

## Rapid change and tradition in Vietnamese society

Year: D1

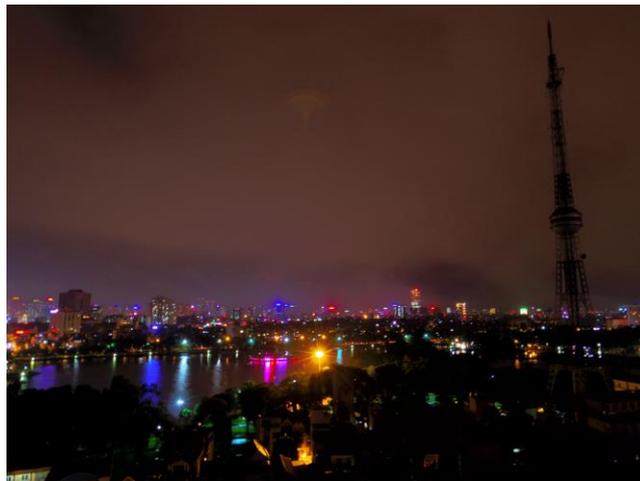
Place of fieldwork: Hanoi, Vietnam

Name: Kena Hirose

Key Words: tradition, urbanization, culture

- Research background

Vietnam adopted the Doi Moi policy in 1986. Since then, the country has opened its doors economically -free trade market and financial development. TThis has caused very rapid change in Vietnamese society especially in urbanized areas, or in those areas in Vietnam that are urbanizing now.



Hanoi's lakeside landscape at night

- Research purpose and aim

Vietnam is now in the process of changing. This suggests that the country needs to create a better vision for its development, otherwise it is likely that Vietnam will suffer from the same urban problems as many other developed countries. This research will contribute to assessing the current situation and identifying what should be improved, and what should remain the same in Vietnamese society.

- Results and achievements by fieldwork

It was very helpful to stay with a Vietnamese family to understand what is typical in Vietnamese domestic relationships. Because of that experience, I found out what Vietnamese individuals and families find important. I was also able to understand some traditional art and contemporary art, which tries to express the importance of

preserving tradition and improving society. For example, people in Hanoi are focusing their attention on environmental problems and the coexistence of nature and humans. Transportation problems such as danger and traffic jam in rush hour are also a major issue in Hanoi, although considerable new construction, run by the government, is underway. Yet some people are very keen to promote rules among community itself to solve the transportation problems. Vietnamese development should be implemented by both 'hard' and 'soft' means, not only by changing the city landscape, for example, by new construction, but also by developing peoples' culture and philosophy.



<above>  
Vietnam traditional art "Son Mai"  
and contemporary art.

A typical communal meal in Vietnam.

- Implications and impacts on future research

I will try to explore more of the outcomes of development. What are the benefits for people and how are Hanoi's new initiatives proceeding?