

## Completion Report

Affiliation: History Department

VNU-USSH Hanoi

Name: Hoang Anh Tuan

In March 2020, I received a research grant from The Sumitomo Foundation to carry out the research project entitled "From Strange Weather to Unstable Business: The Impact of Natural Disasters on the Tonkin-Japan Trade during the Seventeenth Century", aiming to explore how climate change during the seventeenth century affected the shipping between northern Vietnam (Tonkin) and Japan, which eventually influenced the overall trading and diplomatic ties between the two nations.

After two years of study (March 2020 – June 2022), the project has achieved a number of major academic results:

1. In the framework of the project, researchers extracted information on Tonkin's weather mainly from the Western archives (archives of the Dutch East India Companies in Tonkin and Japan; archives of the English East India Company in Tonkin, Bantam and Bengal). Some information was gathered from the local sources such as classical Chinese texts, stone stela, and archaeological excavations. The data were systematically sorted into different categories (floods, storms, earthquakes, etc.) for analysis and research later on.

2. As it shows from the sets of data, the information from various sources is unanimous. It reveals the tendency of highly irregular weather in northern Vietnam during the seventeenth century, especially the period 1640s – 1710s, with unusual floods and monsoons.

3. Placing the irregularity of weather in Tonkin in the broader context of global climate change, it is obvious that the so-called "little ice age", which is said to have frequented the northern hemisphere, also affected the region ranging between southern China and northern Vietnam. Without such influence, the "odd weather" would not have happened so often in Tonkin as the Western people constantly blamed in their daily records and annual reports.

4. The shipping of products (mainly silk, textiles, silver, copper, cinnamon, etc.) between Tonkin and Japan, as a consequence, was badly affected. While many shipments from northern Vietnam to Japan were soaked by unexpected storms, the European factories in Tonkin also suffered from floods which not only damaged the building and storage but also caused the shortage of imported merchandise such as silk, textiles and cinnamon. Diplomacy, as a matter of fact, also slumped owing to the decline of trade. This contributed, in one way or another, to the end of the European Tonkin – Japan trade by the end of the seventeenth century.

The set of documents and data extracted from both archives and secondary sources will be utilized for teaching and publications in the years to come.

**Publication of the Results of Research Project:**

**Verbal Presentation** (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)

Part of the data from the research project is utilized in the following presentation:

1. Hoang Anh Tuan, "The Restored Le Dynasty and the Capital of Van Lai – Yen Truong in the Regional Context during the late Sixteenth Century", paper presented at conference, Thanh Hoa province, December, 2021.
2. Hoang Anh Tuan, "Environmental Change in Early Modern Vietnam: A Regional Perspective", lecture at Gdansk University, Poland, June 2022.

**Thesis** (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)

Part of the data from the research project is utilized in the following theses:

1. Hoàng Anh Tuấn – Trần Ngọc Dũng, "English Archives on the Vietnamese – British Relationship, Seventeenth – Eighteenth Centuries" (in Vietnamese), *Journal of Historical Studies*, 2021 (Vol. 3), pp. 58-68.
2. Nguyễn Thừa Hỷ - Hoàng Anh Tuấn, "The Capital of Thăng Long under the Lê –Trịnh Regime, 1600s – 1700s", in: *Settling in Thăng Long: The Millennial Perspective*, Hà Nội Publishing House, 2020 (Chapter V).
3. Hoàng Anh Tuấn, 《从“跨越大陆的一杯茶”窥探 17—18 世纪“全球大众消费”》, *历史教学问题*, 2020 年第 1 期 (pp. 94-98).