

Preface by Dr. Andrea Koch-Kraft

More than a decade ago, the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research set up the research priority “Future Megacities”—Research for the sustainable development of the megacities of tomorrow. Since then, Future Megacities has been the longest running implementation oriented funding activity targeting energy- and climate-efficient structures in urban growth centers of emerging economies and developing countries. Nine research projects under Future Megacities have so far created more than 1000 research products. Of these nine projects, HCMC was the only cooperative project in Vietnam.

Future Megacities challenged the ingenuity of all participants. Not only did the trans-disciplinary working teams have to prove their scientific excellence in new findings and academic discourse. They also had to provide evidence that their research is integrated with the actual concerns of stakeholders and policy makers. This objective was regarded as essential to achieve an impact after the funding had come to an end, meaning lasting outcomes and new partnerships.

HCMC focused on the integration of urban and environmental planning. In that regard, HCMC contributed significantly to the overall program’s goals. Among others, the project significantly helped to promote the adaptation of urban areas to and the development of concepts dealing with foreseeable climate changes and weather extremes. HCMC also supported mitigation measures.

Since good or even best practice examples for energy- and climate-efficient urban structures are in high demand among many other future megacities, it is my sincere wish that this book will benefit cities and citizens far beyond HCMC.

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Preface by Dr. Bao Thanh

Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC), metropolis and economic centre of Viet Nam, is facing the challenges to ensure not only economic growth but also control effects on its ecology, infrastructure and society due to process of urbanization, ensuring a high quality of life for their residents. Furthermore, in the context of global climate change, the city is confronted to impacts such as urban flooding by tide, storms or heavy rains, the heat island effect and extreme weather. These fast-growing climate change hazards are becoming key factors for HCMC in achieving sustainable development.

At the national level, the National Strategy on climate change and the National Action Plan on Climate Change were issued. At the city level, in 2012, HCMC issued the action plans to respond to climate change, mobilizing domestic resources and supports from international organizations. The local government has promoted international supports for finance and technology, especially international technical cooperation including knowledge and experience exchange through workshops, seminars and working networks, which has enhanced the capacity of relevant stakeholders in implementing response activities. In this framework, the cooperation with the Megacity Research Project, Ho Chi Min City took place.

This publication “Sustainable Ho Chi Minh City: Climate Policies for Emerging Mega Cities” will provide a holistic approach of environmental and urban planning; an overview on methods of vulnerability assessment and related recommendations for urban planning; recommendations for climate change adaption and mitigation on urban, district and building scale; and socio-economic dimension of urban development.

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Preface by Dr. Arch. Do Tu Lan

The Megacity Research Project in Ho Chi Minh City: Contribution and Achievements

Following the National Target Program to Respond to Climate Change in 2008, the issue of climate change is trickling down from Vietnam’s national to the local level in 2010. Reducing vulnerability to climate change has become an urgent issue on the agenda of the Ministry of Construction (MoC) and the city’s authorities in Vietnam. Urban planning should have a key role for the city’s adaptation to climate change threats, and MoC has started several activities to integrate concerns of climate change adaptation and mitigation in the current urban development projects and strategies in Vietnam. The Megacity Project has contributed to this task not only with capacity building activities and sharing of knowledge but especially with the development of guidelines as checklist for plan approval procedures and a handbook explaining different strategies to integrate urban climate and urban flooding concerns in urban design and planning, the Handbook on Green Housing for the promotion of climate-adapted architecture and energy-efficient buildings and a broader community-based approach for regeneration and adaptation of the existing urban environment (Urban Regeneration). The project could contribute significantly to best practice dissemination and awareness raising and has supported the improvement of the urban regulatory framework in the field of urban planning and construction.

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