

4th industrial revolution a big opportunity for VN

Update: April, 12/2017 - 10:33



A fully automated production line using robots at a Vinamilk factory in Mỹ Phước 2 Industrial Park, Bình Dương Province. Vinamilk aims to become one of the 50 biggest dairy companies in the world this year. — VNA/VNS Photo Thế Anh

HÀ NỘI – The fourth industrial revolution is an important opportunity that Việt Nam must quickly take advantage of in order to accelerate the process of industrialisation and modernisation, towards its goal of becoming a modern industrial country, said Hồ Thị Kim Thoa, Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade organised the “Industrial Revolution 4.0 Forum” in Hà Nội yesterday to provide enterprises and organisations with an overview of the

advancements being made and the influence these would have on Việt Nam's development strategies.

The fourth industrial revolution is blurring the gap between the real world and the virtual world through advanced technologies and innovation, said the deputy minister.

In particular, the influence and spread of this revolution was taking place on a global scale and was forecast to change systems of production, management and administration worldwide, she added.

Meanwhile, Trần Đình Thiên, director of the Việt Nam Institute of Economics, said that there would be a great opportunity for us to move forward and lead the way during the fourth industrial revolution.

"Having a unique, distinctive and feasible approach will help Việt Nam take advantage of the opportunities from the fourth industrial revolution to make a breakthrough," Thiên said.

However, deputy minister Thoa also noted that if the country did not have clear objectives and suitable approach and participation through economic restructuring, education reform and science and technology development, the pressure of the fourth industrial revolution would be very hard on Việt Nam.

On the other hand, Thiên pointed out the two biggest challenges facing Việt Nam, by explaining that the country was having to both catch up with global integration while also having to compete with other countries to develop.

Therefore, the director of the Việt Nam Institute of Economics recommended that Việt Nam develop suitable digital strategies, adopt smart governance policies, while building a digital connection infrastructure, digital workforce, digital technology industry, smart agriculture, smart tourism, smart urbanisation and innovative ecosystems and start-ups.

Speaking at the forum, Louise Chamberlain, country director of UNDP Việt Nam, said that the fourth industrial revolution was of such great interest because it represented both fundamental opportunities for rapid human progress, but also considerable challenges.

"Events like today's forum are critically important, because the impacts of the fourth industrial revolution and their scale are not yet well understood. Even studying this subject is challenging because the complexity of assessing the impacts is tremendous. The difficulty lies not only in the technology breakthroughs I mentioned, but in their interactions with our ideas and systems governing economic and social development;

also value creation, privacy and ownership, and even how we see individual identity,” she added.

The move towards higher productivity and social resilience were among the most immediate and useful steps to closing the knowledge gap that Việt Nam’s sectors, subsectors and enterprises face in enhancing their productivity and competitiveness, she said.

This requires a more granular study of emerging technology systems and their implications for improving value chains, said the UNDP representative. - VNS

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