

**TRINH DUY LUAN*****Social factors of sustainable urban development in Vietnam***

The article has dealt with main social factors that contribute to guaranteeing the sustainable urban development of Vietnam's cities and towns. They are as follows: 1) A harmonious relation between economic growth and social justice in which the focus is placed on the activities aimed at improving the poor and low-income groups' living conditions, a necessary investment policy for human development. Special attention should be paid to social vulnerable groups in cities and towns; 2) Mobilization of the widespread and effective participation of communities and citizens in urban building and managing processes; 3) Institutional enhance of civil society at local levels; and 4) Sustainable urban development is inseparable from sustainable rural development on a national-wide scale.

Apart from analyzing and explaining the real situation, the article has also suggested some solutions that are aimed at increasing the role of the above-mentioned social factors in order to support the sustainable urban development processes in Vietnam in the coming years.

**MICHAEL LEAF*****Vietnam's Urban Edge: The Administration of Urban Development in Hanoi***

An examination of the ongoing urbanization in Hanoi reveals a fundamental contradiction in urban planning and management. The formal planning approach can only succeed through the strict application of construction and development controls. But in practice, the development of the city is progressing apace with virtually no regard for these official rules.

A tentative explanation for this seeming contradiction is found in the institutions, which underlie the development and management of the city. An analysis of the city's administrative system indicates an organizational makeup which is at once highly structured and yet extraordinarily ambiguous. It is thus a system which can be utilized for social control and political mobilization when necessary but which also accommodates the perpetuation of clientelistic practices in the flexible application of formal rules. These practices, when taken in aggregate, undermine all but the most comprehensive attempts at urban construction; hence, the only possibility of planned development in the city lies with the foreign-funded megaproject.

In their application, the formal rules of planning have therefore become oriented toward Vietnam's engagement with the global economy, while the exigencies of local governance foster the burgeoning informal development of the city. This paper examines the interaction of these two broad tendencies through an analysis of urban development in a newly designated urban district on the periphery of the city.

HOANG HUU PHE

***Towards a new theory of urban residential location and its policy implications***

Existing explanations of the complicated interaction between urban residence and housing fund in cities and towns have shown many contradictions and a significant far cry from reality. The article has proposed a new theoretical model of urban residential location that is based on social choices, instead of the choices between housing costs and travel expenditure. The implications of this theory with regard to urban policies and its different applying possibilities are analyzed and evaluated.

NGUYEN HUU MINH

***Improvement of using population indicators in development planning in Hanoi-an urgent need***

To ensure sustainable development in urban area, it is necessary to make full use of population dynamics indicators in the socio-economic planning of the city. In recent years population indicators have been increasingly used in planning activities in Hanoi. However, there are still several limitations: many population indicators are used mostly to evaluate the degree of development rather than to use as basis for elaborating and balancing the plans; the use of population variables in planning remains limited with simple and basic indicators. Key reasons for the low use of population indicators in planning documents include a lack of an unified information system which provides information with high reliability and timely; information is not shared on a regular basis; there is not clear coordination among institutions about collection, dissemination, and use of information; poor knowledge and skills of planning staff in incorporating these variables in specific planning. Based on research results the author provides recommendations for more effective use of population indicators in socio-economic planning in Hanoi.

TRAN HUU QUANG

***A sketch of a sociological approach to migration processes to new urban areas***

Processes of migration to new urban areas are an object of urban sociological analysis. They are examined and analyzed in relation to space's significance in social urban life. Cultural and structural approaches are used by the author to see and examine the problems raised in population migration to new urban areas. The analysis is carried out in relation to the urbanization process in present Vietnam.

TRAN TRONG DUC

***Migrants in Ho Chi Minh City: their main characteristics and tendencies***

During the last decades the urbanization process in Ho Chi Minh City had been accompanied by population migration to the city. The analysis of the migrants' characteristics and tendencies is based on economic problems and living standards. The author's analysis has shown a close link between the distribution of settlement areas and the distribution of material and social factors.

**SOCIOLOGICAL FORUM**

***Urban sociological studies in Hanoi***

During the last years sociological studies on Hanoi had drawn the attention and interests of researchers at home and abroad. The studies focus on analyzing the social impacts of the change in the region. Urbanization processes and the impacts of market economy are the main factors that determine the living conditions and activity types of Hanoi urban residents.

The sociological forum has given readers some results of the above studies through analyzing the transformation of building environment on Hanoi outskirts, for instance in Giap Bat ward; real life situations and development prospects of urban low-income communities (a case study of Quynh Mai ward); and the transformation of a collective-owned dwelling place under the impacts of market economy (a case study of Nguyen Cong Tru neighborhood).