# U lis in Focus



The Quarterly News Bulletin of the University of Languages and International Studies - VNU, Hanoi, Vietnam





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Be ULISer, be Cool!

# From the Editors



# Our dear readers,

The 2021 summer has gone by the University of Languages and International Studies – Vietnam National University, Hanoi (ULIS – VNU). Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the atmosphere in ULIS this summer was much more hectic with numerous prominent events held online such as: successful recruitment of high-quality students for all educational levels; organization of ULIS annual conference to review the 2020-2021 academic year and start a new one, to name just a few.

This 2021-2022 academic year has started off with motivating activities from welcoming new Ulisers to organizing course opening ceremonies for all students. This 4th quarter, we will need to well implement and fulfill the following key tasks: review, evaluate and urge to complete the key tasks of the mission plan in 2021; organize the 2nd round of graduate entrance exam and GRS international conference for graduate students in 2021; organize online training at all levels and implement digital transformation plan in 2021; complete to propose for approvement of the detailed plan of ULIS campus in Hoa Lac with the ratio 1:500.

On behalf of the Editorial Board, we wish all teachers, students and partners good health and an enjoyable time with excitement and fun at ULIS.

### Editorial Board

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### I/ PROMINENT ACTIVITIES OF ULIS LEADERS

#### ULIS attended Eastern Economic Forum and APEC Conference on Higher Education Cooperation

On September 4th, 2021, together with delegates from VNU, ULIS attended the Eastern Economic Forum and the APEC Conference on Higher Education Cooperation through an online platform.

The Eastern Economic Forum 2021 (EEF 2021) took place on September 2nd-4th, 2021 in the campus of the Far Eastern Federal University (FEFU) in the city of Vladivostok and ended with hundreds of successful parallel working sessions.

Delivering her speech at the session "Students' Success Orientation: Linking Universities with the Labor Market", Vice President Ha Le Kim Anh emphasized the need for innovative thinking fostering activities for university students and lecturers. She also shared ULIS's successful experience over the years.



At the end of EEF 2021 and the 10th APEC CCHE, the delegates were delighted with the successful results achieved in the events and many agreements on multi-sectoral cooperation were signed.

### **II/ COOPERATION & DEVELOPMENT**

# **1. Opening ceremony of Korean language teacher training course in 2021 held**

On July 5th, 2021, ULIS-VNU held the opening ceremony of the Korean Language Teacher Training Course in 2021 with the sponsorship of the Korean Language Center in Ho Chi Minh City, which is a representative agency of the Korean Ministry of Education in Ho Chi Minh City.



President Do Tuan Minh hoped that through this course, the participants would gain much professional knowledge and practical experience for their teaching activities, contributing to promoting the quality of Korean language training in Vietnam, especially at the upper secondary level.

On behalf of 43 learners participating in the course, Ms. Nguyen Thi Nhat Linh thanked the organizers and expressed her determination to study hard for good results.

The learners will be taught by leading professors and doctors in Korean language, Korean studies and Korean language education. The course consists of theoretical modules on teaching methods, advanced Korean practice and internship, which is expected to last from August to November, 2021. According to the planned schedule, after completing the course, the learners will be granted a certificate of teaching methods and a certificate of Korean language teaching issued by ULIS.

# 2. Training course on improving pedagogical capacity for English teachers in numerous provinces in the North of Vienam in 2021 held

In July and August, 2021, ULIS-VNU, in collaboration with Departments of Education and Training of numerous provinces, held the training course to improve pedagogical capacity for English teachers.

The training course to improve pedagogical capacity for English is a series of activities to improve pedagogical capacity for nearly 1,600 English teachers from 7 provinces and centrally-run cities under the task of fostering teachers which the National Foreign Language Project has assigned to ULIS.

The training program includes such activities as theoretical exchange, practical sessions on lesson planning and teaching (micro teaching and practical fieldwork).



Delivering his speech, President Do Tuan Minh believed that after this program, the teachers would not only improve their knowledge and skills but also know how to understand each other's feelings, and have more passion for education.

# **3.** Signing ceremony of cooperation agreement with EHLE Academy (Japan) held

On August 19th, 2021, ULIS-VNU and EHLE Academy (Japan) held a ceremony to sign a memorandum of understanding on cooperation.



At the ceremony, representatives of the two institutions signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), agreeing to cooperate and implement programs that bring practical benefits to both parties.

Delivering his speech at the ceremony, President Do Tuan Minh said that ULIS was honored to sign an MOU with and become an official partner of EHLE Academy. The President hoped that after the signing ceremony, the two sides would actively cooperate

with each other to introduce ULIS students to programs at EHLE.

EHLE Academy Chairman Hasegawa Keiichi hoped that the two sides would carry out more exchange and cooperation programs to adapt to the new situation and have more effective cooperation in the future.

The MOU signing opens up many opportunities for the University's students to study and do their internship in Japan.

### III/ PROMINENT ACTIVITIES OF THE UNIVERSITY

# **1.** Training program of key trainers for the course "Design your life" in the academic year 2021-2022 organized

In July 2021, ULIS-VNU organized the training program for the lecturers of the course "Design your life".



The training course was organized to build a key teaching team for the course "Design your life". This is a new subject that will be taught at ULIS from the school year 2021-2022.

Delivered in 6 sessions, the training program aims to improve teaching and inspiring skills for the course "Design your life". It will also create connections, increase empathy among students and inspire learners, help them understand more deeply about life, encourage them to stay with their wishes, motivate them to change and have specific plans for their lives and develop open minds to learn and share.

In particular, the training program welcomed a special guest, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ngo Minh Thuy – ULIS Former Vice President. She talked about her life and inspired others to live a positive and useful life, always be proactive and optimistic with all changes in life.

### 2. Seminar on happy living in a busy life

### On July 20th, 2021, ULIS-VNU held a seminar under the theme "Living happily in a busy life".

This is an activity in the series of Mindfulness seminars for staff, lecturers and teachers in order to develop their skills and foster their spirit.

In the program, the teachers shared their life experience and learned how to cope with pressure in modern life and apply Mindfulness.

The seminar was attended by more than 150 people.



# **3.** Seminar on foreign language teacher training to adapt to competency framework of foreign language teachers in new context

On July 30th, 2021, ULIS-VNU held an online seminar under the topic "Foreign language teacher training to adapt to the competency framework of foreign language teachers in the new context".



The seminar is part of the University's development plan for the period 2021-2025, which is also an activity of the ULIS CONNECT Network, in order to create a forum for lecturers and others to meet and discuss foreign language teacher training issues in the current period. Delivering her speech at the seminar, Vice President Ha Le Kim Anh said that the seminar was organized to introduce the activities which the University had been implementing related to foreign language teacher training as well as hoping to receive contributions and exchange ideas with lecturers and other interested people.

In the seminar, 3 presentations were delivered to nearly 600 participants.

### 4. ULIS biggest commencement in 2021

On July 29th, 2021, ULIS – VNU held the commencement to present the bachelor's degrees to QH.2017.F1 students.



the attendance of 992 students and their parents (almost 2000 participants in total). The online ceremony was held in a professional manner with amazing innovations. Addressing the ceremony, President Do Tuan Minh extended his congratulations to the students on their graduation. In his inspirational speech, the President reminded the new graduates: "Be ULIS-er, be Cool. We are all winners. Be yourself, live your life and be happy. Be grateful and love your family. Be a better version of yourself everyday".

This is the biggest commencement of the school year with



LĒ BÉ GIẢNG KHÓA QH2017
Hà Nội, ngủy 29 tháng 7 năm 2021

# **5. ULIS annual faculty and staff review conference of the 2020-2021 academic year**

On August 6th, 2020, the University of Languages and International Studies – Vietnam National University, Hanoi (ULIS – VNU) held the ULIS annual faculty and staff review conference of the 2020-2021 academic year. To ensure the preventive measures during the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's conference took place in an online platform.

The conference was attended by the Management Board and more than 700 civil servants and contracted workers of the University.

At the conference, President Do Tuan Minh presented reports on the university's implementation of the Conference Resolution and tasks in 2020-2021 and the plan for 2021-2022.

Mr. Nguyen Van Doan, President of the Trade Union, then presented outcomes of the conferences in sub-units and collected comments and feedback. He also presented the report summarizing the activities of ULIS people's inspectorate in 2020-2021.





The participants also listened to the report on budget management and welfare. Ms. Le Thi Khanh Trang, Director of Finance and Planning Office presented specific data on financial and planning activities in 2020-2021 and the plan for 2021-2022.

The conference program also included an awarding ceremony and other activities.

Delivering his speech at the conference, VNU President Le Quan acknowledged that the University had successfully organized the conference and hailed its high achievements in digital transformation. He suggested that the University make efforts to innovate, continue to focus on learners and digital transformation associated with all fields. The President of VNU praised ULIS for placing its primary focus on science and technology activities and hoped that the University would invest and develop in start-up activities.

# 6. Seminar on sharing information about translation and interpretation market in 2021

On August 9th, 2021, ULIS-VNU held an online seminar on sharing information about the translation and interpretation market in 2021.

The seminar was organized as part of the quality assurance plan on reviewing and improving the quality of training programs.

In the seminar, Ms. Duong Thi Hoai Chan – the keynote speaker, shared the current situation of the translation and interpretation industry.

Ms. Duong Thi Hoai Chan also pointed out some difficulties when pursuing the career as a translator or interpreter and gave useful suggestions to ULIS students.



The seminar attracted about 100 participants.

# 7. Training course on Emotional Intelligence and Social Communication for ULIS staff held

In July and August 2021, ULIS-VNU organized a 10-session training course on Emotional Intelligence and Social Communication for its staff and lecturers.



Taking place in an online format, the training course aimed to foster morale and develop skills for the University staff.

The message throughout the course on Emotional Intelligence and Social Communication is "Be a lover- be a beloved" with 3 modules to help learners arouse emotions, nurture their loving soul and heart to be able to see life with loving eyes, listen with compassion, and love one another and so on. The course has activities such as drinking tea in a different way, listening to music in a different way, singing in a different way, reviewing books in a different way and many others. The course itself is also delivered in a different and creative way.

Emotional Intelligence and Social Communication is a new module that will be officially taught from the 2021-2022 academic year.

### 8. ULIS supports the students in need due to Covid-19 pandemic

In order to support ULIS students who stay in Hanoi and are facing difficulties during the time of social distancing to prevent the Covid-19 pandemic, ULIS – VNU has implemented various meaningful activities.



On August 3rd, 2021, the University presented 250 giftpacks worth VND250,000 each to its students.

The University also launched a fundraiser to support its students. As of August 12th, the fund has received more than 187 million VND donated by staff and lecturers in the school and other individuals.

ULIS also set up a hotline for students in case they need support.

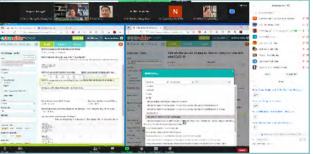
Currently, more than 600 students from provinces are living in dormitories or renting hostels across Hanoi, and some are living in very difficult situations. These activities demonstrate the University's efforts in supporting students and accompanying them to overcome difficult times.

### 9. Training course on using Cognito Forms for ULIS's staff organized

On August 19th and 26th, 2021, ULIS – VNU held two sessions of the training course on using Cognito Forms for its staff.

The training course is part of the school's training plan and digital transformation plan for this school year.

Addressing the training program, President Do Tuan Minh said that ULIS always actively supported its teachers to enhance the application of IT in their work. Cognito Forms has many features with high applicability, so teachers can apply it to their activities.



During the training program, Ms. Nguyen Thi Lan Huong, Deputy Director of the General Administration Office introduced Cognito Forms and shared about its features and strengths.

The staff were also guided to practice with the software. Thanks to its friendliness and useful features, Cognito Forms software promises to become a frequently used tool within the University in the time to come.

### 10. Food Banks Vietnam presented 118 giftpacks to ULIS's students

On August 27th, 2021, a charity group named Food Banks Vietnam presented 118 giftpacks to ULIS's students.



These gifts are part of Food Banks Vietnam's "Love Credit" package, which is sent to students currently in the dormitory to support them during the social distancing period. Each pack includes 10kg of rice, a 500gram box of meat floss, a case of noodles, eggs, cakes and medical facemasks. The total value of the gifts is nearly 40 million VND.

Vice President Ha Le Kim Anh and Director of Politics and Students' Affairs Office Vu Van Hai, on behalf of the University, received all the gifts and extended its thank to the Food Banks Vietnam.

The student recipients were so thankful to all for the essential gifts in time of their great need.

# 11. Teaching and learning foreign languages with a human-oriented approach: Building and developing the capacity of authentic teachers and learners

On August 29th, 2021, ULIS-VNU held an online workshop for foreign language teachers at all levels under the topic "Teaching and learning foreign languages in a human-oriented approach: Building and developing the capacity of authentic teachers and learners".

Delivering his speech at the workshop, President Do Tuan Minh said that this workshop was very special, it was organized to "turn risks into opportunities" with the desire to create a forum for teachers to participate in training courses, meet other foreign language teachers, develop skills and encourage one another to enter the new school year.

During the workshop, the delegates were provided with sharing about the problem of teaching foreign languages in a human-oriented approach and how to build and develop the capacity of authentic teachers and authentic learners.



The workshop "Teaching and learning foreign languages in a human-oriented approach: Building and developing the capacity of authentic teachers and learners" attracted about 3,000 participants.

### 12. Workshop on handling communication crises on social networks

In order to develop communication skills for its staff, contributing to improving the brand of each department in particular and the University in general, on August 31st, 2021, ULIS-VNU held a workshop on handling communication crises on social media.



Delivering his speech at the workshop, Vice President Nguyen Xuan Long said that the communication activities in the University had recorded many achievements in the past with more professionalism and wider coverage. However, communication requires updating and quick response. Therefore, this workshop was organized to help teachers gain more knowledge and skills to handle possible crises.

The workshop was divided into two main parts and attracted about 120 participants.

### 13. ULIS students become VNU Ambassadors of Reading Culture

ULIS's students secured 12 of 36 prizes at the contest "VNU Ambassador of Reading Culture 2021".

After nearly 4 months, the contest "VNU Ambassador of Reading Culture 2021" has attracted the participation of thousands of enthusiastic and talented young writers.

The contest received 4137 entries from students of 9 universities, 3 high schools, and 1 middle school. ULIS contributed over 3000 entries for the contest from students of all levels and the University's students have secured 12 of 36 prizes of the contest.



# 14. Seminar on "Building professional community to create development opportunities"

On September 12th, 2021, ULIS-VNU held an online seminar under the topic "Building a professional community to create development opportunities".



The seminar was organized to share basic knowledge about the community of professional development, or Community of Practice (COP) in higher education institutions today; discussing a number of proposals on the guidelines and organization of the activities, and scale, contents and products of COPs at ULIS; contributing to building orientations for the development of professional communities at ULIS in the coming time.

Delivering his speech at the seminar, President Do Tuan Minh said that COP was not new and covered all three main activities of the University, namely Training, Research and Community Services. The seminar was organized to help teachers learn more about COP and community development at ULIS, helping the University keep track of its core values "Responsibility – Opportunity – Community".

During the program, 3 reports were presented. The seminar attracted more than 600 attendees.



### 15. ULIS students won prizes at 20th Chinese Bridge Competition

Contestant Nguyen Thi Ha Ngan from ULIS-VNU excellently secured the first prize and the Best Speech award at the 20th Chinese Bridge Competition for students in the North and Central Vietnam. At the same time, FLSS's students won two second prizes and one third prize at the 14th Chinese Language Bridge Competition for high school students in Vietnam.

The 20th Chinese Bridge Competition "Fuming Cup" for students in North and Central Vietnam took place successfully on September 15th, 2021.

The contest was organized by the Center for Language Exchange Cooperation among China and others, the Chinese Embassy in Vietnam, and the Confucius Institute - Hanoi University. This is the second time the contest is held in an online form.



#### 16. ULIS football pitch: a new look

The ULIS football pitch has just been repaired, renovated and upgraded. The grass, lights, nets, lines and associated equipment have been refurbished to ensure the organization of sports and other outdoor activities.

Let's take a look at the "refreshed" version of the ULIS football pitch.



### III/ PROMINENT ACTIVITIES OF DEPARTMENTS

### **1. Special school-year closing ceremony of the Happy UMS**

On June 28th, 2021, UMS solemnly held a special closing ceremony for the 2020-2021 school year via the Zoom Webinar platform.

UMS has gone through a happy school year filled with love, overcoming many difficulties and challenges. But the closing ceremony for this school year is different from all others: all attend it online from their homes.

At the opening of the ceremony, Mr. Nguyen Phu Chien – Principal of the school acknowledges the efforts of teachers and students in the school year thanks to which success has been reaped despite all obstacles.



The program was then followed by the sharing of all the students and their dedication to their beloved teachers.

### 2. Faculty of Chinese Language and Culture organizes "Talented Future Interpreters" contest for the first time

On July 6th, 2021, the final round of the first "Talented Future Interpreters" contest was successfully organized by the Faculty of Chinese Language and Culture.

With the purpose of creating a useful playground for the students in the faculty to exchange and learn from one another, as well as to help them increase their love for translation, the Faculty of Chinese Language and Culture held the "Talented Future Interpreters" contest for the first time.

The Preliminary Round of the contest was held live on April 29th, 2021 with the participation of 54 contestants. After careful evaluation, 8 best contestants were shortlisted for the final round.



On July 6th, 2021, the final round of the "Talented Future Interpreter" contest was held online with 2 exciting phases. Many honorable prizes were presented to deserving winners.

# **3.** Faculty of English Language Teacher Education organizes "The Silver Lining" contest in 2021

On July 13th, 2021, the finale of the English contest "The Silver Lining" 2021 took place.



The Silver Lining is a contest organized by English Division 1, Faculty of English Language Teacher Education as part of a series of language practice activities of QH.2020 students, with the message to be conveyed "good things always exist in all difficult situations".

The contest consists of 2 categories with 3 rounds taking place from June 15th to July 13th.

In the final round, 6 contestants drew many topics and took turns to present their performance and answer questions from the judges. In addition to their English and presentation skills, through the contest, the candidates also expressed their views and feelings on the assigned topic.

After an exciting competition, the organizers selected the best to be granted with many awards.

# 4. Opening ceremony of in-service course in English for staff and lecturers of Political University in 2021

On August 9th, 2021, ULIS-VNU held the opening ceremony of the in-service course in English for staff and lecturers of Political University in 2021.

Delivering his speech at the ceremony, Vice President Ha Le Kim Anh expressed her honor and joy when ULIS can offer such a course for lecturers and staff of the Political University.

Congratulating 51 students who had been trusted by the University to attend this course, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Van Chung, Vice President of the Political University, required each of them to be fully diligent to achieve the best results after completing the course.



### 5. FLSS and UMS inauguration of school year 2021-2022 held together

On September 5th, 2021, FLSS and UMS together held the opening ceremony of the 2021-2022 school year through an online platform. This is the first year that the two schools have held a joint inauguration.



This year's inauguration was attended by more than 2,300 students from the two schools.

Ms. Lai Thi Phuong Thao – FLSS's Vice Principal on behalf of the Boards of Management of the two schools read the letter from the State President Nguyen Xuan Phuc to teachers, education managers and students on the new school year.

Delivering his speech at the ceremony, President Do Tuan Minh extended his cordial and warm sharing to the two schools and wished the two schools to overcome difficulties to have a successful and favorable new school year.

After the message from the teachers, Mr. Nguyen Phu Chien – UMS's Principal beat the drum to open the new school year.

### 6. Opening ceremony of in-service training program in English language in 2021

On September 12th, 2021, ULIS-VNU held the opening ceremony for new students of the QH.2021 in-service training program in English language.

At the beginning of the ceremony, Mr. Hoa Ngoc Son, Dean of the Faculty of Language Education and Professional Development read the decision on the admission of 288 students to the QH.2021 in-service training program in English language.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Vice President Lam Quang Dong congratulated the new students for officially becoming ULISERs. He hoped the new students would be determined in study for the next 3 years.

On behalf of the new students, Ms. Nguyen Thu Huong expressed her joy when she officially became a member of ULIS.



# 7. FLSS students win first and eighth prizes at international German video competition 2021

At the international competition for German students from A1 – C2 levels, attracting hundreds of videos from all over the world, FLSS students successfully secured 2 prizes, the First Prize and Eighth Prize, and are also the only two representatives of Vietnam in the top of the list to receive such prizes of the competition.



Under the theme "Show your spirit for the community", contestants must be able to show in their entries convincing ideas and actions to help the community during the Covid-19 pandemic. At the competition, FLSS students not only demonstrated excellent language skills, but also shown their creativity, enthusiasm, warm hearts and willingness to help the community overcome the pandemic.

### 8. Faculty of Japanese Language and Culture received Japan Foundation International Exchange Award

This year, for the first time, the Award was presented to the representative of Vietnam. The joint award representing Vietnam was awarded to the Faculty of Japanese Language and Culture, ULIS – VNU, Faculty of Japanese Language – Foreign Trade University in Hanoi, and Faculty of Japanese Language – Hanoi University.

The Japan Foundation International Exchange Award is bestowed to individuals and organizations to honor their great contributions in promoting mutual understanding in the development of relations between Japan and other countries through cultural activities such as art, academia, etc.



# Kudo Saki: "If I have a chance to come back to ULIS again, I will definitely grasp that"

Thanks to my friends, buddies and teachers. I enjoyed a lot in Vietnam. I was nervous for the first day because I couldn't speak Vietnamese. However, my buddy Linh was so kind and could speak Japanese well. So I thought I could enjoy 14 days in Vietnam. The most memorable place in Vietnam to me is Danang. I enjoyed the markets and the Lantern Festival. I remember getting on the boat with my friends and witnessed a beautiful view from that boat. I was moved. Studying Vietnamese with English is so fun. I could use the language to buy things and order food.





For instance, "Tôi muốn một bánh mỳ trứng pate".

In Vietnam I could not only learn the language and culture but also feel the kindness of people. If I have a chance to come back here again, I will definitely grasp that. Thank ULIS so much for those 2 weeks.



### PROMINENT RESULTS IN THE THIRD QUARTER

- Successfully organized enrollment work of all levels;

Organized Annual ULIS faculty, staff and 2020-2021
Academic Year Summarization Conference;

 Completed the school self-assessment report for the 2021-2026 period and prepare to welcome the external assessment team;

– Renovated, repaired and upgraded facilities to prepare for the new academic year.

### **KEY TASKS IN THE FOURTH QUARTER**

– Review, evaluate and urge to complete the key tasks of the mission plan in 2021;

- Organize the 2nd round of graduate entrance exam and GRS international conference for graduate students in 2021;

- Organize online training at all levels and implement digital transformation plan in 2021;

- Complete to propose for approvement of the detailed plan of ULIS campus in Hoa Lac with the ratio 1:500.



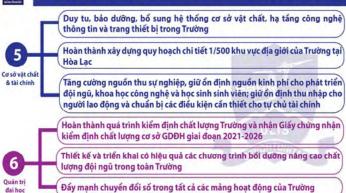
















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