

INVITATION

I BELIEVE

I CAN

THE HARMONY OF DIVERSITY

“Unilinear evolution” theory and “Cultural relativism” theory are two contradictory philosophies that define two different attitudes and behaviors among people towards cultural diversity and differences. The unilinear evolutionary theory says that “All cultures must go through the evolutionary ladder from lower to higher, the cultures of ethnic groups at lower steps are more backward than those at higher ones.” This perspective has resulted in the adoption of inadequate development policies and misunderstandings of cultural practices and traditions of ethnic minority groups, consequently, adversely affected the preservation and promotion of the national cultural identity.

The cultural relativism theory, on the other hand, says that the differences and diversity of culture is the result of the adaptation of ethnic groups to their surrounding social, historical as well as natural environments. Therefore, each cultural tradition has its own values. Based on this perspective, The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has asserted that: “Cultural diversity creates a rich and diverse world that offers a broad range of choices, nurtures a variety of human skills and values, and provides future generations with wisdom from the past. As a result, cultural diversity is a mainspring for sustainable development for individuals, communities and nations.”

We are honored to invite you to the event:

“I Believe I Can – The harmony of diversity”

to enrich our **understanding** and **appreciation** of the values of different cultures.

The event is co-organized by the representatives of 19 ethnic communities from 15 provinces to introduce the richness and uniqueness of different cultures in Vietnam.

Performances and cultural exchange “The harmony of diversity”

18h, 16/10/2015

At Cong Nhan Cinema, 42 Trang Tien Street, Hoan Kiem District, Hanoi

Ceremony:

Ching A Ráp – Đing Năm	(Ê-Đê ethnic from Đắk Lắk)
Thầy Mo	(Mường ethnic from Thanh Hóa)
Múa Xa – Dăm (Múa trống Chhay dam)	(Khmer ethnic from Sóc Trăng)

Love songs:

Múa khèn – Khèn lá – Khèn Mòi – Đàn Nhị	(H'Mông ethnic from Lào Cai, Hà Giang and Đắk Nông)
Dân ca quan họ Bắc Ninh	(Kinh ethnic from Bắc Ninh)
Hát Lượn	(Dao ethnic from Bắc Kạn)
Hát Như Nhan	(Tày ethnic from Lạng Sơn)

Talk: Cultural evolution and Cultural diversity**Festival performance:**

Hát Then lập xuân	(Tày ethnic from Bắc Cạn)
Điệu nhảy Tắc Xinh	(Sán Chay ethnic from Thái Nguyên)
Múa vui ngày hội	(Pà Thẻn ethnic from Hà Giang)
Múa khăn Piêu – Múa Then	(Thái ethnic from Điện Biên and Yên Bái)
Ching Kram	(Ê Đê ethnic from Đắk Lắk)
“Giã gạo” – Múa và biểu diễn Mã La	(Raglai ethnic from Ninh Thuận)
Vũ Điệu làng Chăm (Múa và biểu diễn trống Ghinăng)	(Chăm ethnic from Ninh Thuận)
Múa Công Chiêng	(M'Nông ethnic from Đắk Nông)
Xiên Tiên	(H'Mông ethnic from Đắk Nông)
Khua Luống	(Thái ethnic from Đắk Nông)

(Entry free, no registration)

Open talk**The mountainous NEED to “catch up with” the lowlands?**

8h30 – 11h30, 17/10/2015

Venue: Army Hotel, 33c Pham Ngu Lao Street, Hoan Kiem District, Hanoi

8.30 – 9.00 **Welcome**9.00 – 9.05 **Opening**9.05 – 9.40 **Sharing:** “Unilinear evolutionism” and “Cultural relativism” in developing and implementing policies for ethnic minorities

- Dr. Hoàng Cầm, Institute of Cultural Studies, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences
- Mrs. Bé Thị Hồng Vân, Deputy Director for Ethnic Policy Department, the Committee for Ethnic Minorities Affairs
- Mr. Trương Văn Ty, Head of the Bureau of Ethnicity and Religion, Highlands Steering Committee

9.40 – 10.00 **Open discussion:** Experiences from reality10.00 – 10.15 **Tea break**10.15 – 10.55 **Round table:** “Cultural relativism” in practice

- I believe I can – Application in local community – Mrs. Vi Thị Thanh – Thái ethnic, Đắk Nông
- Co-research project in Lào Cai – Mr. Má A Pho, H'Mông ethnic, Lào Cai
- Dr. Trần Hữu Sơn, Vice President of the Vietnam association of folklorists and Former Director of the Department of Culture, Information and Tourism, Lào Cai province
- Mr. Đặng Cầm, President of Farmer Association, Đắk Glong District, Đắk Nông Province

10.55 – 11.20 **Open discussion:** How to apply cultural relativism approach at local levels.11.20 – 11.30 **Closing**

We are looking forward to welcoming you at the events.

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