



# Current Situation and Solutions to Improve the Effectiveness of International Publication in Scientific Research Activities

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**Abstract:** The international publication is one of the key requirements to affirm the quality of research works as well as the ability, prestige, and nature of the scientific researcher. Although international activity in the past time has also achieved certain progress, compared to the common ground of the region and the world, it is still limited due to various reasons. The article focuses on analysis, evaluation (i) the International Declaration of Vietnam; (ii) State and clarify some of the problems in Disclosure, and (iii) therefore offer a number of solutions that contribute to the efficiency of this operation.

**Keyword:** International publication, scientific research, scientific works

## I. Introduction

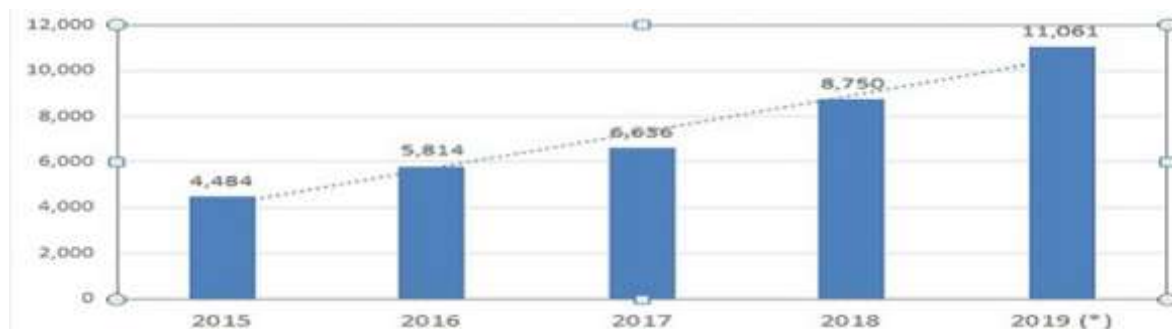
The quantity and quality of scientific works produced, especially worldwide publication activities, is one of the most important criteria used to assess a researcher's capacity. International management is currently one of the most essential goals for universities, as it will serve as the foundation for confirming the university's brand and research and training quality prior to international integration needs. International communication becomes increasingly more crucial and necessary in the setting of global integration. If internationalization initiatives in scientific research are not well-executed, the country's academia may fall behind and become unable to integrate with the international academic landscape. As a result of that need and significance, the subject of international cooperation is currently being debated. As a result of this need and importance, the topic of international communication in scientific research activities has piqued the interest of the government and educational institutions, academies, and research institutes, who have all adopted special regulations. This has had a good impact; the amount and quality of scholarly works on international law in Vietnam have increased, and the international community has recognized and appreciated them. However, in comparison to the rest of the region and the world, Vietnam's international public relations efforts are relatively small, and the country has not fully utilized its resources. As a result, it is critical and necessary to determine the sources of these restrictions and then devise methods to overcome and enhance them in order to improve the quality of life.

## II. International Publication

### 1. Overview of the current situation of international publication in Vietnam

In recent years, the renovation of education and training work and many changes in policies on scientific research, it has brought about positive effects for international management activities in the country. The internationalization of scientific works in Vietnam has made a lot of progress and is constantly

increasing in both quantity and quality. According to data extracted from Scopus, in the period 2015-2019, Vietnamese authors have published a total of 36,745 articles in international journals, conference proceedings, seminars, and books; if in 2015, the number of international publication in scientific research (IPSR) of Vietnam is 4,484 articles, by 2019, although the updated data is incomplete, this number has increased 2.5 times, reaching 11,061 articles; The average annual growth rate of this period is 25.5%/year.



Number of international publications of Vietnam in the last 5 years (2015-2019).

Source: Scopus, accessed 12/13/2019. (\*) Figures for 2019 are continuously updating

Within the ASEAN region, Vietnam is currently ranked 5th in terms of quantity IPSR on Scopus for the period 2015-2019, behind Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Thailand. According to the Nature Index ranking, Vietnam has 10 leading universities and research institutes in terms of quantity IPSR from August 1, 2018 to July 31, 2019. Vietnamese higher education institutions and research institutes named in the top 10 of this ranking include: Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology, Phenikaa University, Duy Tan University, School of Science and Technology. Hanoi University of Science and Technology, Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh City, International Center for Interdisciplinary Science and Education, Ton Duc Thang University, Hanoi National University, University Clinical Research Center University of Oxford (in Vietnam), Research Center for Nanostructured and Molecular Materials (under Ho Chi Minh City National University) Ho Chi Minh City<sup>1</sup>

The quality of scientific works published by Vietnamese researchers in international journals is also highly appreciated and studied, referenced and cited by many countries. Over the past 5 years, articles from Vietnamese authors published on ScienceDirect have been downloaded 4,632,239 times by researchers from 123 countries (excluding "Research4Life" program countries).<sup>2</sup> According to Elsevier Web Analytics Department statistics, 20 reference countries IPSR of Vietnam are: China, USA, UK, India, Australia, Japan, Thailand, Korea, Taiwan, Brazil, France, Germany, Malaysia, Canada, Turkey, Netherlands, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Spain. This is shown in the table of statistics below:

No.	COUNTRIES	Rate (%)
01	China	19.66
02	United States	12.25
03	UK	5.51
04	India	5.26
05	Australia	4/25
06	Japan	4.23

<sup>1</sup>Hieu Nguyen, "Top 10 Vietnamese universities and research institutes in terms of number of international publications", <https://giaoducthoidai.vn/10-dai-hoc-vien-nghien-cuu-viet-nam-dan-dau-ve-so-luong-cong-bo-quoc-te-3828023.htm>, accessed January 27, 2022.

<sup>2</sup>Nhat Anh, "Vietnam's international publication in the past five years", <http://m.tainangviet.vn/cong-bo-quoc-te-cua-viet-nam-trong-5-nam-qua-dar3406/>, accessed January 27, 2022.

07	Thailand	3.97
08	Korea	3.72
09	Taiwan	3.01
10	–Brazil	2.77
11	France	2.74
12	Germany	2.65
13	Malaysia	2.57
14	Canada	2.13
15	Turkey	1.78
16	Netherlands	1.64
17	Indonesia	1.48
18	Iran	1.43
19	Italy	1.41
20	Spain	1.29

*(Top 20 countries refer to Vietnam's international publications the most.*

*Source: Elsevier Web Analytics Department.)*

All of the aforementioned figures show that scientific research activities in Vietnam have benefited in recent years, with many positive outcomes and signals, and the quantity and quality of research works published has steadily improved and risen. In the international arena, Vietnam's scientific reputation continues to grow. However, despite the great outcomes, IPSR has an issue. In Vietnam, there are still some restrictions on scientific study. According to statistics, the IPSR of Vietnam focuses on engineering, computer science, mathematics, agricultural and biological sciences, physics and astronomy, pharmaceuticals, materials science, biochemistry, and genetics at the present. Chemistry, environmental science, genetics and molecular biology etc... As for social science issues, Vietnam has not had many research works IPSR belong to this field. Furthermore, although the quantity IPSR Vietnam has grown rapidly in recent years, but compared to Southeast Asia, Vietnam is still at an average rank. According to statistics, the number of IPSR of our country is only 1/4 of Malaysia, 1/3 of Singapore and Indonesia and half of Thailand.<sup>3</sup> In particular, at present, most of the scientific works on international communication in Vietnam are still mainly focused on certain authors who have been trained or trained abroad and regularly have international communication articles.

Consequently, despite the fact that the situation IPSR in Vietnam has improved in recent years, the amount and quality of research activity has improved. IPSR is steadily rising, confirming the high quality of Vietnam's scientific reputation. However, when compared to regional and worldwide activities, IPSR Vietnam's scientific research outputs still represent a small percentage of the country's potential and resources. This is due to a variety of factors, which will be discussed in greater detail in part 2.

## 2. Difficulties in international publication

As mentioned and analyzed in item 1, compared to the common level of the region and the world, the activities of IPSR of Vietnam is still quite modest and limited. This comes from many different reasons, it can be subjective difficulties, it can also be objective difficulties. This problem is reflected in the following aspects as following

Firstly, Vietnam's research personnel training process does not meet quality requirements or international standards. In Vietnam, training programs and approaches are still mainly based on passive, one-way thinking. Although many particular policies at the management level have been pushing the development

<sup>3</sup>According to Dan Tri, "Vietnam's international publications have been studied, researched and consulted by many countries". <https://dantri.com.vn/khoa-hoc-cong-nghe/cac-cong-bo-quoc-te-cua-viet-nam-duoc-nhieuc-quoc-gia-nghien-cuu-tim-hieu-Tham-khao-20191215171245103.htm> , accessed January 27, 2022.

of a research university model for a long time, many training institutions have not truly changed their training approaches towards research. Traditional methods with heavy passiveness, limited contact with learners, and low morale scientific criticism are still in use, which has resulted in a failure to foster students' research and scientific publication originality and orientation. Most of the curriculum content is heavy on providing intellectual information to learners on the basis of available platforms without any deep research and research suggestions for learners. The opportunity to access information outside the lecture is not easy for learners because not everyone has the skills and methods to research. It is the one-way training and the passive intellectual approach that has resulted in learners facing many difficulties and embarrassment when conducting scientific research and publishing research results because they do not know where to start and how to conduct a scientific study as well as its publication.

Secondly, one of the most significant conditions for carrying out high-quality scientific work and being approved for publishing in major international journals is that researchers be fluent in a foreign language. However, this is a substantial barrier for researchers in Vietnam today, since they will be unable to access or use foreign languages, which will create a significant barrier in the research process. They even have limited access to foreign materials, despite the fact that this is a fundamental prerequisite to ensure that researchers may finish their scientific job in the best possible way depending on their participation. The writer must master the essential aspects of style, grammar, sentence patterns, vocabulary, and so on in order to write a complete and detailed scientific paper in both content and form. The majority of today's researchers in scientific institutions or universities were mostly educated in Vietnam, and thus have little access to international resources. As a result, many lecturers, students, and research staff are cautious and insecure about participating in worldwide communication about their scientific goods, despite the fact that their work is high-quality work and it is possible with the cooperation of researchers.

Thirdly, the international academic exchange and sharing activities are still limited in Vietnam, which has a significant impact on research and international staffing. International academic exchange and exchange through international seminars, conferences and seminars is very important. This is a place where domestic and international scientists and researchers may interact and share academic knowledge. Practical experience reveals that collaborative research initiatives involving international scholars are often very efficient in terms of international communication. However, despite the fact that international discussion shows, conferences, and seminars are frequently arranged, they are merely formalities, motions that do not truly create a professional academic atmosphere, and do not pay attention to the actual efficacy of scientific goods. Furthermore, when international talk shows, conferences, and seminars are held, the number of individuals who attend, listen, provide feedback, and exchange ideas is extremely limited, and they frequently do not stay for the full session. The researchers themselves merely come to speak and then depart, with little debate or scientific criticism, making the exchange program tedious and ineffective. This is one of the drawbacks that has made it difficult for real researchers to participate in international academic exchange programs in order to share, learn, and exchange ideas. To serve effectively for research and international management, this is founded on international standards on criticism and debate.

Fourthly, although research organizations and universities have expressed interest in encouraging management staff, this issue has not been addressed in a timely manner, consistent with the effort and worth of the published products. As a result, it has been unable to recruit suitable research staff to work on research and management projects. On the other hand, some universities have not concentrated on fostering the formation and growth of specialized research groups, which is one of the impediments to academic staff lecturers and researchers engaging in research and international communication. Besides, policies on scientific research and international staff have not been really focused in the direction of seeing this as a prerequisite for recruiting or maintaining a job position, so this has not created any pressure on scientists to participate in scientific research. Furthermore, the weak problem of domestic scientific journals is another element that has a considerable impact on international communication's ability and efficacy. The lack of international

standards and little innovation in domestic scientific journals is creating a rut, a permissive way of thinking in writing and the way in which to do so leads to a conception of difference, about the uniqueness of Vietnam, rather than following international standards and practices, reducing scientific publication quality to a formality without real quality.<sup>4</sup>

Finally, there is a lack of knowledge in Vietnam about the need of globalization in scientific research operations. Currently, a huge number of lecturers, students, and researchers are often uninterested in the significance of national publication since it is too tough and time-consuming. When it comes to participating in research, researchers do not put in enough effort. They do not dig deep into the research, are easily discouraged, or do not actively participate in scientific conferences and international cooperation. As a result, they are confused about the world scientific community and do not keep up with discussions or new findings in their field of study. Hence, some Vietnamese experts believe that the status of international law enforcement is far-fetched.

Thus, while the issues listed above are not exhaustive, they are the most important factors contributing to international authorities in Vietnam encountering several challenges and failing to stay up with regional and global standards. As a result, it is critical and essential to conduct research and develop solutions to assist in the resolution of outstanding challenges in order to encourage the growth of international public relations activities in Vietnam.

### 3. Some solutions to improve the efficiency of international publication

In order to overcome the difficult problems as analysed in Section 2, thereby contributing to improving operational efficiency IPSR in the country, it is necessary to implement some of the following solutions:

Firstly, the most critical issue is to drastically alter standard training techniques and programs in order to improve research capacities and IPSR. Accordingly, rather than training in the form of one-way communication and passive absorption, it is vital to encourage learners to communicate and offer study topics. Furthermore, to make it easier for students to study and participate in scientific research activities, training institutions must develop rules that encourage students to participate in scientific research activities beginning in elementary school. Students will discover research-thinking processes, new ways of obtaining information, and scientific discussion by studying and conducting scientific research at the same time under the leadership of experienced and recognized instructors. Along with that, training institutions must hold frequent training courses to advise students in methodologies, research skills, and the publication of scientific works in accordance with international standards for students under their supervision. Experts from both the domestic and international scientific communities are exchanging their knowledge. IPSR is an acronym for International Partnership for Science and Research. When the above issues are taken seriously and executed successfully, they will lay the groundwork for students to be less perplexed and bewildered when participating in research and development. IPSR pertaining to scientific endeavours. In the long term, Vietnam will need to establish a system of research-oriented specialized schools that operate effectively. Furthermore, training institutions must create and develop in-depth research groups, as well as have reasonable investment, remuneration, and support policies for each research group based on their needs. Further to that, schools and research institutes must strengthen international cooperation activities at all levels, from participation in international scientific conferences to exchanging expertise, opening writing training classes, and joint research cooperation. This is the quickest way for Vietnamese scientists to learn the necessary skills and work in an academic environment that meets international standards. Hence, they can effectively serve research activities and international collaboration.

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<sup>4</sup>Pham Quang Minh, Nguyen Minh Chinh, "Solutions to promote international publication in humanities and social sciences", *Ray Magazine*, issue 4/2019.

Secondly, there should be practical support policies in terms of language for IPSR activities. Currently, academic researchers in Vietnam find it extremely difficult to use English fluently for specialized research on IPSR. The transfer of knowledge to the international scientific community and foreigners to understand in a foreign language is a huge challenge; even those trained abroad cannot avoid this problem. This is understandable given the difficulty of mastering the English language, but it is difficult to convey ideas using specialized English words with scientific character because they are appropriate for the research field. Arguing and debating is even more difficult. One of the key requirements for a scientific work to be approved for publication in prestigious international journals is the absence of errors in language and expression. To fix this problem, before submitting to a journal, articles will be read and edited by a native speaker for the language before submitting to reviewers; after the article is accepted for publication with an edit request, someone who is fluent in the language of the article is required to help edit it in a standard language.<sup>5</sup> Vietnam can also learn in this way to offer language support policies for authors when conducting international communication. The timely development and introduction of a language support policy will create a great motivation to attract researchers to participate in international communication for their scientific research.

Thirdly, improving the quality and effectiveness of international academic exchanges and sharing is essential. To accomplish this, international seminars, conferences, and seminars must focus on effectively resolving professional problems related to scientific output. Speakers at international academic exchange programs must be reputable scientists and researchers with solid professional qualifications and good critical and debating skills in order to attract participants' attention while avoiding boredom. When presenting at international seminars, conferences, and seminars, instead of presenting existing knowledge in a traditional stereotype, a break towards new knowledge is required to provide more usefulness. At the same time, the participants of international scientific seminars, conferences and seminars also need to actively participate in comments, discussions and criticisms to increase the effectiveness of the academic exchange. The results of exchange, criticism and debate in the Workshop will be a necessary database that can be used for scientific research and IPSR.

Fourthly, training and research institutions must continue to strengthen support policies while also developing a binding mechanism to create motivation and pressure on the research team in this regard IPSR. Institutions of higher learning and research must continue to improve and ensure synchronization in the reward work for their IPSR activities. Indeed, in recent years, a number of educational institutions have successfully implemented the reward mechanism, creating a driving force to promote the research and development movement. IPSR at these institutions has been steadily increasing in recent years, as evidenced by the number of scientific works IPSR of the research team at these institutions.<sup>6</sup> Moreover, to create motivation and competitiveness in activities IPSR requires that besides increasing the bonus level synchronously, it is also necessary to apply other forms of accompanying support such as *salary increase, priority appointment of science professor and associate professor, sponsorship of scientific research projects and participation in international seminars, academic exposure to maintain a sustainable impact.* Furthermore, domestic donor funds should have policies that support international cooperation and the expansion of international networks in science, particularly international publication. Nafosted's policy of assisting scientists in participating in international scientific activities demonstrates that this is a good practice

<sup>5</sup>Pham Quang Minh, Nguyen Minh Chinh, "Solutions to promote international publication in humanities and social sciences", *Ray Magazine*, issue 4/2019.

<sup>6</sup>Typically, the University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City offers the highest reward for lecturers with articles published internationally is 200 million VND/post. This has helped the number of international published articles of the university also gradually increase in recent years, in which there are 44 articles in 2016, 57 articles in 2017, 60 articles in 2018 and 82 articles in 2019. (source: Minh Giang, "International published articles prosper with great rewards", <https://tuoitre.vn/bai-bao-cong-bo-quoc-te-khoi-sac-nho-thuong-frame-20191230204248167.htm>, accessed January 27, 2022).

that should be copied. Moreover, it is not enough to strengthen the salary and bonus policy because this is only a right, not an obligation, so researchers often do not place much emphasis on the issue of international staff, so coercive regulations and sanctions are required to force researchers to take more responsibility for their research.

As a result, educational institutions, research institutes, and even some non-profit organizations must consider regulations that include international disclosure of results in scientific research activities as one of the mandatory criteria required to ensure output at all levels of study, recruit personnel, or ensure that they retain their job position. When this solution is implemented, it will bring great efficiency to the problem of international governance because it puts pressure on lecturers, students, and researchers because they want to be recognized for completing the training program if they want to be recognized for completing the training program. If they are hired and want to keep their job, they must complete the duties of management staff as they are assigned. For projects that receive financial support from public funds, there should be a specific policy that requires researchers when receiving funding to commit to publishing results in international scientific journals instead of testing organizations. Collect and store it in the closet as you have been doing. This will both create pressure on researchers to fulfill their responsibilities of internationalization and avoid loss of national intellectual resources.

Fifthly, in order to enhance abilities, thoughts, and habits in international public relations activities, domestic scientific publications must work toward international standardization in terms of both content evaluation and presentation. This international uniformity must be applied at all phases, from receiving articles through evaluating them, revising them, and publishing them. To boost the journal's renown and quality, all of these processes must be completed in a scientific and serious manner in accordance with worldwide procedure standards. This approach will help to overcome the easy situation of receiving and reviewing articles as seen in recent times in some journals this will help researchers adapt to the strict requirements according to international standards, so that they are no longer strange when conducting international audit. In addition, in order to expand the number of international administrative staff activities and to achieve quality, each professor, student, and researcher must individually recognize their own duties and the value of IPSR activities beside the listed solutions. Because research and internationalization are both challenging and time-consuming activities, researchers must be committed and have the necessary resources. To do so, researchers must actively seek out reputable and in-depth sources of quality documents, as well as increase their participation in talk shows, conferences, and seminars to conduct exchanges, sharing, criticizing, debating, and learning new findings in academia. All of which will help to improve the quality of scientific works and thus increase the likelihood of success in international affairs. The researcher's self-awareness and determination to try is very important because no matter how well the other solutions work, each person's self does not know how to try to overcome the difficulties to master knowledge, it is also difficult to achieve the desired quantity and quality for management activities.

### III. Conclusion

IPSR is a crucial activity in the scientific research process, as it contributes to the affirmation of professional quality as well as scientific transparency. Furthermore, through this activity, IPSR will contribute to improving the value of Vietnam's academic prestige in the international arena by confirming the ability, reputation, and experience of the researcher whose work is published. A person conducting scientific research has a political task to aspire for and attain. However, when evaluated objectively, it works IPSR of Vietnam is still limited when compared to the general level of the region and the world. Therefore, overcoming this problem requires synchronous implementation of all necessary solutions as mentioned on the basis of long-term efforts not only from the scientific management agencies but also from the government from researchers.



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