



Essay Form

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Country:

Vietnam

Theme: The roles of my country and of Asia in the future.

Length: Maximum of 1,000 words

Language: English

My country - Vietnam - is changing vigorously. As a 16-year-old schoolboy I cannot really feel the change but when watching documentary films, public media and hearing stories of my parents I understand that the country has gained brilliant achievements in the last decades. However, I also realize that Vietnam has been facing with number of challenges which need to be overcome in order to shift to a sustainable society so that it can contribute to the development of Asia in the future.

Used to be a country suffered from wars and natural disasters, Vietnam has been developing comprehensively in terms of economic, social and international dimensions. It is proud of the day when Vietnam became the 150 member of World Trade Organization or when we got 183 per 190 votes to be a non-permanent member of The UN's Security Council. It is not by chance that we achieve these successes. The point here is aspiration for a stronger Vietnam and the whole population, including my new generation, takes part in building up the country.

Economically, Vietnam has experienced rapid growth, average increase of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was around more than 6% in the past 20 years. Undergoing the vigorous economic changes, the relationship between Japan and Vietnam also contributes to boosting mutual trade. As the two countries can gain benefits through this cooperation, promotion of this mutual partnership in the future will be continuously affirmed. Vietnam in the near future will have a dynamic and open economy, offering its citizens an improving standard of living and opening its markets to imports and attracting investment.

Socially, it is no doubt that Vietnam Doimoi process has been a driving force in promoting a process of industrialization and modernization. Vietnam's government has tried its best to improve the living standards of the people, and to narrow the gap between urban and rural area. The long-term objective of Vietnam social policy is a secure, stable, prosperous, and open Vietnam.

Internationally, Vietnam's status has been raised to a new height due to its efforts in co-dealing with regional and global issues with other countries. The country's diplomatic relations have expanded more than ever and becoming an active member of many regional and international organizations, particularly ASEAN - an organization in the region in which Vietnam participates the most. In the future, with further contributions to United Nations, hopefully the status of Vietnam will be heightened in the international arena.

I think Vietnam has the potential to contribute to regional stability and security, and to be an engine for economic growth in Asia. As a "young citizen" of Vietnam, I do believe in a great progress in which Vietnam plays a role as a center of foreign interest and investment, whistle expresses itself as a real dynamic economy. Due to what's really happening to Vietnam's economy, I don't think I am a day-dreamer.

Although having gained good achievements, Vietnam has been facing with challenges such as the lack of infrastructure (high way, rapid train, ports...), the number of low- income people is still high, ineffective use of energy and the environment is becoming heavily polluted. In order to shift the country to sustainable society in Asia, Vietnamese people have to try their best.

By studying in English class (IELTS program) and information from my father – who pursued PhD in Kyoto University- I have recently discovered the concept of a sustainable society. This concept is defined as "a country that is able to satisfy its needs without diminishing the chance of future generations" or "today's citizens are given every opportunity to grow and thrive; tomorrow's resources are preserved and protected". Over the years, this concept has evolved to encompass a broad range concerns of environmental, social and economic dimensions. In a sustainable world, each dimension works in harmony with the other.

What does an Asia sustainable society look like? Primarily, it is self-sufficient. Non-polluting, renewable resources provide the power to drive sustainable energy systems; more efficient farming techniques and new technologies improve yields; and, reduced consumption helps eliminate waste. As a result, the environment can be preserved for future generations. Global temperatures could cease to climb, and the quality of air, water, natural habitats and critical ecosystems would be protected. Just as important, in an Asia sustainable society, every human can access to basic needs like nutrition, shelter, education and health care. Economic systems are transparent, built on fair and equitable practices, and companies employ sustainable methods of production and distribution.

A big question that I asked myself is what are practical steps that Vietnamese can do to change the country to a sustainable society ? With help of my teacher and father, I realize the following solutions:

Public awareness. Individuals cannot make sustainable choices unless they know what those choices are, and Vietnam will not take direct action to promote sustainable practices unless it receive substantial pressure from its citizens. Websites, speeches, movements and rallies all contribute to raising public awareness.

Promote education. Promoting fair access to a quality education for all children, both in urban and rural areas, produces a number of positive outcomes. It increases children's level of understanding about the environment; it empowers them to make personal choices about family lifestyle; and, it provides the world with informed and productive citizens.

Technology and investment. New technologies and infrastructures, built using environmentally sound practices, have the potential to transform modern society. But, this is only possible if governments and businesses are willing to invest in the development process.

Conserve resource and eliminate waste. The Vietnam's natural resource is limited. Large-scale efforts to conserve energy and water will have an impact, but personal choices are just as important. The more steps we take to eliminate waste and needless consumption, the better off future generations will be.

Thus, there are much of work need to be done to change my country to sustainable society so that it can contribute to the future of Asia. This is difficult task but why don't we believe that we can do ? When we believe, we are motivated to make it come true. I remind myself to keep belief for all my dreams and it is really useful. I feel obviously that we are walking very first steps on the way to develop our country.

Taking a close look at the situation of Vietnam, I can see a bright future. Everything now has just started. A new world is out there and needed to be explored. Thus, I wanted to go to Japan – the most developed country in Asia- to explore how young Japanese think about their future and act for it. I know that if I could participate in this program, I have a chance to learn from high school students of Japan and 10 South-East-Asian countries. Of course, not only learn from them, I am sure that I can also share and exchange my knowledge with others for a sustainable Asia.