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Development of the Ocean and Coastal Economy during the Period of International Economic Integration in Thanh Hoa Province

Phan Ha Le

Trade Union University, Hanoi, Vietnam

Corresponding Author: **Phan Ha Le**

Abstract

The ocean and coastal economy have a particularly important position for coastal countries in the development process. In the new conditions, the need for development and international economic integration is placing great pressure on countries in terms of raw materials, transportation and living space, the role of the marine economy is even more evident appears clearly. Vietnam is a country with great potential for marine economy. With a coastline of over 3,260 km long and a sea area of over one million square kilometers, the sea has brought Vietnam many great benefits from mineral exploitation, maritime economic development, seafood exploitation, island economy, and tourism. Coastal tourism and development of

coastal economic zones. Thanh Hoa is a coastal province with great potential but has not been exploited for prosperity. The coastal area of Thanh Hoa province (boundary 2 includes 4 districts, 1 town and 1 city) has great potential to create integrated development and be a driving force in promoting the province's economic acceleration, but in general Up to now, it has not been effectively promoted. The article uses secondary data to study the current state of the coastal economy in Thanh Hoa province. Research results show opportunities as well as challenges from coastal economic development in Thanh Hoa province. From there, the article also proposes some suggestions to enhance coastal economic development in Thanh Hoa province.

Keywords: Ocean and Coastal Economy, Development of the Ocean and Coastal Economy, Thanh Hoa Province

1. Introduction

In a world where many development difficulties exist, Vietnam not only has typical obstacles, but it is also a quickly developing country, so it must contend with the hazards of income traps. On average, the danger of missing out on a wonderful opportunity to progress, pandemic difficulties, environmental damage...

In this setting, maritime economic development has arisen as a new growth engine, compensating for poor domestic economic growth and providing a means for governments to extend their influence. In oceans and islands, especially places with substantial seafood supplies, natural resources and oil reserves, contested areas and locations with key international commerce routes.

Resolution No. 36-NQ/TW, dated October 22, 2018, of the 8th Plenum of the 12th Central Committee, "On the Strategy for sustainable development of Vietnam's marine economy to 2030, vision to 2045" set out General goals and specific goals are to make Vietnam a strong maritime country, with sustainable development and prosperity, ensuring security and safety of the marine economy; In which, it is determined that by 2030, purely marine economic sectors will contribute to the country's GDP of about 10%; The economy of 28 coastal provinces and cities is estimated to reach 65 - 70% of the country's GDP; Marine economic sectors develop sustainably according to international standards; Strengthen control of marine resource exploitation associated with ensuring the resilience of the marine ecosystem,... With the advantage of having 102km of coastline and having Nghi Son deep-water port, Thanh Hoa pays special attention to promoting strengths in marine economic development. Thanh Hoa has devoted large resources to synchronously implementing 5 pillars of marine economic development including oil and gas exploitation and processing; exploiting and processing seafood; develop marine tourism; Building coastal economic zones associated with the development of coastal urban areas and building infrastructure, developing the maritime economy. This article studies the current situation and proposes directions and solutions for economic development in the coastal area of Thanh Hoa province during the period of international economic integration.

2. Theoretical

Ocean and coastal economy

According to Bui Tat Thang (2010), the concept of marine economy is still a concept without consensus. Due to the unique nature of the marine environment, all marine economic activities are closely related and determined from the mainland, so it is impossible to talk about the marine economy without taking into account economic activities related to the sea in the sea. Coastal area. However, the author also believes that in a narrow sense, marine economy can be understood as all economic activities taking place at sea, mainly including: (1) Maritime economy (sea transport and port services); (2) Seafood (fished and farmed); (3) Offshore oil and gas exploitation; (4) Sea tourism; (5) Making salt; (6) Search, rescue, rescue services; (7) Island economy. In a broad sense, the author believes that marine economy is economic activities directly related to marine exploitation. Although they do not take place at sea, these economic activities rely on the marine factor or directly serve marine resources. serving marine economic activities in the coastal strip, including: (1) Building and repairing ships; (2) Oil and gas processing industry; (3) Seafood processing industry; (4) Providing marine services; (5) Communications at sea; (6) Marine science and technology research, human resource training, basic marine surveys.

Thus, marine economy includes all economic activities that take place at sea as well as economic activities that are directly related to marine exploitation (even if not taking place at sea, this economic activity benefits from maritime factors or serves marine economic activities in the coastal mainland strip). Marine economy includes sectoral and interdisciplinary economic activities related to seas, oceans, and coastlines; it includes economic activities that take place at sea, economic activities that use resources from the sea, and economic activities that support economic activities that take place at sea to benefit human life and the economy of each country and territory. Economic activity utilizing maritime resources and supporting economic activities can occur anywhere, even regions far from the sea.

Development of the ocean and coastal economy

Development of the ocean and coastal economy is defined as the growth of all economic activities that take place at sea as well as economic activities that take place on land but are closely tied to marine exploitation.

Development of the ocean and coastal economy is based on the specific potential benefits supplied by the marine area's resources and natural circumstances. Development of the ocean and coastal economy is the expansion of agriculture, industry, and sea-related services. Detail:

- Agriculture, forestry, and marine fisheries economic growth. In coastal locations, the marine agricultural economy encompasses farming, animal husbandry, forestry, aquaculture, and salt manufacturing.
- Coastal industrial economic development comprises the growth of industries and handicrafts in coastal areas depending on the natural and socioeconomic characteristics of each region and region.
- Promote economic tourism and services that capitalize on coastal benefits, such as transportation, seaport services, and tourism.

Thus, development of the ocean and coastal economy may be defined as a way of development in which the speed and quality of ocean economic growth are kept high and steady,

meeting the criteria of harmony between economic elements, society, and the environment.

Development of the ocean and coastal economy during the age of international economic integration

After limiting the scope of research to coastal areas (including districts, towns, and cities bordering the sea), the author has clarified the connotation of coastal development in the period of international economic integration. Coastal development in the period of international economic integration has an important nature that changes the quantity and quality of economic activities (associated with social modernity, environment, national security and defense) coastal areas towards modernity, high efficiency and sustainability, thereby improving people's lives and enhancing competitiveness in the context of the 4.0 industrial revolution and severe climate change. Specifically: (1) Economic development activities are interconnected and must follow a modern direction; including all fields of agriculture, industry, services, education and training, health care, technical infrastructure, urban development, environmental protection, and response to climate change. climate,... must all develop in a modern direction, taking efficiency and sustainable development as the top goal; (2) Forms of economic organization based on territory and urban areas must be advanced and modern; and (3) Making economic development management in coastal areas more modern, in which online public services develop at a high level.

Factors influencing ocean and coastal economic growth during the age of international economic integration

There are many factors affecting ocean and coastal economic development. In each region and each locality, due to different characteristics, the impact and influence of factors are also different. However, in general terms, marine economic development in particular and economic development in general are influenced by the following factors:

- **Natural conditions:** Geographical location and maritime resources are crucial in marine economic growth. Climate and weather conditions have a significant impact on the growth of the maritime sector. Aquatic resources, seafood, marine resources, aviation and maritime routes, and so on are all linked to economic possibilities.
- **Level of socioeconomic development:** Ocean and coastal economic growth is heavily reliant on human resources, cognitive aptitude, and involvement. The greater the level of socioeconomic development and abundance of resources, the greater the opportunities for individuals to contribute to the growth of the ocean and coastal economy. As a result, socioeconomic development is both a goal and a prerequisite for executing ocean and coastal economic growth.
- **Level of scientific and technological development:** Economic development has a tight relationship and interaction with scientific and technological advancement throughout the period of international integration. Scientific and technical advancements not only provide new manufacturing capacities and accelerate the development of some sectors, but they also create new requirements.

- **Ocean and coastal economic development infrastructure:** Technical infrastructure refers to works that support production and human life, such as transportation, postal and telecommunications networks, water supply and drainage networks, energy supply systems for everyday living and production, and so on. Housing, hospitals, schools, cultural and sports facilities, and so on all play a vital role in assuring development. Economic growth on the seas.
- **Political - legal environment:** One of the most fundamental foundations of economic growth in general, and maritime economic development in particular, is the legal environment. A stable legal framework fosters confidence in companies and economic sectors to invest in production.

3. The current state of economic growth in Thanh Hoa province's coastal areas during the age of international economic integration

Thanh Hoa is a province in the North Central region, 153 kilometers south of Hanoi, comprising high plains and coastal parts. Thanh Hoa's waters, with a 102-kilometer shoreline, provide habitat, breeding, and development for the majority of aquatic species in the Gulf of Tonkin, one of the most significant fishing grounds in the world. It is also a living, breeding, and larval rearing environment for numerous seafood species.

There are 7 major and small streams along Thanh Hoa's shore, including 5 large creeks: Lach Sung, Lach Truong, Lach Hoi, Lach Gap, and Lach Bang. Currently, these stream mouths serve as economic exchange locations as well as fishing centers, fishing ports, and storm shelters for fishermen from inside and beyond the province.

Current economic growth status by industry

The economic structure of Thanh Hoa province's coastal area has changed positively, with agriculture decreasing from 22.4% to 10.5% and industry increasing from 46.4% to 54.4%. The contribution of high-tech industries to Thanh Hoa's GRDP is still modest. Although the share of high-tech sectors 12 has climbed, the rate of expansion is slowing. In general, companies and governments are still dragging their feet when it comes to digital transformation; the use of information technology, electronic systems, and automation in the production and selling of products and services has not been coordinated and broadly distributed.

Table 1: The economic restructuring coefficients for coastal areas from 2015 to 2019

	Shifting rate (%)	Conversion rate average (%)
According to three key industry associations: Agriculture - Industry - Services	6,19	1,41
According to the high-tech industry	5,21	1,28

Source: Data from Thanh Hoa Provincial Statistics Department

The fields of exploitation, aquaculture, aquatic product processing, and fisheries logistics services in Thanh Hoa have also increased rapidly, creating new production capacity and the appearance of many production organization models for exploitation, aquaculture and fisheries. Processing seafood in the direction of commodity production, gradually industrializing and modernizing the

marine industry. In 2019 alone, Thanh Hoa fisheries industry achieved a total output of 181,360 tons of exploitation and aquaculture, an increase of 6.5% compared to the previous year. Achieving the above output is primarily due to the total aquaculture area increasing to 19,000 hectares and achieving aquaculture output of 58,630 tons, an increase of 9.5% compared to 2018, of which: Intensive white shrimp farming 350 hectares, output 5,100 tons; Clam farming on 1,313 hectares, output of 15,000 tons. In 2020, despite the impact of the Covid-19 epidemic, Thanh Hoa is still able to achieve aquaculture production of about 180,000 tons, of which: Drum farming is 55,000 tons, exploitation is 125,000 tons; aquaculture area is 19,500 hectares (of which: 5,350 hectares of brackish saltwater farming, 14,150 hectares of freshwater farming).

The industrial sector in Thanh Hoa province's coastal region has grown reasonably well, producing significant outcomes, particularly in recent years. Between 2010 and 2019, the average output value climbed by 14.1% every year. However, the industrial product structure is outdated; there are no items with high technical content and added value, such as components and electronic equipment. The primary components are the petrochemical, cement, energy, steel, seafood processing, textile, and footwear sectors, however they do not have a significant added value. Aside from a few large-scale petrochemical, thermal power, and cement projects with high technology content, the majority of the remaining industrial projects have just ordinary and average advanced technology.

In comparison to its potential, the province's seaside tourist service industry has not yet expanded substantially. It is still seasonal (mostly during the summer months), and tourism offerings are not very diverse. Tourism items in coastal areas are centered mostly on long-famous beaches such as Sam Son, Hai Tien (Hoang Hoa), and Hai Hoa (Nghi Son). Maritime and logistics services in Thanh Hoa's coastal area have just recently began to expand, with the majority of them in the process of executing building investment. The port's technological infrastructure system, which supports the movement and transit of products, is relatively inadequate. In general, health, education, culture, and communication services have not progressed effectively.

The current state of development of technical infrastructure

In general, the technological infrastructure system is deficient and of poor quality, and it is neither synchronized or contemporary. Thanh Hoa's coastline area lacks a comprehensive high-speed coastal road, as well as a general waste and wastewater treatment plant for the whole coastal area. Nghi Son Port has also not employed intelligent software for operations and management.

- The road system within the coastal area has been established but of limited quality. Up to now, it has a total length of 1,846 km but has not met larger transport needs.
- The seaport system has been formed and is taking effect. Notably, Nghi Son port has a capacity of 20 million tons in the first phase and then increases to about 30 - 40 million tons.
- Electricity and clean water supply systems also exist, but there is a lack of wastewater and solid waste treatment systems and climate change response systems.

4. Conclusion

The coastal area has developed more than ever in recent years, but the potential, strengths, and comparative advantages of Thanh Hoa province's coastal area have not been comprehensively and effectively promoted; the economic structure is not modern, the economy does not have a worthy growth rate, and the quality of economic development is low. The fundamental cause of the aforementioned predicament is that the state's participation in economic growth in Thanh Hoa's coastal area is restricted, investment attraction does not match demand, the business team is weak, and the quality of human resources and science and technology is low.

Oriented toward 2030, coastal areas must prioritize modernization of industry, tourism, agriculture, fisheries, and technological infrastructure systems; modernization of urban areas, economic zones, and tourist areas; and modernization of development management. During the age of worldwide economic integration, the author suggests 05 essential ideas for economic growth in coastal areas.

(1) Increase the efficacy and efficiency of state management for coastal economic development; Administrative reform is linked to contemporary development management. To focus on coastal area development, it is feasible to investigate, create a prototype, and bring into operation a coastal area operational center system that combines available data and utilizes the most advanced technologies. To control socioeconomic activities in the area, science and analytical technologies are used.

(2) Invest in development and attract strategic investors to modernize coastal areas based on development direction and infrastructure system requirements.

(3) Create a powerful business team comprised of numerous significant corporations. Focus on assisting companies in promoting the use of science, technology, and innovation, as well as applying the achievements of the 4.0 industrial revolution to increase product productivity, quality, and competitiveness.

(4) Creating high-quality human resources, particularly managers, entrepreneurs, and highly skilled technical professionals. Establish collaboration and links between provincial training institutions and domestic and international training facilities in order to train a team of top specialists in critical vocations.

(5) Develop and increase the efficacy of science and technology applications in order to satisfy the demands of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. To be able to master high technologies and technology-related goods by 2025, prioritize synchronized investment in centralized software zones, information technology centers, research zones, technology incubators, and so on. Sophisticated technology and effectively use it in major economic areas of the coastal region.

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