

The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Economic Development in Vietnam

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Abstract: *With the rapid evolution of information technology, artificial intelligence plays a particularly important part in economic development for almost all countries in the world. This article focuses on studying the role of artificial intelligence in Vietnam in the context that it is growing up from a centrally-subsidized agricultural economy and badly suffered from the ravages of the long-time war. The article also points out opportunities and challenges in artificial intelligence development for Vietnam in particular and for developing countries in general. Moreover, the article also offers some policy suggestions to promote the role of artificial intelligence in the country's economic development.*

Key words: *Artificial Intelligence, economic development.*

1. Vietnam's economic context for artificial intelligence development

More than thirty years ago, Vietnam was considered a country with a backward agricultural economy that was devastated by war, giving it a very low starting point. Only from the 6th Congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam in 1986, did Vietnam begin to implement the policy of “Doi Moi”, transforming a centralized economy into a socialist-oriented market

economy. Thanks to “Doi Moi”, Vietnam's economy has witnessed dramatic changes.

After more than thirty years of “Doi Moi”, Vietnam has gone from a poor, backward country with frequent food shortages to become the third largest rice exporter in the world¹; Vietnam is one of the ten countries with the highest number of smartphone users in the world. Smartphones have covered 73% telephone users

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¹ According to data from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), in the period 2020 - 2021, rice exports are 6.3 million tons and it is forecasted that in 2021-2022 rice exports will continue to rank third in the world (Vietnamnet, 2021). See more data at: <https://knoema.com/atlas/topics/Agriculture/Trade-Export-Quantity/Rice-exports-quantity>