

HO CHI MINH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLITICS

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**THE LEADERSHIP OF DONG THAP PROVINCIAL PARTY
COMMITTEE IN TOURISM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
FROM 1998 TO 2020**

**SUMMARY OF DOCTORAL THESIS
IN HISTORY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF VIETNAM**

HA NOI - 2024

**Project completed at
Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics**

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**The dissertation will be defended before the Academy-level Dissertation
Evaluation Council meeting at Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics**

At

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INTRODUCTION

1. Significance of the study

Tourism nowadays is a comprehensive economic sector, which plays an increasingly important role in the socio-economic development of countries. Tourism development will contribute to economic restructuring as well as bring in national budget revenue. In addition, it attracts investment capital and export goods on the spot, and has a positive impact on the development of related economic sectors. Tourism also helps implement the policy of hunger eradication and poverty reduction, create many jobs, bring regular income to workers and so on. Vietnam is a country with a lot of potential for tourism economic development. However, due to many different reasons, Vietnam tourism had not been highly appreciated before 1998. Since 1998, the Party has recognized the importance of tourism and identified it as "an important comprehensive economic sector" [4, p.1]. And then a lot of policies and institutions promoting the development of the tourism economy have been formed and innovated, gradually in line with the conditions and trends of tourism economic development in the country and the world. The 9th National Congress taking place in April 2001 was an important step forward in the Party's theoretical thinking on tourism development. It was affirmed in the Socio-Economic Development Strategy from 2001 to 2010 that developing tourism should truly become a spearhead economic sector" [16, p.178]. Implementing the Resolution of the 9th National Congress of the Party, the Prime Minister issued Decision No. 97/2002/QĐ-TTg on July 22, 2002. It approved the Vietnam Tourism Development Strategy from 2001 to 2010 and determined that developing tourism to become a spearhead economic sector [142, p.1]. For the first time in history, the Strategy and Master Plan for Vietnam's tourism development were developed and promulgated, creating a political and legal basis for the development of this important economic sector. Thoroughly implementing the policies of the Party and the State, Party committees at all levels from the Central to local levels including Dong Thap province have made efforts to deploy and implement policies, with different steps, forms and methods since 1998. As a result, Vietnam's tourism has made important progress step by step, which contributes to promoting the economy and

solving social problems of the whole country as well as in each locality. However, besides the achievements, Vietnam's tourism in general, in each locality in particular, still cannot avoid limitations and weaknesses. There can be even long-standing weaknesses, such as tourism development not commensurating with the potential, strengths and expectations of society. Moreover, tourism products are not really attractive and truly differentiated. When the competitiveness is not high, the quality of tourism services does not meet requirements. Therefore, it is necessary to have in-depth research both at the national level as well as in each specific locality in order to properly assess the achievements as well as the limitations and weaknesses; and then clarify the causes and adjust the policies and strategies for tourism development in the upcoming time.

In the past, there have been many in-depth research works, mentioning the issue of the Party's leadership in tourism development in general, and local Party committees' leadership in tourism development in particular. However, from the perspective of the History of the Communist Party of Vietnam, there has not been any scientific work that has independently and systematically researched the Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee's leadership in tourism development from 1998 to 2020. This is the reason why people should research and clarify this issue professionally and specifically. Not only does it contribute to summarizing and deepening the process of the Party's leadership in tourism development in the cause of innovation and international integration observed from the practice of Dong Thap province, but it also creates a sustainable foundation and evidence for supplementing and developing policies and guidelines for tourism development in the locality in the following years. From that, the researcher whose major is in History of the Communist Party of Vietnam has chosen the topic *“The leadership of Dong Thap provincial party committee in tourism Economic development from 1998 to 2020”* as the doctoral thesis.

2. Aims and objectives

2.1. Research objectives

After the research carried out, people can clarify the process of the Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee leading the development of the tourism economy from

1998 to 2020, thereby drawing some valuable experiences for future reference.

2.2. Research topics

There are 4 main topics that the research wants the readers achieve as follow:

- An overview of tourism economy development and related research.
- A deep clarification in which factors affect the leadership of the Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee on tourism economic development from 1998 to 2020.

Provincial Party Committee on tourism economic development from 1998 to 2020.

- Systematizing, analyzing and clarifying the policies and directions of the Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee on tourism economic development through 2 stages 1998 to 2010 and 2010 to 2020.

- Comments and experience from the process of leading the development of the tourism economy of Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee from 1998 to 2020.

3. Scope of the study

3.1. Research focus

Leadership activities in tourism economic development of Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee from 1998 to 2020 are the main focus in this research.

3.2. Research scope

Regarding the content, the thesis focuses on studying the policies of the Party and Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee on tourism economic development; simultaneously clarifying the process of the Provincial Party Committee directing the development of tourism economy from 1998 to 2020 in the following aspects: Planning for tourism economic development; building an organizational apparatus for tourism work and gradually improving the effectiveness of state management of tourism economy; developing types and diversifying tourism products; training and fostering tourism human resources of the province.

In terms of space, the research focus on Dong Thap province, including 3 cities Cao Lanh city, Sa Dec city and Hong Ngu city and 9 districts consisting of Tan Hong, Hong Ngu, Thanh Binh, Tam Nong, Thap Muoi, Cao Lanh, Lai Vung, Lap Vo, Chau Thanh.

In terms of time, the thesis focuses on the period of 22 years from 1998 to 2020. There are two main remarkable points that the research tries to emphasize. First of all,

this is the year of 1998. It is the year in which the 8th Politburo issued the conclusion announcement No.179/-B/TW, dated November 11, 1998 on tourism development in the new situation, identifying tourism as a comprehensive economic sector. Besides, 2020 is the last year of Congress Tenure of the Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee. However, to ensure the systematicity and achieve the research objectives, the thesis has expanded the scope of research before 1998.

4. Theoretical Background, research methods and sources of materials

4.1. Theoretical Background

The thesis is based on the theoretical basis of Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thought.

4.2. Research methods

To carry out the thesis, the author mainly uses historical and logical methods. In addition, the thesis also uses a variety of methods such as analysis, synthesis, statistics and comparison. Furthermore, the expert method is also used in this research. But, no matter how many methods are made use of, each all plays an important position and role in the thesis research as follow:

Historical and logical methods: The thesis uses these two methods in a close relationship with each other in the main process. Thanks to them, the author can generalize the viewpoints and policies of the Party and the Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee as well as the process of the Provincial Party Committee directing the development of the tourism economy in the correct chronological order, and clarify the nature of the research problem.

Synthesis and classification method: This is a method that helps the author collect, synthesize and classify sources of documents related to the research thesis.

Statistical analysis method: This method helps the process of researching quantitative issues of the thesis, ensuring scientific nature. In addition, in some specific cases, it helps the doctoral student to properly process data related to the thesis.

Comparison and contrast method: By using this method, the author can research and compare the development of policies and directions for economic development of tourism of Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee in two periods from 1998 to 2010

and from 2010 to 2020, in an organic relationship with some provinces in the Mekong Delta region with similar conditions.

Expert method: This method helps to grasp some important contents related to the thesis that the author is not clear about or does not have a firm grasp of. Tourism is a highly comprehensive activity. Consulting experts' opinions is extremely necessary, which is the basis for the thesis to be highly practical, as well as deepens the research problem of the thesis.

4.3. Sources of materials

The research has been carried out smoothly like that thanks to the documents of the Party and State on tourism and tourism economic development, documents of the Party Committee and provincial government referring to tourism development; reports of the Provincial People's Committee and departments, branches and sectors of the province such as Economic Committee, Propaganda Committee of Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee and Propaganda Committee of some provinces in the Mekong Delta region; statistical data of the General Statistics Office, Department of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Dong Thap Provincial Historical Archives Center, and so on. Besides, there are scientific works related to the research problem of the thesis.

5. Application of the study

The thesis provides a rich, updated, and reliable system of documents related to the process of leading the development of the tourism economy of the Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee from 1998 to 2020.

It helps reconstruct the process of leading the development of the tourism economy of the Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee from 1998 to 2020.

The author also provides objective and scientific comments and assessments on the advantages, limitations, and summarizes experiences in the process of developing the tourism economy.

6. Scientific and practical significance of the study

- The thesis contributes to summarizing the process of the Party's leadership in developing the tourism economy, both in terms of political theory and in terms of expressing the Party's ideology in the period of innovation and international integration

(through the reality of Dong Thap province).

- Contributes more theoretical and practical bases for the Party Committee, the government of Dong Thap province and neighboring localities to refer to in planning the local tourism economic development strategy in the coming time.

- The thesis is a reference document in researching and teaching local history at the Provincial Political School, the Political Training Center, Dong Thap University and high schools in the province as well as the Department of Culture, Sports and Tourism, the Tourism Development Center and the Center, Trade Promotion, Tourism and Investment of the province.

7. Organization of the study

In addition to the introduction, conclusion, list of published research works of the author related to the thesis topic, list of references, list of tables and appendices, the thesis has a structure of 4 chapters:

Chapter 1: An overview of tourism economy development and related research

Chapter 2: Leadership of Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee in developing the tourism economy between 1998 and 2010.

Chapter 3: Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee and the promotion of tourism economy development from 2010 to 2020.

Chapter 4: Comments and experiences from the process of Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee leading the development of the tourism economy during 1998 to 2020.

CHAPTER 1

AN OVERVIEW OF TOURISM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED RESEARCH

1.1. Research status

1.1.1. Research by foreign authors

The thesis has overviewed the general research works of foreign authors on tourism and tourism economics in the form of monographs, scientific articles, and scientific research topics. The scientific works of foreign authors have analyzed and clarified the basic issues related to theoretical issues on tourism and tourism economics.

Additionally, there are also the main contents of tourism economics, tourism management methods, orientations in tourism development and tourism economics in countries around the world; sustainable tourism economic development, especially community tourism development; clarifying the content of tourism management, effective marketing and destination management methods through tourism economic development policies. These are documents of high scientific value in theory and practice, helping to clarify basic issues related to tourism and tourism economics.

1.1.2. Research by domestic authors

The thesis has summarized general studies on tourism economics in Vietnam, especially on tourism economics of regions and localities across the country, including studies related to tourism economic development of Dong Thap province. The research works are presented in the form of monographs, teaching materials, scientific articles, journals, scientific writings, magazines, theses, dissertations, scientific topics and conference proceedings. All in all, the research works on domestic tourism in general and Dong Thap in particular have provided science with some theoretical bases on tourism economics, the potentials and strengths of Vietnam tourism and Dong Thap, and proposed some solutions for sustainable tourism economic development in the context of integration. These are the scientific bases for the thesis to inherit in the research process.

1.2. Summary of the results and problems solved by the research

1.2.1. Research results of scientific works

**** About documents***

Research works on tourism and tourism economic development in a number of countries in the world, in the country and in localities nationwide as well as in Dong Thap province are diverse in content and genre. Research content is mainly reflected in monographs, treatises, scientific research topics, theses, dissertations and scientific articles. Research results have provided a rich, diverse and vivid source of documents on tourism activities and tourism economic development, helping researchers to apply, refer to and inherit in the process of implementing the thesis.

**** About research approaches and methods***

Research works are approached from many different perspectives and methods, but mainly from the perspective of history, economics, sociology... and many different methods such as: history and logic, analysis, comparison, synthesis, sociological investigation. This has helped researchers have a multidimensional, comprehensive and rich perspective on tourism and tourism development in general and tourism economy of Dong Thap province in particular.

**** About research content***

The works and articles help researchers have an overview of Vietnam's tourism, a deeper understanding of tourism development in general and tourism economy in particular, suggesting issues for further in-depth research; contributing to clarifying policies and strategies for tourism economic development, achievements, limitations, causes and lessons learned in leading tourism economic development of localities. Particularly, the research works in Dong Thap province have helped the author have a comprehensive and multi-dimensional understanding of tourism in the province, thereby clearly understanding the current situation of tourism and tourism economy in Dong Thap province during the renovation period.

Up to now, there have been many research works on the field of tourism in both overland and overseas. Dong Thap province in particular, there has not been any scientific work researching from the perspective of the Party History sector. That is once again emphasizing the reason why the doctoral student has chosen this issue.

1.2.2. Thesis issues focused on research

The thesis focuses on researching and clarifying the process of the Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee leading the development of tourism economy from 1998 to 2020, in order to affirm the achievements, point out the limitations, and initially summarize some experiences in the leadership of the Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee. And then it can be applied to develop the tourism economy of Dong Thap province until 2025, with a vision to 2030, to meet the practical requirements of the locality.

To achieve that goal, the thesis focuses on researching and clarifying the following basic contents.

First of all, the author analyzes the factors affecting the leadership of the Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee in developing the tourism economy from 1998 to 2020.

Second, the doctoral student decomposes and explains the viewpoints as well as policies on tourism economic development of the Party and the Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee. In particular, it affirms the correctness of the policy of the Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee in identifying tourism as an important economic sector of the province and aiming to develop tourism into a spearhead economic sector of the province in the future.

Third, seeing the achievements and limitations, authorities will reconstruct the process of the Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee directing the development of the tourism economy through two stages from 1998 to 2010 and from 2010 to 2020 and on the other main aspects.

Fourth, it gives objective and scientific comments on the advantages, the disadvantages as well as the causes. It is considered as the summary of some practical experiences through the process of leading the development of the tourism economy of the Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee from 1998 to 2020.

CHAPTER 2

LEADERSHIP OF DONG THAP PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEE IN DEVELOPING TOURISM ECONOMY BETWEEN 1998 AND 2010

2.1. Factors affecting the leadership of Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee on tourism economic development

2.1.1. International and regional affairs

The thesis has analyzed the profound impact of the world situation on the leadership of the Provincial Party Committee on tourism economic development. The scientific and technological revolution has rapidly shifted the economic structure and profoundly changed the areas of social life. The globalization issues as well as the increase in the number of tourists and the demand for quality tourism products, the emergence of some new types of tourism, and the fierce competition between tourism corporations, are increasingly taking place strongly. These factors have had a profound

impact on the awareness of the Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee in planning policies and issuing resolutions on tourism development and tourism economy.

2.1.2. Natural and socio-economic conditions as well as current status of tourism economic development in Dong Thap province before 1998

The thesis has pointed out the potentials and strengths of natural conditions and socio-economic conditions of Dong Thap province as a basis for the Provincial Party Committee to plan policies and guidelines for tourism economic development. However, due to the similarity with other provinces and cities in the region in terms of natural conditions and potentials and strengths, Dong Thap needs to create a difference to attract domestic and foreign tourists and become an important economic sector in the spirit of the Congress of Delegates of each term. Before 1998, despite the difficulties in the world's economy, the province's tourism economy had still achieved many important achievements. The tourism potentials and strengths have also been well exploited and the quality of products has been gradually improved, increasing the ability to cooperate and compete over time. After more than 16 years of development from 1982 to 1998, the province's tourism economy has undergone a strong transformation and achieved many remarkable results.

2.1.3. Policies and guidelines of the Party and State on tourism economic development

With the view that tourism is a comprehensive economic sector with high inter-sectoral, inter-regional and socialization, the Party's directives emphasize that tourism is the task and responsibility of sectors, levels, people's organizations and social organizations. It is necessary to have some solutions to encourage economic sectors to organize tourism businesses under the unified management of the State and make sure that state-owned enterprises always play a leading role. The Party and the Government have demonstrated high political determination, wisdom, and flexibility in issuing many documents directing the overall planning of tourism development commensurate with the country's great tourism potential. This is the highest legal document in the tourism sector referring to the development of the tourism economy, and is an

important legal basis for Dong Thap to concretize policies and promote the development of the tourism economy.

2.2. Policies and directions for tourism economic development of Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee

2.2.1. Policies of Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee on tourism economic development

In the period of promoting industrialization and modernization, in order to promote the tourism economy, the 6th Congress (1996) of the Provincial Party Committee advocated gradually turning tourism into an important industry of the service sector. This policy marked a step forward in the awareness and thinking of the Provincial Party Committee on the position, role and importance of tourism and tourism economy. Through the 6th (from 1996 to 2000), 7th (from 2000 to 2005), 8th (from 2005 to 2010), Dong Thap Provincial Party Congresses and the Resolutions of the Provincial Party Committee and the policies of the Provincial Party Committee on tourism economic development in the period of 1998-2010, the province's tourism economy has continuously developed and achieved many important results. After that, the Provincial Party Committee has also issued many directions, tasks, and plans to implement socio-economic development planning, including the tourism economic sector, determined to make the tourism economy a truly important sector of the service sector. Not only does it clearly demonstrate the high political determination of the Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee, but it also illustrates the continuous development of the tourism economic leadership thinking of the Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee through each term, thereby gradually consolidating and accelerating the process of tourism economic development of the province.

2.2.2. Direction Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee in the development of tourism economy from 1998 to 2010

The thesis studies the leadership of the province in the overall planning of tourism development in the period of 2001 and 2010 and orientation to 2020, on the basis of closely following the direction of the Central Government, combining flexibly, creatively, and appropriately with the practical situation of the province. This is an

important basis for localities and tourism service businesses to be proactive in planning, projects, and calling for investment in tourist areas and spots. In addition, Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee is also oriented on training tourism human resources, on the market and development of tourism products, on marketing and promotion of tourism. Thanks to the efforts and efforts in the direction and management of the Provincial Party Committee, Dong Thap has achieved a number of important results in the field of tourism economy. However, the types and products of tourism during this period still have many limitations.

Provincial leaders have also paid attention to the construction of the organizational apparatus and the gradual improvement of the management efficiency of the tourism economy. They have directed the rearrangement of the organizational apparatus and staffing towards a compact, light, and streamlined staffing direction, meeting the requirements of effective management and in line with the requirements of tasks in the new situation, consequently, the state management apparatus of tourism in Dong Thap province has gradually stabilized and increasingly improved the quality and efficiency of operations.

Recognizing the importance of tourism human resources for development, provincial leaders have also focused on training and fostering tourism human resources with timely policies and resolutions. Many forms and contents of training and fostering have been implemented, contributing to improving the quality of the team implementing the tourism economy.

On the basis of closely following the Party's policies on tourism economic development, mobilizing the intellectual strength of the Provincial Party Executive Committee and social resources, promoting the spirit of democracy, centralized leadership, acumen and creativity in applying the Party's policies to the actual conditions of the locality, Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee has gradually turned tourism into an important economic sector of the service sector. However, due to the lack of experience in the early stages, the leadership at some points was not focused, did not pay attention to inspection and supervision, and promptly evaluated as well as summarized practical experiences. Additionally, the state management work was

sometimes lax, so the growth rate of the province's tourism economy was slow.

CHAPTER 3

DONG THAP PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEE AND THE PROMOTION OF TOURISM ECONOMY DEVELOPMENT FROM 2010 TO 2020.

3.1. Existence of new factors and the policy of Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee on promoting tourism economic development

3.1.1. New factors and their impacts

The thesis analyzes the factors affecting Vietnam including the world, regional and domestic situations and the influences of the globalization process, the strong development of science and technology, and unstable factors of political security in the region. Vietnam's economy has begun to recover after 25 years of renovation, gradually regaining growth momentum and restructuring the economy for rapid and sustainable development. However, Vietnam still faces difficulties, challenges, and risks of falling further behind economically compared to many countries in the region and the world.

Dong Thap's economy in particular, has made an increasingly clear breakthrough with an average growth rate of 14.12% per year. The economic structure has shifted strongly in a positive direction; better promoting the strengths of rice and seafood. The social culture, education and training, health care, social security are regularly paid attention. However, many difficulties and challenges arise when both strategic industries of the province are heavily dependent on exports; at the same time, limited economic infrastructure along with an unfavorable geographical location will make it difficult to attract investment, especially tourism. In that context, the Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee is always flexible and creative. Seeing the potentials inside difficulties, Dong Thap turned challenges into opportunities by implementing policies and decisions to promote the direction of tourism economic development of the province in the context of international integration.

The complicated developments of the world and domestic situation with intertwined opportunities and challenges have deeply affected the thinking and leadership capacity of the Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee in socio-economic

development, including leadership in tourism economic development. This requires the Provincial Party Committee to continue to promote the spirit of solidarity and democracy in leadership. The leaders should have flexibility, creativity and realize that they should have any special strategies to turn challenges into opportunities to have correct policies and decisions, in accordance with the laws of movement and development of the economy, thereby promoting the development of the tourism economy of the province in the following period between 2010 and 2020.

3.1.2. The Party and State's policies on tourism economic development

The 11th Party Congress (2011) identified the task of attaching importance to developing service industries, especially financial services, banking, trade and tourism, which are industries with high added value, and oriented the development of tourism economy towards diversifying products and types of tourism, improving quality to meet international standards. This policy has contributed to promoting the development of tourism economic types in localities and the diversification of tourism economic products in regions and areas across the country, attracting a large number of domestic and international tourists.

After that the Government issued a Decision approving the Strategy for Vietnam Tourism Development up to 2020 and vision to 2030 and the Master Plan for Vietnam Tourism Development to 2020, with a vision to 2030, which created the premise for the strong development of Vietnam's tourism industry. However, due to the low competitiveness of tourism and the lack of change, the development process still has potential unsustainability factors. The 12th National Party Congress in 2016 proposed the policy of implementing policies to develop tourism into a spearhead economic sector. In 2017, the Law on Tourism which was amended has many new and more developed points compared to the Law on Tourism in 2005. In general, from 1998 to 2020, the viewpoints, guidelines, and policies of the Party and the State on tourism economic development have shown a strong change in the Party's awareness and thinking on tourism development in general and tourism economy in particular. That is an important political and legal basis, a guideline for tourism economic development in the period of innovation and international integration.

3.1.3. Policies of Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee on promoting tourism economic development

In order to implement the goal of making Dong Thap tourism an important economic sector of the province, the 9th Provincial Party Congress in 2010 identified they should focus on the task of investing in trade and service infrastructure, creating conditions for tourism to develop rapidly after 2015. Based on a thorough analysis of the achieved results, the Provincial Party Committee has set out the general goal of tourism economic development until 2015, with the main directions and tasks related to investment in building tourism infrastructure; diversifying and improving product quality; protecting resources, environment, social order and safety and developing sustainable tourism... Along with that, the province has also issued policies and resolutions with the goal of developing tourism in the direction of increasing scale and efficiency, exploiting the potential and strengths of local tourism. The correct and appropriate policies and guidelines of the Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee are the foundation and legal basis for the province to resolutely propose many solutions to promote tourism economic development in the period between 2010 and 2020.

3.2. Direction of Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee in the promotion of tourism economic development

3.2.1. Promotion in planning and direction of tourism economic development

Dong Thap leaders have issued a tourism development plan until 2015, which specifies the basic contents of the Vietnam tourism development master plan, and continues to include some approved contents in the Dong Thap province tourism development master plan for the period 2001-2010 and vision to 2020.

To promote the implementation of the contents of the plan, for the first time Dong Thap has issued a tourism development project for the period between 2015 and 2020 with an investment capital of 400 billion VND. It can be seen that the tourism development planning policy at this stage has made a qualitative step forward to meet the requirements of socio-economic development in the period of international integration. Even though there are still certain limitations, it at least demonstrates the

innovation in thinking of the tourism economic development's leadership of the provincial Party Committee.

3.2.2. Consolidation and requirements in improving the capacity and effectiveness of state management in tourism economy

Since 2009, the Provincial Party Committee has focused on directing the improvement of the effectiveness of state management of the tourism economy with the policy of innovation, strengthening institutions and policies, improving the effectiveness of state management of tourism, training and developing human resources for tourism and so on. At the same time, the Provincial People's Committee has proposed solutions to innovate state management of tourism, create an investment environment and accompany businesses to meet the requirements of tourism development. And then strengthening the organizational structure, improving the quality of operations of specialized tourism management agencies capable of advising and orienting the development of the industry; strengthening inspection, guidance, and improving the quality of tourism activities in the province were taken directly and immediately. This shows that the Provincial Party Committee has demonstrated high political determination, seriously overcoming limitations in leadership in building the state apparatus, improving the quality of advisory work of specialized agencies, promoting the initiative and flexibility of local state management agencies.

3.2.3. Promotion in the development of different tourism types and their products

In order to create a unique and gorgeous tourism environment to attract more tourists, the Provincial Party Committee has issued resolutions directing the improvement of the quality of tourism economic types and increasingly diversifying products. The has been sensitive to exploiting the potential, advantages, and culture in regions and localities to create unique products, and at the same time calling for investment in key tourism projects of the province. However, despite many efforts in implementation and promotion in the specific tourism types and products, according to the requirements and plans, the implementation progress is still slow and the products are not clear.

3.2.4. Direction in training and fostering tourism human resources

The Party Committee and the government of Dong Thap province have deeply recognized the position and importance of improving the quality of tourism human resources, directing to focus on improving the quality of tourism economic human resources associated with job creation, increasing income and improving people's lives. Thereby, authorities have directed to open training courses, fostering expertise and skills in many forms, diverse in content for tourism staff, initially improving the quality of the staff. However, the number of annual training and fostering courses is still small compared to actual needs; the awareness of a part of the Party Committee, government, businesses and local people about the position and importance of training and fostering tourism human resources in the province is not high

CHAPTER 4

COMMENTS AND EXPERIENCES FROM THE PROCESS OF DONG THAP PROVINCIAL PARTY COMMITTEE LEADING THE DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM ECONOMY DURING 1998 TO 2020.

4.1. Comments

4.1.1. Advantages and causes

4.1.1.1. Advantages

Firstly, the Party Committee of Dong Thap province has correctly recognized the position and importance of the tourism economy; gradually proposed a policy to develop the tourism economy in accordance with local realities.

Second, the Provincial Party Committee is flexible and creative in directing the development of tourism economy as follow:

Regarding the planning of tourism economic development, thoroughly implementing the Party's policy at the 8th Congress on the overall planning of Vietnam's tourism development commensurate with the country's great tourism economic potential, the Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee promptly directed the Provincial People's Committee to develop a master plan for tourism development in the province.

Regarding the organization of the tourism apparatus and enhancing the effectiveness of state management in tourism economy, thoroughly implementing the Resolution of the 7th Congress (1991) of the Party, the Provincial Party Committee and government have directed the gradual completion of the state management apparatus for tourism such as establishing the Tourism Company, the Department of Trade - Tourism, the Department of Culture, Sports and Tourism since May 1994.

In terms of the development of tourism types and diversification of tourism products, the policy is to exploit all potentials and strengths of the garden and river areas to diversify tourism types and products.

Regarding training and development of tourism human resources, top leaders should flexibly and creatively apply the Party's policies to the practical conditions of the province to issue many policies and decisions to improve the quality of tourism human resources.

Third, the close and drastic direction of the Provincial Party Committee has created a strong change in the development of the local tourism economy.

Fourth, the limitations and shortcomings of previous terms in the leadership of tourism economic development have been frankly and honestly acknowledged by the Provincial Party Committee through the Congresses, thereby unifying the will to propose corrective and remedial measures. In addition, the Provincial Party Committee has always promoted the collective intellectual strength, flexibly and creatively applied it to the practical conditions of the locality to issue feasible policies and resolutions that bring about practical results.

4.1.1.2. *The above advantages stem from many different causes, including some basic causes:* The Provincial Party Committee has seriously grasped the Party's viewpoints and policies and the State's legal policies on tourism economic development; closely directed the tourism industry; commanded the expansion of linkages and coordinated, synchronized and harmonious development of the province's tourism economy. In leadership work, it has always been open-minded, ready to admit shortcomings to learn from experience and propose remedial measures.

4.1.2. Limitations and causes

4.1.2.1. Limitations

Firstly, in the early years, the Provincial Party Committee has not paid due attention to investing in the tourism industry. The policies to gradually turn tourism into an important economic sector of the service sector proposed by the 6th Dong Thap Provincial Party Congress in the period between 1996 and 2000 were slow to be thoroughly grasped and promptly concretized by local authorities.

Secondly, the State management of the tourism economy still revealed some limitations. The implementation of some planning projects in tourist areas and destinations was slow. The coordination between sectors and localities in organizing the implementation of directives and resolutions of the Party Committee and provincial authorities was sometimes not tight and proactive; as a result the quality of advisory work was sometimes not high.

Thirdly, the training and fostering of tourism human resources was not put into consideration. In the early stages, due to the lack of sharp thinking in tourism economic development, shortage of ideas as well as creativity, and limitations in advisory work, the quality of tourism human resources did not take some time out and investment by the province, especially community tourism human resources.

Fourth, the development of the tourism economy is not commensurate with the potential and strengths of the province.

4.1.2.2. Regarding the causes of limitations, on one hand, in the early stages from 1998 to 2010, the thinking of doing a tourism economy was still quite new, the provincial leaders lacked experience in developing tourism economy at the macro level. On the other hand, the organization was not stable. The personnel in state management of tourism was not guaranteed; the work of advising, assessing the situation, forecasting and developing strategies was still limited.

Secondly, the capacity and professional qualifications of some officials and civil servants were still limited. The state management of tourism lacked initiative and the coordination between sectors, localities and enterprises was not smooth.

Thirdly, the planning management work was not proactive and resolute. The implementation of some plans did not comply with the set orientation. It was not

strongly emphasized enough to rectify the situation where sectors and localities lacked coordination with each other in the implementation of planning, plans, projects, and proposals. Coordination in assigning tasks among units in the region and among regions is not regular and not tight.

Fourth, due to the qualifications and capacity of some party committee levels, the government's administration is still not on par with the new task requirements. The solidarity and unity in some party committee standing committees is not high. The direction of planning implementation is not drastic. Inspection and supervision work in some places is not regular.

Fifth, the direction and management work in some places is not very drastic. Some tasks are large, complex or urgent as a result they have to be done in a short time. And then the results achieved are limited. Even Party committees and authorities in some localities are confused in directing and handling shortcomings in planning, developing types and diversifying tourism products.

Sixth, the direction to monitor implementation results, review and evaluate goals, and concretize resolutions, decisions, plans, and programs on tourism development and tourism economy have not been fully implemented. Some sectors and localities did not put the implementation into practice promptly and synchronously, so it was slow to have feasible solutions to promptly remove difficulties and problems that arose.

4.2. Learned lessons and distilled experiences

The practice of leading the development of tourism economy of the Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee from 1998 to 2020 has left some valuable experiences as follow:

4.2.1. Timely execution of the policies of the Party and State as well as the directions in the improvement of advisory work's quality on tourism economic development in Dong Thap province

Leaders should timely grasp the policies of the Party and State on tourism economic development.

What is more ? Top bananas must direct from the beginning to the end and improve the quality of advisory work on tourism economic development.

Next, it is highly recommended strengthen the direction of inspection and supervision when implementing the viewpoints and policies of the Party and State in the practical conditions of the province

4.2.2. Effort in trying to improve the quality and effectiveness of State management agencies's operation on tourism

Leaders should complete the policy mechanism to promote tourism economic development. In some urgent cases, they should implement immediately to create a breakthrough for tourism development. If there are no legal documents or other regulations, based on actual conditions, a pilot implementation will be considered, then an assessment will be made to learn from the experience and expand.

It is necessary to take care of building the state management apparatus for tourism. Thanks to the sensitivity and decisiveness in the organization of the Provincial Party Committee, along with the determination of all levels, sectors, and the state management apparatus for tourism economy, the state management apparatus for tourism in Dong Thap has been gradually arranged, consolidated and perfected, helping the tourism industry to make steady progress, maintain the growth rate and complete the goals set by the Provincial Party Committee.

People must focus on Party building, promptly correct limitations and shortcomings in state management of the tourism economy. It is vital to promote the spirit of solidarity in the Standing Committee and Executive Committee; strictly implement the principle of democratic centralism in issuing policies and resolutions; strengthen inspection and supervision work to help the Provincial Party Committee regularly grasp the situation of cadres. Party members and agencies and units performing assigned duties; thereby promptly correcting limitations and shortcomings, maintaining the effectiveness and efficiency of state management.

4.2.3. Focus on training and fostering to improve the quality of human resources, meeting the requirements of tourism economic development

The main point that leaders should take into consideration is to focus on directing the review of the quality and quantity of human resources serving in the tourism

industry to determine the content and forms of training and fostering to suit practical requirements.

4.2.4. Priorities in the construction of infrastructure and diversification of tourism products

Facilities and infrastructure are one of the most important things that can help to improve tourism economic development. Authorities should focus on synchronous development of infrastructure; perfecting the information technology infrastructure system; renovate and embellish historical, cultural and ancient architectural relics, especially those ranked nationally, nationally and provincially; develop a system of commercial services. The quality, diverse and distinctive tourism products should be encouraged.

4.2.5. Attention to linkage, promotion and economic promotion of tourism in the province

The last thing needed to pay attention to is strengthen cooperation and linkage in tourism development with provinces and cities across the country. Creating conditions for businesses to expand domestic and international cooperation can't be ignored. Authorities must focus on cooperation in developing tours linked with units with many advantages and development experience, and then make them become major tourism centers and innovate the methods and content of tourism promotion and advertising.

CONCLUSION

Finding solutions for tourism economic development is a very important scientific task that has been invested in by domestic and foreign scientists. However, up to now, there has been no in-depth study on the process of the Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee leading the development of the tourism economy through the terms.

In recent years, realizing the great role of tourism economy in the socio-economic development of the country as well as implementing solutions to enhance the exploitation of the country's tourism potential and strengths, the Party and the Government have issued many directives, resolutions, and plans with the policy of developing tourism into a spearhead economic sector, creating a basis for localities to gradually concretize it in their actual conditions. Dong Thap has a unique cultural

capital with a history of more than 300 years, rich natural resources, and great potential for investment in tourism economic exploitation. From the viewpoint of closely following the Party's guidelines and resolutions, the State's policies and laws, the Dong Thap Provincial Party Committee has mobilized the collective intelligence of the Standing Committee and the Executive Committee, promoted the spirit of solidarity, unanimity, creativity, and proactively applied the Party's guidelines to the practical conditions of the locality to exploit all potentials and strengths of the province, serving the goal of developing tourism economy. With the motto of "doing while learning from experience to continue moving forward", although there were times when mistakes and shortcomings were made in leading tourism economic development due to subjectivity and lack of experience, the Provincial Party Committee promptly and frankly accepted responsibility, deeply self-criticized to overcome the limitations and shortcomings of each individual and each collective of the Standing Committee and the Executive Committee, determined to propose solutions to improve the capacity and fighting strength of grassroots party organizations; consolidate the organizational apparatus, perfect the state management apparatus, and rectify the advisory work. From there, authorities can conduct a development strategy for the coming time with resolutions, programs, plans, and projects to develop a tourism economy that is more suitable to reality. It clearly shows the province's determination to make tourism truly become the spearhead economic sector of the locality.

The close attention and direction of the Provincial Party Committee, demonstrated through resolutions, decisions, projects, and plans, has contributed to promoting the province's tourism economy to develop strongly with important results. The training of tourism human resources has had positive changes. Key tourist areas and destinations of the province have initially positioned their typical tourism products. Tourism infrastructure has been gradually upgraded towards modernization. The province's policy of supporting investment in tourism economic development has created favorable conditions, encouraging investors and people to participate in tourism economic development in most potential areas of the province. The enhanced socialization of tourism has promoted the formation of many community tourism areas

and spots that are very attractive to domestic and foreign tourists. Communication and promotion of Dong Thap tourism images have received investment attention in many diverse and rich forms. The province's correct and appropriate solutions for tourism economic development have created high consensus in the entire political system, businesses and people of all walks of life on the policy of developing tourism into an important economic sector of the province. However, besides the achieved results, there are still many shortcomings and limitations that the Provincial Party Committee must focus on overcoming. The practice of leading the province's tourism economic development in the period of 1998 to 2020 has left the Provincial Party Committee with valuable experiences from what has been done and what has not been done, in which special attention is paid to the lessons learned. The Provincial Party Committee needs to promptly grasp the policies of the Party and the State to direct the improvement of the quality of advisory work on tourism economic development; constantly improve the effectiveness of state management of tourism; focus on training and fostering tourism human resources to meet the requirements of tourism economic development in the new period; pay attention to directing investment in building tourism infrastructure and diversifying tourism products; strengthen linkage, promotion and promotion of tourism economy. In addition, the Provincial Party Committee also needs to study and learn from the experience of leading the development of the tourism economy in some provinces in the Mekong Delta region with similar natural conditions such as An Giang, Long An, etc. In the coming time, in order to make Dong Thap's tourism economy to continue to develop sustainably and commensurate with the province's existing potential and strengths, the Provincial Party Committee and Government need to seriously direct Party committees and authorities from the province to localities to focus on assessing and drawing profound lessons from the leadership and management of the tourism economy in recent years. Authorities must promote propaganda and political and ideological education for cadres and Party members; strengthen the inspection and supervision of state management agencies on tourism economy; organize preliminary and final summaries and draw lessons from the leadership and development of tourism economy.

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