

**OPENING SPEECH**  
**BOOK AND READING CULTURE DAY 2024**  
(At the National Library of Viet Nam, April 20, 2024)

*Dear distinguished delegates, esteemed guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen!*

During the 19th century, a celebrated philosopher expressed: “All that mankind has done, thought, gained, or been; it is lying as in magic preservation in the pages of books”. Every notable book not only harbors a wealth of knowledge and essence but also unveils the virtues of Truth, Goodness, and Beauty through profoundly humane messages.

Recognizing the significance of books and reading, UNESCO designated April 23 as “World Book and Copyright Day”, while in Viet Nam, the 14th National Assembly established April 21 as “Viet Nam Book and Reading Culture Day. These pivotal decisions reaffirm the indispensable role of books in social life. They not only foster the reading movement within communities but also extend beyond traditional printed materials to encompass audio, visual, and digital platforms. Moreover, these decisions honor the creators, preservers, and promoters of books while fostering connections among domestic and international readers. These initiatives collectively contribute to the establishment of a knowledge-oriented society, furthering the development of Vietnamese culture and people, thus advancing the country towards sustainable development goals.

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Personal or collective knowledge emerges from the decisions made while encountering and experiencing reality. To instill a culture of reading among all individuals, it's imperative to establish a groundwork for fostering awareness and critical thinking about life. This necessitates close collaboration among cultural institutions, with a special focus on the library system. Libraries, functioning as lifelong learning hubs beyond formal education settings, play a pivotal role in this endeavor.

Following Decision No. 657/QĐ-BVHTTDL issued on March 19, 2024, by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism outlining the arrangements for the 3rd Viet Nam Book and Reading Culture Day, the National Library of Viet Nam proudly hosts the Book and Reading Culture Day 2024, under the theme “**The World I Read**”.

At this year's Book and Reading Culture Day, the public and readers will have the chance to engage, meet, discuss, and connect with authors, translators, critics, scientists, managers, and fellow book enthusiasts in activities of great cultural, intellectual, social, and educational importance. Events such as *Author-Work Exchange* and *Experiencing Reading Skills* will facilitate these interactions. Moreover, with a selection of 1,000 noteworthy documents from the nation's cultural heritage housed in the Library, the Exhibition “*Books - Gateway to the World*” pledges to offer visitors and readers a wealth of valuable information.

Moreover, activities such as *Creative Reading*, *Exploring the Digital Library*, and *Book-Inspired Drawing Contest* will immerse children in profound narratives, allowing them to unleash their creativity through vivid artwork. They will also learn about diverse cultures worldwide, enhancing their knowledge, life skills, and language abilities. These activities aim to foster children's love for books, maintain joy, and cultivate a habit of reading anytime, anywhere.

Furthermore, a lineup of fresh initiatives is set to enhance the Book and Reading Culture Day 2024. These include the “Book Conservation Station”, the online competition titled “Finding Beautiful Names for Good Books”, “Date with our Fanpage”, and the “Cultivating Knowledge Seeds”. These endeavors will serve to amplify the visibility of the Library among readers and the broader public, fostering interactive experiences intertwined with reading and reading promotion activities.

Furthermore, as part of the program, the National Library of Viet Nam remains a dependable hub for collecting and distributing donations of books and equipment from both organizations and individuals to libraries in remote regions grappling with numerous challenges.

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*“Unveiling Knowledge, Discovery, and Profound experiences. Reading today, Success tomorrow!”* The National Library of Viet Nam aims to convey this message to readers and book enthusiasts, aspiring to foster the dissemination of the significance of books and the culture of reading within the community.

At today's opening ceremony, I extend a warm welcome and heartfelt gratitude on behalf of the Organizing Committee to the leaders, representatives of agencies, commissions, ministries, central branches and Hanoi, embassies, domestic and foreign business organizations, donors, libraries, schools, news agencies, newspapers and television, students, and readers. Your collaboration, attendance, support, and coverage are deeply appreciated for making this event truly meaningful.

I'm delighted to declare the commencement of the Book and Reading Culture Day 2024. I extend my sincere wishes for good health to all leaders, delegates, readers, and book enthusiasts.

May this event be a resounding success!

Thank you sincerely.