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Financial Security in the Context of Developing the Digital Economy in Vietnam

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Abstract

Financial security refers to a stable, secure, strong, crisis-free financial state capable of effectively preventing and resisting negative impacts at home and abroad. As the digital economy market grows, it brings many opportunities to the economy. It helps us maximize and diversify capital sources and expand export markets through digital platform links. Create motivation for enterprises to improve production and business efficiency, enhance competitiveness, and motivate the Government to improve

the digital economy market's legal system, mechanisms, and institutions. In addition, the digital economy poses challenges in managing and administering policies and ensuring budget balance. Ensure security for public debt or security for the stock market. Vietnam needs to develop its digital economy but must have management from agencies to avoid the development of the digital economy leading to risks of financial insecurity.

Keywords: Finance, Digital Economy, Security of Finance, Vietnam

1. Introduction

The digital economy has grown to accompany the explosion of science and technology with cloud computing technology. This economy was predicted to thrive from the moment it first started to rekindle in the market. Currently, the digital economy has developed beyond the judgment of experts in the economy. In 2021, Vietnam's digital economy is worth about 21 billion USD, 7 times higher than in 2015, and is predicted to reach 220 billion USD of gross merchandise value (GMV) by 2030, ranking second in the region only after Indonesia^[15]. According to the ministry's estimates, the contribution of the digital economy to GDP has increased from 11.91% in 2021 to 14.26% in 2023 and the first 6 months of 2023 reached nearly 15%^[14]. The XIII Congress also determined that by 2025, Vietnam's digital economy needs to reach 20% of GDP and by 2030, the digital economy accounts for about 30% of GDP. Thus, if Vietnam wants to achieve this goal, the digital economy must grow from three to four times compared to GDP growth, which is about 20 to 25% per year. Although the digital economy brings many benefits in developing and turning our country into a developed country, it also has many potential risks of financial and monetary insecurity in developing the digital economy. How much monetary and financial security is expressed through three factors: Financial stability; financial security; and financial strength. Specifically, financial stability is the maintenance of normal operations, without sudden and erratic events of the financial system. Financial security is a state of not being endangered by internal and external influences, not self-harming, and preventing and combating negative external influences. Financial strength is finance with strong potential, meeting needs when needed. The objective of the article is to learn about the theoretical basis of financial security, the digital economy, and the impact of the development of the digital economy on financial security.

2. Theoretical basis and research overview

2.1 Theoretical basis

Finance

Finance gained more attention and consideration starting in the mid-20th century. Research directions and theses helped it prove to be a separate academic discipline, separate from the field of economics^[1]. In Vietnam, finance is conceived according to 4 schools: Scholars' conception in a centrally planned economy; Scholars' conceptions in the transition economy; Scholars' conceptions in a market economy; and Conception in educational institutions. In particular, finance, from the perspective of

scholars of centrally planned economies, is considered a category of distribution in the financial economy. Finance, then, is the monetary relations that arise in the process of distributing and redistributing social assets. It is the system of economic relations, relations on the distribution of non-social assets and national income based on the formation and use of monetary funds. Scholars in the transition economy, on the part of the transition economy, see finance as the government's revenue and expenditure activity to distribute resources and income. Through financial activities to regulate social supply and demand to achieve the goal of resource distribution in the direction of optimal, equitable, stable, and development. The concept of scholars in the market economy is that finance is understood as a way of mobilizing, allocating, and using scarce financial resources of each actor in the economy to achieve goals in a way that they consider optimal. Finally, the concept of finance in Vietnamese universities is a distribution relationship in the form of value associated with the creation and use of monetary funds to meet the requirements of social actors. Thus, finance is a term that many researchers are interested in and offers different points of view. It can be understood as an economic category, reflecting the relationships of distributing wealth sources through the form of value. On the other hand, finance can also be understood as money, and capital and is separated into personal finance, corporate finance, and public finance.

Financial security

Financial security refers to a stable, secure, strong, crisis-free financial state capable of effectively preventing and resisting negative impacts at home and abroad. How much monetary and financial security is expressed through three factors: Financial stability; financial security; and financial strength. Specifically, financial stability is the maintenance of normal operations, without sudden and erratic events of the financial system. Financial security is a state of not being endangered by internal and external influences, not self-harming, and preventing and combating negative external influences. Financial strength is finance with strong potential, meeting needs when needed.

The essence of financial and monetary security is measures to ensure the stability, safety, and strength of the financial system and attach importance to the systematic nature of financial security. That means, the security of each department must be linked to the security of the entire financial system, they must be interoperable and interdependent.

On the method of classification of monetary and financial security. Currently, there are many methods of classifying financial and monetary security: Classification by management level; classification by sector; classification by differentiated financial function; classification by geographical scope, or classification by degree of assurance. On the content of monetary and financial security. Financial and monetary security is divided into five contents. First, macro-monetary and financial security. In this section, financial and monetary security must ensure a balanced state budget, healthy public debt, stable currency, and a balanced balance of international payments. Second, the financial security of the corporate sector. In this section, monetary and financial security aims at financial balance and ensuring solvency. Third, monetary and financial security for the banking system. This content refers to the objective of

capital adequacy, asset safety, liquidity safety of income, and profit or sensitivity to market risks. Finally, financial security for the stock market. Its content is aimed at market structure, investor base, and quality of financial intermediary goods.

Digital economy

Lam (2023) introduced the concept of digital economy. In this concept, he said: "Digital economy is economic activities that use digital information, digital knowledge, digital technology, and digital data as the main factors of production; use the Internet and information technology networks as an operating space; using digital technology and digital platforms to increase labor productivity and to optimize the economy". To summarize, the author considers the digital economy to be "an economy related to digital technology"^[15].

Bukht & Heeks (2017) defined the digital economy. Accordingly, the digital economy (digital economy) is "a combination of computing and digital economy and is an umbrella term describing how traditional economic activities are being transformed thanks to Internet technologies and the World Wide Web"^[2]. Brekke *et al.* (2021) reasoned for the explosive development of the digital economy. These authors argue that "the digital economy is supported by the spread of information and communication technology (ICT) across all business sectors to enhance productivity" and the prevalence when "consumer products are integrated with digital services and devices via the Internet of Things (IoT)"^[3]. Many researchers have also predicted the development of the digital economy, Carlsson (2004) cited as evidence from the WEF. The organization stated that "70% of the global economy will be made up of digital technology in the next 10 years (from 2020 onwards)"^[4]. This assumption has come to fruition and the figures are even higher under the impetus of the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, workers in many countries now want to work online without going to work. This is also a factor that makes the digital economy more developed than anticipated. Peitz *et al.* (2012) also argue that "The digital transformation of the economy changes conventional notions about how businesses are structured, how consumers obtain goods and services, and how countries need to adapt to new regulatory challenges"^[5]. "The emergence of the digital economy has prompted new debates on privacy, competition, and taxation, along with calls for national and transnational regulations on the digital economy"^[5].

Thus, the digital economy is also known as the digital economy. This economy has grown to accompany the explosion of science and technology with cloud computing technology. This economy was predicted to thrive from the moment it first started to rekindle in the market. Currently, the digital economy has developed beyond the judgment of experts in the economy.

2.2 Overview

Research by the team of authors Zedgenizova *et al.* (2021) on assessing the opportunities of information technology in increasing the level of financial security of the digital economy. The goal of the authors is to give the characteristics of modern information technology for the financial sector. More specifically, there are financial security risks. The research was conducted through professional exchanges with experts in the field of financial

security and have been working for more than 10 years. The collection of this information was obtained through a questionnaire. The survey results from the expert group helped the authors identify financial security factors impacting the digital economy. These factors are specifically described by the authors and outline their roles in ensuring financial security. The authors' research results have shown that there are numerous threats to the circulation of cryptocurrencies in the financial systems of countries around the world. The circulation of electronic currencies endangers the country's real currency. It causes interest rate policy to suffer, which changes the total amount of money and reduces capital. This challenge has brought many opportunities for information technology, also known as digital technology, to the operations of the national financial system. If implemented well, it will help this system enhance the safety and efficiency of financial transactions^[6]. Research by the team of authors Onyshchenko *et al.* (2020) on the impact of digital technology innovation on the financial security of the state. The article presents the contents of the digital economy and considers it a challenge to the financial security of the state. The research objective of the authors is to evaluate the advantages and opportunities for the State economic system from the application of information technology and telecommunications. The study was conducted in Ukraine and several other countries worldwide. The authors argue that demonstrating that technology helps develop and maintain the stability of the national socio-economy is important. The article pointed out the financial security of the home taking into account the "concept of information society". The risks of the evolving digital economy are likely to give rise to "threats to state financial security." The author outlined "multiple criteria on threats to state financial security during digital transformation". The results of the authors' study show that the Ukrainian region has a low ability to protect itself against digital threats. This is because the country is "not ready for the adoption of innovations and technologies"^[7].

Research by Tursunov (2022) suggests ways to ensure financial security for the company during the downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The paper identified the drivers of growth and the pace of recovery by type of economic activity, based on pre-crisis data on the COVID-19 pandemic and a multifactorial model of industrial production dynamics in the Republic of Uzbekistan during the "corona crisis". State support for industrial production. This article examines the issue of financial security management of textile and garment enterprises. Based on secondary statistics, the growth of textile production in the regions of the Republic of Uzbekistan from 2008-2020 was analyzed, and influencing factors were identified. The author presented the main challenges and conditions to ensure the financial safety of enterprises and also made scientific and practical recommendations to eliminate factors affecting the financial safety of the textile industry^[8].

Research by Iskajyan *et al.* (2022) on "The importance of information environment factors in assessing a country's economic security in the digital economy". The goal of this paper is to "analyze the impact of information environment factors on the assessment of a country's economic security in the digital economy." In this study, authors Iskajyan *et al.* (2022) addressed the issue of the "practical management of

economic security" of a country. The method of assessing the level of economic security proposed in this article is based on a comprehensive analysis and assessment of the main factors affecting economic security. In this article, the author's proposals are being developed to use digital methods to assess the impact of various factors on the economic security of the country and collect more data. "This will allow various simulation data to be obtained on an automated basis"^[9]. Based on the data obtained, artificial intelligence develops solutions that effectively improve economic security. Research by authors Iskajyan *et al.* (2022) has shown that "there is a strong correlation between selected economic security factors and information environment factors". Therefore, strengthening the impact of factors that "increase the level of security of the information environment and mitigate threats to the country's information environment will have a positive impact on the country's development"^[9].

Research by the team of authors Reshetnikova *et al.* (2021) on "Directions of digital financial technologies development: Challenges and threats to global financial security". The purpose of this article is to examine the problem of methodological development in the field of human-technical interaction. The threats and challenges of the digital economy to society (economy and people arise in the process of digital interaction in the financial sector. Systematic, functional, and institutional access tools, theoretical regulations, data analysis, conclusions, and recommendations enable the analysis and implementation of the complex field of financial development in terms of human interaction with digital technologies. It is used in the process of realizing problems. Digital technologies in the financial sector for the purpose of analysis make research papers. The paper sheds light on the objective of studying the problem of methodological development of threats and challenges to society, the economy, and people that arise during human-digital interaction in the financial sector. The authors concluded, "The function of digital technology creates new foundations for human financial performance: Supporting the adoption of credit and investment decisions, the availability of financial products and services, and the personification of them through the processing and analysis of big data, new investment asset classes resulting from blockchain technology and more." The increasing volume of financial activities to "virtual space", changing the form of interaction, the emergence of Fintech companies, digitizing the financial sector has many consequences. Thus, "financial institutions no longer interact with a person but with that person's 'digital profile', with a psycho-digital portrait"^[10].

In their study, authors Panova & Panov (2022) discuss the revolutionary transformation of financial products. The authors argue that their classifications and role in the economy remain controversial. In the face of economic changes caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, "the technological transformation of companies and the introduction of stricter international regulations, financial intermediaries are trying to solve three problems: Orientation: Ensuring high profitability for the company while maintaining liquidity and minimizing risks". The purpose and meaning of this study is to identify "the concept and financial instruments of the digital economy, solve problems and identify development prospects. Different approaches to interpreting and managing digital financial assets." Discussion topics related to theoretical

understanding and practical application of cryptocurrencies were also presented by the authors. The author proposes "how to interpret and classify virtual currencies, central bank digital currencies". "While approaches to classifying crypto assets vary, in general, crypto assets can be defined primarily as private assets that exist as digital records that can be used to invest or provide access to products and services" [11]. Due to the diversity of modern financial market products, "the importance of research is determined by the need to develop uniform approaches, principles, and regulations for technical financial products in national and global financial markets" [11].

Research by the team of authors Veselovsky *et al.* (2018) on "Financial and economic mechanisms of promoting innovative activity in the context of the digital economy formation". In this study, the author "analyzes a range of financial, tax, information, communication, infrastructure, technical, and organizational mechanisms that drive innovation in the context of the transition to the digital economy. End-to-end technologies include "big data," "new manufacturing technologies," "quantum technologies," and "virtual and augmented reality technologies." Their applicability in other sectors of the national economy was selected and analyzed. The role of front-end technology in the development of the Russian economy and the promotion of corporate innovation was considered." The author cites a comparative analysis of key indicators of computerization of Russian society and some major countries that were carried out between 2005 and 2015. "It is recognized that the use of the Internet in Russia, especially in rural areas, is insufficient and hinders the social progress of Russian society. The important role of digital (information) technology in solving social problems such as education, social services, and healthcare has become clear." The author concluded that "The need to develop electronic services in the education and health sectors has been demonstrated. The cluster development opportunities were considered using the example of the Kaluga region in the development of digital technologies. The influence of development institutions on stimulating innovation activity in Russia has been analyzed" [12].

Research by Khochueva & Shuginov (2020) on ensuring information security and examining whether it is a key factor in the development of the digital economy. In this study, the author addresses the issue of ensuring information security in the context of operating the digital economy in the Russian Federation. The purpose of the study is "an analysis of the development of the digitization of the economy in the Russian Federation, a comprehensive assessment of the risks of the digitization of the economy and the study of issues of ensuring information security in the Russian Federation" [13]. The authors argue that, in the context of the digitization of economic processes. "The digitization of the economy is a necessary prerequisite for the development of a modern information state. The development of information technology and innovation contributes to shaping the digital format of the economy." The author notes that "the number of cybercrimes in the economic sphere is increasing every year in the Russian Federation and in the world." "Information security is the strategic direction of the national policy of the Russian Federation. The development of legal acts, strategies, and project documentation can reduce the level of risk associated with the digitization of the economy. In addition,

the use of technological measures to protect information is also an important tool. The use of technological innovation tools can help improve the level of information protection and, in turn, reduce the level of cybercrime. The materials obtained from this study have important theoretical and practical implications for professionals in the field of ensuring economic and information security" [13].

As such, there are many outstanding studies on the content of financial security and the development of the digital economy. These studies have mainly been conducted in the last few years as the world has witnessed an explosion of technology, the combination of services, and IoT. We studied these articles and presented some outstanding research for the research overview.

3. Development status of the digital economy in Vietnam

The Party Congress document has repeatedly mentioned issues and solutions to promote activities for the digital economy in Vietnam. Orienting and creating a legal corridor for the digital economy to develop is one of the key goals of the Party and Government of Vietnam. To achieve this goal, the State has issued many policies, to support and create favorable conditions for digital economy service activities of enterprises and markets to develop. Specifically, in 2019, the Politburo issued Resolution No. 52-NQ/TW, dated September 27, 2019, of the Politburo on "Some guidelines and policies to actively participate in the Fourth Industrial Revolution" [17]. The document of the XIII Congress in 2021 once again mentioned and emphasized that the new growth model needs to make good use of the opportunities of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, based on scientific and technological progress and innovation. Specifically: "Continue to promote the renewal of the economic growth model, strongly shift the economy to a growth model based on productivity increase, scientific and technological progress, innovation, high-quality human resources, economical and efficient use of resources to improve quality, efficiency, and competitiveness of the economy. Improve the investment and business environment, promote creative start-ups, develop industries, fields, and enterprises based on strong application of achievements of science and technology, especially the Fourth Industrial Revolution; develop products with competitive advantages, high-tech products, high-added value, environmentally friendly, effectively participate in production networks and global value chains" [16]. Under the influence of the Party's orientation and policies from the Government for a long time, the digital economy in Vietnam has gradually developed. The initial approach is the speed of internet access and mobile network connections. In early 2020, Vietnam had about 68.17 million Internet service users and the ratio of Internet use in Vietnam to the total population of Vietnam is at 70% [15]. According to data compiled from domestic and foreign reports of the Department of Enterprise Management, Ministry of Information and Communications, it is estimated that Vietnam's digital economy in 2020 will reach about 163 billion USD, accounting for about 8.2% of GDP (of which the ICT/telecommunications digital economy component will reach 126 billion USD, accounting for 5.5% of GDP, the Internet/platform digital economy reached 14 billion USD, accounting for 1% of GDP and the digital economy/sector reached about 23 billion USD, accounting for 1.7% of GDP [15]. "According to the e-Conomy SEA report in 2020, in

terms of the Internet/platform digital economy component alone, with 14 billion USD, Vietnam ranks 3rd among ASEAN countries in the digital economy and is the country with the highest growth rate in this field with an increase of 16%, compared to Indonesia with 11%, and Thailand at 7%"^[15]. In 2021, before the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Vietnam was still an attractive innovation center in the region and the world with trade activities, Vietnam's digital economy is worth about 21 billion USD. The attraction and investment activities of FDI enterprises mainly focus on e-commerce and finance. After 4 years of implementing Resolution No. 52-NQ/TW. According to the ministry's estimates, the contribution of the digital economy to GDP has increased from 11.91% in 2021 to 14.26% in 2023 and the first 6 months of 2023 reached nearly 15%^[14]. The XIII Congress also determined that by 2025, Vietnam's digital economy needs to reach 20% of GDP and by 2030, the digital economy accounts for about 30% of GDP. Thus, if Vietnam wants to achieve this goal, the digital economy must grow from three to four times compared to GDP growth, which is about 20 to 25% per year. To do this, we must strongly promote national transformation, develop the socio-digital economy, create a premise for the breakthrough, improve labor productivity, improve quality, and improve the efficiency and competitiveness of businesses and the economy. This is a challenging task, requiring breakthrough solutions to be achieved.

4. Financial security in the context of digital economy development

From the development results of Vietnam's digital economy, the orientation of the Party and Government of Vietnam in the coming time is to "bring the digital economy to 52 billion USD by 2025 and consider it one of the important growth engines of Vietnam". Thus, the digital economy in the present and future is a central goal in socio-economic development. Although the digital economy brings many benefits in developing and turning our country into a developed country, it also has many potential risks of financial and monetary insecurity in developing the digital economy. We have stated that monetary and financial security and ensuring monetary financial security are specified through four contents: State budget security; public debt security; credit security and stock market security. As the digital economy market grows, it also brings many opportunities for monetary and financial security systems. It helps us maximize and diversify capital sources, and expand export markets through digital platform links. Creating pressure is also a motivation for enterprises to improve production and business efficiency and improve competitiveness when applying technology in production. Finally, as the digital economy develops, it will push the Government to perfect the legal system and institutional mechanisms for the digital economy market.

Although the development of the digital economy brings many opportunities for businesses and markets of Vietnam, it also brings many challenges. Challenges in managing and administering policies and ensuring balanced budgets. Ensure security for public debt or security for the stock market. As a fact that we can see, the circulation of electronic currencies is endangering the real currencies of countries and it also affects interest rate policy, changes the total amount of currency and causes capital loss. Vietnam currently does not allow the circulation of electronic

currency and the reason is that we do not have a management mechanism and it is difficult to ensure the security of the state budget and credit market. The second challenge is the level of protection of businesses and investors against digital threats. The digital economy has threats such as fraudulent activities through the cryptocurrency market, electronic payment services, providing false information in the financial system. These difficulties make it difficult for us to ensure financial security without strict management and knowledgeable human resources in the field of digital economy.

5. Discussion

Vietnam needs to develop its digital economy but must have management from agencies to avoid the development of the digital economy leading to risks of financial insecurity. Addressing the above challenges is a way for the digital economy market to develop healthily and stably. Some of the discussions we make are as follows: Building a digital management system. To develop Vietnam's digital economy, it is necessary to build digital institutions, digital infrastructure, and digital trust. The digital economy must be based on digital innovation, integrate digital economy into all industries and fields, implement digital governance and train digital skills, and digital human resources, and attract digital talents. Promote the application of information technology. Information security needs to take into account the orientation of businesses and investors when operating in the digital economy. The use of technological measures to protect information is also an important tool. The use of technological innovation tools can help improve the level of information protection and, in turn, reduce the level of cybercrime.

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