Human Security in Practice: East Asian Experiences

The Concept of Human Security in Vietnam

Pham Lan Dung and Nguyen Ngoc Lan

The Concept of Human Security in Vietnam

Pham Lan Dung[1] and Nguyen Ngoc Lan[2]

Abstract

Human security is a concept that has caught the attention of governments and scholars around the world, despite having emerged only fairly recently. In most countries, however, the level of understanding of the concept and its related issues remains low. This study aims to determine how the concept of human security is understood in Vietnam. It begins with a review of the law and policies relating to human security in Vietnam. This review shows that the human security concept has not been acknowledged or regulated in any official documents of the State. The constituent elements of human security, however, can be distilled from legislation even though the connection to it is not explicitly made. A literature review pertaining to this issue also demonstrates that within the epistemic community, human security is not a common topic of discussion. Only a few authors have attempted to analyze it in the context of Vietnam. Finally, the findings gathered from interviews conducted with representatives from five sectors, including the government, epistemic community, civil societies, media, and private business, help provide a more accurate picture regarding the level of awareness of human security issues in Vietnam. In general, the interviewees were not familiar with the concept itself, but were able to quickly link it, and threats to human security, to different aspects of their lives. The research has also found that there is a high expectation that the government will assume a leading role in protecting and promoting human security in Vietnam.

---

[1] Dean, International Law Faculty, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam
[2] Lecturer, International Law Faculty, Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam

1. Overview of Human Security and the Vietnamese Law and Policy-making Process

1.1 Introduction to Human Security

Human security is understood as the "right of all people to live in freedom and dignity, free from poverty and despair," and that "all individuals, in particular vulnerable people, are entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want, with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential."[3] As such, human security aims at ensuring the survival, livelihood, and dignity of people in response to current and emerging threats – threats that are often widespread and complex.[4] Based on this definition, threats to human security can be grouped into seven categories: Economic security, Food security, Health security, Environmental security, Personal security, Community security, and Political security, according to the *Human Development Report 1994*.[5]

1.2 Introduction to the Vietnamese Law and Policy-making Process

In order to better understand the law and policy of Vietnam relating to human security, it is appropriate to firstly introduce the national legal system as well as the structure of the country's legal documents. The highest legal document in the Vietnamese legal system is the Constitution passed by the National Assembly in 1992, and amended in 2013. Under the Constitution are laws, ordinances, decrees, and other affiliated legal documents, including orders issued by the State President, government decisions issued by the Prime Minister, and circulars issued by individual Ministries. Also, the Resolution of the Communist Party of Vietnam is considered to be the guideline for all laws and regulations to be adopted by the authorities, even though it is not a legal document having any binding effect.

---

[3] United Nations General Assembly, *2005 World Summit Outcome*, October 24, 2005, A/RES/60/1, para.14324, accessed July 29, 2014, http://www.refworld.org/docid/44168a910.html.
[4] United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, *Human Security for All*, accessed July 29, 2014, http://www.unocha.org/humansecurity/about-human-security/human-security-all.
[5] United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), *Human Development Report 1994* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1994), 23-25, accessed July 29, 2014, http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/hdr_1994_en_chap2.pdf.

Besides the law, Vietnamese policies can be ascertained in national action plans, national targeted programs, and national strategies issued by the Government to set specific goals for implementation of each policy. Although these are not legal documents, they are still strictly followed and implemented by governmental organs in specific localities.

2. Perceptions of Human Security in Vietnam

2.1 Understanding the Concept, Threats, and Responses to Threats of "Human Security" through Official Documents

A review of the law and policies of Vietnam shows that even though the concept of human security is not brand new and unheard of, it is not provided for, explained or endorsed in law or other legally binding documents. This clearly shows that the understanding and promotion of human security have not been mainstreamed in Vietnam policies and legislation. In a similar vein, threats to human security *per se* have not been clearly pointed out, and can only be distilled from official documents of the government that specify action plans for the coming period. Threats are mostly acknowledged as threats to human life, or to the stability and prosperity of the country.

This does not mean, however, that the concept is unknown in Vietnam. At the 15th Asia – Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit Meeting (September, 2007), the then President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam H.E. Nguyễn Minh Triết stated that: "Human security is of vital importance, and is closely connected with the stability and prosperity of every nation and every economy."[6] The fact that "human security" and its importance were acknowledged and emphasized by the Head of State in an international forum indicates a positive change in the mindset of the country's leaders. While traditional national security has been and is still a priority concern, there is no denying that human factors are being given higher attention than previously. As such, even though human security is still tied to national stability

---

[6] "APEC 2007 Closing Ceremony," *Online Journal of the Communist Party of Vietnam*, September 10, 2007,
http://123.30.190.43:8080/tiengviet/tulieuvankien/tulieuvedang/details.asp?topic=1&subtopic=104&leader_topic=174&id=BT1090731013.

and prosperity, as opposed to being assessed and valued as an independent factor, there has been a considerable improvement in Vietnam's consideration of this issue.

Thus, while "human security" is not directly regulated, aspects of the human security concept still exist, and are reflected in Vietnam's law and policies. In other words, without a precise definition of human security, Vietnam's policies still implicitly promote human security. In this paper, the understanding of the human security concept in Vietnam, as well as the perception of the threats to human security and the range of responses to such threats, will be analyzed in view of each of the components of human security listed above. These include (i) economic security, (ii) food security, (iii) health security, (iv) environmental security, (v) personal security, (vi) community security, and (vii) political security.

2.1.1 Economic Security

Vietnam's recent economic development has made people's lives easier, with more goods and services being available. However, at the same time, development has increased the risks of unemployment especially for the large proportion of the population who are manual laborers. Accordingly, the major threats to economic security are seen to be rampant uncontrolled inflation, economic depression, and financial crises. Taking these risks into consideration, the government has enacted and promulgated many laws and policies in response.

For example, the Labor Code was amended and the changes came into effect on May 1, 2013. Article 4 on Labor Policy stipulates that the Government shall provide all favorable conditions to activities that can generate jobs, self-employment, vocational training, and manufacturing operations. At the same time the right to work of all employers is ensured. In terms of policies, the Vietnamese government has been very active in labor policy: including promulgating an Unemployment Insurance Policy (effective in 2009); establishing labor market forecasts and information centers; implementing the National Fund for Employment; and developing State-owned job placement centers.

2.1.2 Food Security

The importance of ensuring food security is recognized in Government Resolution No. 63/NQ-CP. This Resolution clearly states that national food security is an issue about which the Communist Party and the State should have the highest concern in both the short and long term. Ensuring food security should be in line with the overall socio-economic development strategy, in conjunction with industrialization and modernization of the country, and the resolution of remaining issues relating to agriculture, farmers, rural areas, poverty reduction, and hunger eradication. Job creation and raising the incomes are of high importance in ensuring sustainable food security.

Vietnam has enacted many laws and policies to ensure the quality of food. The main ones are: Law No. 55/2010/QH12 on Food Safety which stipulates the rights and obligations of organizations and individuals in ensuring food safety, sets criteria for food safety, and develops measures to prevent and combat food safety issues; and Law No. 05/2007/QH12 on Product and Goods Quality which regulates the rights and obligations of organizations and individuals producing or trading in products or goods, as well as those of the organizations and individuals conducting activities related to their quality.

With regard to the threat of starvation, central and provincial level governments have been revising and fine-tuning policies on poverty reduction as a key and regular task. The National Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam confirms that hunger eradication and poverty reduction continue to be a major policy and long-term objective, and a specific task in the country's socio-economic development. The Platform on National Construction in the Period of Transition to Socialism (revised and supplemented in 2011), sets out the task of "promoting legal richness in parallel with sustainable poverty reduction in order to narrow rich-poor differences between regions, areas, and classes and fine-tune the social welfare system." In the Strategy on Socio-economic Development 2011-2020, sustainable poverty reduction is considered to be the key priority.

The legislations that put these policy orientations into practice include Government Resolution 30a/2008/NQ-CP on Fast and Sustainable Poverty Reduction in 62 Poor Districts. In relation to this resolution, Prime Ministerial Decision 1489/QĐ-TTg on the National Targeted Program on Sustainable Poverty Reduction from 2012-2015, dated October 8, 2012, sets certain targets for the period 2011-2015. These include increasing GDP by 1.6 times compared to 2011, and decreasing the number of poor households to an average of 2% per year in accordance with the national poverty standard.

2.1.3 Health Security

There have been remarkable improvements in the quality of the disease prevention and healthcare system in Vietnam, contributing to greater health security in the country. This is proven by lower infant, maternal, or adult mortality rates, and longer life expectancy than most other countries with the same Gross Domestic Product (GDP). However, Vietnam still faces significant disease burdens, including infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. In addition to these problems, cancer, heart disease, traffic accidents, and new variants of flu have loomed larger, becoming the new threats to health security.

Recognizing these threats, the government set up the National Strategy for Health Protection, Health Care and Health Promotion. This strategy is aimed not only at ensuring that every citizen benefits from the health care system, but also at guaranteeing a safe physical and mental environment for people to live in.

The law and policy frameworks on healthcare have thus gradually been completed to increase people's health standards. The legislative frameworks include, *inter alias,* Law No. 40/2009/QH12 on Medical Examination and Treatment, and Government Resolution 87/2011/NĐ-CP on guiding the implementation of this Law. As part of the effort to combat infectious diseases, the National Assembly passed Law No. 03/2007/QH12 on the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases, and the Government issued Resolution 92/2010/NDD-CP on guiding its implementation. Moreover, there are national strategies to improve health care

policies, including the National Strategic Policy on fighting and preventing HIV/AIDS to 2020, with Vision to 2030.

2.1.4 Environmental Security

According to the Communist Party of Vietnam's Resolution No. 24/NQ-TW, threats to environmental security are threefold. First, natural disasters that are increasingly unusual, causing much damage to people and assets; second, environmental pollution that is becoming increasingly serious in some places is slowing environmental recovery from the effects of war; and third, there is a decline in biodiversity, with the risk of ecological imbalances happening on a large scale, and this negatively affects social and economic development, people's health, and their lives. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment also confirms that the consequences of climate change for Vietnam are highly serious, and an apparent threat to poverty eradication, implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, and the overall sustainable development of the country.[7]

Growing population and related economic activity have put pressure on the stock of natural resources; particularly forests, waters, and marine resources in Vietnam. Therefore, the Vietnamese government strives to keep a balance between development and environmental protection, to ensure sustainable growth. For each of the abovementioned threats, the government has enacted laws and policies to respond respectively.

To prevent threats arising from instability of physical environment including natural disasters, the National Assembly passed the Law No. 33/2013/QH13 on Preventing and Combating Natural Disasters in 2013. This law regulates the rights and obligations of organizations and individuals in preventing natural disasters, as well as state management and

---

[7] Ministry of Planning and Investment, *Millennium Development Goals Full Report 2013: Achievements and Challenges in the Progress of Reaching Millennium Development Goals of Vietnam* (Hanoi: New Technology Printing Joint Stock Company, 2013), 29,
http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/MDG/english/MDG%20Country%20Reports/Viet%20Nam/MDG_FullReport_Final%20approved.pdf.; and Decision No. 2139/QĐ-TTg dated December 5, 2011, on National Strategy on Climate Change,
http://chinhphu.vn/portal/page/portal/English/strategies/strategiesdetails%3FcategoryId%3D30%26articleId%3D10051283.

resources in all disaster preventing activities. A national strategy on Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation has also been developed.

In an effort to tackle threats from pollution and the shortage of natural resources, the government enacted the Law on Environmental Protection (52/2005/QH11) in 2005. This clearly states that the policy of environmental protection is to be rational use of natural resources, the development of clean and renewable energy, and the promotion of reduce, reuse, and recycle wastes. Moreover, the Government also set the National Strategy on Environmental Protection to 2020, with Visions to 2030, and the National Program on Green Growth. The Prime Minister also issued Decision No. 2139/QĐ-TTg, dated December 5, 2011, on the National Strategy on Climate Change; with a view to preparing responses to possible threats from future changes.

2.1.5 Personal Security

Personal security means protection against violence and the deprivation of basic freedoms. For vulnerable groups such as women and children, protection of personal security also includes protection from domestic violence and human trafficking. The Ministry of Public Security reports that human trafficking, especially that of women and children, is becoming more complicated, and an apparent threat not only in Vietnam but also globally.

In response to domestic violence, which is one of the major threats to the personal security of women, specifically women in the rural areas of Vietnam; the Government has attempted to address this problem by passing Law No. 02/2007/QH on Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence. Other legislation is found in Government Resolution No. 08/2009/ND-CP on guiding the implementation of some articles of the Law on prevention and combating domestic violence, in Government Resolution No. 110/2009/ND-CP on sanctions for administrative violations in the field of domestic violence, and Directive No. 16/2008/CT-TTg on the implementation of the law on prevention and combating domestic violence, amongst others.

With regards to human trafficking, Vietnam is often a source, sometimes a transit facilitator, but rarely a destination country. The government has passed legislations and established an institutional framework to tackle this problem in a more concerted manner. These legislations include Law No. 66/2011/QH12 dated March 29, 2011, on Human Trafficking Prevention and Combat; Prime Ministerial Decision 1427/QĐ-TTg dated August 18, 2011, on the Action Program on Prevention and fighting crimes in human trafficking; Prime Ministerial Decision 1217/QĐ-TTg dated September 6, 2012 on the National Targeted Program on prevention and fighting crime in the period 2012-2015; and Prime Ministerial Decision No. 130/2004/QĐ-TTg on the Action Program on prevention and fighting crimes relating to the trafficking of children and women.

Moreover, Vietnam has actively participated in the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking (COMMIT), and closely coordinated with UN agencies such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nation Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking (UNIAP), and World Vision (WV); as well as concluding many bilateral agreements and treaties with Laos, Cambodia, China, and Malaysia, with a view to effectively strengthening the fight against human trafficking in the region.

2.1.6 Community Security

Community security allows people to live safely in their own places without fear of any conflict. Thus, threats to community security might include intra-community strife, tensions, or hurtful practices directed against certain members of the community, such as women. With regard to community security, Vietnamese policies strictly follow the Ho Chi Minh Ideology on National Unity. Article 5 of the Constitution 1992 (as amended in 2013) also stipulates that "The Socialist Republic of Vietnam is a unified nation of all ethnicities living together in the country of Vietnam. All ethnic groups are equal, unite, respect and assist one another for mutual development; and all acts of discrimination against and division of the ethnicities are prohibited."

Though it is not a legal document, the Resolution of the 7th Concentrator Photovoltaic Systems (CPV) Conference confirming the strategic importance of ethnic issues and national unity plays a role as an orientation in all policy-making activities. Prime Ministerial Decision 449/QĐ-TTg on the Strategy for Ethnic Affairs to 2020, dated March 12, 2013, then puts this orientation into the practices of authorized bodies of the government.

2.1.7 Political Security

Political security is ensured when people are protected from political violence including war, civil unrest, and systematic torture and human rights violations.

With regard to the promotion of human rights, Vietnam has endeavored to strengthen the legal system and policies, promote education as well as implement international obligations relating to human rights. The newly amended Constitution confirms in Article 14 that in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, political, civil, economic, social, and cultural rights are respected and provided for in the Constitution and laws. In particular, the Constitution also provides in Article 20 that everyone has rights and is protected by law, and is not to be subjected to torture, violence, coercion, corporal punishment or any form of treatment harming his or her body and health, or offending his or her honor and dignity. The Platform on National Construction in the Period of Transition to Socialism (revised 2011) also concentrates on prosperous people, a strong country, and an equitable and civilized society. People should live a free, plentiful and happy life and be able to develop comprehensively.

In an effort to meet international standards on human rights protection, Vietnam has signed, ratified, and acceded to more than 30 international treaties, and participates in international and regional organizations in guaranteeing human security. Currently, Vietnam is a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council. The following table lists some of the treaties that Vietnam has already signed, acceded to, or ratified.

No.	Treaty	Time of signing/ accession/ratification
1.	Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage 1972	Accepted on 19/10/1987
2.	Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crimes of Apartheid 1973	Acceded on 9/6/1981
3.	Convention on Biological Diversity and the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity	Signed on 16/11/1994
4.	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species	Acceded on 20/1/1994
5.	Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide 1948	Acceded on 9/6/1981
6.	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) 2006	Signed on 22/10/2007
7.	Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) 1990	Ratified on 20/2/1991
8.	Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labor (ILO Convention No. 182) 2000	Ratified on 19/12/2000
9.	Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) 1979	Ratified in 2/1981
10.	Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111) 1958	Ratified on 7/10/1997
11.	Equal Remuneration Convention (No. 100) 1951	Ratified on 7/10/1997
12.	Final Articles Revision Convention (No. 116) 1961	Ratified on 3/10/1994
13.	Final Articles Revision Convention (No. 80) 1946	Ratified on 3/10/1994
14.	Hygiene (Commerce and Offices) Convention (No. 120) 1964	Ratified on 3/10/1994
15.	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) 1966	Acceded on 9/6/1981
16.	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (MWC) 1990	
17.	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) 1996	Acceded on 24/9/1982
18.	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (IESCR) 1966	Acceded on 24/9/1982
19.	Labor Inspection Convention (No. 81) 1947	Ratified on 3/10/1994
20.	Marking of Weight (Packages Transported by Vessels) Convention (No. 27) 1929	Ratified on 3/10/1994
21.	Medical Examination of Young Persons (Underground Work) Convention (No. 124) 1965	Ratified on 3/10/1994
22.	Minimum Age (Underground Work) Convention (No. 123) 1965	Ratified on 20/2/1995
23.	Occupational Safety and Health Convention (No. 155) 1981	Ratified on 3/10/1994
24.	The Convention concerning Forced Labor Convention (ILO Convention No. 29) 2007	Ratified on 5/3/2007
25.	The Minimum Age (Industry) Convention (ILO Convention No. 5) 1919	Ratified on 3/10/1994
26.	The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer 1987	Acceded on 26/1/1994
27.	The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer 1985	Signed on 22/3/1985
28.	UN Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity1968	Acceded on 4/6/1983
29.	Underground Work (Women) Convention (No. 45) 1935	Ratified on 3/10/1994
30.	United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) 1984	Signed on 7/11/2013
31.	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change 1992	Ratified on 16/11/1994
32.	Weekly Rest (Industry) Convention (No. 14) 1921	Ratified on 3/10/1994
33.	WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control 2005	Ratified on 22/2/2007

2.2 Perception of Human Security in the Epistemic Community[8]

A review of scholarly work in Vietnam shows that in general, the term "human security" is not a common topic of research. While the number of research works authored by Vietnamese scholars on the topic of human security has increased recently, they still remain quite limited. Also, the depth of the research varies greatly. In fact, there are different levels of engagement by scholars in their analyses of this concept, and/or related aspects, and this situation illustrates the different levels of understanding among the academic community. For the purposes of this study, research works on this issue can be categorized into three types: the first includes in-depth research directly addressing specific or related aspects of human security; the second includes articles and discussions on the concept of human security; and the third includes works that address human security indirectly through related aspects of human security, without actually acknowledging the concept.

2.2.1 Works Directly Addressing the Human Security Concept

The number of in-depth research studies on the concept of human security is low. There are only a handful of such works competed by Vietnamese experts equipped with knowledge and awareness of the concept of "human security." The majority of these scholarly works present themselves in the form of Master or PhD dissertations, or are articles published in academic journals. As suggested by their titles, which usually contain the term "human security," these scholarly works concentrate on analyzing the concept or specific aspects of human security. All these works show that these scholars in general share an adequate level of understanding and awareness of the concept of "human security." However, the approaches taken in these works

---

[8] The concept of epistemic community was first introduced by John Ruggie, and then refined by Peter M. Haas. These scholars focused on the role played by networks of actors, and the consensus they hold about causes and effects on state policy and interstate cooperation. John Ruggie appears to have been the first to coin the term "epistemic community," using it to refer to "a dominant way of looking at social reality, a set of shared symbols and references, and mutual expectations…." (John Ruggie, 1975]). In "Introduction: Epistemic Communities and International Policy Coordination," Peter Haas defined epistemic community as "a network of professionals with recognized expertise and competence in a particular domain and an authoritative claim to policy relevant knowledge within that domain or issue-area." (Peter Haas, "Introduction: Epistemic Communities and International Policy Coordination," *International Organization* 46 (1) (Winter, 1992): 1-35.

may vary from one another; ranging from analyzing basic concepts, delving into aspects of human security, and/or studying the concept in the particular situation of Vietnam and the world. This section of the report will look into some of the most prominent works on this topic to date.

In his PhD dissertation "Human Security in Modern International Law," Chu Manh Hung places the analysis of human security within the framework of international law and human rights. His analysis focuses on the concept of human security as discussed in the general literature, and goes on to introduce the provisions of international law and Vietnam on human security.[9] The reality of the application of the concept of human security in Vietnam or other issues of a practical nature are not mentioned or studied in detail. This work serves as an introduction to the concept of human security for the Vietnamese epistemic community, and was very useful when the topic was still rather new in the country. It does not, however, contain much personal contribution to the development and application of the concept in the context of Vietnam.

Also looking at human security in terms of the clear correlation with human rights and human development, Nguyen Hong Hai examines the concepts behind poverty reduction in Vietnam.[10] From the viewpoint that human development, human security, and human rights are important pillars of human protection, and that human beings are at the center of any activities or programs under these umbrellas; the author argues that none should take precedence over the others as they are all intertwined. In fact, each cannot be implemented independently from the other. With this approach, human security issues are included in the overall relationship across the board, but still go deep and adhere to the practical problems of Vietnamese society.

In discussing the threats posed to human security, Ta Minh Tuan analyzes the global threats to human security posed by uncontrolled population increases, inequalities in economic opportunity, pressure from migration, environmental degradation, drug trafficking, international

---

[9] Chu Manh Hung, *Vấn đề an ninh con người trong luật quốc tế hiện đại* (Human Security in modern international law), (PhD diss., Hanoi Law University, 2012).
[10] Nguyen Hong Hai, "Assessing the Inter-relationship of Human Development, Human Security and Human Rights in Poverty Reduction in Vietnam" (paper presented at the conference on Mainstreaming Human Security: The Asian Contribution, Bangkok, October 4-5, 2007).

terrorism, and weapons of mass destruction. The author also proposes measures to protect human security in Vietnam's current condition.[11] While also focusing on threats to human security, Vu Duong Ninh analyzes the underlying causes of war, the ethnic and religious conflicts leading to food insecurity, the risk of natural resource scarcity and energy shortages in South-East Asia in his article "Human Security and Insecurities in Modern Society," and highlights the necessity for a sustainable development strategy.[12] It seems quite clear that both these articles endeavor, somewhat successfully, to place the abstract concept of human security in the context of Vietnam and Southeast Asia, and to use the concept as a starting point for certain solutions.

The scholarly works mentioned above are a few of the most detailed research studies on the topic of human security to date. They show different perspectives and approaches in studying the concept. As presented, most of the works show a high level of understanding and awareness of the concept of human security, and have attempted to place it in the particular context of Vietnam.

The viewpoints of Vietnamese scholars can also be ascertained through workshops and conferences organized specifically on human security issues. As such, while these workshops may discuss theoretical aspects of human security in general, most of the presentations therein focus more on one particular element of the concept of human security in connection with a particular aspect of social life.

The most noticeable national workshop was held in 2002 by the Institute for International Relations in Hanoi entitled the Second National Workshop on Human Security. The topics covered in this workshop ranged from discussing the concept and approaches of human security, to connecting this concept with culture, economic growth, social justice, and

---

[11] Tạ Minh Tuấn, "An ninh con người trong mối đe doạ toàn cầu" (Human Security and Global Threats), *Tạp chí Cộng sản, Số* (Communist Journal) 12 (2008), accessed February 24, 2015. http://www.tapchicongsan.org.vn/Home/Nghiencuu-Traodoi/2008/1178/An-ninh-con-nguoi-va-nhung-moi-de-doa-toan-cau.aspx.
[12] Vũ Dương Ninh, "An ninh con người và sự bất an trong cuộc sống hiện nay" (Human Security and Insecurities in Modern Society), *Tạp chí Phát triển khoa học & công nghệ* (Journal of Science and Technology Development) 12 (1) (2009).

religion in Vietnam. Different approaches to human security issues were shared, depending on each of the representatives' specialized background or priority concern. The presentations analyzed the problem with respect to five aspects: human rights, society, economy, religion, and culture. Participants also reconfirmed the necessity of researching the human security concept in Vietnam, and made some specific recommendations in each of their respective fields in order to promote the application of the concept of human security in Vietnam. It is worth noticing, however, that most of the discussion centered on the improvement or otherwise in the living standards of the Vietnamese people, making only few references to the concept of human security. This concept was mostly defined as freedom from want, despite the fact that the authors themselves may not have acknowledged it as such. Freedom to live in dignity was hardly touched upon.[13]

2.2.2 Works related to Aspects of Human Security

Works of this nature differ from those mentioned above in the sense that they are not aimed at discussing human security, nor do they actually include or refer to the concept in their findings. However, these articles are still related to human security since they address different aspects of this concept, even though the authors themselves may not actually acknowledge it as such. As pointed out above, while the number of research studies that directly address human security is rather modest, it is more common to see works that indirectly study related aspects of human security without the connection necessarily being made.

One prominent example of this approach is the *2013 Workshop on Water and Food Security in Vietnam*, part of a series of workshops and dialogues on food security in the Mekong River Basin.[14] This particular workshop, held in Can Tho, aimed at scrutinizing challenges faced by Vietnam in managing its delta sustainably in the case of alteration/reductions of water flow, or salt water intrusion that will affect agriculture and also lead to a decline in fisheries.

---

[13] Institute for International Relations, *Report for the Second National Workshop on Human Security* (Hanoi: Institute for International Relations, July 2002).
[14] *Workshop on Water-Food Security in Cambodia and the Vietnam Delta - Assessing risk and alternatives under an altered flow regime*, Can Tho, Vietnam, December 5-6, 2013.

The workshop called attention to the fact that the consequences are of such magnitude that there will be serious changes in local food security, in the political economy of food production, and to trade in the region. It also identified in more detail what threats will be faced, and how they might be met. While hardly any of the presentations incorporated the concept of human security in their analyses, the findings were shaped from the perspective of food and water security, which correlates to the concept of human security.

2.3 Perception of Human Security in the Media

In the Vietnamese media, "human security" *per se* is not a topical issue. In fact, the concept is hardly mentioned at all, and has only appeared in a few online articles. On the other hand, the media focuses more on reporting issues concerning human rights, and the different facets of people's lives.

The concept of "human security" has nevertheless been mentioned in a few online newspapers.[15] However, the articles usually do not provide a clear definition or background explanation of the term. The concept is used only as a caveat from which the article goes on to focus on other existing problems in Vietnamese society. Although such articles clearly display an inadequate level of awareness of the term "human security," they play an important role in increasing the understanding of the public in general of the threats to their daily lives, which could pertain to different aspects of human security.

---

[15] See, for example, Thang Nguyen, "Hydroelectricity: from Energy Security to Human Security," *One World E-News*, November 14, 2013, accessed July 28, 2014, http://motthegioi.vn/dac-biet/thuy-dien-tu-an-ninh-nang-luong-den-an-ninh-con-nguoi-21155.html; and Hong Ha, "Climate Change Threatens Human Security," *Binh Dinh Online*, March 31, 2014, accessed July 28, 2014, http://www.baobinhdinh.com.vn/viewer.aspx?macm=25&macmp=25&mabb=19916.

3. Findings from Interviews

3.1 Targeted Stakeholders

The research team set out to search for interviewees in five sectors, namely the government, civil society, scholars/academics, the media, and businesses. For each of these sectors, the research team managed to interview representatives from the following institutions:

- For the Government: the Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

- For scholars: Vietnam National University;

- For civil society: the Women's Union, the Youth Union, East Meets West (NGO);

- For the media: Vietnam News Agency, Vietnam Television Corporation; and

- For private businesses: Mai Linh Taxi Corporation, Cuu Long Joint Stock Company.

3.2 Selection Criteria

It is acknowledged that the concept of "human security" has both objective and subjective sides. In other words, the understanding and approach of each individual to the term "human security" is heavily influenced by the individual's personal and professional background. Therefore, when choosing the interviewees for our study, the team was mindful that in order to obtain the most comprehensive insights from the interviewees certain criteria needed to be met.

First, representativeness of the interviewees. The interviewees from each sector were selected so as to represent those most likely to be involved with works that concern human security issues. For example, in selecting representatives from governmental authorities, we aimed to invite those from the Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Defense, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, since these Ministries are associated with ensuring security, public order and social welfare for the people. Within each of the selected institutions the team aimed to seek those experienced in the field, and those whose work are directly related to relevant aspects of human security.

Second, access to information. In selecting the interviewees, the team was also mindful that not all of them, even if they had agreed to meet us, would be willing to have an open discussion on an issue that might be deemed sensitive. Therefore, beyond the criteria mentioned above, we had to identify those who were either within our network of connections, or put into contact with us through our colleagues and acquaintances. This would allow us to approach them in a somewhat less formal way to make it easier for the interviewees to open up and share their opinions with us. [16]

Third, influence. We hold the view that the interviewing process should not be a one-sided exchange of information, but rather an opportunity to disseminate information and knowledge on human security to our interviewees, in the hope that it will be put to good use at different levels. Therefore, we also attempted to find individuals in positions which could potentially have impact on policy-shaping and policy-making processes. However, this was not always possible as those who hold influential positions are usually very busy and quite reserved.

3.3 Difficulties Encountered in Conducting the Interviews

3.3.1 Translation

Due to the fact that not all of the interviewees spoke or were fluent in English, translation work had to be carried out. In doing this, the team encountered some difficulties in finding the equivalent terms in Vietnamese for some of those in English. For example, the word "empowerment" does not have a Vietnamese equivalent. Therefore, the team had to use long phrases to explain the term, in order to give the interviewee a general understanding. Other concepts such as "freedom from fear" and "freedom from want" have equivalents in Vietnamese, but the literal translation does not convey the whole meaning of the concepts, and this called for further clarification as well.

---

[16] See Annex I for table and graphs of interviewing results.

3.3.2 Reservations of the Interviewees

As the concept of human security is not widely known in Vietnam, it is not uncommon that when people hear the term "human" it is usually associated with "human rights," which up to now is still considered a rather sensitive topic of discussion. This mentality has to a certain extent contributed to the situation where some people, especially those in higher positions, refused to be interviewed, or if they did agree, were prevented from freely and candidly voicing their views. Therefore, even though these people may have had sufficient experience in their respective fields to be able to provide sound and meaningful answers to the questions, it was not always easy or possible to persuade them to share their opinions.

3.3.3 Geographical Limitations

Due to financial constraints, most of the interviews could only have been conducted in Hanoi, not in other provinces and cities. The advantage of conducting interviews in Hanoi is, as it is the capital city of Vietnam, that it is reasonably convenient to approach representatives from the identified sectors, especially governmental agencies, since they are all based in Hanoi. However, Vietnam is a rather diversified country in terms of both culture and customs, which in turn certainly could have profound impacts on people's understanding of the relevant aspects of human security. Therefore, the findings discussed in this report may be somewhat limited in geographical representativeness.

3.4 The Findings from Interviewees

The questionnaire was designed based on the template provided by the Japan International Cooperation Agency Research Institute (JICA-RI), with some modifications in terms of the choice of words and expressions used, in order to make the questions more comprehensible to laymen as well as experts.

3.4.1 Perception and Understanding of Human Security

In this part, we cover information concerning whether or not the interviewees were aware of the concept of "human security," and their level of understanding of its elements.

In general, the majority of interviewees had not heard of the term "human security" before the study, the exceptions being the human rights expert from Vietnam National University, the interviewees from the Youth Union who had previously attended a training course on traditional and non-traditional security, and the interviewee from the Vietnam News Agency who had stumbled upon the term in a news article. This goes to show that the concept of "human security" is rather new in Vietnam, for people hailing from many different backgrounds. Some interviewees approached the concept by dividing it into two components: "human" and "security," and then taking "security" as the starting point, later linking it with "human." Therefore, the concept of "human security" was very frequently understood in connection with or in contrast to traditional national security. Others started with "human" and almost immediately associated it with "human rights," but from a more general perspective. Sometimes, interviewees found it hard to differentiate between "human security" and "human rights." Also, as the word "security" in Vietnamese bears close resemblance to the word "safety," most interviewees perceive "human security" as the state in which an individual is able to lead a safe and comfortable life, both physically and mentally. One interviewee thought that "human security" should be seen more as an approach rather than a term of art.

When briefly introduced to the concept and its constituent elements, most of the interviewees were able to quickly connect the abstract concepts of "freedom from fear," "freedom from want," and "freedom to live in dignity" to specific examples in their lives. The examples that the interviewees gave are not very much at odds and correspond quite well with the basic understanding of human security. With regard to the relationships among these three constituent elements of the "human security" concept, all interviewees have agreed that they cannot be understood independently or separate from one another. Instead, a holistic approach to understanding these three elements should be taken, meaning that the promotion of one of the

three freedoms will enhance the other two, and vice versa. However, when asked to rank the three freedoms in order of importance, the interviewees were divided in their answers. In particular, around half of the interviewees have held the opinion that the three freedoms are of equal importance and thus, cannot be ranked. Nonetheless, these opinions do acknowledge that, depending on the circumstances in which an individual finds him or herself, for example, age, health condition, culture, and economic status, one freedom may take priority over the others.

The answers of the remaining half varied from choosing freedom from fear as the most important factor, the reason being that unless and until people are free from any fear or persecution, they will not be able to freely want and freely live in dignity. It seems the answers to this question are heavily dependent on the background of interviewees; for example, the younger ones tend to place emphasis on the freedom to live in dignity, without which they say they cannot exist as an individual with personal integrity and identity in the society, while others say that the importance of any element is subject to how well they understand it.

In short, the majority of the interviewees had not heard of the term "human security" *per se*. However, most have a good grasp and understanding of the core contents of human security when asked to give specific examples of the three freedoms.

3.4.2 Perception of Threats to Human Security

Questions in this part were designed so as to gather information regarding the interviewees' sense of safety, and the threats perceived by interviewees to themselves, their communities, to Vietnam in general, and to Southeast Asia.

The majority of the interviewees have indicated that they do feel safe in their lives even though they acknowledge that their lives are not free from all threats. This sense of safety and security derives from the fact that Vietnam does not currently face any war, threats of aggression, or terrorism, and security is generally ensured in their communities. It should be pointed out that as wars and conflicts have been a prominent feature in Vietnam's history, the consequences of which can still be seen today, the fact that the country is now at peace brings a

great sense of safety and security to most people. Some also have pointed to having a stable income and a sound education, such that they would be able to face any threats and adapt to new circumstances. Two of the interviewees have indicated that they no longer feel as safe as before, and expressed concerns over recent developments. For example, they were concerned about the tensions caused by events in the South China Sea, which according to them could potentially bring about unpredictable unrest and instability in the country and the region.

With regard to the perceived threats, those that have been identified by all the interviewees include poverty, natural disasters, pollution, corruption, and political distrust and economic regression. Other threats voiced by some interviewees are traffic safety, food safety, poor law enforcement, and community conflict. Even though the interviewees have been asked about threats posed at different levels, i.e., to themselves, their community, Vietnam and Southeast Asia, in the end the provided answers do not differ that much. This seems to indicate that the sense of security perceived by individuals is very closely tied to that of community or country. As such, the threats that each individual feels are those that would also be faced by the broader population.

3.4.3 Responses to Perceived Threats

As pointed out, there is no Vietnamese term equivalent to "empowerment," therefore the questions were phrased focusing more on how people would respond to the threats to human security, whether by the individuals themselves or through government assistance, as well as to which way a relative importance is given by people. In connection with this, the questionnaire also asks interviewees about their preparedness for future risks.

In response to the question of who should bear the responsibility to tackle the threats posed to human security, all interviewees have answered that both the state and the individual have to share the burden. However, when it comes to the question as to who should be primarily responsible, all except one have indicated that the state should take the lead. The state is considered to play a more important role in tackling threats to human security because the state

passes the laws and policies, and holds the tools and powers to enforce them in order to provide more comprehensive and long-term protection to the people. It is expected that if the State should address the threats in an appropriate and concerted manner, it can maintain order and create a safer environment for people to thrive in. Nevertheless, each individual should certainly take steps and find ways to ensure their own safety, as each is in the best position to understand the threats posed to him/her. Only one interviewee has suggested that the primary role in dealing with the risks should not be generalized, but should be understood in relation to the specific threat in question. That is to say, some threats can be more effectively combatted by an individual being proactive, while others are more suitably addressed by the State. For instance, that interviewee believes that threats from road accidents or traffic safety in general may be tackled mainly by individuals, through increasing their awareness and sense of obedience. It is also interesting to note that the interviewee from the Ministry of Public Security has stated that, in addition to the government and the individual, the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in ensuring human security should also be recognized and enhanced. The suggested reason is that NGOs have a broader reach and can directly impact the lives of groups who may not be as adequately protected by the law, and overlooked by the society as a whole, for instance ethnic minorities or the LGBT community.

In terms of the level of preparedness for future risks, the majority of interviewees feel that they are prepared to deal with future risk, but only to a certain extent. All of the interviewees have a job with a stable income, and are relatively well educated. Therefore, they feel that financially and intellectually they are somewhat prepared for the risks that may come in the near future. They also attribute their feeling of preparedness to the fact that potential threats are well reported in the mass media to which access is available, and more importantly, the fact that each individual is aware of the risks in itself has contributed to their preparedness to deal with them. However, they also find it very difficult to say definitely that they are all well prepared, since threats may strike randomly, and bring about consequences beyond human

prediction. On the other hand, the level of preparedness of Vietnam varies depending on the type of risk. Most interviewees agree that Vietnam is adequately prepared for natural disasters, as these occur every year, and the State as well as the people have gathered enough experience and invested resources in order to deal with them. With regard to threats such as corruption, political distrust, poverty, and economic recession, certain steps have been taken but they are not carried out in an effective manner, and thus are not able to address the problems. In this regard, the majority of the interviewees feel that Vietnam is not well prepared for these other types of threat.

3.4.4 Added Value of Human Security

This part seeks to grasp the opinions of the interviewees on the usefulness of understanding the concept of "human security," for both themselves and for the government in dealing with threats to human security.

The interviewees were rather united when it came to acknowledging the added value of understanding the concept of human security in promoting the actual state of human security. Except for two interviewees who believed that the understanding of such concept would not contribute much, all interviewees have expressed the opinion that a sound and proper understanding of the concept would both help an individual to better prepare themselves, and induce the State to bring about changes in policy to protect and promote human security. The reason behind this is that when people are equipped with a better understanding of the concept of human security, they will use it as an intellectual tool to help prepare themselves mentally, and as relevant information to assist in practically equipping themselves with skills to combat the threats. At the same time, they will be able to demand that the State take more action, and be more proactive in protecting human security. In turn, this will force governments to not only put in place laws and policies that are more human-centered, rather than state-centered as used to be, aiming at improving the lives of the people, but also to pay more attention to international cooperation and collaboration to confront global threats. The two interviewees who hold the

opposite view have said that the awareness of the "human security" concept would not play a significant role, pointing to the fact that even if the existing laws and policies do not acknowledge the term, they still embrace and implement aspects of it in reality. Thus increased understanding will not make too much of a difference. The other reason is that while understanding the concept may help in theory, putting the concept to use in practice heavily depends on other factors, such as the capacity of the individual. Therefore, increased understanding may not induce a significant change in the mindset of either the individual or the State.

3.4.5 Cross-border Issues

In response to the hypothetical scenarios envisioned in the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) template, there seems to be a strong consensus among the interviewees in their answers. All the interviewees believe that in the event of a natural disaster that exceeds the capacity of the country to respond, Vietnam should receive assistance from other countries, international organizations like the United Nations, or NGOs like the Red Cross, provided that this comes from trustworthy sources, and the assistance is not accompanied by any political conditions. Also, when another country is in need of assistance in the event of a natural disaster, Vietnam should lend a helping hand, as this is considered a humanitarian act and it would be immoral to refuse to help. However, Vietnam should only help with the consent of the host state and within its capacity.

On the other hand, when it comes to military conflicts and internal unrest, the interviewees were much more hesitant. The majority believe that external assistance should not be accepted to help resolve internal violence, as it may be used as an excuse for military or political intervention. The few interviewees that have approved such assistance still hold the reservation that such assistance should only be called for when absolutely necessary, and be limited to medical or food provision from those who are either allies, or have had traditional and long-term relationships with Vietnam. In the reverse scenario, Vietnam should only provide

assistance when directly asked for by the affected country, or if the situation may negatively affect Vietnam. Some suggest that assistance could be made through regional international organizations, such as sending troops to United Nations Peace-Keeping Operations.

Conclusion

"Human security" is a new concept in Vietnam. This is demonstrated by a lack of acknowledgement of the concept in official governmental documents or mainstream media. While elements of the concept can be distilled from Vietnamese law and policies, there is no clear-cut connection between these elements and the concept of human security. Likewise, the amount of media coverage on the issue is low; few articles directly discuss the concept or address threats to human security, and some merely report or provide Vietnamese versions of the foreign literature. The majority of media outlets report threats to human life in general, for example food safety, epidemics, or traffic accidents, without acknowledging the connection between these threats and human security. Even within the epistemic community, there are few articles on this topic. Based on the limited number of articles discussing human security, it seems that most scholars have tendency to discuss threats to human security in a general manner, as opposed to analyzing the threats in detail in the context of Vietnam.

The information gained from interviewing representatives with different backgrounds also reveals a lack of awareness of the concept, even though the interviewees did not find it difficult to link elements of the concept to examples taken from their professional and personal experience. The interviewees have different conceptions of the term "human security," but in essence they believe it to be the state in which an individual is able to lead a safe and comfortable life or the conditions based upon this, both physical and mental. It is noteworthy that the term "human security" have been frequently associated with the term "human rights," and indeed, some of the responses given are made from this perspective. Although human rights is certainly one of the facets of human security, this finding perhaps can be viewed as offering

an overall positive note in the context of Vietnam; signaling at the very least a higher awareness of human rights and human rights protection. The majority of the interviewees seem to grasp the concepts of "freedom from fear" and "freedom from want," which explains why most believed that these two should be given priority.

The threats to human security that have been identified also varied slightly among the interviewees; however, the most common threats agreed upon were those concerned with economic security, environmental security, and political security. The majority of interviewees have placed great reliance on the State, and believed that it is the government who should be responsible, and will do a better job in protecting the people from threats to human security. It is believed that human empowerment can only be possible and effective if the State has already been able to create a safe and fair environment for its people. In terms of cross-border collaboration to combat threats to human security, there is much higher willingness to accept assistance, and to provide assistance to other countries in the event of natural disasters; but when it comes to political issues, there is much greater reluctance in giving and receiving external help.

In short, the concept of human security itself is not widely nor deeply understood in Vietnam. However, constituent elements are adequately reflected in the law and policies of the State, as well as in the mindset of the people. As such, human security in Vietnam can be said to be a jigsaw puzzle, in which the pieces are identified and well grasped, but have not been put together. Therefore, there is potential for further promotion of the concept and its value to Vietnam.

ANNEX 1. RESULT OF INTERVIEWS

	Issues	Government	Scholar	Civil Societies	Private	Media
Concept of human security	*Have you heard the term human security?*	Not yet	Yes	Some people have not heard this term yet. Others heard this term but they have no idea of its meaning	Not yet	Just know this term through mass media
	Understanding of human security	It means security for human groups, giving guarantees of heath, work and living conditions. Although human security and human rights are different terms, their contents seem to overlap to some extent.	It means the safety level of people in all aspects of life, such as economy, cultural and environment and including physical and mental elements	It means a guarantee for people to enjoy safe life	It means that essential conditions for living are guaranteed	Guarantee for rights and essential demands of people in order for them to enjoy a safe life, and not be threatened by natural disasters
	Understanding of each element of human security	Freedom from fear of terrorism Freedom from want: free to express personal wishes and desires Freedom to live in dignity: receive respect from other people regardless of job and position in the society, and gender	Freedom from fear of wars, environmental pollution, poisoning of foods, natural disasters, and traffic accidents Freedom from want: free to express personal wishes and desires Freedom to live in dignity: living comfortably and not being affected by antisocial tendencies	Freedom from fear of wars and conflicts Freedom from want: free to express personal wishes and pursue dreams Freedom to live in dignity: live in the way we want without any observation and assessment from other people	Freedom from fear of wars, poverty and mistakes in work Freedom from want: wish for whatever we want Freedom to live in dignity: be ourselves, not be affected by social tendency	Freedom from fear of being killed or robbed Freedom from want: free to express personal wishes and say whatever we want Freedom to live in dignity: do whatever we want in the context of obeying the law
	Comparison of the importance of elements	Answers divided in two groups: 1st group: Reciprocal relationship → equal importance. However, level of importance depends on social	Freedom from fear is the most important element. It is a prerequisite for guaranteeing other elements	Equal importance. However, it seems that freedom from fear and freedom from want are more important	Equal importance. However, it seems that freedom from fear is more important	No idea

		conditions; 2nd group: Freedom to live in dignity is the most important element				
Threats to human security	*Threats to your family and community*	Traffic accidents Environmental pollution Broken water pipes Natural disasters	Traffic accidents Environmental pollution Corruption Inadequate education and health care system	Climate change	Climate change Poverty Diseases	Environmental pollution Poisoning foods
	Threats to Vietnam	Environmental pollution South China Sea disputes Traffic accidents Natural disasters	In the short term: the above problems In the long term: conflicts and wars	Climate change Water shortage South China Sea disputes Environmental pollution	South China Sea disputes Natural disaster	Environmental pollution Poisoning foods High unemployment rate Corruption
	Threats to Southeast Asia	Unemployment Economics depends on China Territorial disputes Natural disasters	Gender inequality Poor management Ineffective law enforcement	Environmental pollution South China Sea disputes Poverty	War Poverty Corruption Political instability Natural disasters	Political instability Natural disasters
	Participation of individuals and organizations in addressing the threats		Individual: try to address threats by myself first Organization: participation in law making process and law enforcement			Post articles which provide useful information about social security, and the measures of authorities to guarantee social order for civilians
Response to threats to human security	*Should individuals or government protect human security?*	Both NGOs should take part in this	Both	Both	Both	Both
	Relation between individuals and government in addressing threats to human security	Government plays a greater role, however this role can be changed regarding certain threats	Government plays a greater role because it has effective tools that include legal instruments and law enforcement mechanisms	Result divided into 2 groups 1st: government plays a greater role 2nd: individuals plays a greater role	Government plays a greater role	Government plays a greater role, however individuals should prepare for themselves

			Individuals do not play a decisive role because of their small influence			
	Preparation for response to threats to human security	Economize for the future Prepare knowledge and measures to response to threats Obey laws and regulations	Identify existing and potential threats to themselves and their families	Obey the law and regulations Protect the environment Practice a healthy life	Obey the law and regulations	Have not prepared yet
Added value of the term human security	*Does understanding of human security help you better prepare response to threats?*	Yes. If we don't know what threaten ourselves, we can't be active in response to threats	Yes	Yes Only when do we understand we can prepare for something	Yes	Yes When people are aware of their rights, they will be more active to protest in order to protect those rights
	Does understanding of human security make a difference in policy making?	Yes. The human element will be noticed more when making policies	Yes	Yes. It will help government and civilians cooperate with each other better. Human security will be taken into account	Yes	
Scenario	*Receive support*	In case of natural disasters: accept support In case of conflict, tension: consider	In case of natural disasters: accept support In case of conflict, tension: consider	In case of natural disasters: accept support In case of conflict, tension: some people were concerned about receiving support in this case, and noted that we should not receive military support	In case of natural disasters: accept support In case of conflict, tension: accept support from organizations such as UN and Red Cross	In case of natural disasters: accept support of food and medicine from organizations that have traditional relationships such as those in the UN. In the case of conflict, tension: do not respond
	Provide support	Actively take part in supporting other countries, based on the good will of the countries receiving and providing support	Actively take part in supporting other countries	Support food and medical supplies based on the good will of the countries receiving and providing support	Actively take part in supporting other countries	Support food and medical supplies based on the good will of the countries receiving and providing support

ANNEX 2. RELEVANT VIETNAMESE LEGISLATION

1. The *Constitution 1992* (as amended in 2013).

2. The *Penal Code* (as amended in 2009).

3. The *Labor Code* (as amended in 2013).

4. The *Criminal Procedure Code* (19/2003/QH12).

5. Law 52/2005/QH11 of November 20, 2005, on *Environmental Protection*.

6. Law 03/2007/QH12 of November 21, 2007, on *Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases*.

7. Law 05/2007/QH12 of November 21, 2007, on *Product and Goods Quality*.

8. Law 40/2009/QH12 of November 23, 2009, on *Medical Examination and Treatment*.

9. Law 55/2010/QH12 of June 17, 2010, on *Food Safety*.

10. Law 66/2011/QH12 of March 29, 2011, on *Human Trafficking Prevention and Combat*.

11. Law 33/2013/QH13 of June 19, 2013, on *Natural Disaster Prevention and Control*.

12. Resolution of the 7th Vietnamese Communist Party Conference, 2004.

13. Resolution of the Government 30a/2008/NQ-CP of 27 December, 2008, *The Support Program for Fast and Sustainable Poverty Reduction in 61 poor districts*.

14. Resolution of the Government 63/NQ-CP of 23 December, 2009, on *National Food Security*.

15. Resolution of the Government 80/2011/NQ-CP of May 19, 2011, on *Directions for Sustainable Poverty Reduction (2011-2020)*.

16. Resolution of the 13th National Assembly 10/2011/QH13 of November 8, 2011, Approving the *Five-year Socio-economic Development Plan for the 2011-2015 period*.

17. Resolution of the Vietnamese Communist Party 24/NQ-TW of June 3, 2013, on *Actively Coping with Climate Change, Increasing Natural Resources Management and Protecting the Environment*.

18. Decision of the Prime Minister 138/1998/QD-TTg of July 31, 1998, Approving the *National Program on Crime Prevention and Combat*.

19. Decision of the Prime Minister 130/2004/QD-TTg of July 14, 2004, Approving the *Action Program on Prevention and Combat of Women-and children-trafficking Crimes* from 2004 to 2010.

20. Decision of the Prime Minister 172/2007/QD-TTg of November 16, 2007, on the *National Strategy for Natural Disaster Prevention, Response and Mitigation to 2020*.

21. Decision of the Prime Minister 1427/QD-TTg of August 18, 2011, Approving the *Program of Action to Prevent and Combat the Human Trafficking Crime* during 2011-2015.

22. Decision of the Prime Minister 2139/QD-TTg of December 5, 2011, on the *National Strategy for Climate Change.*

23. Decision of the Prime Minister 1489/QD-TTg of October 8, 2012, Approving the *National Targeted Program for Sustainable Poverty Reduction* in the period of 2012-2015.

24. Decision of the Prime Minister 449/QD-TTg of March 12, 2013, Approving the *Ethnic Monitory Affairs Strategy* through 2020.

25. Decree of the Government 92/2010/ND-CP of August 30, 2010, Detailing the Implementation of the *Law on Infectious Disease Prevention and Control*, Regarding Biosafety in Laboratories.

26. Decree of the Government 87/2011/ND-CP of September 27, 2011, Detailing and guiding a number of articles of the *Law on Medical Examination and Treatment*.

27. *National Strategy on Climate Change*, issued by Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung in Decision 2139/QĐ-TTg of December 5, 2011.

28. *National Strategy on Environmental Protection to 2020*, with *Vision towards 2030*, Approved by Prime Ministerial Decision 1216/QĐ-TTg on September 5, 2012.

29. *National Strategy on Food Safety in the period 2011-2020*, with *Vision towards 2030*, approved by the Prime Minister on December 12, 2013.

30. *National Green Growth Strategy*, approved by Prime Ministerial Decision 1393/QD-TTg on September 25, 2012.

31. *National Strategy for Natural Disaster Prevention, Response and Mitigation to 2020*, approved by Prime Ministerial Decision 172/2007/QD-TTg of November 16, 2007.

32. *Platform on National Construction in the Period of Transition to Socialism* (Revised and Supplemented in 2011).

33. *Strategy for People's Health Care and Protection 2001-2010*, approved by Prime Ministerial Decision 35/2001/QD-TTg on March 19, 2001.

34. Unemployment Insurance Policy (effective in 2009).

35. Vietnam's *Ten Year Socio-Economic Development Strategy* (SEDS) for 2011-2020.

Bibliography

Chu Manh Hung. "Vấn đề an ninh con người trong luật quốc tế hiện đại" (Human Security in Modern International Law). PhD diss., Hanoi Law University, 2012.

Hong Ha. "Climate Change Threatens Human Security" *Binh Dinh Online*, March 31, 2014, Accessed July 28, 2014.
http://www.baobinhdinh.com.vn/viewer.aspx?macm=25&macmp=25&mabb=1991

Institute for International Relations. *Report for the Second National Workshop on Human Security*. Hanoi: July 2002.

Nguyen Hong Hai. "Assessing the Inter-relationship of Human Development, Human Security and Human Rights in Poverty Reduction in Vietnam." Paper presented at Workshop on Mainstreaming Human Security: The Asian Contribution Bangkok, October 4-5, 2007.

Tạ Minh Tuấn. "An ninh con người trong mối đe doạ toàn cầu" (Human Security and Global Threats). *Tạp chí Cộng sản* (Communist Journal) 12 (2008). Accessed February 24, 2015. http://www.tapchicongsan.org.vn/Home/Nghiencuu-Traodoi/2008/1178/An-ninh-con-nguoi-va-nhung-moi-de-doa-toan-cau.aspx.

Thang Nguyen. "Hydroelectricity: from Energy Security to Human Security." *One World E-News*, November 14, 2013. Accessed July 28, 2014, http://motthegioi.vn/dac-biet/thuy-dien-tu-an-ninh-nang-luong-den-an-ninh-con-nguoi-21155.html.

United Nations General Assembly. *2005 World Summit Outcome*. A/RES/60/1. New York: United Nations, October 2005. Accessed July 29, 2014. http://www.refworld.org/docid/44168a910.html.
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). *Human Development Report 1994*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1994. Accessed July 28, 2014,
http://hdr.undp.org/en/media/hdr_1994_en_chap2.pdf

Vũ Dương Ninh. "An ninh con người và sự bất an trong cuộc sống hiện nay" (Human Security and Insecurities in Modern Society). *Tạp chí Phát triển khoa học & công nghệ*, Tập (Journal of Science and Technology Development) 12 (1) (2009): 5-16.

Abstract (in Japanese)

要約

人間の安全保障は、ごく近年登場した概念であるにも拘らず、世界中の政府および研究者の注目を集めている。しかし、多くの国では、同概念および関連する問題への理解は低いレベルにとどまっている。本稿は、人間の安全保障がベトナムにおいてどのように理解されているのか明らかにすることを目的としている。最初に、人間の安全保障に関わるベトナムの法律および政策を概観する。そこから明らかとなるのは、人間の安全保障の概念は同国の公式文書においては全く言及・規定されていないということである。しかし、人間の安全保障を構成する要素については、その繋がりが明示されてはいないものの、法律の中に見出すことができる。また、本件に関する文献レビューからも、人間の安全保障が有識者コミュニティにおいて頻繁に議論の俎上に上るテーマではないということが示される。同概念をベトナムの文脈で分析しようと試みた研究者の数はごく数名に止まっている。最後に、政府、有識者コミュニティ、市民社会、メディア、民間企業を含む5つのセクターの代表者に対して行ったインタビューの結果から、ベトナムにおける人間の安全保障に関する認識について、より正確な実像が提示される。全体として、インタビュー回答者は人間の安全保障の概念に馴染みがなかった一方で、即座に同概念および人間の安全保障に対する脅威を彼らの生活の様々な側面とを結びつけることができた。さらに、ベトナムにおける人間の安全保障の確保と推進においては、政府が主導的役割を果たすことに対する高い期待があることが明らかとなった。