development of the advanced mankind. Therefore, Ho Chi Minh's ideology on sustainable development is a valuable spiritual assets for Vietnamese Party and People and shed the light for the revolution and sustainable development strategy of Vietnam to gain the victory.

Keywords: Ho Chi Minh's ideology, country development, sustainable development.

1. INTRODUCTION

President Ho Chi Minh with his strategic vision gave the concept of sustainable development of the country from very early. The term "sustainable development" does not appear directly in his words, but the connotation of sustainable development has been discussed by him when mentioning each element as well as the harmonious combination between them to achieve sustainable development goals. Today, sustainable development becomes a pressing global issue and poses for all countries on their own development path and proves the value and long-term vitality of Ho Chi Minh's ideology to the nation and to the times. As a result, it is necessary to clarify the implication of applying Ho Chi Minh's ideology in the current context to contribute to enhancing the effectiveness of *the Sustainable Development Strategy* in Vietnam.

2. CONTENT

2.1. Ho Chi Minh's ideology on sustainable development

Ho Chi Minh's ideology on sustainable development is expressed through his view about the significance of developing the following factors: Politics, economy, culture, society, environment and the harmonious and dialectical relationship between these factors in the implantation of the country's sustainable development goals.

"In the course of constructing our country, there are four matters to be attentive, and must be equally valued: politics, economy, culture and society.", President Ho Chi Minh said. UNESCO's perspectives also indicated that the power of culture, it self has defined its position and role; at the same time, emphasizing the important role, clearly indicating the motivating force of development exists in the relationship between culture and economy. Culture is not only a product

that is created by humans but also a standard that governs all human being activities; all together, it is also a production activity to provide spiritual energy for people, making people more and more perfect. In Ho Chi Minh's ideology, cultural development becomes a vital and urgent requirement of social life and the development goal, thus, the Communist Party should “develop the economy and culture well” to improve the living standard of our people both materially and spiritually”. Economic growth without deforming the standard of cultural values, forgetting the requirements of developing and preserving national cultural identity, particularly as not to break the social structure, it is required to treasure the culture as the basis – the foundation – the decisive factor for the success or failure of our economic development; it plays an important role in enhancing the socio-economic development, even a prerequisite role in guaranteeing the sustainability of socio-political background of a country.

Moreover, environmental issue is also a factor that President Ho Chi Minh concentrated and attached to the development of economic, cultural and social areas of our country. At the end of the 19th century, he denounced the colonialism was not only of unsystematic exploitation, plunder, torture, and massacre, but also the destruction of the living environment in all colonial countries where happened the destructive exploitation of natural resources, for the economic benefit of the invaders, forcing the invaded countries to use their environment and natural resources as the exchange items. President Ho Chi Minh immediately was aware of sustainable development, attaching the economic development with protection of the ecological environment, therefore, he launched the New Year Tree Planting movement, raising a new concept of Spring, “Spring is the time to plant trees”. Besides, during the course of our country's economic development for the North's construction of socialism and the South' battlefield support, he always emphasized the importance of forest resources, coal, land, etc. considering those values as “gold” which we should not only exploit to create resources for economic development, but also set up a plan to protect, use them reasonably; timber exploitation combined with afforestation, use coal economically and rationally. Noticeably, in the concept of country development, President Ho Chi Minh always centered the development of all fields as politics, economy, culture, society and environment. Notably, he emphasized the dialectical relationship among these factors, which clearly indicated a consensus with today's progressive human conception of the “pillar”, “foundation” of sustainable development.

Ho Chi Minh's ideology of sustainable development demonstrated through the goal and roadmap of constructing the country and peoples that he devoted his life to realize it.

According to President Ho Chi Minh's ideology, “develop the country” was a noble cause that the Vietnamese government and people should work together to realize it, and it was a prerequisite for Vietnam to join the world's revolution flow, to realize our noble international obligations and goals. He considered human as the center of development, so when people are both “goal” and “motivating force” of development, we should “take care and promote the human factor”, that is to develop the Vietnamese people in a comprehensive manner. Thoroughly, we can see that his conception of development is not used in general, but it is “sustainable” and “steady”, aimed at developing the country sustainably.

Before leaving this world, President Ho Chi Minh's “last wish” was still the country's sustainable development goal. “My last wish is the entire Communist's Party and our people unite to strive, to build Vietnam to be a peaceful, unified, independent, democratic and rich nation, and making a worthy contribution to the cause of the world revolution” [1]. Making the sustainable country development, according to President Ho Chi Minh's opinion, is to maintain independence and autonomy; meeting the material and spiritual demands of the people, guaranteeing the democratic and equal rights for the people and fulfill our international obligations. Independence - Freedom - Happiness is the path of development, the goal, the step of our nation's revolution, and the center of Ho Chi Minh's ideology as well. Searching and selecting the path of national liberation and development in conformity with the rules, the people's desire, in sync with the mankind's evolution means that we applied the Marxism-Leninism properly and demonstrated the creativity of President Ho Chi Minh in selecting and implementing the development path for Vietnam, that is, the national independence associated with the socialism. The humanistic and good significance in realizing the sustainable development goals of today's society is also the noble goal that President Ho Chi Minh strived for and devoted his life.

Ho Chi Minh's ideology of sustainable development demonstrated through his opinion in constructing a new world of civilized conduct and fulfillment of noble international obligations

Nowadays, the matter of sustainable development gradually becomes a global issue, where requires the acts of cooperation and contribution of the community. According to President Ho Chi Minh's ideology, this issue was pointed

out when he responded some international journalists about Vietnam's foreign policy, "willing to become a friend with all the democratic countries in the world". In the first year of the new state of Vietnam, taken over as the President, he wrote letters and telegrams to the President of the United States, President Stalin - the Soviet Union's Leader and the governments of several countries for many times proposing to recognize the independence of Vietnam and to build friendly relationship with Vietnam. He expressed his desire and determination of Vietnam's government to join the United Nations.

According to Ho Chi Minh's ideology, the goal of the Vietnam's revolution was not only to achieve the independence, construct and develop our country, but also to contribute our parts to the world revolution, which means that Vietnam should implement our international role currently, our national obligations associated with international missions, national development associated with the development of era and human. Becoming the very first person laying the foundation for Vietnam's friendly diplomacy, President Ho Chi Minh was fully aware of constructing a strategy for international relationship to solve global issues such as war, epidemic, and environmental issues, environment, etc. for sustainable development.

Ho Chi Minh's ideology of sustainable development demonstrated through some of his direct quotes that had the same meaning with the term "sustainable development" in accordance with the concept of Today's world

In the quotes of President Ho Chi Minh, the term "nation development" or "country development" were quite popular with his speeches and articles. This is because, primarily the nationalism was his initial belonging on his journey seeking for the salvation way, the goal of "nation development" was also the immediate and long-term goal he always sets on the path he selected, "People recognize that the common interests of the nation development and consolidation, therefore, the individual's interests can be developed and improved" [2] or "The society develops continuously, its progress must also be continuous". [3] Once he praised Soviet Union Russia, "a society that guarantees the country to develop brightly in an unprecedented speed, providing the working force to an increasingly worthy, glorious and prosperous life, making the labors have a freedom, happy and mighty homeland, towards bright horizons that could not expect before" [4]. In the other hand, according to his last words to the people in the North, for the course of socialism: "uphold the spirit of self-reliance, saving to build the socialism, to create a new life for us and for our descendants forever and ever" [5], noticeably, "for our descendants forever and ever" in his simple words, essentially, the realization of sustainable development, building and developing the country not only for each individual today but also for the descendants, that they could enjoy those values "long-term".

Ho Chi Minh's ideology on sustainable development manifested through his practical guidance activities.

President Ho Chi Minh is not only a prominent thinker but also a social manager who used to hold the highest position of the State of Vietnam, the leader who always attaches special importance to reasoning with practice, speaking with doing in the direction of the Vietnamese revolution, his ideologies are always expressed by concrete and flexible actions in each condition and situation. During the period of socialism construction, there was a need for many natural resources to serve economic development, in addition to affirming that our country has "abundant natural resources", he always said that despite the rich natural resources, it was essential to have industrious, creative and knowledgeable people who can efficiently exploit those resources in order not to "bring gold to the sea" or waste "black gold". To do so, he has launched exciting practical movements, bringing practical effects to the country development, such as "Patriotic emulation", "Planting trees for forest", "Tree planting New Year", "Production emulation", etc. Moreover, in directing economic development, building the country towards socialism, in addition to focusing on building a highly-developed economy with the premise of modern and advanced science and technology, he also noted that people must be the center, both the goal and the driving force for development. Therefore, people must develop comprehensively and understand their rights: "For maintaining independence. For making strong people rich country. All Vietnamese people must understand their rights, their duties, have new knowledge to be able to participate in the country construction, and first of all, know how to read and write the national language" [6]. As a result, in addition to focusing on implementing the goal of building a highly-developed economy, he also set the target of building a high-developed culture and ethics and building social relations to ensure fairness, equality and reasonability. Specifically, he carried out programs of "popular education", "illiteracy eradication", and anti-ignorance in parallel with "the enemy of hunger" and "the enemy of foreign invader", that is both economic development and development of social and cultural development.

Ho Chi Minh's ideology on sustainable development is expressed through the views of a number of researchers

A number of researchers in Vietnam have had initial observations on Ho Chi Minh's ideology on sustainable development. These statements can be expressed directly or indirectly, generally or specifically, but from there, researchers all think that Ho Chi Minh's ideology on sustainable development is one with a strategic vision with long-term value for the development of the Vietnamese people and need to have research, application and inheritance in this day and age. Specifically:

When affirming “The world is still changing, but Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's ideologies live forever”, the outstanding disciple of President Ho Chi Minh - General Vo Nguyen Giap also emphasized: “Building the country towards socialism, taking economic development as the central task to thoroughly grasp President Ho Chi Minh's ideology, always associating economic development with cultural, social, security and defense development, rather than simple economics”[7]. Through the General's assertion, it can be seen that, in Ho Chi Minh's ideology on sustainable development, he emphasized maintaining a harmonious relationship between economic development with cultural and social development is not focusing too much on economic development that undermines this equilibrium relationship.

Researcher Phan Ngoc Lien - an in-depth researcher on the value of President Ho Chi Minh's ideologies of contemporary stature said: “Ho Chi Minh's ideologies on current global issues focus on solving major and urgent problems related to the life of all humanity such as war and peace, natural resources, ecological environment, disease, ignorance, famine, scientific and technical revolution”[8]. In other words, although there are many different expressions and under different conditions and circumstances, in Ho Chi Minh's ideology on sustainable development, there have been issues that need to be resolved internationally, such as: war and peace, natural resources and environment, scientific and technical revolution, etc. that these problems are now being mentioned and solved in the global sustainable development strategy.

Researcher Pham Xuan Nam, while studying Vietnam's development philosophy, also affirmed: “Ho Chi Minh has built up a model of social development in modern Vietnam under the correct and effective philosophy” [9]. “Correct” and “efficiency” here are also expressed by the researcher in many detailed contents of the research “Philosophy of Vietnamese Development - Some key issues” that is economic development associated with environmental protection, is development but must be sustainable.

Through his research, Researcher Bui Dinh Phong continues to affirm: “President Ho Chi Minh lives and operates in the era of industrial economy, which means that there is no foundation for a sustainable development trend. But with a foresight, his conceptions have shown a mind and vision for sustainable development according to the eight goals of the *Millennium Declaration*” [10]. In other words, Ho Chi Minh's ideology on sustainable development has been fully expressed through the millennium goals of the Sustainable Development Program (United Nations), which are also the global common ideal goals to be targeted to.

Thus, through President Ho Chi Minh's perspective on the importance of developing the following factors: Politics, economy, culture, society, environment as well as the harmonious relationship go hand in hand between these factors in the realization of national development goals; through the form of expression; through directing his practical activities, etc. especially through the synthesis of Ho Chi Minh's ideological studies on sustainable development, we can see that: *Ho Chi Minh's ideology on sustainable development is his system of views on the harmonious “developed nation” in the political, economic, cultural and social fields associated with the protection of natural resources and the environment towards the realization of the goal of “building a peaceful, united, independent, democratic and rich Vietnam”, fulfilling international obligations and standing shoulder to shoulder with the great powers of the five continents.* Today, President Ho Chi Minh's conception of a sustainable development is still scientific, modern, has profound human values and is in agreement with the concept of progressive humanity.

2.2. Necessity to apply Ho Chi Minh's ideology in the sustainable development of Vietnam today

Firstly, Ho Chi Minh's ideology in general and Ho Chi Minh's ideology on sustainable development in particular is a valuable spiritual legacy for the entire Party and people, paving the way for the revolutionary cause and for the sustainable development strategy of our country comes to the victory.

The value of Ho Chi Minh's ideology was affirmed by the Communist Party of Vietnam: “His ideology together with Marxism-Leninism are the ideological foundation, a guideline for the Party's actions and the Vietnamese revolution, an extremely great and valuable spiritual asset of the Party and our people, and forever paving the way for the revolutionary

cause of the Party and our people” [11]. Moreover, continuing to inherit and affirm the value of Ho Chi Minh’s ideology, the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam once again affirms Ho Chi Minh's ideology on Vietnamese development as an ideology to ensure the country's sustainable development, national values and era values: “His ideology has been paving the way for our people's struggle to win, become sustainable values of the Vietnamese people and spread to the world” [12]

In Ho Chi Minh's ideology, to develop the country, we must develop synchronously economic, political, cultural, social, scientific and environmental fields, etc. on the basis of ensuring: peace, independence, and democracy, constantly improve the material and spiritual life of the people and realize national solidarity associated with international solidarity. The content of national development perspective such as: objectives, implementation principles, basic driving force for development, conditions to ensure sustainable development, etc. are mentioned by him in a systematic and comprehensive manner and are closely related to together. Even in each content, there are methods and ways of doing, satisfying the theoretical conditions associated with practice, speaking and doing. The selection of the socialism path is choosing the path of humanity and development. As many scientists have affirmed when researching human values in Ho Chi Minh's ideology: Ho Chi Minh's goals such as national independence, peace, progress and social justice are also the ones pursuing by humanity today; or “His ultimate desire” to bring happiness to the people is also the highest goal of development today. President Ho Chi Minh's ideal for sustainable national development is not only true to the present and future of our country but also have practical value for the times, posing urgent requirements for scientists, researchers and policy makers to continue to have researches to practically apply Ho Chi Minh’s ideology effectively in the current context.

Secondly, President Ho Chi Minh's conceptions about the country's sustainable development are consistent with today's concept of sustainable development.

President Ho Chi Minh’s ideology about sustainable national development is also his deep ideal, of great value, and beyond time. The Party, State and people of Vietnam consider Ho Chi Minh's ideology to be “an extremely great and valuable spiritual asset”. Some international researchers also appreciate and consider Ho Chi Minh's ideology with high and beautiful cultural value is the expression of “future culture”.

Regarding the Party, in the process of leading the country, the Communist Party of Vietnam has gradually gained correct awareness and set out a policy of sustainable development. From the 9th Congress to the 10th Congress, the Party's policy on sustainable development has been showed more and more clearly and closely linked with the process of accelerating industrialization, modernization, integration and development of the country. The Party has always relied on the foundation of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's ideology to plan the country sustainable development.

Regarding the State, on the basis of the Party's policy, the Government has concretized the country's sustainable development strategy through each period, each certain period, but there are still limitations that require researches to evaluate and draw experiences for the present and the next stage. Furthermore, the country development always appears new problems that require serious and scientific studies to provide both theoretical and practical arguments to improve the sustainable development model in Vietnam. As a result, the study of applying Ho Chi Minh's ideology in the implementation of sustainable development in Vietnam is even more urgent.

Internationally, when comparing the United Nations' sustainable development goals with President Ho Chi Minh's country development goals, we see strange coincidences. Although there are different expressions, in Ho Chi Minh's perspective, the core issues of sustainable development according to modern concepts have appeared. Especially, if people are considered as the center of sustainable development today, the number one goal in the sustainable development strategy, people are also considered the most fundamental and decisive driving force in Ho Chi Minh’s ideology. The goal of national liberation, social liberation and class liberation to the end was human liberation. The economic, political, cultural, and social development goals in Ho Chi Minh's ideology are ultimately aimed at people. The sacrifice throughout Ho Chi Minh's life from childhood until he came to eternity is also for people. In addition, he affirmed for many times that the cause of national construction and development to advance to socialism only succeeds when there are socialist people. The socialism from a scientific, revolutionary doctrine was closely expressed by him when he set people as the goal in which: “The socialism is how to ensure that people have enough to eat, have enough to wear, become more and more happy, everyone can go to school, if they are sick, have medicine, and when they are old, they cannot work, so they can rest ...” [13].

As a researcher who has worked in many international organizations for development, author Nguyen Dai Trang when discussing the value of Ho Chi Minh's ideology in her opinion: "For the sake of ten years, we must plant trees, for the sake of hundreds of years we must plant people", said that this is the idea of "building human resources for sustainable development". The author of "Ho Chi Minh for humanity and development" said that: "Ho Chi Minh is a philosopher of ethics and politics in many aspects, with his ideology that reflects his vision ahead of his time" [14], Ho Chi Minh's ideology is inspirational but still very appropriate and surprisingly useful in today's world". Thus, we can completely assert: President Ho Chi Minh's conception of sustainable development of the country is consistent with the concept of sustainable development of modern society today, needs research, clarifying scientific and practical values to partly contribute to implementing the current sustainable development strategy in Vietnam.

Thirdly, the practice of Vietnamese revolution proves the correctness and effectiveness of solutions on sustainable development of President Ho Chi Minh.

In the position of 24 years as President, Ho Chi Minh led the Vietnamese revolution over many difficulties and challenges and obtained great revolutionary achievements. The reality of President Ho Chi Minh's success in the revolutionary direction was a convincing proof that his solutions for national development were effective and truly sustainable and long-term.

He suggested many creative measures, steps and ways to develop the country such as: promote solidarity among all strata to create great strength, bring independence for the nation as well as national construction and development; respect the power of science - technology and promote and learn new science - technology of the world to serve the development of the country, enlist the support and help of allied countries and national friends, etc. Or, for instance, in building a learning society to bring the country to a fast and sustainable socialist development, he affirmed "An ignorant people is a weak people", how can a weak people develop? not to mention the "sustainable" factor in all areas. For the State "education is the first national policy", and for each citizen, Ho Chi Minh has defined the motto for learners to "learn to work, to be human, to be an official", that is to have a learning goal and must follow the motto "learning by doing", "doing while learning". President Ho Chi Minh himself is a successful example of self-study. Study at school, study at home, study in society and always self-study to advance. Nowadays, Ho Chi Minh's ideology on education and self-study to build and develop the country are still valid.

In the present conditions, sustainable development is an international issue, requiring the contributions of progressive humanity. In addition to Vietnam's own sustainable development goals, we also have an obligation to fulfill international commitments, contributing to the realization of the world's common sustainable development goals. Therefore, Ho Chi Minh's ideology on foreign affairs, international solidarity, and solving global problems must be paid more attention to both contribute to the clarification of long-term vitality and timeless values of Ho Chi Minh's ideology, has both provided us with necessary suggestions in the implementation of sustainable development today.

The issue of industrialization and modernization is an issue that President Ho Chi Minh paid special attention to its role for a long time, considering this as "our right path", he also defined it as the central task of the whole period of transition to socialism, building and developing a mighty and sustainable country. Despite this prominence, but also during that period, he pointed out: Industrialization does not mean building big factories and large-scale factories, but regardless of the specific conditions of the country in each period or certain period. According to President Ho Chi Minh, the industrialization of socialism will only succeed, only achieve solid achievements, our country will only be more dignified and more beautiful when we know how to utilize and promote the strengths and the advantages of a civilized country in rice farming. Furthermore, industry only develops if it can combine comprehensive agriculture, handicraft industry, and light industry to diversify production as well as provide essential necessities for the people at that time. He not only thoroughly grasped the measures associated with theory with practice but also proposed interdisciplinarity in production development and economic development for the country development.

Fourthly, the current state of sustainable development in Vietnam poses an urgent need to complete the development strategy to ensure the successful implementation of national sustainable development goals according to Ho Chi Minh's ideology.

General Vo Nguyen Giap - President Ho Chi Minh's excellent and loyal pupil has repeatedly affirmed through his research works on the life and revolutionary career of President Ho Chi Minh: "The world still changes, but Marxism-

Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's ideology live forever.” He also affirmed, in the light of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's ideology: “Our people will successfully build socialism in our country, Vietnamese socialism, imbued with humanistic ideology and friendship with the people of other countries, worthy contribution to a common cause for peace, stability and development, for national independence, democracy and social progress...” [15]. Thus, as a “guideline for the entire people and the entire Party”, Ho Chi Minh's ideology in general and his ideology on national development in particular is a very large revolutionary theoretical system and plays an important role and value in the current strategic direction of Vietnam's country development. In addition to continuing to study the great theoretical value of Ho Chi Minh's ideology on national development, it is also necessary to widely propagate and educate among all classes of the people about his ideology, especially applying into practice of innovation, integration and development in our country today.

Over the past 30 years of renovation, besides great achievements in economic, political, cultural, social and international relations development, there are still limitations and shortcomings, especially in the resource exploitation, environment protection as well as culture and ethics in society. Ensuring the country's development goals and associating with national security, social security and environmental protection are both a goal and a very difficult requirement, and there is a need to have consensus in points and guidelines of all levels, branches from central to local, and must also receive the highest consensus from the people. In practice, there are some limitations and shortcomings emerging that are still painful among the people, posing urgent requirements to immediately resolve: “big crimes” related to corruption, public investment, production management causing loss of state budget; exploitation and excessive resource degradation in many places; not ensuring environmental impact assessment for projects before being put into operation; in production development, the illegal discharge into the environment has not been processed, causing serious impacts on the daily life of surrounding people, etc. The above problems are the reverse side of modern society, arising in the context of the country's industrialization and modernization, but they are not entirely new issues but there are “predictions” in Ho Chi Minh's ideology.

Consequently, studying and applying Ho Chi Minh's ideology to build and rectify the Party, clean up the apparatus, maintain people's confidence in the Party's leadership, in the way of building and developing the country; perfecting the legal system and policies in production management and development; balancing the realization of economic goals with ensuring political stability, social security, cultural development, environmental protection, etc. are extremely necessary to implement the development strategy in the current context of Vietnam's innovation.

3. CONCLUSION

In today's era, many new factors have arisen and social development is also extremely diverse and complex, placing people and the nation on many new problems that have never been faced. How to both develop the country's economy, integrate into the world while ensuring social security and environmental issues, and ensure national sovereignty, etc. In such a context, we see more clearly that Ho Chi Minh's ideology has a permanent vitality, which represents the “culture of the future”. It is really necessary to study and apply Ho Chi Minh's ideology in the current sustainable development process of Vietnam.

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