**NEW CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE DISSERTATION**

Dissertation title: ***State management of coastal economic zones in the North Central Coast of Vietnam***

Major: **Investment Economics** Code: **9310104**

Doctoral candidate: **Le Thanh Dong** Doctoral candidate code: **NCS38.023DT**

Supervisor: **Prof. Dr. Sc. Nguyen Mai**

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**New academic and theoretical contributions**

(i) The dissertation supplements and refines the theoretical framework on state management (SM) of coastal economic zones (CEZs) from the perspective of the investment economics discipline, in line with the orientation of a “developmental and service-oriented” government. The contents of state management of CEZs are analyzed based on Paul Romer’s New Growth Theory (1990), in which the role of state management agencies with respect to CEZs is emphasized in ensuring sustainable marine economic growth at the local, regional, and national levels.

(ii) The dissertation has employed quantitative methods through the assessment of factors affecting state management by provincial-level governments with respect to coastal economic zones (CEZs). A linear model assessing the relationship between provincial state management of CEZs and six independent factors, including: the geographical location of CEZs; the socio-economic conditions of the localities hosting CEZs; the mechanisms and policies of the central government toward CEZs; the mechanisms and policies of neighboring provincial governments toward CEZs; the organizational apparatus of provincial governments for CEZs; and the capacity of the state management workforce for CEZs, is tested using the Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) model, which allows conclusions to be drawn regarding the degree of influence of each independent variable on the dependent variable, thereby serving as a basis for evaluating causes and proposing solutions to refine state management of CEZs in the North Central Coast provinces.

**New findings and proposals derived from the research and survey results of the dissertation**

(i) Through secondary data research and sociological surveys, the dissertation examines the current state of state management of CEZs in the North Central Coast and finds that state management activities of provincial governments in this region have achieved many positive results in recent years. However, state management of CEZs in the North Central Coast provinces also reveals weaknesses, particularly the lack of regional linkage in the formulation and implementation of state management activities for CEZs. Quantitative research contributes to quantifying the level of influence of factors on state management of CEZs in descending order as follows: (1) mechanisms and policies of the central government; (2) the state management apparatus of provincial governments for CEZs; (3) local socio-economic conditions; (4) the capacity of state management officials for CEZs; (5) mechanisms and policies of neighboring provincial governments toward CEZs; and (6) the geographical location of CEZs, thereby reinforcing the qualitative assessments mentioned above.

(ii) The dissertation proposes groups of common solutions to promote regional linkages among localities in the North Central Coast in the formulation and implementation of planning and development plans for CEZs, aiming to form and develop industrial, service, and export value chains among localities within the North Central Coast economic region and with the entire country. At the same time, the dissertation also proposes specific solutions to overcome limitations and refine state management of CEZs in each locality.

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