

HO CHI MINH NATIONAL ACADEMY OF POLITICS

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**THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE ANCIENT
CAPITAL OF HOA LU AND THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT OF NINH BINH PROVINCE IN THE
CURRENT CONTEXT**

SUMMARY OF THE DOCTORAL THESIS

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INTRODUCTION

1. The urgency of the theme

Over the past two decades, cultural heritage has increasingly been recognized not only as an object of preservation but also as an important resource for socio-economic development. The Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu possesses a system of cultural heritage embodying distinctive and outstanding values, serving as a symbol of the nation's independence and self-determination. At the same time, it constitutes the core of the Trang An Landscape Complex - a World Cultural and Natural Heritage Site - and plays an important role in the development of Ninh Binh Province. In recent years, the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu has been utilized and promoted to serve local socio-economic development. This system of cultural heritage has become an object of research, attracting considerable attention from scholars across various academic disciplines. However, existing studies on the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu have predominantly focused on historical research, archaeology, heritage studies, monument conservation, and tourism, while research from the perspective of Cultural Studies remains limited. In particular, there is a lack of studies approaching cultural heritage as a form of cultural capital in development, and no study has yet provided a systematic analysis of the dialectical relationship between the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu and the socio-economic development of Ninh Binh Province in the current context. This research gap calls for an interdisciplinary approach, with Cultural Studies playing a central role, in order to clarify the values, roles, mechanisms of impact, and conditions for promoting heritage in the pursuit of sustainable local development. In response to the aforementioned theoretical and practical requirements, the PhD candidate has selected the topic "***The Cultural Heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu and the Socio-Economic Development of Ninh Binh Province in the Current Context***" as the subject of this doctoral research in Cultural Studies, to contribute to the theoretical and practical foundations for achieving harmony between the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage values and sustainable development.

2. Research Objectives and Tasks

2.1. Research Objectives

The dissertation aims to identify, analyze, and assess the current state of the relationship between the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu and the socio-economic development of Ninh Binh Province. On this basis, it discusses several issues arising from this relationship and proposes several recommendations to promote the utilization and enhancement of the cultural heritage values of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu as a form of cultural capital serving socio-economic development, while simultaneously mobilizing resources generated through socio-economic development to preserve and promote the cultural heritage values of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu in the current context.

2.2. Research Tasks

The dissertation focuses on the following principal tasks: (1) To review the existing body of research related to the issue of "the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu and the socio-economic development of Ninh Binh Province in the current context"; to systematize and clarify the theoretical foundations concerning cultural heritage and the relationship between cultural heritage and socio-economic development; and to apply Pierre Bourdieu's theory of different forms of capital and capital conversion to develop an analytical framework for the study. (2) To identify the different types of cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu and their distinctive values. (3) To identify, analyze, and assess the two-way relationship between the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu and the socio-economic development of Ninh Binh Province based on quantitative and qualitative research. This includes examining the contributions of cultural heritage to socio-economic development and the impacts of the development process on cultural heritage. For each direction of impact, the dissertation identifies and analyzes both positive impacts and limitations or adverse effects. (4) To identify the issues arising from the relationship between cultural heritage and socio-economic development and propose recommendations to achieve harmony between the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage values and local socio-economic development toward sustainability.

3. Research Subjects and Scope

3.1. Research Subject là the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu in relation to the socio-economic development of Ninh Binh Province.

3.2. Research Scope

Geographical scope: The dissertation focuses on the study of representative tangible and intangible cultural heritage within the geographical area of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu, as defined in Decision No. 56/QĐ-TTg dated February 7, 2023, of the Prime Minister approving *the task of formulating the planning for the preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital Special National Monument in Ninh Binh Province through 2030, with a vision to 2050*. The primary focus of the fieldwork is the system of cultural heritage located in Truong Yen Commune, Hoa Lu District (now part of Tay Hoa Lu Ward, Ninh Binh Province), where the core heritage associated with the former capital of Hoa Lu is concentrated.

Temporal scope: The dissertation focuses on the relationship between the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu and the socio-economic development of Ninh Binh Province during the period from 2012 to before July 1, 2025, for the following reasons: 2012 marked a significant milestone when the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital Monument Complex was recognized as a Special National Monument, ushering in a period of intensified preservation, utilization, and promotion of heritage values in association with socio-economic development. The endpoint of the research period is set prior to the implementation of the merger of Ninh Binh, Ha Nam, and Nam Dinh provinces to form the new Ninh Binh Province.

Content scope: The dissertation approaches the concept of “socio-economic development” from the perspective of the Party’s orientation toward comprehensive and sustainable development, while limiting the research to aspects that are directly related to the processes of preserving, utilizing, and promoting the cultural heritage values of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu. Based on the application of Bourdieu’s theory of different forms of capital and capital conversion, cultural heritage is conceptualized as a form of cultural capital capable of being converted into economic capital, social capital, and symbolic capital. Accordingly, the dissertation focuses on analyzing the relationship between cultural heritage and three principal dimensions of development, namely: economic development; cultural development and the enhancement of the locality’s image and position in cultural exchange and international integration; and social development. These dimensions of development are not understood as categories corresponding respectively to each form of capital in Bourdieu’s theory. Rather, they constitute the analytical framework developed by the dissertation to identify the outcomes and impacts of the process of capital conversion from cultural heritage on local development.

- The relationship between cultural heritage and socio-economic development is a two-way interactive relationship. However, from the perspective of Cultural Studies and through the application of Pierre Bourdieu’s theory of different forms of capital, the dissertation places cultural heritage at the center of analysis and gives greater emphasis to the direction of impact from cultural heritage to socio-economic development. The reverse direction, namely the impact of socio-economic development on cultural heritage, is also examined, but to a more limited extent, as a feedback mechanism that contributes to regulating the process of utilizing and promoting cultural heritage values, thereby ensuring harmony between heritage preservation and the utilization and promotion of heritage values in association with socio-economic development.

4. Research Questions and Hypotheses

Research Question 1: What is the nature of the relationship between the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu and Ninh Binh Province's socio-economic development? *Research Hypothesis 1:* The relationship between the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu and the socio-economic development of Ninh Binh Province is dialectical and involves two-way interaction. Both directions of impact generate positive effects while also creating limitations and challenges.

Research Question 2: What is the current state of the relationship between the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu and the socio-economic development of Ninh Binh Province? *Research Hypothesis 2:* The relationship between the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa

Lu and the socio-economic development of Ninh Binh Province is manifested through the reciprocal interaction between cultural heritage and socio-economic development. Through the processes of preserving, utilizing, and promoting heritage values, cultural heritage exerts impacts on socio-economic development; at the same time, the process of socio-economic development can, in turn, affect the preservation, utilization, and promotion of cultural heritage values.

Research Question 3: In the current context, what issues arise in the relationship between the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu and the socio-economic development of Ninh Binh Province, and how should they be addressed to achieve harmony between the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage values and socio-economic development toward sustainability?

Research Hypothesis 3: In the current context, the relationship between the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu and the socio-economic development of Ninh Binh Province requires the achievement of harmony between heritage preservation and the utilization and promotion of heritage values. At the same time, it requires the development of human resources and the strengthening of linkages among stakeholders; the improvement of planning and the enhancement of connectivity among heritage spaces; greater awareness; and ensuring community participation and benefits. Addressing these issues in a coordinated manner will contribute to improving the effectiveness of heritage preservation and the promotion of heritage values in association with socio-economic development, thereby ensuring sustainable development.

5. Methodology, Approaches, and Research Methods

5.1. Methodology

The methodological foundations of the dissertation are dialectical materialism and historical materialism of Marxism-Leninism; Ho Chi Minh's thought; and the viewpoints and policies of the Communist Party of Vietnam concerning culture, cultural heritage, socio-economic development, and the integration of cultural heritage preservation and promotion with socio-economic development.

5.2. Interdisciplinary Approach

Given the complex nature of the research subject, the dissertation adopts an interdisciplinary approach grounded in Cultural Studies, selectively incorporating knowledge from history, economics and development studies, sociology, and cultural management. These bodies of knowledge are employed to supplement and clarify various aspects related to the formation, transformation, preservation, utilization, and promotion of the cultural heritage values of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu, as well as their relationship with socio-economic development. Cultural Studies plays the leading role, guiding the selection and integration of analytical dimensions in order to identify and assess the two-way interaction between the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu and the socio-economic development of Ninh Binh Province.

5.3. Research Methods

The dissertation employs a combination of the following research methods: *Secondary document analysis:* This method is used to collect, synthesize, and process theoretical materials; documents issued by the Party and the State; documents and materials from domestic and international organizations; as well as reports and empirical data relevant to the research content of the dissertation. *Fieldwork and field observation:* These methods are conducted at the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital Special National Monument to examine the current state of the heritage, participate in cultural activities and festivals, and investigate the practical processes of preserving, utilizing, and promoting cultural heritage values in association with local socio-economic development. *Sociological survey:* This method combines qualitative and quantitative research through 10 in-depth interviews and 550 questionnaires, including 350 questionnaires administered to residents and 200 questionnaires administered to tourists. The purpose is to assess the role of the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu in the socio-economic development of Ninh Binh Province, as well as the impacts of the socio-economic development process on cultural heritage.

6. New Contributions of the Thesis

6.1. Theoretical Contributions

The dissertation contributes to clarifying the theoretical foundations of the relationship between cultural heritage and socio-economic development from the perspective of Cultural Studies, based on

the application of Pierre Bourdieu's theory of different forms of capital. Accordingly, cultural heritage is viewed not only as a value to be preserved but also as a form of cultural capital that can be mobilized, utilized, and promoted in the process of socio-economic development. The dissertation also clarifies the two-way relationship between the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage values and socio-economic development, thereby emphasizing the need to achieve harmony between heritage preservation and socio-economic development toward sustainability.

6.2. Practical Contributions

The dissertation systematically identifies the different types of cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu and their distinctive values. It identifies and analyzes the contributions of the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu to the socio-economic development of Ninh Binh Province, while also examining the reciprocal impacts of the socio-economic development process on cultural heritage. On this basis, the dissertation identifies the issues arising from this relationship and proposes recommendations for achieving harmony between the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage values and local socio-economic development in the current context. Thereby, the dissertation provides additional reference-based arguments for policymaking, management, preservation, utilization, and promotion of cultural heritage values toward sustainable development.

7. Structure of the thesis

Apart from the introduction, conclusion, list of references, and appendices, the thesis is structured into 4 chapters with a total of 8 sections.

Chapter 1

OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH AND THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS ON CULTURAL HERITAGE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1.1. OVERVIEW OF THE RESEARCH SITUATION

1.1.1. Studies on Cultural Heritage and Socio-Economic Development

Over the past two decades, research on cultural heritage has flourished both domestically and internationally, focusing primarily on two major directions:

First, theoretical studies have clarified the concepts and values of cultural heritage and developed classifications of cultural heritage. Regarding the relationship between cultural heritage and socio-economic development, studies have clarified the roles, functions, and values of cultural heritage and affirmed that cultural heritage is not only an object of preservation but also a resource for socio-economic development, particularly in tourism development, the construction of cultural identity, and sustainable development. Notable studies include those by Hoang Vinh, Bui Hoai Son, Gaetano M. Golinelli, Sophia Labadi, and others. At the same time, some studies have further examined the reciprocal relationship between cultural heritage and tourism development, including those by Dallen J. Timothy, Gyan P. Nyaupane, Duong Van Sau, and others. Several studies have initially approached cultural heritage from the perspective of capital, emphasizing the relationship between preservation and development, such as the studies by Dang Van Bai and others.

Second, empirical studies have focused on analyzing the preservation, utilization, and promotion of cultural heritage values in association with tourism, services, and local development. These studies have also identified both achievements and challenges, including the commercialization of heritage, the deterioration or distortion of cultural heritage, and conflicts between heritage preservation and development. Representative studies include those by Arthur Pedersen, Nguyen Thi Chien, Nguyen Thi Thong and Doan Thi Thanh Thuy, Nguyen Thi Phuong Cham and Hoang Cam, among others.

However, existing studies have primarily approached the issue from the perspective of individual fields or particular types of cultural heritage and have yet to establish a unified analytical framework capable of explaining the mechanisms through which cultural heritage becomes a resource for development, as well as the reciprocal impacts of socio-economic development on cultural heritage.

1.1.2. Studies on Cultural Heritage in Ninh Binh in Relation to Socio-Economic Development

** Studies on the cultural heritage system in Ninh Binh*

Studies by Truong Dinh Tuong, Nguyen Viet, Le Hong Ly, Most Venerable Thich Thanh Nhieu, Ho Sy Quy, and others have provided relatively comprehensive examinations of Ninh Binh's cultural heritage system, encompassing both tangible and intangible cultural heritage. These studies have clarified the historical and cultural values, potential, and role of cultural heritage in the socio-economic development of Ninh Binh Province. They have contributed to identifying the profile of the locality's cultural heritage resources and affirmed that cultural heritage not only embodies the spiritual and symbolic values of the community but also constitutes an important resource that Ninh Binh can utilize and promote in the process of local socio-economic development.

** Studies on the practice of preserving, utilizing, and promoting cultural heritage values in Ninh Binh in association with socio-economic development*

A number of studies have focused on analyzing the preservation, utilization, and promotion of cultural heritage values in Ninh Binh in association with tourism development and sustainable development. These studies have clarified the achievements in heritage management, utilization, and promotion in connection with tourism development, as well as their impacts on the socio-economic life of local communities. At the same time, they have identified limitations and issues requiring further discussion and resolution in order to achieve harmony between heritage preservation and the promotion of heritage values. Representative studies include those by Bui Van Manh, Vu Thi Huong and Nguyen Thi Thu Giang, Do Thanh Thuy, and others.

1.1.3. Studies on the Cultural Heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu in Relation to Socio-Economic Development

** Studies on the cultural heritage system of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu*

The body of research on the cultural heritage system of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu includes numerous major, systematic, and in-depth studies, notably the works of La Dang Bat and those by Do Danh Gia, Nguyen Kim Cuc, and M. Gumoutier. These studies have reconstructed the history of the formation and development of the Dai Co Viet state and Hoa Lu as its capital in the tenth century, together with the lives and careers of numerous historical figures of the Dinh and Early Le dynasties, such as King Dinh Tien Hoang, King Le Dai Hanh, Empress Dowager Duong Van Nga, and Crown Prince Dinh Lien. This body of research provides a basis for identifying and systematizing the different types of cultural heritage in the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu. In particular, these authors have provided relatively detailed descriptions of most of the representative tangible and intangible cultural heritage, including the Temple of King Dinh Tien Hoang, the Temple of King Le Dai Hanh, Nhat Tru Pagoda, and the Hoa Lu Festival. In addition to comprehensive and systematic studies of the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu, other studies have examined specific representative heritage sites and elements, such as those by Le Van Thao and Truong Dinh Tuong, and Tong Trung Tin and Pham Van Trieu. These studies have contributed to demonstrating that the cultural heritage repository of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu is rich, diverse, and imbued with significant values. It constitutes an important human resource that Ninh Binh can utilize and promote in the process of local socio-economic development.

** Studies on the practice of preserving, utilizing, and promoting the cultural heritage values of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu in association with socio-economic development*

A number of studies have emerged focusing on the analysis of the current state of preservation, utilization, and promotion of the cultural heritage values of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu in association with tourism development, identifying both the positive outcomes achieved and the limitations of this process. These include the article *Promoting the Cultural Heritage Values of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu and the Trang An Ecotourism Area in Tourism Activities* by Vu The Binh; the article *Preservation and Promotion of the Historical and Cultural Values of the Hoa Lu Festival*; and the study *Preserving the Sacred Space of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu in Tourism Development toward Sustainable Socio-Economic Goals* by Nguyen Thi Que Huong and Nguyen Ngoc Quynh, among others.

1.1.4. General Assessment of the Research Situation and Issues to Be Further Investigated by the Dissertation

** General assessment of the research situation*

Based on the review of domestic and international studies, the PhD candidate draws the following observations: (1) Numerous studies have contributed to clarifying theoretical issues concerning cultural heritage, including its concepts, classification, values, preservation, and promotion. They have also initially clarified the role of cultural heritage in socio-economic development and the relationship between cultural heritage and socio-economic development. (2) Existing studies have reflected the practical processes of preserving, utilizing, and promoting cultural heritage values in association with socio-economic development, primarily through tourism development, service development, and sustainable development. At the same time, these studies have identified issues arising in the processes of heritage preservation and utilization. (3) Studies on Ninh Binh and the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu have clarified the cultural heritage system, its values, and its potential for socio-economic development. However, no study has yet provided a systematic and comprehensive examination of the relationship between the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu and socio-economic development from the perspective of Cultural Studies. Furthermore, the theory of different forms of capital and capital conversion developed by Pierre Bourdieu has not yet been applied to establish an analytical framework for explaining the mechanisms through which cultural heritage values are converted into development resources and the reciprocal impacts of socio-economic development on cultural heritage.

** Issues to Be Further Investigated by the Dissertation*

In response to the aforementioned research gaps, the dissertation focuses on addressing the following issues: (1) To develop an analytical framework for studying the relationship between cultural heritage and socio-economic development based on the application of Pierre Bourdieu's theory of different forms of capital and capital conversion. (2) To systematize the different types of cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu, clarify their outstanding values, and examine their potential for utilization and promotion in support of local socio-economic development. (3) To identify, analyze, and assess the two-way relationship between the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu and the socio-economic development of Ninh Binh Province. (4) To discuss the issues arising from this relationship and propose recommendations for achieving harmony between the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage values and socio-economic development in the current context.

1.2. THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS

1.2.1. Theoretical Issues Concerning Cultural Heritage

1.2.1.1. The Concept of Cultural Heritage and the Value of Cultural Heritage

** The Concept of Cultural Heritage*

Numerous domestic and international scholars and organizations have proposed conceptualizations of cultural heritage (CH), reflecting diverse approaches, including those of Hoàng Vinh, Gaetano M. Golinelli, Dương Văn Sáu, and Đặng Văn Bài, as well as the conceptualizations advanced by UNESCO and the National Assembly of Vietnam in the Law on Cultural Heritage (2024). Building on previous scholarly perspectives, this dissertation conceptualizes *Cultural Heritage as products created by human beings in the course of their existence and development, embodying valuable material and spiritual values recognized, preserved, recreated, developed, and transmitted by cultural subjects across generations, thereby becoming the cultural essence of the nation.*

** The Concept of the Value of Cultural Heritage*

Based on the concepts of value and cultural heritage, this dissertation conceptualizes the value of cultural heritage as follows: *The value of cultural heritage refers to the positive, meaningful, beautiful, and beneficial elements crystallized within the heritage system of a culture. These values are the outcomes of the creative endeavors of communities in the past to meet and satisfy the needs of existence and development while pursuing the true, the good, and the beautiful. Such values have been selected, preserved, developed, and transmitted across generations, becoming part of the traditions of the nation.* The structure of cultural heritage values constitutes a system comprising multiple values

that are organically interconnected. In examining the value of a particular cultural heritage, it is necessary to situate it within its relationship with human beings and the communities that create, preserve, “use,” exploit, and develop cultural heritage. Therefore, the structure of cultural heritage values is not fixed. In addition to universal values such as historical, cultural, and scientific values, it encompasses specific values associated with various dimensions of social life, created and developed by the respective communities, including spiritual values, religious and belief-related values, educational values, economic values, and others.

1.2.1.2. Classification of Cultural Heritage

Just as there are various ways of conceptualizing and structuring culture, there are also various criteria for classifying cultural heritage. However, the most widely used classification of cultural heritage today, both in state management of the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage values and in scholarly research on cultural heritage, is the classification into *Tangible and Intangible Cultural heritage*. This classification is based on the forms in which cultural heritage is manifested, as reflected in UNESCO's approach and *the Law on Cultural Heritage* (2024).

1.2.2. The Relationship between Cultural Heritage and Socio-Economic Development

1.2.2.1. Cultural Heritage and Socio-Economic Development

According to the perspectives of UNESCO, President Hồ Chí Minh, the Communist Party of Vietnam, and various scholars, culture in general and cultural heritage in particular are increasingly recognized as important components of sustainable development, serving both as an objective and as a driving force of socio-economic development.

From a theoretical perspective, this dissertation employs Pierre Bourdieu's theory of forms of capital and capital conversion as its analytical framework. Accordingly, cultural heritage is regarded as a distinctive form of cultural capital that can be converted into economic capital, social capital, and symbolic capital through the processes of preserving, utilizing, and promoting cultural heritage values. The outcomes of these conversion processes generate impacts on socio-economic development across several major dimensions: (1) *Cultural heritage and economic development: First*, cultural heritage provides resources for the development of tourism and services; *Second*, cultural heritage promotes the formation of markets for cultural products and services; *Third*, cultural heritage generates economic value through commercial and service activities. Consequently, *Cultural Heritage becomes a resource and a driving force for economic growth and the restructuring of local economies.* (2) *Cultural heritage and cultural development, as well as the enhancement of the image, standing, and reputation of localities in cultural exchange and international integration: First*, cultural heritage meets social needs and enriches people's cultural and spiritual lives; *Second*, cultural heritage contributes to shaping and consolidating community and national identity in the context of cultural exchange and integration; *Third*, cultural heritage provides a foundation for stimulating creativity and recreating the cultural values of communities and the nation; fourth, cultural heritage enhances the image, reputation, and standing of communities in cultural exchange and integration. (3) *Cultural heritage and social development: First*, cultural heritage contributes to employment and income generation, improves people's quality of life, and supports the development of infrastructure; *Second*, cultural heritage serves as a foundation for strengthening community solidarity and creating a stable social environment conducive to sustainable development; third, cultural heritage contributes to establishing networks of social relationships based on cooperation and development.

* *Some barriers and challenges posed by cultural heritage to socio-economic development:* In certain circumstances, cultural heritage may create barriers and challenges to the process of socio-economic development. These include the substantial investment costs required for the preservation, conservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of heritage sites and resources. Cultural heritage may also create certain inconveniences and impose pressures on the everyday lives of communities residing in heritage areas, among other challenges.

1.2.2.2. The Impacts of Socio-Economic Development on Cultural Heritage

Numerous studies, including those by Timothy, D. J. and Nyaupane, G. P., Sophia Labadi, and Arthur Pedersen, have demonstrated that socio-economic development, particularly through tourism activities, has exerted significant impacts on cultural heritage in both positive and negative directions.

Applying Bourdieu's theory of forms of capital, the process of socio-economic development can be viewed as a process of capital accumulation and subsequent conversion into resources that exert both positive and negative impacts on cultural heritage. (1) *Positive impacts*: First, socio-economic development generates material resources for the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage values and the reproduction of cultural capital; Second, socio-economic development creates conditions for expanding the spaces in which cultural heritage values can be promoted and disseminated; Third, socio-economic development enhances social awareness and capacity for cultural heritage preservation. (2) *Negative impacts*: Industrialization, modernization, and urbanization may encroach upon heritage spaces; economic development based on the extensive and indiscriminate exploitation and promotion of cultural heritage values may undermine the authenticity and integrity of heritage; transformations in livelihoods and lifestyles may lead to the erosion of traditional cultural practices.

1.2.3. Theoretical Framework

1.2.3.1. Pierre Bourdieu's Theory of Forms of Capital

The French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu (1930–2002), through his major works, including *Cultural Reproduction and Social Reproduction* (1973), *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste* (1984), and *The Forms of Capital* (1986), elaborated the concepts of cultural capital, economic capital, social capital, and symbolic capital. *Economic capital* or financial resources, refers to all material or financial assets that can be directly converted into money. It is institutionalized in the form of property ownership and financial rights. This is the most readily recognizable form of capital and constitutes a foundation for the accumulation and conversion of other forms of capital. *Social capital* refers to the aggregate of actual or potential resources linked to possession of a durable network of relationships based on mutual acquaintance and recognition. In other words, social capital concerns the scale and quality of social relationships that individuals or groups can mobilize for their own interests. Such relationships may include family, kinship, friends, colleagues, and organizational or community groups. However, maintaining these relationships requires continuous investment through communication, gift-giving, mutual assistance, and other forms of social exchange. *Cultural capital* refers to non-material resources, encompassing knowledge, skills, education, cultural dispositions, tastes, and other culturally acquired competencies possessed by an individual. Such resources can contribute to securing a higher social position, greater access to benefits, and increased recognition within society. *Symbolic capital*, according to Bourdieu, is not a separate type of capital but rather the form that different types of capital assume when they are perceived and recognized as legitimate. Thus, when economic, cultural, or social capital is recognized as legitimate in the eyes of society, it acquires the status of symbolic capital. Symbolic capital can therefore be understood in terms of honor, prestige, reputation, and social recognition attached to the capital possessed by a particular actor. According to Bourdieu, these forms of capital do not exist in isolation but can be converted into one another through the practices of social actors within specific social contexts. The process of capital conversion provides a basis for generating benefits, social positions, and power for those who possess capital. Such conversion does not occur automatically or spontaneously; rather, it is shaped by multiple factors, including the participation of different actors and the forms of capital they possess, as well as the relationships among these actors.

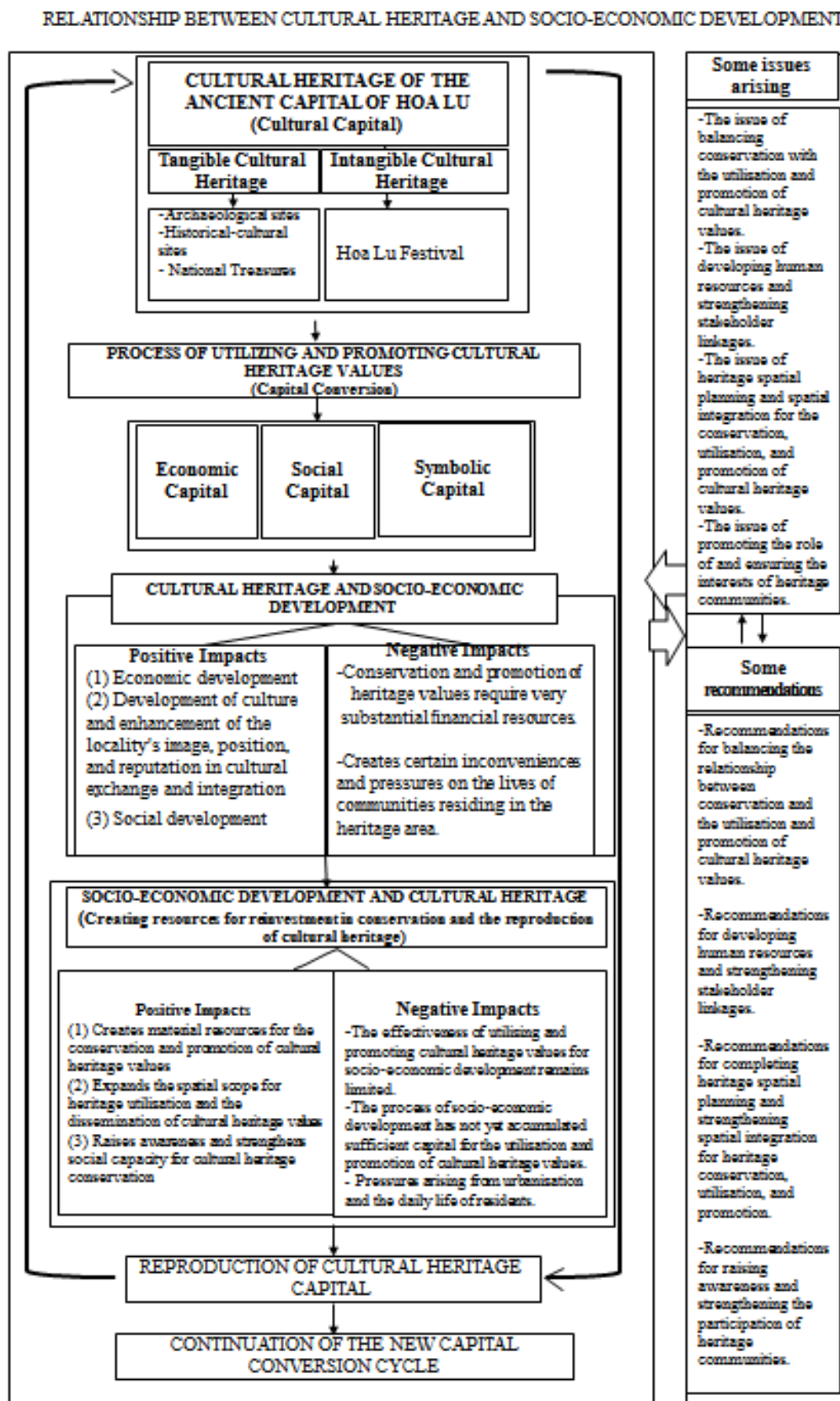
1.2.3.2. Applying Pierre Bourdieu's Theory of Forms of Capital to the Study of the Relationship between Cultural Heritage and Socio-Economic Development

Applying this theory, the dissertation approaches the cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital as a distinctive form of cultural capital. Through the processes of preservation, utilization, and promotion of heritage values, cultural heritage capital can be converted into economic capital, social capital, and symbolic capital, thereby generating impacts on economic development, cultural development, the enhancement of the image, reputation, and standing of the locality in cultural exchange and integration, and local social development. At the same time, the dissertation examines the reverse direction of impact, namely, the effects of socio-economic development on cultural heritage through the mobilization of resources for heritage preservation and the promotion of heritage values, as well as potential negative impacts arising in the process of heritage utilization and

exploitation. On this basis, the dissertation develops an analytical framework to identify, analyze, and assess the bidirectional relationship between the cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital and socio-economic development in Ninh Binh Province.

1.2.4. Analytical Framework of the Dissertation

The analytical framework explaining the relationship between the cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital and socio-economic development in Ninh Binh Province is modeled as follows:



Chapter 1 Summary

Chapter 1 reviewed domestic and international studies on cultural heritage and socio-economic development, thereby identifying the achievements of previous research as well as the research gaps that this dissertation seeks to address. Building on previous studies, the chapter systematized the theoretical issues concerning cultural heritage, including the concepts, classification, and values of cultural heritage. It also applied Pierre Bourdieu's theory of forms of capital and the conversion among different forms of capital to develop an analytical framework for studying the relationship between the cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital and socio-economic development. This theoretical foundation provides a basis for examining, analyzing, and evaluating the research issues presented in the subsequent chapters.

Chapter 2

THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE HOA LU ANCIENT CAPITAL AND THE CONTEXT OF HERITAGE PRESERVATION AND VALUE PROMOTION IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF NINH BINH PROVINCE

2.1. AN OVERVIEW OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE HOA LU ANCIENT CAPITAL

2.1.1. The Hoa Lu Capital in the Tenth Century – The Origins of the Cultural Heritage System of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital Today

In 968, Dinh Bo Linh suppressed the rebellion of the Twelve Warlords, reunified the country, ascended the throne as Emperor, and established the capital at Hoa Lu (located in present-day Truong Yên Commune, Hoa Lu District, Ninh Binh Province). He took the imperial title Dinh Tien Hoang and adopted the reign name Thai Binh. This event was of profound significance to the historical formation and development of the Vietnamese nation. *First*, it affirmed the country's independence, autonomy, and national standing after a thousand years of Northern domination. *Second*, the Hoa Lu capital, as a strongly fortified military citadel, safeguarded the independence, autonomy, and territorial unity of the Dai Co Viet state. *Third*, the development of Dai Co Viet and the Hoa Lu capital laid the foundations for the subsequent revival and development of the country. These significant historical and cultural values provided the foundation for the heritage associated with the Dai Co Viet state and the Hoa Lu capital to acquire symbolic value and embody the identity of the community and the nation, thereby becoming an invaluable heritage asset not only for the people of Ninh Binh but also for the Vietnamese nation as a whole.

2.1.2. Types of Cultural Heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital – Cultural Capital for Socio-Economic Development

The cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital comprises a system of tangible and intangible cultural heritage created, preserved, and transmitted by successive generations to the present day. This heritage is closely associated with the construction and development of the Hoa Lu capital and the Dai Co Viet state - the first centralized feudal state in Vietnamese history, under the Dinh, Early Le, and early Ly dynasties. It also includes tangible and intangible cultural heritage closely associated with historical events and figures connected with the Dai Co Viet state and the Hoa Lu capital that emerged after the tenth century and have been preserved and transmitted across generations to the present day.

2.2.2.1. The System of Tangible Cultural Heritage

Based on the research and examination of relevant sources, the doctoral researcher finds that the tangible cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital can be classified into three major groups: archaeological sites, historical-cultural sites, and national treasures.

* *Archaeological sites*: These include remains discovered through archaeological excavations, such as sections of artificial citadel walls interspersed among natural mountain formations, including Thanh Lau and Cot Co, which together formed an enclosed defensive system protecting the capital.

Other archaeological remains include traces of palaces dating from the Dinh and Early Le periods in the present-day areas of the temples dedicated to King Dinh and King Le, as well as architectural remains in the southern area of the Hoa Lu Forbidden Citadel, particularly in the Noi Trong field. Numerous other archaeological remains are still buried underground. Ninh Binh Province has plans to continue archaeological excavations in order to clarify the historical appearance and spatial structure of the ancient Hoa Lu capital. In addition, numerous artifacts have been unearthed through archaeological excavations, including fragments of bricks and roof tiles, ceramics, stoneware, and decorative objects, many of which date from the tenth century.

** Historical-cultural sites*

The system of historical-cultural sites within the heritage complex is diverse, encompassing temples, pagodas, communal houses, shrines, palace, mausoleums, ancestral worship houses, and clan houses, together with natural landscapes such as rivers, mountains, and caves that possess significant historical and cultural value. Within the heritage complex, nearly 50 sites have been inventoried, of which 14 have been officially recognized as national-level heritage sites and 8 as provincial-level heritage sites. Notable historical-cultural sites that represent the distinctive identity of the ancient capital include: *First*, the Temple of King Dinh and the Temple of King Le. *Second*, the system of pagodas, temples, shrines, and palace, including Nhat Tru Pagoda, Am Pagoda, Thap Pagoda, Ba Ngo Pagoda, and Ngan Pagoda, also known as Kim Ngan Pagoda (the Golden Pagoda); the Temple of Princess Thuc Tiet (Phat Kim Temple, Ba Chua Palace); Kinh Thien Palace (Vuon Thien Palace); Dong Vuong Palace; Hanh Khien Temple (Thanh Hoang Palace); as well as natural caves such as Quan Cave, Luon Cave, and Xuyen Thuy Cave. The heritage landscape also encompasses river systems and waterways, including the Sao Khe River and the Hoang Long River.

** National treasures*

Among the tangible cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital, several outstanding artifacts and collections have been recognized as national treasures. *First*, the pair of Long Sang stone thrones at the Temple of King Dinh Tien Hoang, recognized as national treasures in 2017. *Second*, the sets of Phu Viet ritual weapons at the Temple of King Dinh Tien Hoang and the Temple of King Le Dai Hanh, recognized as national treasures in 2019. *Third*, the collection of Buddhist scripture pillars, dating back approximately one thousand years, at the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital, recognized as a national treasure in 2015.

2.1.2.2. Representative Intangible Cultural Heritage: the Hoa Lu Festival

The intangible cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital is rich and diverse, encompassing experience in establishing and operating a centralized feudal administration, experience in resisting foreign invasions and defending the country's territory, diplomatic experience, and experience in economic development. It also includes legends and folk anecdotes concerning historical figures and events of the tenth century, as well as various forms of folk performing arts and festivals. In order to clarify the role of the cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital as a form of cultural capital serving socio-economic development, this dissertation focuses on a representative form of intangible cultural heritage, namely the Hoa Lu Festival, together with the rituals and folk games conducted as part of the festival. The Hoa Lu Festival is also known by other names, including the Dinh–Le Festival and the Truong Yen Festival. It takes place in the spaces surrounding the temples dedicated to King Dinh Tien Hoang and King Le Dai Hanh, which constitute the central area of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital (in present-day Truong Yen Commune). In 2014, the Truong Yen Festival was officially recognized by the State as National Intangible Cultural Heritage. Historically, the Hoa Lu Festival has been held at different times of the year; in recent years, it has generally been organized from the ninth to the eleventh day of the third lunar month.

Like other traditional folk festivals, the Hoa Lu Festival consists of two major components: the ritual component and the festive component. *The ritual* component comprises numerous solemn and sacred ceremonies imbued with spiritual and religious significance, including the Temple Opening

Ceremony, Water Procession Ceremony, Incense Offering Ceremony, Ritual Bathing and Cleansing Ceremony, Cuu Khuc Sacrificial Ceremony, Palanquin Procession, Sacred Fire Procession, Traditional Sacrificial Ceremony, and Thanksgiving Ceremony. *The festive* component generally features a variety of recreational and entertainment activities, competitions, and traditional folk games. Notable examples include the folk performance “*The Reed-Flag Military Drill*”, associated with the life and career of King Dinh Tien Hoang, and “*The Thai Binh Character Formation*”, referring to the reign name of the Dinh–Le period. In recent years, the Hoa Lu Festival has also incorporated numerous cultural and mass artistic performances, professional artistic programs, and sporting activities such as volleyball and wrestling competitions, as well as youth camping activities.

2.1.3. The Values of the Cultural Heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital

The system of tangible and intangible cultural heritage in the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital is closely associated with the historical formation and development of the Hoa Lu capital and the Dai Co Viet state in the tenth century, as well as with the historical events and figures of that period. Preserved, conserved, and promoted to the present day, this cultural heritage embodies numerous valuable cultural resources and has exerted positive impacts on the development of culture and people, as well as on the development of the locality and the country throughout the historical course of the Vietnamese nation. These constitute a system of values encompassing *historical value, cultural value, natural landscape value, architectural and artistic value, and economic value*. As a result of the distinctive system of values embodied in the heritage, which serves as a symbol of national identity, the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital Heritage Site was classified as a national historical-cultural site in the first round of national heritage classification in 1962. In 2012, it was designated a Special National Heritage Site of Historical, Architectural, and Artistic Significance. These recognitions constitute an important foundation for cultural heritage to function as a form of capital contributing to the socio-economic development of the locality.

2.2. THE CONTEXT OF PRESERVING AND PROMOTING THE VALUES OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE HOA LU ANCIENT CAPITAL IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF NINH BINH PROVINCE

2.2.1. An Overview of the Socio-Economic Situation of Ninh Binh Province

Ninh Binh is a region with a long-standing historical and cultural tradition and is home to a rich and distinctive system of cultural heritage. The Hoa Lu Ancient Capital constitutes a prominent heritage center, possessing numerous distinctive tangible and intangible cultural heritage resources. From the re-establishment of the province in 1992 until before July 1, 2025, alongside the achievements of the country's reform process, Ninh Binh Province's socio-economic development also recorded significant positive outcomes. From being a predominantly agricultural province, by 2022, industry, construction, and services accounted for more than 80% of the province's economic structure. The province has maintained a relatively high rate of economic growth across different periods. The people's material and spiritual living standards have continued to improve. With substantial potential and advantages in cultural heritage and natural resources, Ninh Binh Province has identified development based on the preservation, utilization, and promotion of heritage values as an important orientation in its socio-economic development strategy and has achieved positive results, particularly in tourism and services. Nevertheless, the socio-economic outcomes generated through the utilization and promotion of heritage values in association with socio-economic development - particularly those associated with the cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital - remain disproportionate to the existing potential. Ninh Binh therefore still has considerable scope to pursue and further develop this orientation in the next phase of socio-economic development.

From July 1, 2025, the former Ninh Binh Province was merged with Ha Nam and Nam Dinh provinces to form a new province retaining the name Ninh Binh. Following the merger, Ninh Binh acquired additional development resources, particularly an expanded cultural heritage inventory enriched by numerous distinctive heritage resources. In the context of the new province's orientation

toward becoming a growth pole of the region, heritage serves as important “soft infrastructure,” contributing to the shaping of a sustainable development model based on the integration of economic and cultural development. Within this framework, the heritage resources - particularly the system of cultural heritage associated with the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital - remain the spiritual essence, identity, and source of pride of Ninh Binh. They also constitute a form of “capital” and a resource with substantial untapped potential for socio-economic development in Ninh Binh Province as a whole, and particularly for tourism and the province's cultural and creative industries.

2.2.2. Factors Affecting the Preservation and Promotion of the Cultural Heritage Values of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital Today

2.2.2.1. Globalization and the Intensification of Cultural Exchange and International Cooperation

Globalization and international integration are currently progressing rapidly, expanding opportunities to promote the image of the locality and attract tourists, investment, and cooperation in culture in general and in the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage values in particular. At the same time, these processes create requirements for enhancing heritage governance capacity and ensuring a balance between the utilization of heritage values and the preservation of cultural identity and the sustainability of the cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital.

2.2.2.2. The Scientific and Technological

Revolution, Innovation, and Digital Transformation Science and technology are currently developing at an unprecedented pace, particularly in areas such as artificial intelligence, digital technologies, big data, and virtual reality. Advances in science and technology and digital transformation create favorable conditions for innovating approaches to the preservation, promotion, and utilization of cultural heritage values, thereby enhancing public access and facilitating the development of new cultural products and services. At the same time, these developments serve as drivers for transforming heritage utilization models toward greater modernization and sustainability. However, successful digital transformation in the preservation, utilization, and promotion of the cultural heritage values of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital presents Ninh Binh Province with several challenges that must be addressed, including the development and improvement of digital infrastructure, the training of digital human resources, and the protection of intellectual property rights for creative outputs in the digital environment.

2.2.2.3. The Development of the Knowledge Economy and Cultural and Creative Industries

In the knowledge economy, cultural heritage is increasingly recognized as an important form of cultural capital for the development of tourism, cultural industries, and creative industries. The Communist Party and the State of Vietnam have introduced numerous orientations and policies to promote the development of cultural industries and creative economic sectors. In practice, the development of these sectors in Vietnam has also achieved a number of initial positive results. This creates favorable conditions and provides impetus for Ninh Binh to utilize and promote the cultural heritage values of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital in the development of tourism, cultural industries, and the creative economy, while mobilizing resources for the preservation of the locality's historical and cultural values and identity.

2.2.2.4. Orientations and Policies of Ninh Binh Province on the Preservation and Promotion of Cultural Heritage Values

During the period of renovation, the Communist Party of Vietnam has adopted numerous orientations and policies linking the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage values with the country's socio-economic development. On this basis, Ninh Binh Province has also introduced various orientations, policies, and programs linking the preservation and promotion of the locality's cultural heritage values in general, and those of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital in particular, with socio-economic development through tourism, services, and cultural industries. These policies and programs constitute an important foundation for promoting the mobilization and conversion of resources derived from cultural heritage to serve local socio-economic development.

2.2.2.5. Urbanization Orientation and the Development of a Heritage City

Ninh Binh is pursuing an orientation to become a centrally governed municipality characterized by a Millennial Heritage City by 2030, associated with the World Cultural and Natural Heritage sites of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital and Trang An–Tam Coc–Bich Dong, to closely integrate heritage preservation and conservation with socio-economic development. The orientation toward developing a heritage city creates conditions for simultaneously promoting the historical, cultural, landscape, and spatial values of heritage in local development. This context provides opportunities to enhance the value and attractiveness of the cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital, while also posing the challenge of harmonizing heritage preservation with urban development and sustainable socio-economic development.

Chapter 2 Summary

Chapter 2 systematized the major types and representative values of the cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital. It also analyzed the socio-economic context and the major factors affecting the processes of preserving, utilizing, and promoting cultural heritage values in association with socio-economic development. These findings provide an important foundation for the dissertation to identify and analyze the relationship between the cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital and the socio-economic development of Ninh Binh Province in the subsequent chapter.

Chapter 3

IDENTIFYING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE HOA LU ANCIENT CAPITAL AND THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF NINH BINH PROVINCE

3.1. IMPACTS OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE HOA LU ANCIENT CAPITAL ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF NINH BINH PROVINCE

3.1.1. The Cultural Heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital and Economic Development

The research findings indicate that the cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital has become an important resource for promoting tourism and services, fostering the development of markets for cultural products and services, stimulating economic growth, and facilitating the restructuring of the local economy.

3.1.1.1. Cultural Heritage as a Resource for Tourism and Service Development

The cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital has been utilized and promoted through the development of diverse cultural tourism products and cultural experience activities, including sightseeing and educational tourism focused on the history and culture of the Vietnamese nation; festival tourism associated with the Hoa Lu Festival; spiritual and religious tourism; and tourism centered on scenic landscapes and natural attractions. To support the utilization and promotion of cultural heritage values for tourism development, Ninh Binh Province has also developed a range of cultural products and services and tourism-support services, including the sale of souvenirs, local products and specialties, and cultural activities such as artistic performances, calligraphy demonstrations and the practice of requesting calligraphic inscriptions, interpretation and tour-guide services, transportation, security, parking, and other supporting services. Survey findings indicate that the cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital has become a resource for generating tourism products and cultural services that attract visitors and stimulate the development of tourism-related service activities within the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital heritage site.

3.1.1.2. Cultural Heritage as a Catalyst for the Formation of Markets for Cultural Products and Services

In recent years, the cultural heritage system of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital has not only served as a direct resource utilized and promoted for cultural tourism development, but its heritage spaces have also been utilized as creative cultural spaces that connect creators, businesses, and entrepreneurs with consumers and cultural audiences. This has contributed to building a creative ecosystem for the cultural and creative industries (CCIs) and promoting the development of such sectors as cultural tourism, performing arts, traditional handicrafts, film, and the entertainment industry. The festival grounds, covering thousands of square meters and accommodating tens of thousands of people, have

been utilized as venues for major cultural events, including the Hoa Lu Festival, professional artistic performances, and major commemorative events such as the celebration of the 1,000th anniversary of the birth of King Dinh Tien Hoang. They have also hosted programs held as part of Ninh Binh Tourism Week, the Ninh Binh Festival, and other major cultural events. In addition, the Hoa Lu Festival space has increasingly become a creative cultural space, providing a setting for a wide range of traditional and contemporary artistic performances, exhibitions and displays, cultural exchanges among different regions, and the trading and exchange of traditional handicraft products, village craft products, and other distinctive cultural goods and services from localities throughout the province. The cultural heritage spaces and natural landscapes within the heritage site have also been utilized as film locations, providing materials and sources of inspiration for various forms of cinematic and performing-arts creativity. Nevertheless, survey findings indicate that the role of the cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital as an environment for promoting the development of markets for cultural products and services and fostering a creative ecosystem for the cultural and creative industries remains largely at the level of potential. This potential has not yet been fully utilized, and considerable scope remains for further promoting and developing these resources in the future.

3.1.1.3. Cultural Heritage as a Contributor to Economic Growth and the Restructuring of the Local Economic Structure

The research findings indicate that the utilization and promotion of the cultural heritage values of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital have contributed to local economic growth through increases in visitor numbers, tourism revenue, and revenues from related service activities, both at the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital Heritage Site in particular and throughout Ninh Binh Province in general. In 2014, the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital Heritage Site received 222,196 visitors, generating revenue of VND 2.218 billion; by 2024, the number of visitors had increased to 780,704, with revenue reaching VND 14.142 billion. The number of tourists visiting Ninh Binh Province increased rapidly during the 2022–2025 period, averaging 5.8 million visitors per year, representing an average annual growth rate of 28.2%. Tourism revenue also increased substantially during the 2020–2025 period, estimated at VND 29.598 trillion in total, or an average of VND 5.9196 trillion per year, with an average annual growth rate of 44.6%.

Cultural heritage has gradually become an important driving force behind the restructuring of the local economic structure toward a greater share of services and tourism, thereby enabling the locality to utilize its potential and comparative advantages more effectively. The structure of gross output value at current prices in Hoa Lu District during the 2015–2020 period was as follows: industry, handicrafts, and construction accounted for 72%; agriculture, forestry, and fisheries accounted for 5.3%; and services accounted for 22.3%. During the 2020–2025 period, the corresponding shares were 70.2% for industry, handicrafts, and construction; 4.1% for agriculture, forestry, and fisheries; and 25.7% for services. The economic structure of Ninh Binh Province has continued to shift in a positive direction. In 2025, the industrial and construction sector is projected to account for 43%, agriculture, forestry, and fisheries for 9.2%, and services for 47.8%. Among these sectors, trade, services, and tourism have emerged as particularly dynamic areas, achieving high growth rates and making positive contributions to the province's economic growth and development. Their average annual growth rate during the 2020–2025 period is estimated at 11.26%, compared with only 6.7% during the 2016–2020 period.

3.1.2. The Cultural Heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital and Cultural Development, Enhancement of the Local Image, Position, and Reputation in Cultural Exchange and Integration

3.1.2.1. Cultural Heritage as a Contributor to Meeting Social Needs and Enriching the Spiritual and Cultural Life of Society

In recent years, the cultural heritage system of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital has been increasingly utilized and promoted as a space for the cultural life of local communities and as a destination for visitors seeking cultural experiences. Traditional festivals, religious and belief-related rituals, and cultural activities at the heritage site have been regularly maintained, attracting large numbers of

residents and visitors. The results of the sociological survey show that 81.7% of the respondents reported regularly participating in cultural activities at historical-cultural sites in the area. Among these activities, the Hoa Lu Festival is a regularly organized cultural event with extensive community outreach and broad participation. Residents not only attend the festival but also directly undertake various roles, including members of ritual teams, procession teams, organizing committees, performing arts groups, and competition teams. Through such participation, they become active agents in creating, practicing, and transmitting the cultural values embodied in the heritage, while visitors primarily participate as recipients and experiencers of cultural practices. The survey also indicates that the cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital very effectively meets the needs of residents and visitors to learn about traditional history and culture, with 96% of respondents identifying this as a motivation; among residents, the proportion reaches 97.7%. By contrast, economic motivations account for only 10.5% of visitors' participation, indicating that visitors' engagement in heritage-related activities is primarily driven by cultural, educational, spiritual, and identity-preservation needs rather than economic objectives. For residents, however, 94.3% reported that the cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital satisfies their economic needs through tourism, service activities, and livelihoods associated with the heritage. This demonstrates that cultural values remain the primary motivation underlying community participation, while the economic benefits generated are largely an outcome of the process of utilizing and promoting cultural heritage values.

3.1.2.2. The Cultural Heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital as a Symbol Contributing to the Consolidation and Dissemination of the Cultural Identity and People of Ninh Binh in the Process of Cultural Exchange and Integration

The cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital has not only contributed to the preservation of historical and cultural values but has also become a symbol that reinforces and disseminates the cultural identity and image of the people of Ninh Binh in the process of cultural exchange and integration. The results of the sociological survey indicate that both residents and visitors have a relatively high level of understanding of the historical and cultural values of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital, reflecting the effectiveness of heritage interpretation, communication, and education activities associated with tourism development. The survey of visitors' perceptions after their visits further indicates that the most prominent image of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital cultural heritage formed in visitors' perceptions is that Ninh Binh is a locality endowed with rich, diverse, distinctive, and remarkable cultural heritage, as well as an ancient land with a long-standing historical and cultural tradition. These findings affirm that the cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital has made an important contribution to shaping, consolidating, and disseminating the cultural image and identity of the locality, thereby enhancing Ninh Binh's reputation, status, and attractiveness in cultural exchange, cooperation, and integration.

3.1.2.3. The Cultural Heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital as a Contributor to Enhancing the Local Image, Status, and Reputation and Promoting Cultural Exchange and Integration

The recognition of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital Special National Monument and its inclusion as a component of the Trang An Landscape Complex, a World Cultural and Natural Heritage Site, together with the system of tangible and intangible cultural heritage recognized at the national and provincial levels, have contributed to affirming the value and enhancing the image, reputation, and status of Ninh Binh both nationally and internationally. On this basis, the province has expanded cooperative relations with numerous organizations, specialized agencies, and enterprises in activities related to research, conservation, and the promotion of heritage values, including UNESCO, IUCN, ICOMOS, the Swiss Sustainable Tourism Programme (SSTP), the Institute of Archaeology, and the Vietnam Institute of Geological Sciences and Mineral Resources, among others. At the same time, Ninh Binh has increasingly been selected as a venue for numerous national and international-scale cultural and tourism events and scientific conferences, such as Ninh Binh Tourism Week, Ninh Binh

Festival, Trang An Festival, and international conferences on cultural heritage. These outcomes demonstrate that the cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital not only generates symbolic capital for the locality but also contributes to expanding cultural exchange, cooperation, and integration, thereby creating favorable conditions for mobilizing resources for local socio-economic development.

3.1.3. The Cultural Heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital and Social Development

When the cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital is effectively utilized, and its values are promoted in such fields as tourism, services, and the cultural and creative industries, the economic resources generated do not merely stimulate economic growth but also generate broader social benefits through employment opportunities, increased incomes, improved living conditions for residents, and greater investment in social infrastructure. At the same time, these activities contribute to expanding social networks, strengthening community solidarity, and creating a stable social environment conducive to local socio-economic development.

3.1.3.1. Cultural Heritage as a Contributor to Employment Generation, Income Enhancement, and Improvements in People's Quality of Life

The research findings indicate that many local households have participated in tourism-related business and service activities, including accommodation, food and beverage services, spa and massage services, tour guiding, photography, boat rowing, transportation, souvenir sales, security services, and employment in tourism establishments. Among the surveyed working-age population, those employed in the tourism sector constituted the largest proportion, at 36.7%, considerably higher than the proportions engaged in other occupations. Such participation has contributed to increasing household incomes and improving people's quality of life. In 2024, the average per capita income of residents in Truong Yen Commune - the central area of the heritage zone - reached VND 84 million, higher than the average per capita income of Hoa Lu District, which stood at VND 75 million. The results of the sociological survey also show that the majority of local residents perceived the cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital as having generated positive impacts on employment, income, and living conditions. This finding confirms that cultural heritage is not merely a cultural value requiring preservation but also constitutes an important resource contributing to social development and the enhancement of community well-being.

3.1.3.2. Cultural Heritage as a Contributor to Improvements in Development Infrastructure

The research findings indicate that, to support the utilization and promotion of the cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital in association with tourism development, Ninh Binh Province has mobilized and invested substantial resources to gradually improve the local socio-economic infrastructure system. The results of the visitor survey show that the transportation network and means of transportation were rated relatively highly, reflecting positive changes in infrastructure investment to support the development of Ninh Binh Province. However, the study also identifies several limitations, including a shortage of recreational and entertainment facilities and public services, as well as the fact that the quality of certain tourism-related services has not yet met current requirements. These limitations may reduce visitors' length of stay and expenditure. These issues require continued attention and investment in order to enhance the effectiveness of utilizing cultural heritage values in association with sustainable development.

3.1.3.3. The Cultural Heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital as a Contributor to Expanding Social Networks, Strengthening Community Solidarity, and Creating a Stable Social Environment for Development

The research findings indicate that the cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital not only generates economic value but also contributes to expanding social networks and strengthening community cohesion. The processes of heritage conservation, utilization, and value promotion have encouraged participation and cooperation among local authorities, residential communities, enterprises, tourism and service businesses, research institutions, and scientific organizations. This has

facilitated the formation of various networks of collaboration in tourism development and heritage conservation, including professional associations, collaborative models for tourism and service businesses, as well as research programs, conferences, and scientific workshops. The findings from in-depth interviews further indicate that cultural heritage contributes to raising community awareness, promoting movements for building a cultured way of life, supporting poverty reduction, and strengthening community solidarity and residents' sense of responsibility for heritage protection. Through these processes, the cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital has contributed to creating a stable social environment, mobilizing consensus among stakeholders, and establishing a social foundation for the locality's sustainable development.

3.1.4. Some Limitations and Challenges Posed by Cultural Heritage to Local Socio-Economic Development

The practice of conserving and promoting the values of the cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital in association with socio-economic development in Ninh Binh Province in recent years has also revealed several constraints and challenges arising from cultural heritage as a form of cultural capital participating in socio-economic development. These include: *First*, the projected costs of conserving, restoring, and rehabilitating the heritage are very substantial; *Second*, cultural heritage also creates certain inconveniences and pressures on the daily lives of communities residing in the heritage area.

3.2. IMPACTS OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ON THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE HOA LU ANCIENT CAPITAL

3.2.1. Positive Impacts

3.2.1.1. Socio-Economic Development Generates Material Resources for the Conservation and Promotion of the Values of the Cultural Heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital

Socio-economic development has, in turn, contributed to the conservation and promotion of cultural heritage values and the reproduction of cultural capital. Alongside local economic development, Ninh Binh Province has adopted numerous guidelines and policies to mobilize investment resources for the conservation and promotion of the values of the cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital. During the period from 2010 to 2021, hundreds of billions of Vietnamese dong were invested in the restoration and rehabilitation of historical and cultural monuments and intangible cultural heritage; the construction of exhibition facilities; the protection of structures, artifacts, and national treasures; and the revival of traditional rituals that had gradually fallen into decline. At the same time, investment was made in technical infrastructure, tourism infrastructure, and environmental protection facilities within the heritage area. The results of the sociological survey show that the majority of residents (85.7%) and visitors (87%) surveyed expressed positive assessments of the conservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of monuments. These findings demonstrate that the resources generated through socio-economic development have been reinvested in the conservation and promotion of cultural heritage values, thereby establishing a positive feedback mechanism that contributes to the reproduction of cultural capital and sustains resources for subsequent development cycles.

3.2.1.2. Socio-Economic Development Creates Conditions for Expanding the Space for the Promotion and Dissemination of the Values of the Cultural Heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital

The development of transportation and tourism infrastructure, together with destination-linkage programs, has strengthened the connection between the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital, the Trang An Landscape Complex, and other tourist destinations within the province and across the region. This has contributed to the formation of integrated tourism routes and enhanced the attractiveness of the destination. At the same time, the application of science and technology, digital transformation, communication platforms, and social media, together with the participation of travel enterprises, media agencies, and local communities, has expanded the scope of promoting, accessing, and

disseminating the values of cultural heritage to a broad domestic and international public. According to a report by the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital Historical and Cultural Relic Conservation Center, in 2024, the number of international visitors to the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital (417,832 visits) exceeded the number of domestic visitors (363,822 visits). The findings from in-depth interviews also indicate that the cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital has become a driving force for attracting visitors to Ninh Binh and has continued to connect them with other destinations within the province, thereby expanding the space for promoting heritage values in association with socio-economic development.

3.2.1.3. Socio-Economic Development Enhances Social Awareness and Capacity for Cultural Heritage Conservation

The research findings indicate that socio-economic development not only generates material resources but also contributes to enhancing social awareness and capacity for the conservation and promotion of the values of the cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital. The benefits derived from the utilization and promotion of heritage values have contributed to raising community awareness of the protection of monuments, the environment, and the heritage space; preserving traditional cultural practices; and strengthening heritage promotion and dissemination. At the same time, communication and education activities concerning the conservation and preservation of cultural heritage have been implemented on a regular basis, with the participation of local authorities, the Vietnam Fatherland Front, socio-political organizations, and residential communities, thereby fostering a sense of social responsibility toward heritage. The development of tourism has also encouraged many business establishments and enterprises to adopt environmentally friendly and green business and service models, gradually enhancing their capacity to manage and utilize heritage resources in a sustainable manner. These changes demonstrate that socio-economic development not only increases material resources but also creates the necessary social conditions for the reproduction of cultural capital, thereby contributing to the sustainability of the process of conserving and promoting cultural heritage values.

3.2.2. Negative Impacts

Applying Bourdieu's theory, it can be observed that the process of capital conversion always entails the potential risk of an imbalance between development objectives and heritage conservation. In the case of the cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital, the research findings have not identified clear manifestations of negative impacts from the process of utilization that have resulted in serious degradation of heritage values. Nevertheless, socio-economic development associated with the utilization and promotion of cultural heritage values has revealed several limitations and challenges, as follows:

3.2.2.1. The Effectiveness of Utilizing and Promoting the Values of the Cultural Heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital in Socio-Economic Development Remains Limited: The contribution of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital relic complex to the total tourism revenue of Ninh Binh Province remains relatively low. The utilization and promotion of the role of the cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital as an intermediary environment for fostering the development of a creative ecosystem and cultural industries remain limited. There is also a lack of distinctive cultural products and services that clearly embody the identity and characteristic features of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital.

3.2.2.2. The Process of Socio-Economic Development Has Not Yet Accumulated Sufficient Forms of Capital for the Utilization and Promotion of Cultural Heritage Values: The service infrastructure and business ecosystem surrounding the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital relic complex remain inadequate and underdeveloped. The mechanisms for heritage management, as well as policies governing the conservation, utilization, and promotion of heritage values, remain limited. Human resources and material facilities are also constrained and have not yet effectively facilitated the process of capital conversion. Consequently, the existing resources have not been fully transformed into the various forms of capital necessary to enhance the utilization and promotion of cultural heritage values.

3.2.2.3. Impacts of Urbanization and the Daily Life of Residents within the Relic Area: In some areas, encroachment, environmental pollution, and inconsistent architectural development remain present, adversely affecting the heritage landscape. Many monuments have yet to be restored, while numerous archaeological remains have not yet been excavated or systematically researched. These issues demonstrate the need to strengthen spatial planning, heritage management, and conservation in close association with sustainable socio-economic development.

Chapter 3 summary

The cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital - symbolizing the national independence and autonomy of the Vietnamese people - is a core component and distinctive embodiment of the culture and people of the former imperial capital region. The research findings demonstrate that, as a distinctive form of cultural capital, the cultural heritage of the Hoa Lu Ancient Capital has been converted into economic, social, and symbolic capital through the processes of heritage conservation, utilization, and value promotion. In this way, it has made positive contributions to the socio-economic development of Ninh Binh Province across economic, cultural, and social dimensions. Conversely, socio-economic development has created conditions for reinvesting resources in heritage conservation, expanding the space for promoting heritage values, and enhancing social awareness and capacity for cultural heritage conservation. However, the process of capital conversion continues to reveal several limitations, including the underutilization of heritage resources relative to their potential, a lack of distinctive cultural products, inadequacies in infrastructure and management mechanisms, and pressures arising from urbanization and population development on the heritage space. These findings highlight the need to further improve mechanisms for the conversion and reproduction of cultural capital in a manner that harmonizes heritage conservation with sustainable development.

Chapter 4

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HARMONIZING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE ANCIENT CAPITAL OF HOA LU AND THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF NINH BINH PROVINCE

4.1. ISSUES ARISING IN THE CONSERVATION AND PROMOTION OF THE VALUES OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE ANCIENT CAPITAL OF HOA LU IN RELATION TO THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF NINH BINH PROVINCE

4.1.1. The issue of balancing conservation with the utilization and promotion of cultural heritage values in socio-economic development

In general, the conservation, utilization, and promotion of the values of the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu in recent years have been implemented in a relatively harmonious and sustainable manner. Nevertheless, several issues remain to be further discussed and addressed, including the following:

4.1.1.1. *The issue of the utilization and promotion of cultural heritage values remaining disproportionate to the heritage's potential*

Although the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu is rich, diverse, and highly valuable, the utilization and promotion of its values for socio-economic development remain disproportionate to its potential. At present, heritage utilization activities are primarily concentrated on several prominent heritage sites associated with tourism development, such as King Dinh Temple, King Le Temple, and the Hoa Lu Festival. Meanwhile, many other heritage resources, cultural spaces, and intangible cultural values have yet to be effectively utilized and promoted and mainly continue to serve the cultural and community life of local residents. This situation indicates that the process of transforming cultural heritage capital into development resources remains incomplete and has not fully exploited the multidimensional values of the heritage. It therefore calls for renewed approaches

and methods to the promotion of cultural heritage values in a more diversified and sustainable direction, with closer integration into the objectives of socio-economic development.

4.1.1.2. *The issue of balancing investment in conservation with the effectiveness of utilizing and promoting cultural heritage values*

The cultural heritage system within the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu Complex has been utilized and promoted for tourism development and the development of cultural industries. Nevertheless, the most important component of the complex - the former Hoa Lu citadel and the palace area - remains largely buried underground in the form of architectural ruins. Many areas are currently inhabited, making the reconstruction and conservation of the ancient capital highly demanding in terms of financial resources, including costs for scientific research and archaeological investigation, land clearance, resettlement, and project implementation. This situation necessitates an appropriate balance between investment in conservation and the effectiveness of utilizing and promoting cultural heritage values for socio-economic development. Accordingly, investment decisions should be based on the heritage's outstanding value, authenticity, feasibility, and long-term potential for value promotion.

4.1.2. *The issue of human resource development and stakeholder linkages in the conservation, utilization, and promotion of cultural heritage values*

The human resources currently engaged in the conservation, utilization, and promotion of the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu generally meet professional and technical requirements. However, their size remains limited and disproportionate to the increasing workload and increasingly demanding requirements of heritage management. The conservation and promotion of heritage values have involved linkages among various social stakeholders, including scholars, information and communication agencies, authorities at different levels, mass organizations, and local communities. However, linkages with enterprises, tourism businesses and tour operators, as well as creative practitioners and other cultural actors, remain limited. A broad and effective network of cooperation has yet to be established. This situation calls for strengthening both the quantity and quality of human resources, together with establishing more effective intersectoral coordination mechanisms, in order to enhance the effectiveness of transforming heritage values into resources for socio-economic development.

4.1.3. *The issue of spatial planning for the conservation, utilization, and promotion of cultural heritage values*

Although the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu Complex constitutes an important component of the Trang An Landscape Complex, the two areas are currently managed and planned relatively independently by different authorities and consulting organizations. This situation has certain implications for the coherence and integration of spatial organization, as well as for the utilization and promotion of heritage values. Practical experience also indicates that the natural heritage component currently generates greater effectiveness in tourism utilization than the cultural heritage component. This situation underscores the need to strengthen coordination in planning, management, and development among the different components of the heritage in order to promote, in an integrated manner, the outstanding universal value of the Trang An Landscape Complex and the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu.

4.1.4. *The issue of promoting the role of heritage communities and ensuring their interests*

In recent years, local communities have become increasingly aware of the value of the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu and have actively participated in activities related to heritage conservation, utilization, and value promotion. However, awareness and levels of participation among some residents remain limited. At the same time, the conservation and promotion of heritage values have raised a number of issues concerning community rights and livelihoods, particularly in residential areas located within the heritage landscape. The implementation of heritage conservation and restoration projects also faces difficulties arising from land clearance and resettlement requirements, as well as the need to secure local residents' consensus and support. This

situation demonstrates the need to achieve greater harmony between heritage conservation and the protection of community interests, while enhancing the role and participation of local communities in sustainable development.

4.2. SOME RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HARMONIZING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE ANCIENT CAPITAL OF HOA LU AND THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF NINH BINH PROVINCE

4.2.1. Recommendations for balancing conservation with the utilization and promotion of cultural heritage values in socio-economic development

4.2.1.1. Conducting research, collecting, reconstructing, and properly assessing the values of the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu to support heritage conservation and utilization for socio-economic development

Based on the current situation of the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu, the dissertation recommends continuing to strengthen research and archaeological excavation to clarify the appearance and structure of the ancient capital of Hoa Lu, thereby providing a scientific basis for heritage conservation and the promotion of heritage values. Reconstruction should only be undertaken for important heritage components where sufficient scientific evidence is available to ensure authenticity. At the same time, the application of digital technologies should be intensified to digitally reconstruct the spatial configuration of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu and develop heritage-experience products. In addition, research and collection should be expanded to include heritage associated with historical figures and events of the Dinh and Early Le dynasties, as well as the reconstruction of traditional costumes and courtly cultural values, thereby enriching the system of distinctive cultural products associated with the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu.

4.2.1.2. Utilizing and promoting the values of the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu through tourism development and cultural industries with distinctive cultural products and services characteristic of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu

To utilize and promote the outstanding values of the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu, the dissertation recommends positioning and developing a distinctive cultural tourism brand for the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu, focusing on historical and cultural tourism and journeys of cultural and national origins, combined with spiritual and religious tourism. At the same time, the heritage site should be developed into a creative cultural hub, thereby establishing an ecosystem for the development of Ninh Binh Province's cultural and creative industries. Investment and research should be directed toward developing attractive tourism products and services, as well as cultural products and services that embody the distinctive characteristics of the ancient capital region. Modern technologies, including virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR), and mixed reality (MR), should be proactively applied both to support the digitization of heritage conservation and preservation and to facilitate heritage communication, promotion, and value enhancement. This should be accompanied by intensified communication and promotional activities concerning the history, culture, and cultural heritage system of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu through diverse information and communication channels, while mobilizing broad social networks and stakeholders to participate in the conservation, utilization, and promotion of cultural heritage values.

4.2.2. Recommendations for developing human resources and strengthening stakeholder linkages in the conservation and promotion of cultural heritage values

The dissertation recommends supplementing and improving the quality of human resources engaged in the conservation, utilization, and promotion of the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu in association with socio-economic development. Particular attention should be paid to specialized human resources in tourism business and management, cultural and creative industries, and science and technology to meet development requirements in the new context. At the same time, mechanisms for coordination should be established, and public-private partnership (PPP) models

should be studied for application to strengthen linkages among management authorities, scholars, enterprises, tour operators, and local communities in the research, conservation, utilization, and promotion of heritage values. This would facilitate the effective mobilization of social resources for socio-economic development.

4.2.3. Recommendations for completing spatial planning for the conservation and promotion of cultural heritage values

The revision and development of a comprehensive plan for the conservation, utilization, and promotion of the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu are necessary. In practice, Ninh Binh Province is currently undertaking the development and completion of such a plan. To contribute to the completion of the planning process, the dissertation recommends several principles. First, the plan should adequately reflect the distinctive position and characteristics of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu. Second, the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu should be situated within the overall framework of the Trang An Landscape Complex. Third, planning should be closely linked to local socio-economic development objectives, ensuring harmony between heritage conservation and the promotion of heritage values. Fourth, the scale and scope of the plan should ensure practical feasibility in implementation. Finally, the plan should clearly specify appropriate approaches to the conservation and promotion of each particular type of cultural heritage within the heritage space.

4.2.4. Recommendations for raising awareness and strengthening the participation of local heritage communities in the conservation, utilization, and promotion of cultural heritage values

The dissertation identifies raising awareness and strengthening the participation of local communities in the conservation, utilization, and promotion of the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu as an important strategic orientation. Accordingly, the dissertation recommends enhancing the awareness of local heritage communities regarding the following issues: *First*, awareness of the position and role of the ancient capital of Hoa Lu in the history of the Vietnamese nation; *Second*, awareness of the distinctive and outstanding values of the cultural heritage system of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu; *Third*, awareness of the socio-economic values of cultural heritage in the contemporary context. At the same time, the dissertation recommends *creating favorable conditions for people from all social groups to participate in the protection, utilization, and promotion of cultural heritage values for socio-economic development, from the planning stage through implementation. Efforts should also be made to create sustainable livelihoods and income opportunities for residents through the utilization and promotion of cultural heritage values in tourism development and cultural and creative industries.*

Chapter 4 summary

Based on the findings from the assessment of the current situation, the dissertation discusses four major issues arising in the process of harmonizing the relationship between the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu and socio-economic development: balancing conservation with the utilization and promotion of heritage values; developing human resources and strengthening stakeholder linkages; planning and integrating heritage spaces; and raising awareness and promoting the role of local communities. On this basis, the dissertation proposes four corresponding groups of recommendations to strengthen the scientific foundation for heritage conservation and the promotion of heritage values: balancing conservation with the utilization and promotion of heritage values; developing human resources and mechanisms for public-private cooperation; strengthening heritage spatial planning and integration; and raising community awareness and participation. These recommendations aim to improve the effectiveness of transforming cultural heritage capital into resources for socio-economic development while ensuring the reproduction, regeneration, and sustainable development of the cultural capital of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu in the context of Ninh Binh Province's new development trajectory.

CONCLUSION

Cultural heritage represents the crystallization of material and spiritual values formed, accumulated, and transmitted across generations. It constitutes both the foundation of national cultural identity and an important resource for socio-economic development. Building upon domestic and international studies, this dissertation applies Pierre Bourdieu's theory of capital and the conversion among different forms of capital to approach cultural heritage as a form of cultural capital capable of being converted into resources that promote socio-economic development. At the same time, it identifies the reverse impact of socio-economic development on the conservation, reproduction, and development of cultural capital. In doing so, the dissertation clarifies that the relationship between cultural heritage and socio-economic development is a two-way dialectical and interactive relationship.

Based on a case study of the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu, the dissertation confirms that the heritage system of Hoa Lu constitutes a distinctive cultural capital of Ninh Binh Province, possessing outstanding values in history, culture, archaeology, architecture, landscape, and national identity. The research findings demonstrate that, through processes of conservation, utilization, and promotion of heritage values, the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu has been transformed into resources contributing to tourism and service development, economic growth, and economic restructuring; meeting people's cultural and spiritual needs; strengthening cultural identity; enhancing the image and status of the locality in cultural exchange and international integration; while also creating employment, increasing incomes, improving infrastructure, strengthening community cohesion, and contributing to sustainable social development. Conversely, socio-economic development has generated additional financial resources, material infrastructure, human resources, and favorable social conditions for the conservation, restoration, dissemination, and promotion of heritage values, as well as for enhancing community awareness of heritage protection.

Alongside these achievements, the dissertation identifies several issues arising in the process of harmonizing the relationship between the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu and socio-economic development, including: balancing conservation with the utilization and promotion of heritage values; developing human resources and strengthening stakeholder linkages; planning and integrating heritage spaces; and raising awareness and promoting the role of local communities. These issues require continued attention and resolution to enhance the effectiveness of transforming cultural heritage capital into development resources while ensuring the reproduction and sustainable development of cultural capital.

On this basis, the dissertation proposes four groups of recommendations for harmonizing the relationship between the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu and socio-economic development: balancing conservation with the utilization and promotion of heritage values; developing human resources and strengthening stakeholder linkages; completing planning and integrating spaces for heritage conservation and utilization; and raising awareness and promoting the role of local communities. These recommendations aim to enhance the effectiveness of utilizing and promoting cultural heritage values while ensuring the authenticity and sustainability of the heritage and aligning such efforts with the development orientations of Ninh Binh Province in the new period.

Theoretically, the dissertation contributes to broadening the approach to studying the relationship between cultural heritage and socio-economic development from the perspective of Pierre Bourdieu's theory of capital. It also develops an analytical framework for examining the process through which cultural heritage is transformed into development resources and the reinvestment of resources generated by socio-economic development in heritage conservation and development.

Practically, the dissertation is the first systematic study of the relationship between the cultural heritage of the Ancient Capital of Hoa Lu and the socio-economic development of Ninh Binh Province. It thereby provides a scientific and practical basis for policymaking, heritage management, conservation, and the promotion of heritage values in accordance with the principles and objectives of sustainable development.

LIST OF PUBLISHED WORKS BY THE AUTHOR RELATED TO THE THESIS

1. Nguyen Thi Hang (2023), *Development of Cultural Industries: Solutions for Linking the Conservation and Promotion of Cultural Heritage Values with Socio-Economic Development in Ninh Binh Province*, Proceedings of the International Scientific Conference “Addressing the Relationship between Heritage Reconstruction, Conservation, and Socio-Economic Development: Perspectives from Regional and Local Governance”, Construction Publishing House, Hanoi, December 2023, ISBN: 978-604-82-7720-8.
2. Nguyen Thi Hang (2024), *Enhancing the Quality of Cultural Life for the People of Ninh Binh Province*, Communist Review Online, Tapchicongsan.Org.vn, September 26, 2024, ISSN: 2734-9071.
3. Nguyen Thi Hang (2024), *Promoting the Values of Traditional Craft Villages in the Development of the Heritage Economy of Quang Ninh Province*, Communist Review Online, Tapchicongsan.Org.vn, updated December 6, 2024, ISSN: 2734-9071.
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5. Nguyen Thi Hang (2026), *Promoting the Values of the Hoa Lu Festival in Association with Socio-Economic Development in the Current Context*, Journal of Political Theory and Scientific Information, No. 1 (126), January 2026, pp. 92–98, ISSN: 2354-1040.