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ISSUES OF COOPERATION BETWEEN RUSSIA AND VIETNAM IN THE FIELD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Abstract: *in the article, the authors explored the main aspects of cooperation between Russia and Vietnam in the field of education. This topic is relevant because, in the context of scientific and technological advancement and the emergence of new technologies, education has become strategically important. The purpose of the article was to highlight the most significant aspects of the development of cooperation between these two countries in education, to examine the main trends in this area, and to determine the future prospects for this field. According to the authors, Russia and Vietnam have been pursuing a joint strategy to attract Russian and Vietnamese students to their higher education institutions and create favorable conditions for them to stay both in their home countries and within universities.*

Keywords: *education, Russia, Vietnam, Russian-Vietnamese relations, international cooperation, cooperation, professional education.*

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ВОПРОСЫ СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВА РОССИИ И ВЬЕТНАМА В СФЕРЕ ВЫСШЕГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ

Аннотация: в статье авторы рассмотрели основные аспекты сотрудничества России и Вьетнама в области образования. Актуальность темы обусловлена тем, что в условиях научно-технического прогресса и появления новых технологий, образование приобретает стратегически важное значение. Цель статьи – осветить важнейшие аспекты развития сотрудничества России и Вьетнама в области образования; изучить основные тенденции в данной сфере; определить перспективы развития данной области изучения. Авторы приходят к выводу, что Россия и Вьетнам проводят совместную политику привлечения российских и вьетнамских студентов в высшие учебные заведения, создают благоприятные условия пребывания студентов как внутри самих стран, так и в рамках вузов.

Ключевые слова: Россия, Вьетнам, российско-вьетнамские отношения, образование, международное взаимодействие, сотрудничество, профессиональное образование.

In recent years, Russia has strengthened international relations with various allied states, including the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

«Russian-Vietnamese relations have a long and friendly history, based on a strategic partnership. They were first established in 1950 during the time when Indochina fought for its independence from France. At that time, the USSR supported North Vietnam by providing weapons, food, military experts, and loans for economic recovery» [1, p. 243].

The history of Russian-Vietnamese educational cooperation dates back to the 1950s, when the USSR granted scholarships to Vietnamese students to study at leading

universities such as Lomonosov Moscow State University (MSU), Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology (MIPT), and Saint Petersburg State University (SPbSU). Over decades of collaboration, more than 50,000 Vietnamese citizens received education in the Soviet Union, including future ministers, scientists, and engineers. Notably, Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Prime Minister of Vietnam (2016–2021), graduated from the Saint Petersburg Mining University [8].

After events of 1991 – cooperation declined due to economic challenges but regained momentum in the 2000s. A pivotal moment came in 2014 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Russian and Vietnamese Ministries of Education, followed by an updated agreement in 2023 that emphasized digitalization and joint AI research [2; 3].

Cooperation between Russia and Vietnam in the field of higher education is an essential part of their long-term strategic partnership. With the ongoing digital transformation and global competition for intellectual resources, this collaboration is becoming increasingly significant.

Russian-Vietnamese relations are entering a new phase of cooperation across multiple spheres, particularly in education and science. In June 2024, the Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on Cooperation in Higher Education was signed, outlining the following priority areas of collaboration:

«...facilitating the exchange of expertise in higher education, including matters related to state policies and regulatory frameworks governing this domain in the Russian Federation and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam;

– promoting the establishment and development of direct partnerships between interested Russian and Vietnamese organizations engaged in educational activities (hereinafter referred to as higher education institutions). Particularly in the design and implementation of joint educational programs, academic exchanges of students, faculty, and researchers for training, professional development, retraining, and enhancement of scholarly and pedagogical practices, as well as collaborative fundamental and

applied research in higher education, and the exchange of educational materials, periodicals, and literature;

- supporting citizens of the Russian Federation and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in obtaining higher education at all levels within the higher education institutions of both states, as well as participation in short-term professional training courses in specializations of mutual interest to the Parties;

- encouraging the study and teaching of the languages, history, and cultures of the two states, including through competitions, academic olympics, and other educational and cultural awareness initiatives;

- organizing and conducting joint seminars, congresses, conferences, exhibitions, and other higher education-related events on the territories of the Russian Federation and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam» [4].

Between 2018 and 2024, the parties intensified joint projects aimed at integrating educational systems, training personnel for high-tech industries, and strengthening cultural ties.

One of the priority areas is increasing the number of students enrolled in universities of both countries. In 2023, an agreement on mutual recognition of academic degrees was signed, significantly streamlining the admission process for Vietnamese students to Russian universities. In turn, Russian students gained opportunities for internships and academic programs at Vietnamese universities specializing in the study of Eastern languages, regional culture, and economics.

According to the Ministry of Education and Science of Russia, in 2024, the number of Vietnamese students studying in Russia exceeded 5,000, an increase of 15% compared to the previous year. The main fields of study were engineering, medicine, information technology, and economics.

In 2023, Russia allocated 1,000 state scholarships for Vietnamese Master's and PhD students, with priority given to fields such as economics, data science, international relations, and engineering. Leading institutions include:

- Higher School of Economics (HSE) – economics and data science;
- MGIMO University – international relations;

– Tomsk Polytechnic University (TPU) – engineering and IT.

Vietnamese students account for 4% of all international students in Russia. In 2024, their number reached 5,200, marking a 15% increase compared to 2022. For reference, 4,500 Vietnamese students were enrolled in Russia in 2021.

Russian students, in turn, pursue studies in Vietnam focusing on Eastern languages, ecology, and tourism. For instance, the Far Eastern Federal University (FEFU), in collaboration with Hanoi University, has developed an exchange program for students specializing in Oriental studies [6].

A crucial component of bilateral cooperation is the implementation of dual-degree programs. In 2023, such programs were launched at several leading universities, including Lomonosov Moscow State University (MSU) and Hanoi National University. Students enrolled in these programs gain the opportunity to study disciplines in both Russia and Vietnam, enabling them to acquire unique competencies and broaden their professional horizons.

Another facet of collaboration between the two countries is the promotion of the Russian language in Vietnam and the Vietnamese language in Russia. In 2023, new Russian language centers were established in Vietnam with support from Rossotrudnichestvo, while Russian universities expanded courses on Vietnamese language and culture. These initiatives foster mutual understanding and strengthen cultural ties between the peoples of both nations [5; 6].

Russia-Vietnam cooperation in higher education is evolving amidst global challenges such as digitalization, labor market transformations, and the imperative to adapt educational programs to emerging realities. Key trends in this collaboration include:

- Expansion of online courses and distance learning programs, enhancing accessibility for students from remote regions;
- Integration of cutting-edge technologies into pedagogical practices, including virtual reality (VR) and artificial intelligence (AI);
- Intensified competition in the global education market, compelling universities in both countries to elevate educational quality and diversify their program portfolios.

One persistent challenge remains the language barrier, which can hinder the academic adaptation of Vietnamese students in Russia and vice versa. To address this issue, universities in both countries are actively expanding language preparatory programs, offering students the opportunity to study the host country's language during their first academic year.

Russia-Vietnam cooperation in higher education serves as a cornerstone of their strategic partnership and the advancement of humanitarian ties. Currently, this collaboration has reached a new level, evidenced by increased academic mobility, the implementation of joint educational programs, and intensified scientific research. Despite existing challenges, the prospects for further development in this sphere remain promising. Strengthening educational linkages will not only cultivate highly skilled professionals but also reinforce the bonds of friendship and mutual understanding between the peoples of Russia and Vietnam.

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