

Honda Foundation Hosted International Symposium 2005 Hanoi in Vietnam

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Honda Foundation (HOF: Hiromori Kawashima president, Soichiro Honda founder) and Vietnam's National Institute for Science and Technology Policy and Strategy Studies (NISTPASS) co-hosted a successful international symposium titled "**Linking Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Developing Countries**" at Melia Hotel Hanoi in Vietnam on Monday, February 28, 2005. It was supported by Embassy of Japan in Vietnam and Honda Vietnam which locally produces motor cycles. Attendees used the HOF-advocated *Eco-Technology* concept as a focus to discuss how the fast-growing Vietnamese economy can track an environmentally-benign growth path. Since its inception, HOF has hosted a number of similar symposiums in different countries as a forum to freely exchange ideas among intellectuals and experts from all over the world. HOF always uses its *Eco-Technology* concept as a key note in pursuit of a more humane civilization.

Under her economical measure called *Đổi mới* beginning 1986, Vietnam has aggressively opened up its market to invite foreign investments. As a result of this, and thanks to her industrious people whose literacy rate is well over 93%, the country has enjoyed an average annual growth rate of 7% which is the highest among the ASEAN nations.

The Hanoi symposium was intended to help Vietnam shift its economic development from a "catch-up" growth relying on transfer of foreign technology and capital to a more environmentally-benign, sustainable one with development in creative, more humane science and technology.

More than 200 government officials, researchers and associates of notable universities and research institutes, and students participated and manifested a sincere interest in presentations. At the conference hall, the Honda R&D division introduced some of their most environmentally advanced technologies and demonstrated hybrid and fuel-cell scooters. The symposium drew attention among the wide public through coverage in Viet Nam Television and the press.

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