

Can Education Build ASEAN? An Analysis of Vietnam's Regional Integration Activities.

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Vietnam became a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in 1995 right after the United States lifted its trade embargo. Since then Vietnam has participated actively in regional projects. Building on political, economic, socio-cultural cooperation in nearly five decades, the ten countries officially announced the establishment of the ASEAN Community in December 2015. The historic decision also shifts the regional priority from internal solidarity in a 'region-in-itself' to building an ASEAN able to act competitively as a 'region-for-itself' in the global arena. This Community is envisaged to become not only an ASEAN single market and production base, but also a region of free movement of skilled workers. And higher education is considered a means to achieve that goal. But how can education build the ASEAN region? In what ways have member countries, especially a newer member like Vietnam, prepared for this new context?

At this seminar, Dr Dang will share her experience of working on development projects with Vietnam's Ministry of Education and Training and her research about ASEAN. She will analyse the recent changes in the Vietnamese higher education system and the consequences for individuals, society and regional integration.

Que Anh Dang has worked for ten years at the Culture and Education Department of the British Embassy in Hanoi, and at the Danish School of Education in Copenhagen for six years. In both jobs, she has worked on various development projects with the Ministry of Education and Training of Vietnam. She has graduated from the University of Bristol, UK with a PhD degree in sociology of education. She is a co-editor and an author of the book '[Global Regionalisms and Higher Education \(2016\)](#).