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PROSPECT TO PROMOTE RESEARCH COLLABORATION BETWEEN VIETNAMESE AND RUSSIAN UNIVERSITIES/EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Internationalization is playing an increasingly important role in universities' and research institutions' activities in global landscape. The first impact is seeing the change in university's roles. Universities have to implement double missions like training and conducting research under this progress. In addition, in line with other internationalization progress, research collaboration between higher educations is booming in terms of quantity and quality. The introduction of new technologies and global research network enable universities as well as researcher access and exchange information to obtain needs and funds from all stakeholders at the almost cheapest costs in the short time than ever before. Research collaboration has become the foremost concern of higher education because of great benefits: (i) demand from researcher, lecturers and students; (ii) improvement of institutions research capacity; (iii) a strengthening attractiveness and competitiveness through university's ranking; (iv) university — corporate social responsibilities to solve global issues; (v) active participation in internationalization in education.

Vietnamese universities are actively undertaking the overall reform in strategy, mission, vision, scale, and quality to offer high — quality human resources to meet the requirement of knowledge — based economy, as it is indicated in “Internationalization educational and vocational strategy to 2020” under the Degree No 2448//QD-TTg dated 16th December 2013. Therefore, Vietnamese universities vigorously involve in research collaboration to acquire these goals. One of partners that Vietnamese universities consider is Russian motivated by long, historical ties and the strategic importance of partner country. This paper will analyse both prospect and difficulties of this relationship, as follows:

The favorable aspects: Research collaboration would create “soft diplomatic” of both countries. Furthermore, it helps Vietnam attract the talented professors from Russia, share knowledge and enhance research skills through academic exchange and co — project programs.

The unfavorable aspects: Firstly, Vietnam characterized a scientifically lagging country, is likely that the chance for Vietnamese higher education to take part in bilateral research network is limited. And Vietnamese universities are not eligible in the World 500 top list universities. Secondly, Vietnamese universities are allowed to find Russian research partners with the signing of Understanding of Memoranda and executing Russia — Vietnam Protocols, however, Vietnamese institutions are treated with consideration of weak research ability. Lastly, the differences in culture, language use... are of actual barriers in bilateral research collaboration.