International Conference on “Sustainable Development and Ethnic Minority Poverty Reduction in Mountainous Regions”

**Date:** June 11 to 13, 2014  
**Venue:** Thai Nguyen University, Thai Nguyen City, Vietnam  
**Hosted by:** Thai Nguyen University and World Bank in Vietnam

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**Call for Papers**

**I. Introduction**

As Vietnam rapidly develops, remote ethnic minorities and rural households have often been left behind. Poverty continues to be predominately rural; more than 90 percent of the poor live in rural areas with ethnic minorities and rural households concentrated in mountainous regions. Ethnic minorities are nearly half of the remaining poor population. An international conference will be organized jointly between the World Bank and Thai Nguyen University in June 2014. The purpose of conference is to bring together representatives from government, academia, civil society, and the development partners to reflect on and discuss this issue, focusing on both the Vietnamese experience and international experience in promoting rural development among remote and dispersed rural mountainous communities. The conference is to be structured in such a way as to motivate discussion and development of policy and project level recommendations.

**II. Objectives of the Conference**

The general objective of the conference is to launch a dialogue among government, country stakeholders (including civil society), and development partners on both the experience in the Northern Mountains of Vietnam and that in other countries and to determine how the development approach to this area could be improved. Specific objectives of this conference include:

a. To introduce the international experience of poverty reduction targeting ethnic minorities in mountainous and remote area, especially in the region having similar economic and geographical conditions.

b. To review and discuss (i) current programs/projects targeting ethnic minorities in the Northern Mountains region; and (ii) alternative options for Northern Mountain region in order to achieve more effective interventions.

c. To formulate a menu of policy and project options about potential poverty reduction initiatives that could be replicated in the region and presented to the local authorities for further consideration.
III. Conference Themes

Considering that the conference is a multi-sectoral forum, papers/presentation under each theme will be further determined by the organizing committee. The themes could be developed along the following lines: (i) livelihoods and linking to markets; (ii) cultural issues; (iii) natural resources and hazards; and (iv) human development. These themes are to be further refined and possibly consolidated as the inputs to the conference become available. Each thematic session would ensure that there is a practical lens to the presentations.

The content mobilization would involve several modalities: (i) invite pre-selected speakers who have been involved in implementing successful poverty reduction models with ethnic minorities in mountainous region around the world; (ii) A call for papers, especially from among research and technical institutions, both in Vietnam and other countries in Asia. This would follow the normal procedures, providing some guidelines on paper length and format and giving a deadline for submission; (iii) Invite presentation from graduate students who have worked with selected ethnic minority communities in Vietnam’s NM region to convey their experiences about ‘breakthrough’ experiences (i.e. success stories with new livelihood activities; adding-values to existing things; raising living standards, etc.) through short paper presentation, films, posters, etc. which could be viewed in the exhibition center; (iv) Invite selected participants from the ethnic minority communities who will present their experiences in participating in development of their communities.

IV. Participants

Participants from other countries would be academics/researchers and development practitioners who have exceptional exposure in the field of research related to this conference together with practitioners, graduate students, researchers, government officers, policy makers and donors from Vietnam

V. Program of Activities:

The conference will feature plenary papers by experts and leaders in sustainable development and poverty reduction, and paper presentations, parallel sessions and workshops to identify gaps in sustainable development and poverty reduction in the country and develop mechanisms for collaborative projects. Poster and video presentation will also showcase the event.

VI. Topics of Interest

Submitted papers must be addressed the issues of ethnic minority poverty through one of the following lenses:

(i) Livelihoods and linking to markets;
(ii) Cultural issues;
(iii) Natural resources and hazards; and
(iv) Human development

Each topic will be categorized as follows:
1. International Experiences;
2. Practical Model (i.e. lessons from actual projects/programs that have been piloted, implemented in remote ethnic minority communities);
3. Government Policies; and

VII. Abstract submission (paper, video, and poster)

1. Conference Paper
   A 250-300 word abstract of the paper. Include your name, position, institution and contact information (phone, mail, and e-mail). Abstracts must be written in English and/or Vietnamese and sent to the Conference Secretariat by email as Word file, to: vinhnt@tnu.edu.vn

   It should include the title (12 point, bold, all caps, Times New Roman), author/s (11 point, Arial, with the name of the presenting author underlined), addresses along with e-mail (10 point, Arial) and the text (double spaced in 11 point, Times New Roman font); and

2. Poster or Exhibit Session
   This poster or exhibit session is ideal for presenting preliminary results of work in progress or for projects that lend themselves to visual displays and representations. In these sessions (generally about 15 minutes), a number of presenters have the opportunity to display or exhibit their work and engage in discussion about their work with other delegates throughout the session. Displays may be posters (maximum 1.22x1.83 meters/4x6 feet), digital/computer displays, art work or other visual media. Each display should include a brief abstract, at least 250 to 300 words, of the purpose and procedures of the work; handouts or copies of written material may also be available. Space for the poster or exhibit will be provided by the Conference, however all materials must be organized by the presenter, including posters, displays, handouts or other appropriate materials. Poster presenters should be available during the actual presentation.

3. Video/Films
   All presentations of videos will be followed by a short discussion. The film duration should not exceed 15 minutes. Presentations should be allowed in the following formats (.avi,.mp4,.mkv). Video presentations should be done in English and/or Vietnamese language. Video presenters should be available during the actual presentation.
CALL FOR PAPERS

Each video presentation should include a brief abstract, at least 250 to 300 words, of the purpose and procedures of the work; handouts or copies of written material may also be available.

If your video is under the 20 MB, you can send your videos via e-mail to vinhnt@tnu.edu.vn. If it is bigger than 20 MB, you should upload your video on YouTube and send your video link to our e-mail at vinhnt@tnu.edu.vn or provide the Organizing Committee a soft copy.

N.B.

- Academics/researcher and development practitioners are required to submit their
  a. Area of Interest, categorized into paper / poster / video presentation, before March 20, 2014
  b. Abstract before April 10, 2014;
- Each submission will be reviewed by the members of the Steering Committee;
- Announcement/Notification of acceptance of the paper for oral, poster or video presentation will be notified on or before April 20, 2014;
- All accepted papers/posters/video to be presented at the conference will appear in the proceedings.

If you have any question regarding to this, please contact Mr. Vinh, The Nguyen at vinhnt@tnu.edu.vn

VIII. Full Paper Submission

All conference papers have to be submitted through conference email at: vinhnt@tnu.edu.vn

Each paper is allotted 15 minutes for presentation and discussion.

- 15 minutes per paper presentation (time includes presentation and discussion);
- Presenters must furnish the soft copy of the paper;
- A digital projector will be provided in each meeting room.

If you require additional information, please contact Mr. Vinh, The Nguyen at vinhnt@tnu.edu.vn, cell phone: (+84)944 550 550

Deadline for full paper submission is May 10, 2014.