

Each lecturer is only allocated 10 - 15 million VND per year for scientific research

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Currently, the situation regarding funding for scientific research activities at some universities is still limited, with investment being small and scattered. This issue was raised by Associate Professor Dinh Minh Hang, Head of the International Administration Department, during a dialogue session with Minister of Education and Training Nguyen Kim Son on August 15th [1].

Associate Professor Hang believes that teaching and scientific research are the top priorities for every lecturer. For Hanoi Pedagogical University in particular, scientific research contributes significantly to improving the quality of education and developing human resources to meet the needs of society and international integration, actively contributing to the qualitative changes in higher education as well as affirming the university's position.

However, investment in science and technology in our country is still low. For example, Hanoi Pedagogical University has 636 lecturers (including 424 PhDs, including 128 professors and associate professors), but the research budget from the Ministry of Education and Training is only about 6 - 8 billion VND per year.

It's worth noting that Hanoi Pedagogical University is among the top 5 universities in terms of research investment by the Ministry of Education and Training. Thus, on average, each lecturer receives only 10 - 15 million VND per year. This is an investment amount that has not yet attracted the full potential of lecturers. Moreover, the investment methods are still scattered and small.

According to Associate Professor Minh Hang, the Ministry of Education and Training should proactively commission tasks based on the capabilities of scientists to solve specific problems raised by the ministry or society, and this commissioning should not depend on which university the scientist is from.

The Minister of Education and Training also needs to issue additional policies to truly encourage scientific research and technology transfer in universities.

Taking into account the above opinions, Minister Nguyen Kim Son affirmed that the issue of scientific research and solutions to develop teaching and research capabilities, investment, and policies... are very important for the university education system.

For universities oriented towards research and application, science and scientific research are fundamental and core factors.

According to him, implementing research tasks and investing in scientific research, scientific products reflect the capabilities of the lecturer team, showing the position and influence of the universities. A scientist with good scientific qualifications and research results is a prerequisite for being a good lecturer.

In 2022, the Ministry of Education and Training advised the Government to issue Decree 109 on scientific research activities in higher education institutions. In which, the Ministry also focuses on

innovating mechanisms to encourage lecturers to participate in scientific research, encouraging the development of research groups and research fields.

Understanding the importance, Minister Son admitted that the state budget for scientific research activities is limited.

"Even for the Ministry of Education and Training, the research budget is very limited and must prioritize commissioning basic research or research related to education, to the state management of the Ministry of Education and Training," the Minister shared and suggested that universities need to proactively aim to receive commissions from enterprises, localities to address practical issues.

Regarding pedagogical universities and basic science, state agencies will have to increase funding in the form of research topics and tasks; but it is still necessary to pay attention to and emphasize commissions from enterprises and localities...

According to the Minister, there are currently many policies to promote scientific research activities, but there is one bottleneck, hindering the full potential of lecturer's research activities, which is the commercialization of research products. This aspect still involves complex policy systems and needs to be addressed.

In the coming time, the Ministry of Education and Training, the Ministry of Science and Technology will be more involved in this issue. Only by doing so can we unleash creative capacity and meet lecturers' research aspirations.

Moreover, the effectiveness and efficiency of the funding also need to be considered seriously for innovative and sustainable development [2].

References

[1] Cuong, H. (2023). Mỗi giảng viên chỉ được cấp 10 - 15 triệu đồng/năm cho nghiên cứu khoa học. <https://vtcnews.vn/moi-giang-vien-chi-duoc-cap-10-15-trieu-dong-nam-cho-nghien-cuu-khoa-hoc-ar812998.html>

[2] Vuong, Q. H. (2018). The (ir)rational consideration of the cost of science in transition economies. *Nature Human Behaviour*, 2(1), 5. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41562-017-0281-4>