

IMPROVING THE PROVINCIAL COMPETITIVENESS INDEX OF PHU THO PROVINCE

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ABSTRACT

The provincial competitiveness index (PCI) is an important criterion to appreciate the business environment, the quality of economic governance and efforts to reform administration of provincial government. In the period of 9 years (2010-2018), PCI of Phu Tho province was improved in rankings, from the 53rd in 2010 to the 24th position in 2018, in rather group in Vietnam and in the 3rd position in the Northern Midlands and Mountains region. Especially, land access and security of tenure, labor and training, legal institutions components were appreciated well. However, PCI of Phu Tho province is unequal to potential, strength of the province, some components of PCI is low and tends to decrease. In order to improve PCI of Phu Tho province in the coming periods, the paper suggests some solutions about staffs, administrative reform, policy mechanisms, infrastructure, state management on investment.

Keyword: *Provincial Competitiveness, Phu Tho, Northern Midlands and Mountains region.*

1. Introduction

Provincial Competitiveness Index (PCI) is an indicator which shows the feeling of businesses in Vietnam for the quality of economic governance and business environment in each province. PCI has been assessed since 2005 with 42 provinces, and now this evaluation was performed for all 63 provinces and cities in Vietnam and is calculated on the basis of 10 components. PCI is now considered an objective and useful assessment tool for policy makers

in improving the quality of economic governance as well as to promote the reform of the business environment and entrepreneurship in Vietnam in the choice of investment location.

Located in a Northern Midlands and Mountains region, in the regional center and in zoned Hanoi Capital Region, Phu Tho has more favorable conditions for economic development, trade among the regions inside and outside Vietnam. In recent years, Phu Tho province has actively promoted investment resources to build the system of

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infrastructure, make policy, planning and construct industrial clusters and parks, urban, agriculture, forestry, tourism service areas to focus on attracting investment. Besides, Phu Tho has always focused on improving the investment and business environment, improve the efficiency of management and administration of the bureaucracy at all levels in order to create conditions to enterprises for manufacturing and business favorably, effectively, lawfully to contribute economic growth. With those efforts, PCI of Phu Tho provinces keeps improving and positive changes, from the 53rd (in 2010) to the 35th (in 2015) and to the 24th position (in 2018), from the medium group to the good group.

However, PCI of Phu Tho province and the components of the PCI is not stable among years, especially entry costs, transparency and access to information and proactivity of provincial leadership. Researching the situation of PCI of Phu Tho province as a basis for solutions to improve PCI of Phu Tho province is really meaningful practice.

This paper has two main objectives: (i) to overview of PCI of Phu Tho province and other provinces in the Northern Midlands and Mountains region; (ii) to propose some solutions improving PCI of Phu Tho province by 2025.

2. Data collection and analytical framework

2.1. Data collection

The research uses secondary information in the PCI's report from Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Vietnam from

2010 to 2018. The collected information used in this study includes scores and ranks of Phu Tho province PCI and provinces in Northern Midlands and Mountains region. In addition, to collect information, research uses experts methods to consult on the causes and oriented solutions for Phu Tho province.

Research uses descriptive and statistic method and comparative method to analyze the situation of Provincial Competitiveness Index of Phu Tho province in relative comparison with other provinces in the area from 2010 to 2018 and orientations to 2025.

2.2. Frame analysis of the Provincial Competitiveness Index

To define the problems in research, the need to define the analytical framework of Provincial Competitiveness Index. On theoretical basis about PCI of Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Vietnam and some researches related to PCI such as Nguyen Thi Thu Ha (2009) [2], Le Duy Binh & Dau Anh Tuan (2010) [1], Phan Nhat Thanh (2011) [6]. Tran Hoang Nam (2012) [5], Tran Thi Thanh Xuan (2018) [16], Pham Thi Thu Huong *et al.* (2018) [4]..., the group of authors made analytical framework of Provincial Competitiveness Index expressed through the following diagram 1.

So, to achieve the goal of improving PCI of Phu Tho province in the coming years, the need to identify and evaluate Provincial Competitiveness Index, the components index of PCI of Phu Tho province with PCI of the provinces in the region and Vietnam, then to propose solutions to improve the provincial competitiveness index by 2025.

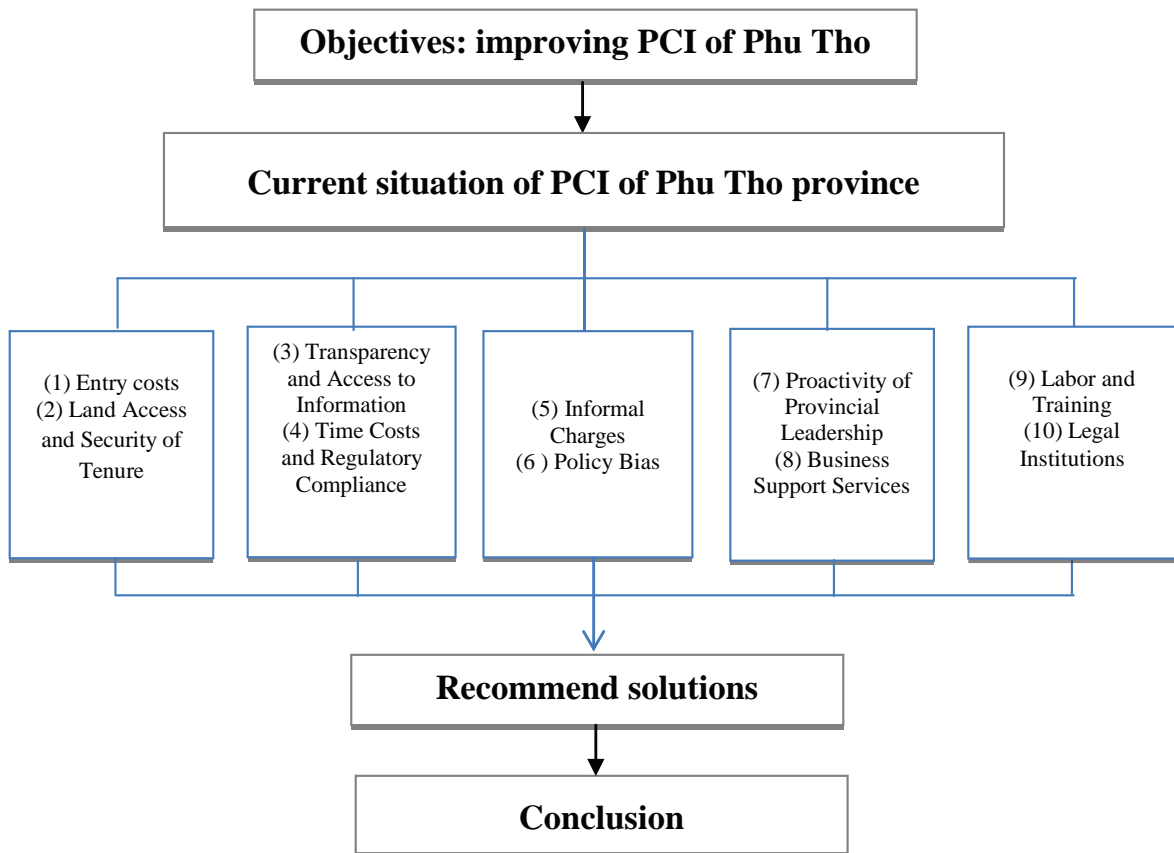


Diagram 1: Framework analysis of Provincial Competitiveness Index

(Source: Authors' illustration)

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Overview of PCI of Phu Tho province in the period of 9 years (2010-2018)

3.1.1. The aggregate PCI of Phu Tho province

Identify the PCI is an important criterion to appreciate the business environment, the quality of economic governance and efforts to reform administration of provincial government. In recent years, Phu Tho has gradually improved

investment and business environment through promulgating the programs and plans to implement the Resolution of the Government on support and development of enterprises, implementation of many solutions to reform administration, especially administrative procedures, improving the investment environment; focusing on solving difficulties, companionship with businesses. With these efforts, PCI of Phu Tho province from 2010 to 2018 has positive changes.

TABLE 1. Summary of PCI of Phu Tho province

Year	Aggregate score	Rank	Ranking Group
2010	52,47	53	Middle
2011	60,31	27	Good
2012	55,54	40	Rather
2013	53,91	54	Relatively low
2014	57,72	39	Rather
2015	58,37	35	Rather
2016	58,60	29	Rather
2017	62,55	27	Rather
2018	63,95	24	Rather

(Source: VCCI and USAID, 2011 - 2019) [15]

From 2010 to 2013, PCI of Phu Tho province fluctuated markedly. In 2011, the PCI rose 7,84 points compared to 2010, the rank increased significantly, from the 53rd/63 position in medium group to the 27th position in good group. However, from 2011 to 2013, the PCI had downward trend, from the 27th in 2011 to the 54th position in 2013 and located at relatively low group. Based on the results of implementation scheme for raising the provincial competitiveness from 2011 to 2015 of Phu Tho provincial People's Committee [7] and the action program 2779/CTr-UBND of Phu Tho provincial People's Committee to improve PCI of Phu Tho province from 2012 to 2015 [9], Phu Tho provincial People's Committee issued decision no. 14/2014/QĐ-UBND on regulations in implementing the one door mechanism in solving a number of administrative procedures for a number of investment projects in the province [11], Plan no. 5592/KH-UBND on the implementation of reform administration in Phu Tho province

in 2015 [12], Plan no. 2249/KH_UBND on implementation of resolution no. 19-2018/NQ-CP of the government on keeping performing those tasks and key solutions to improve the business environment, enhance competitiveness (PCI) of Phu Tho province in 2018 and the following years [14]... Accordingly, the PCI has improved significantly from 2014, 5 years later rise scores and rank on the PCI rankings. The PCI scores fluctuated around 57-59 points from 2014 to 2016, the PCI scores from 2017 to 2018 has been fluctuating around 62-64 points. In 2018, PCI increased 6,23 points and 15 levels compared with 2014 in the PCI rankings (from the 39th in 2014 to the 24th position in 2018).

Considering PCI rank of Phu Tho province with other provinces in Vietnam and provinces in the Northern Midlands and Mountains region, the PCI of Phu Tho in 9 consecutive years from 2010 to 2018 have had strong and positive shift (chart 1).

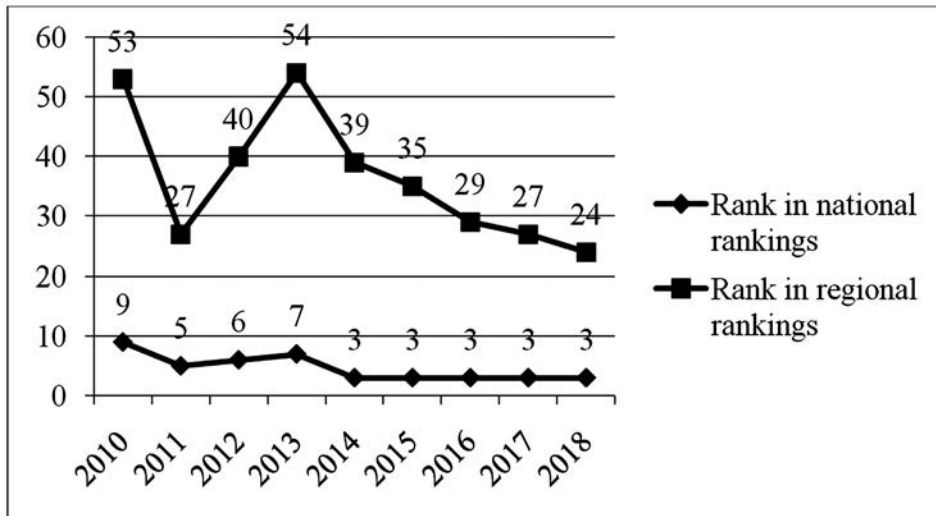


Chart 1. PCI of Phu Tho province rank from 2010 to 2018

(Source: VCCI and USAID, 2011-2019) [15]

Rank of Phu Tho in Vietnam: From 2010 to 2018 has changed significantly, from the 53rd in 2010 to the 24th position in 2018.

Rank of Phu Tho in the Northern Midlands and Mountains region: From 2010 to 2018, Phu Tho ranked the 9th/14 position on rankings of provinces and cities in the Northern Midlands and Mountains region in 2010 to the 3rd position in 2014, and ranked the 3rd position from 2014 to 2018. In particular, the PCI of Phu Tho province always is behind Lao Cai and Thai Nguyen.

These results have shown an interest as well as consistency in objectives and actions of the leaders of Phu Tho province, which is the construction and improvement of policies aimed at creating a safe, healthy and favorable investment environment to businesses. Shortly after the resolution no. 19 of the government on the tasks and solutions to improve the business environment, enhance national competitiveness issued, Phu Tho provincial People’s Committee planned and directed departments, branches, district and city People’s Committee, to

enhance the role, responsibility and practical action to support and encourage the business community in the province in order to stimulate entrepreneurship of businesses. Since 2012, the province has issued timely policy support businesses and investors as decision no. 04/2012/QĐ-UBND on supporting for investment projects in Phu Tho province, issued on 12/01/2012 [8]; decision no. 25/2012/QĐ-UBND on the regulations to support to small and medium enterprises investing for innovation, modernization of technology in the fields of priorities development in Phu Tho province, issued on 21/12/2012 [10]; People’s Councils of Phu Tho province issued resolution no. 15/2014/NQ-HĐND on specific policy to support and encourage enterprises for investing in agriculture and rural areas in Phu Tho provinces from 2015 to 2020, issued on 15/12/2014 [3]; decision no. 09/2017/QĐ-UBND on the special mechanism to attract investment in Phu Ha Industrial Zone, Phu Tho Town, Phu Tho province, issued on 12/04/2017 [13].

TABLE 2. Comparison of PCI scores of Phu Tho province with the highest and lowest PCI score in the Northern Midlands and Mountains region and Vietnam from 2010 to 2018

Year	Vietnam		Northern Midlands and Mountains region		Phu Tho
	The highest	The lowest	The highest	The lowest	
2010	69,77	48,91	67,95	49,26	52,47
2011	73,53	50,98	73,53	50,98	60,31
2012	63,79	45,12	63,08	45,12	55,54
2013	66,45	48,98	59,43	48,98	53,91
2014	66,87	50,32	64,67	50,32	57,72
2015	68,34	48,96	62,32	50,45	58,37
2016	70,00	52,99	63,49	52,99	58,60
2017	70,69	55,12	64,98	58,82	62,55
2018	70,36	58,16	64,63	58,33	63,95

(Source: VCCI and USAID, 2011-2019) [15]

TABLE 3. Comparison of PCI of Phu Tho province to provinces in the Northern Midlands and Mountains region from 2010 to 2018

Province	Year									
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Cao Bang	53,55	50,98	50,55	52,30	52,04	54,44	52,99	58,89	60,67	
	52	63	61	61	61	58	63	58	57	
Bac Kan	51,49	52,71	51,00	53,53	53,02	53,20	54,60	58,82	60,11	
	58	60	60	57	59	60	60	59	60	
Thai Nguyen	56,54	53,57	60,07	58,96	61,25	61,21	61,82	64,45	64,24	
	42	57	17	25	8	7	7	15	18	
Tuyen Quang	57,90	53,67	47,81	48,98	55,20	56,81	57,43	61,51	63,01	
	34	56	62	63	50	48	45	39	36	
Ha Giang	53,94	57,62	53,00	55,04	52,47	50,45	55,40	59,16	61,19	
	49	41	53	48	60	62	59	55	52	
Lang Son	50,20	54,26	56,29	52,76	55,05	54,61	56,29	59,27	61,70	
	59	53	34	59	54	57	55	53	50	
Bac Giang	58,02	60,79	57,08	54,79	57,33	57,61	58,20	62,20	63,01	
	32	23	31	49	41	40	33	30	34	
Phu Tho	52,47	60,31	55,54	53,91	57,72	58,37	58,60	62,55	63,95	
	53	27	40	54	39	35	29	27	24	
Lao Cai	67,95	73,53	63,08	59,43	64,67	62,32	63,49	64,98	64,63	
	2	1	3	17	3	5	5	11	12	
Yen Bai	60,16	63,05	55,36	52,67	54,77	56,64	57,28	60,72	62,22	
	21	14	42	60	55	51	47	46	42	
Dien Bien	55,12	59,96	45,12	56,23	50,32	56,48	56,48	60,57	61,77	
	47	29	63	43	63	53	53	48	47	
Hoa Binh	49,89	56,52	55,51	52,15	56,57	57,13	56,80	59,42	61,73	
	60	47	41	62	44	46	52	52	49	
Lai Chau	51,77	60,36	52,47	55,78	50,60	52,77	53,46	58,82	58,33	
	57	26	55	47	62	61	62	60	62	
Son La	49,26	54,32	58,99	53,86	55,28	57,21	55,49	58,90	60,79	
	62	52	22	55	49	44	58	57	56	

(Source: VCCI and USAID, 2011-2019) [15]

Compare PCI scores of Phu Tho with the highest and lowest score in the region and Vietnam from 2010 to 2018 can be seen that from 2010 to 2014, PCI scores of Phu Tho were lower than the highest scores in the region (15,48 points) and in Vietnam (17,3 points). From 2015, this gap has narrowed (4,89 points compared with the highest scores in the region; 11,4 points compared with the highest scores in Vietnam).

The table 3 shows that business community in the provinces in the region assessed the unfavorable investment and a little change over the years. Only Lao Cai and Thai Nguyen which business community assessed the rather good investment and business environment with high ranks in the rankings of national PCI. PCI scores of provinces which ranked on rankings also

differ substantially and can change positions easily.

3.1.2. Scores of PCI components of Phu Tho province

Improving the investment and business environment and enhancing PCI is the joint responsibility of all levels and disciplines. In particular, the Department of Planning and Investment is the lead agency, advise the Phu Tho provincial People's Committee urge direct branches, the organization-level implementation. The over years, all levels of government, the departments concerned have been many efforts to implement programs to improve the investment and business environment, enhance the PCI of Phu Tho province, was expressed through PCI scores (Table 1) and scores of components of the PCI (Table 4).

TABLE 4. Scores of PCI components of Phu Tho Province from 2010 to 2018

Components	Year								
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Entry costs	6,54	8,43	9,05	7,28	8,26	8,51	8,66	8,03	7,26
Land access and security of tenure	4,34	5,60	5,97	5,97	5,77	5,12	4,46	6,18	6,68
Transparency and access to information	5,49	5,87	5,47	4,91	5,65	5,41	5,76	5,95	5,44
Time costs and regulatory compliance	5,74	6,90	6,26	4,89	6,42	6,27	5,55	6,14	6,50
Informal charges	6,64	6,93	5,93	6,58	5,15	5,33	5,21	5,22	5,95
Policy Bias	N / A	N / A	N / A	4,24	4,76	5,42	4,80	4,79	5,68
Proactivity of provincial leadership	3,96	5,61	4,63	3,93	3,90	4,63	4,65	5,35	5,24
Business support services	5,21	4,89	4,00	5,84	6,46	6,15	5,96	6,62	7,09
Labor and training	4,32	4,70	4,57	5,05	5,57	6,02	6,6	6,90	7,04
Legal institutions	4,66	4,96	2,95	5,13	5,31	5,85	5,4	6,28	6,35
PCI	52,47	60,31	55,54	53,91	57,72	58,37	58,60	62,55	63,95

(Source: VCCI and USAID, 2011-2019) [15]

From 2010 to 2018, the components of PCI of Phu Tho province had large fluctuations, and increased or decreased between years unstably. Of these, only entry costs, transparency and access to information and proactivity of provincial leadership tended to go down for last two years, this affects negatively on the attractiveness of the investment and business environment in the province.

To improve scores of components of PCI in the field of administrative reform, Phu Tho has built Service Center for Public Administration and operated since 10/1/2018. This makes an important breakthrough in administrative reform and modernization, improving time costs, informal charges, creating a transparent business environment, supporting entrepreneurship activities and investment in the province. Steering units using an electronic door system integrated online public services in the province, increasing the number of public administration services online at level 3, 4; increase sending and receiving electronic documents in the provincial agency. Issuing the criteria and methods for assessing the electronic administration of provincial government agencies. Constructing and managing civil servants and employees in guiding people, businesses professionally and friendly.

Therefore, a number of components such as land access and security of tenure, time costs and regulatory compliance, informal charges, labor and training, legal institutions of the province has had a positive change in scores, constantly increased for last 3 years (2016-2018).

Considered in relation to other provinces of Vietnam, in 2010, Phu Tho only had informal charges higher than provincial median (chart 2), then in 2018 Phu Tho had only 4 components higher than provincial median which are land access and security of tenure, business support services, labor and training, legal institutions; the others components are lower than provincial median. This is also evident in the improving trend of the period (chart 4), which is also 4 components improved scores most. In 4 components which are higher than the provincial median, only business support services, labor and training had scores close to the highest province. Despite land access and security of tenure and legal institutions are higher, the distance is not far from the provincial median (chart 3). This shows that Phu Tho province need to be more efforts in improving component of PCI and PCI to catch up other provinces in Vietnam.

This result shows the limitations of Phu Tho on transparency and access to information of the province. Because the openness and quality of the province website are not appreciated well, moreover, the number of levels 3 and 4 online public services of the province is less. That led to approach information of the business difficultly. So, Phu Tho should continue to promote the transparency and access to information and interactive style innovation, enhance the participation and contribution of the business community and the population in Phu Tho. Transparency is key to solving many current problems. If Phu Tho improves these components, other components of the province will also be raised significantly.

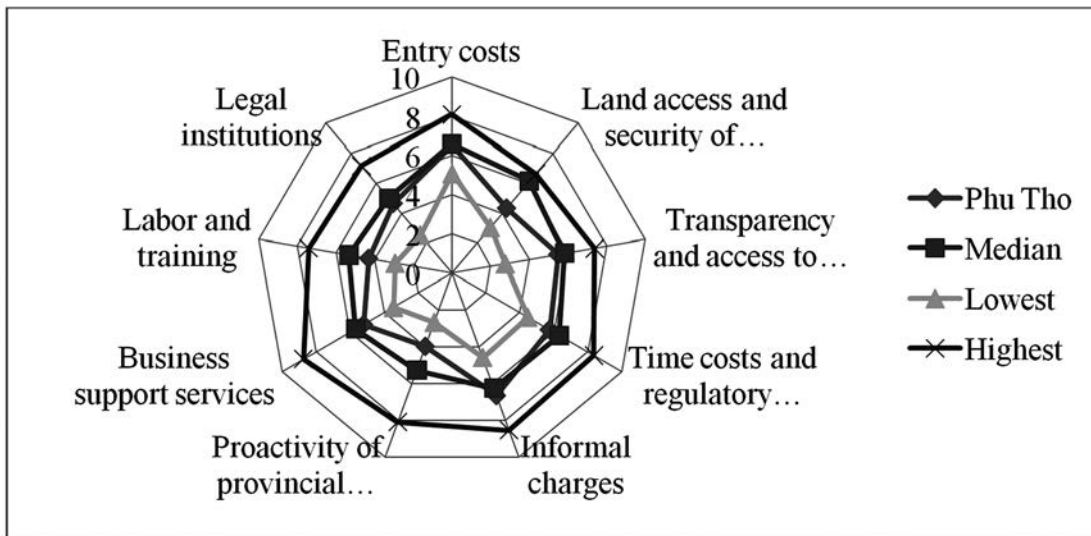


Chart 2. Compare scores of PCI components of Phu Tho province with provinces which have the highest, lowest and median scores in 2010

(Source: VCCI and USAID, 2011-2019) [15]

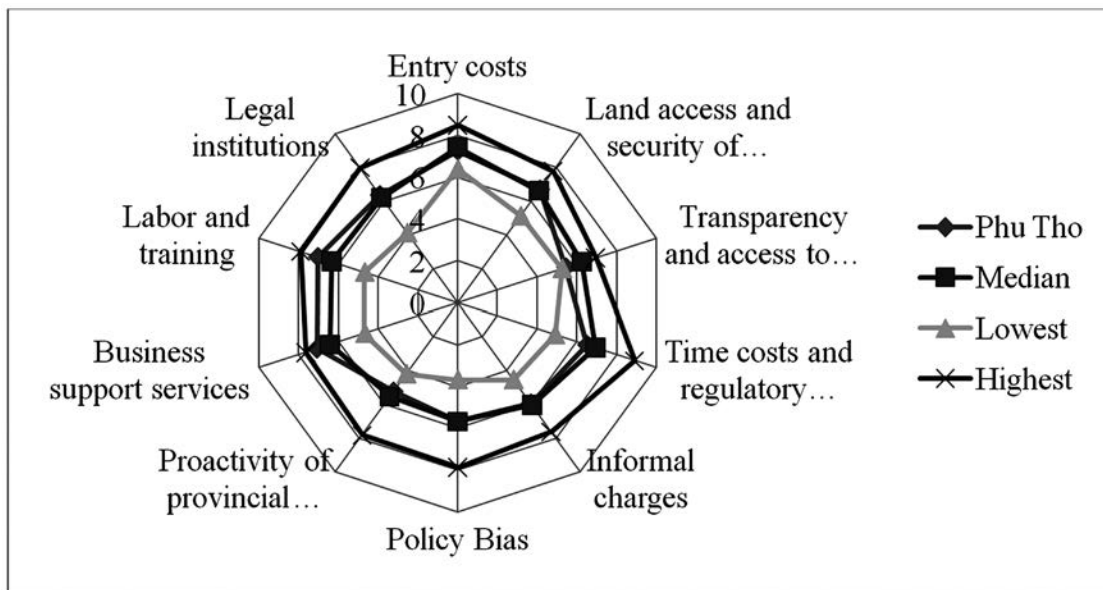


Chart 3. Compare scores of PCI components of Phu Tho province with provinces which have the highest, lowest and median scores in 2018

(Source: VCCI and USAID, 2011-2019) [15]

From 2010 to 2018, 4 components which have improved most are labor and training, land access and security of tenure, business support services, legal institutions. Transparency and access to information and informal charges fell 0,69 and 0,05 points respectively (chart 2).

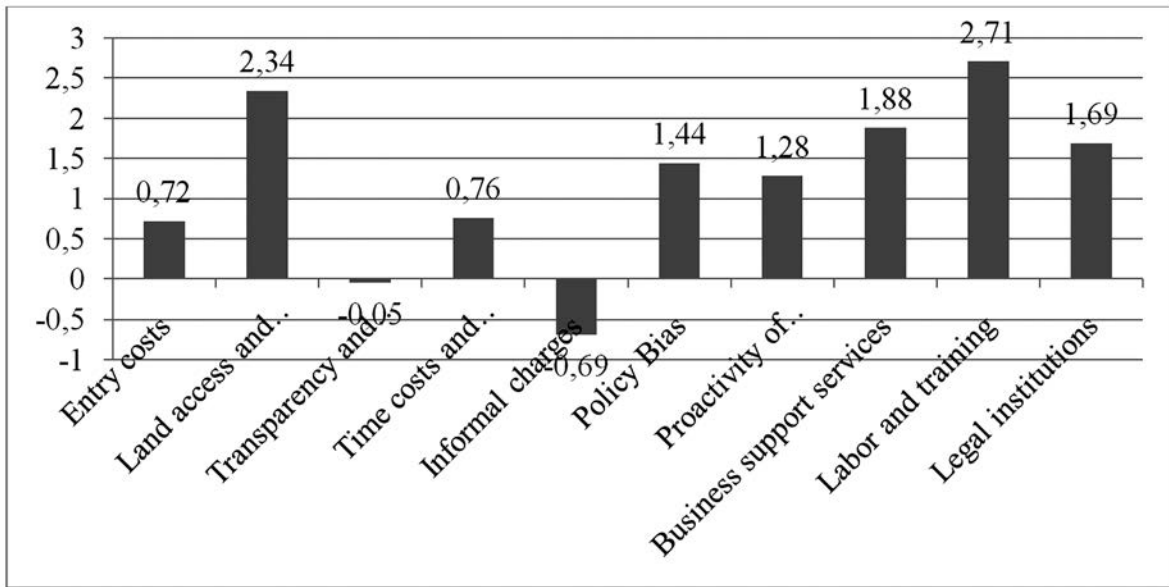


Chart 4. Improvement scores of PCI components of Phu Tho province from 2010 to 2018

(Source: VCCI and USAID, 2011-2019) [15]

For informal charges component: Although it has achieved a certain progress (in 2011 increased by 0,29 point compared to 2010; in 2013 increased by 0,65 points compared with 2012), however, the general trend of the period gradually lagged. The reason is that the province’s initial reforms were effective when the score increases. However, the reform process is not enough depth, fierce, with the impact of the economic downturn has made “old disease” back, and harassment for business increases again. In the next time, the province should have solutions more drastic reform of administrative procedures and transparent information to reduce the harassment, this minimizes informal charges.

3.2. Achievements and limitations of PCI of Phu Tho province

3.2.1. Achievements

In last years, Phu Tho has deployed and implemented synchronously many effective solutions to improve the investment and business environment: Operating Service Center for Public Administration of Phu Tho province; selecting, staffing competent, qualified and employees to work at the Center; publishing, updating specific instructions and details of administrative procedures; implementation of quality management system according to ISO; increased application of information technology in management, administration and enforcement of the public service; supporting positively, proactively legal and building the database;... Thus, the PCI was

significantly improved scores and ranks, from 52,47 points, ranked the 53rd position in 2014 to 63,95 points, ranked the 24th position in 2018 (increase 11,48 points and up the 29th position).

Considering from 2010 to 2018 and the trend of the last 3 years, 3 components tend to rise and the scores are rated relatively high in relation compared to the provincial median the highest province and lowest province in Vietnam, which is land access and security of tenure, labor and training, legal institutions. This positive trend has contributed to improving the PCI scores of the province, as an important basis for the enhancement of attracting investment to Phu Tho province.

3.2.2. Limitations and causes

Besides these achievements, the situation of the PCI also showed that scores and ranks are not really sustainable, not kept pace with other provinces in the region and Vietnam. Some components have not improved for over the years. In particular, in 2018, 3 components declined: entry costs, transparency and access to information, proactivity of provincial leadership. For 9 years (2010-2018), 2 components which fell are transparency and access to information and informal charges.

The reason is that the infrastructure is weak and not synchronized; limited clean land to investment, slow land planning and clearance; lack of high-quality human resources. It is difficult to attract large investment projects which can contribute significantly to the budget or project using high-tech and friendly environment. Besides, knowledge about the role of PCI improved to

attract investment of a number of agencies, units and individuals still incomplete. Some agencies and units have not yet implemented the plan relating to the field of management of their agencies. Some leaders not really determined to improve, enhance the quality of administration reform, while the demands of the business, the people of the province's regulatory quality are increasing. Operations of some association, business association not only have been many positive changes, they but also still has not fulfilled their role as a connection between enterprises and government agencies.

3.3. Objectives and solutions to improve PCI of Phu Tho

3.3.1. Objectives of PCI of Phu Tho province

Continue to maintain the position in the leading group in the Northern Midlands and Mountains region in improving the investment and business environment, the sustainable improvement of PCI, striving to increase rank and score of PCI annually.

Enhancing the competitiveness of enterprises in the province, which focus on improving the management capacity, the role and social responsibility of enterprises.

Actively improving the lower components; Striving 10/10 PCI components increasing annually.

Creating a breakthrough in improving infrastructure of Phu Tho province (including zone / industrial complexes, roads, electricity, telephone and the internet).

3.3.2. Solutions to improving PCI of Phu Tho province

3.3.2.1. Continue to raise awareness and responsibility of leadership committees, governments and cadres and civil servants in the construction of favorable investment and business environment and enhance the PCI

Building and awareness of responsibility and quality of cadres and civil servants, especially leading cadres at the Party committee, government, leadership at agencies and units; ensuring standards of proficiency, ability, quality, the rules of law in the field in charge, especially the rules, processes and procedures for handling work to apply creatively, flexibly operation in real conditions of the local units.

Focus on training and fostering economic knowledge for key staff at all levels; regular training, professional training for cadres and civil servants working at one door departments, officials monitoring the field of investment, licensing, staff in contact with businesses, organizations and citizens.

3.3.2.2. Accelerate the implementation of a breakthrough in administrative reform

Continue to strictly and effectively implement resolutions of the 6th Conference of the XII Central Executive Committee on innovation, reorganization of state management apparatus; the public service unit associated with implementing downsizing. Constructing a modern public professional administration service. Promoting to construct e-government, intelligent urban, improve quality steering system operation through electronic management and administration. Continuing to promote

the activities of Service Center for Public Administration to the request of businesses and people.

Reviewing and simplifying the administrative procedures for each particular field, publicity and transparency of information for organizations and businesses; creating favorable conditions for the business community who access to information and understand the strategies, orientations and development investment plan of the province better. Using effectively professional website about the provisions of law.

Improving the quality and efficiency of the Communication Electronic Portal of province and websites of state agencies in the province, ensuring electronic information in portal/pages is always updated, providing information timely and exactly for the management and administration of the Party and the State; serve the needs of searching information of people and businesses. Strengthening in providing online public services for citizens, businesses on the portal's electronic units, especially online public services at level 3 and level 4 to facilitate the people and businesses conveniently, easily accessible sources of information as well as the implementation of public services right from the grassroots level.

3.3.2.3. Improving institutions, mechanisms and policies to attract investment to the province

Organizing the implementation of legal documents issued by the central government according to the specific conditions of the province. Regularly reviewing, amending and supplementing the inappropriate legal

documents, cancelling the document which is no longer valid, focussing on documents, institutions to attract investment, build industrial parks, supporting the economic development component, the content allocated to the sector, local... create a system of synchronized legal documents which serves management, economic management better.

Facilitating in accessing and applying the preferential investment policies to ensure equality between businesses. Encourage provincial Young Businessmen Association, professional associations, organizations, business to research and learn the mechanisms and policies on the economy of the province and the state; at the same time, further promoting its role as a connection between state agencies with the business community through contributions to develop mechanisms and policies for the development of enterprises according to law, suggestions of problems and difficulties of enterprises with state agencies.

3.3.2.4. Focusing in training, improving the quality of human resources to meet the needs of employers of businesses

Surveying and assessing of the labor and employment resources of the province to plan appropriated training plan. Besides, to strengthen and develop the network of vocational training in the province; strengthen resource mobilization, investment and development of human resources, especially key vocational training establishments and occupations with high labor demand.

Developing and implementing mechanisms and policies to encourage the socialization of vocational training, education and

support for vocational training centers in order to improve the quality of training to meet the increasing needs of the enterprise and society.

3.3.2.5. Mobilizing resources to invest the system of key economic infrastructure

Using effectively investment funds from the provincial budget and enlisting the support of the Central assistance for investing infrastructure which the province planned synchronizably. Promoting integration of investment resources; focusing on the critical key projects, creating favorable conditions for businesses to invest.

Making incentive investment policies well which issued by the government to attract foreign qualified and experienced investors to invest infrastructure of industrial zones in the province.

3.3.2.6. Strengthening and enhancing the effectiveness of state management in the field of investment and business

Strengthening information and communication for businesses about provincial policy and mechanisms; strict implementation of the commitment to the enterprise, especially support policy, the work of site clearance, infrastructure investment. Strengthening the coordination between all levels and sectors in solving the investment procedures, removing difficulties and obstacles and solving petitions, complaints and disputes of organizations and businesses.

Enhancing building project appraisal capacity and evaluation of the capacity of investors; specified list of projects, the kind of technology investment in industrial

zones; focus drastically implementing regulations to improve investment efficiently. Constructing regulations on coordination among inspection bodies and inspection in performing the functions of checking and inspection organizations, businesses, ensuring no overlap, reducing the number of inspections by law.

4. Conclusions

Phu Tho province has a special position, being a regional center, a gateway and a bridge connecting the Northwestern region with Hanoi capital and the Northern delta provinces. Phu Tho has many advantages and great potentials, so it is important to catch trends of development, effective exploitation and use of the province's inherent advantages and potentials in relation to other provinces in the Northern Midlands and Mountains region. These are issues of profound theoretical and practical significance. The study analyzed and clarified the results of PCI and 10 PCI components of Phu Tho province in the context of provinces in the Northern Midland and Mountainous region and Vietnam in the period of 9 years (2010 – 2018). The paper proposes 6 solutions to improve the PCI of the province in the coming time, so that Phu Tho can develop quickly, comprehensively and sustainably and become the leading province in the Northern Midlands and Mountains region. This research is the foundation for the authors to continue researching on PCI in the following directions: (i) Assess how the 1-level improvement of PCI will contribute to attracting investment, collecting local budgets, improve the lives of people;

(ii) Combine PCI research with growth and economic development indicators to assess competitiveness in all aspects and sustainable economic development of the local; (iii) The relationship between PCI and emerging issues of the country, region and key products in the allocation of resources and the national master plan to Phu Tho province and regional provinces.

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CẢI THIỆN CHỈ SỐ NĂNG LỰC CẠNH TRANH CẤP TỈNH CỦA TỈNH PHÚ THỌ

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TÓM TẮT

Chỉ số năng lực cạnh tranh cấp tỉnh (PCI) là tiêu chí quan trọng để đánh giá môi trường kinh doanh, chất lượng điều hành kinh tế và các nỗ lực cải cách hành chính của chính quyền địa phương cấp tỉnh. Trong giai đoạn 2010 - 2018, PCI của tỉnh Phú Thọ được cải thiện đáng kể trên bảng xếp hạng, từ vị trí thứ 53 năm 2010 lên vị trí thứ 24 năm 2018, đứng trong топ Khá của cả nước và đứng thứ 3 của khu vực Trung du và miền núi Bắc Bộ. Đặc biệt, các chỉ số tiếp cận đất đai, đào tạo lao động và thiết chế pháp lý được đánh giá cao. Tuy nhiên, PCI của tỉnh Phú Thọ vẫn chưa tương xứng với tiềm năng, thế mạnh của tỉnh, một số chỉ số thành phần còn thấp và có xu hướng giảm điểm. Để cải thiện chỉ số PCI của tỉnh Phú Thọ trong thời gian tới, bài viết đề xuất các giải pháp về đội ngũ cán bộ, cải cách hành chính, cơ chế chính sách, cơ sở hạ tầng, quản lý nhà nước về đầu tư.

Từ khóa: *Năng lực cạnh tranh cấp tỉnh, Phú Thọ, Trung du và miền núi Bắc Bộ.*