

# Conservation of Landscapes in Hatay Province - the New Part of Hanoi Capital

## Conservation of Natural Landscapes in the Expanding Hanoi Capital



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## 1 Urban Sector Review

### 1.1 Basic General Data

#### Geography and Administration

**Hanoi**, estimated population 3,398,889 (2007), is the capital of Vietnam. From 1010 until 1802, it was the political centre of an independent Vietnam with a few brief interruptions. It was eclipsed by Hue during the Nguyen Dynasty as the capital of Vietnam, but served as the capital of French Indochina from 1887 to 1954. From 1954 to 1976, it was the capital of North Vietnam.

The city is located on the right bank of the Red River. Hanoi is located at 21o22'N 105o51'E, 1760 km (1094 mi) north of Ho Chi Minh City.

On May 29 2008, it was decided that HaTay province, VinhPhuc's MeLinh district and 3 communes of LuongSon district, HoaBinh is merged into the metropolitan area of Hanoi from August 1 2008. Hanoi's total area will be increased three times to 334,470 hectares divided into 29 subdivisions. The new

population is 6,232,940. October 2010 will officially mark 1000 years of the establishment of the city.

Ha Tay Province was located in the Red River Delta surrounded by Hanoi municipality and Hungyen, Hanam, Hoabinh, and Phutho provinces. The tropical monsoon climate is divided into three microclimates according to landscape: the plain zone, with a hot and humid climate affected by marine winds; the hilly zone, with a continental climate affected by western winds; and the Ba Vi mountainous zone, with a cool climate and an average temperature of 18°C. The area is 2192, 1km<sup>2</sup>.

Ha Toy Province is comprised of two cities (Hading and Son Toy), and twelve districts.

### **Demography and Health**

The population of Hate is 2.500.000 (2004)

The density is 1.100 /Km<sup>2</sup>

The Kin account for 99% of the province's population; the remaining population is from the Muong, Dao, Tay ethnic groups.

The population in rural area is 91%; the other in urban area is 9%.

### **Economy**

GNP 2003: 7.414 billion VND

Industry & construction: 35,94%

Agriculture: 34,54%

Trading & services: 29,52%

## **1.2 Urban Facts and Figures**

Ha Tay Province is a very old land, having long history, which leads to the appearance of 2388 cultural, historical, and religious relics of which 12 relics are famous and being classified by Ministry of Culture and Information as especially important. These are: Perfume Pagoda with the most wonderful cave in Vietnam; Thay Pagoda being closely linked to a famous monk Tu Dao Hanh; Boi Khe Pagoda, Tram Gian (100 room) Pagoda being stick to the hero Nguyen Binh An; Tayphuong Pagoda - cultural essence of Tay Son regime time; Mia Pagoda, which has the most Buddhist statues in Vietnam (287); Dau Pagoda is unique in the



sense that it has two real (corpse) statues of two monks; several renowned communal houses such as Taydang, Chuquyen, Daiphu, Hoaxa.

All above mentioned relics is an important part in the country cultural heritage which on the one hand links closely to different folk, belief legends and other hand are typical for art and sculpture standard (development level) of Vietnam Nationals in general and of old people living in the province in particular.



Most of these relics have been built on beautiful locations, which are very worthy and suitable for visitors to combine different activities. Now, aware of the heritage value is improving, so that most of them are in quite good condition.

However, there are another resource have to be preserve, they are natural landscape, village landscape and cultivated landscape.

Natural landscape in Hatay includes forests, mountains, hills, fields, lakes, streams. There are a national park and 21 tourist areas in Hatay. Except Bavi national park is in good condition, the others always are in risk of human exploit.

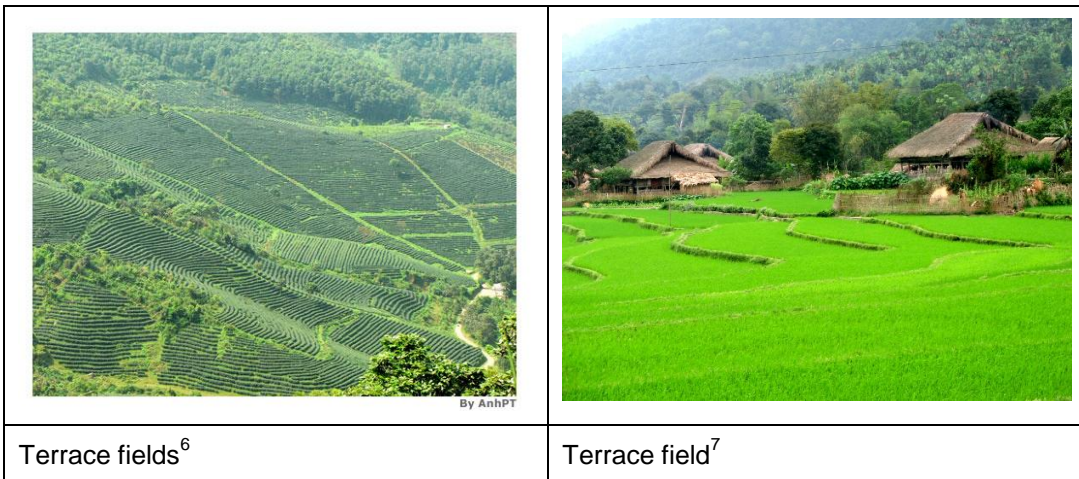
	
<p>Bavi Moutain</p>	<p>Dongmo Lake<sup>1</sup></p>

Village landscape include brick house with wooden frames, village lanes, village gates, banian trees, river wharfs, communal houses, pagodas, etc. All of them formed the shape of Hatay residential areas.

	
<p>Village gate<sup>2</sup></p>	<p>Lane<sup>3</sup></p>



Agriculture landscapes include rice fields, terrace fields, dykes, alluvial ground... There are about 10000 ha for agriculture in Hatay. They are close with water rice cultivation of Hatay farmers.



All of them are in risk because of hasty urbanization when Hatay is joined to Hanoi capital.

### 1.3 Policy

On May 29, 2008, it was decided that Ha Tay would merge with Hanoi province on August 1, 2008. According to this decision, the area of Hanoi will be 334,470 ha.

The old Hanoi (current inner Hanoi) will become conservation urban with historical, cultural, traditional properties. This region will be continuing renovation to completing urban landscape and improving environment of the centre.

The expansion region with the border of escaping Day river flood (the 4<sup>th</sup> circle) will establish residential expansion; erect new urban areas and open spaces, parks, green belts, open axis to link with forestry parks of Bali national park.

In the North, the urban expansion, central development of communication, trading, finance, culture, entertainment will close airport areas such as Noibai, Melinh, Socson and other Northern industrial central.

In the West, the urban region of Sontay, Hoalac, and Xuanmai will link and develop new national centers. Hoalac urban that will have 850.000 people in 2050 is becoming national administrative area, scientist researching centre, high-technology area, national cultural and Entertainment Park, new contemporary urban areas.

Sontay city (the old one) will have 600.000 people in 2050 is developing by conservation historical regions such as: old Duonglam village, Ancient Sontay citadel, traditional handicraft villages, establishing the nursery plant regions for Hanoi capital and the neighbours, improving tourism services.

Xuanmai city that intend to have 850.000 people in 2050 is becoming a centre of institute education that is linking Thanhxuan, Hadong, Xuanmai to establishing series of institute cities, national sport centre and the reserving national defence region

Currently, the Ministry of Construction is co-coordinating with many experts to make master plan for Hanoi.

#### 1.4 Actors and their Roles

**Local Authority:** People's Committee, People's council- giving the decisions

**Departments belong to local authorities:** giving proposals, checking operating procedure.

- Investment and plan department
- Financial department
- Industrial and commercial department
- Transportation and public work department
- Cultural and Information department...
- **Consultant offices:** researching and giving advices, solutions, making projects...
- State offices (state institutes, associations)
- Private offices (associations, private institutes, companies...)

**Individual:** making themselves decisions according to guideline of local authority.

**Developers:** Seeking opportunities, investing to new urban areas.

## 2 Organisation

Vietnam Greenscape Architecture and Construction Joint Stock Company (Greenscape JSC) is specializes in urban planning, landscaping, supplying plants and garden decoration stuff. We are also participating in conservation procedure as a consulter.

Greenscape JSC is participating in possess of development Hanoi capital, especially after Hanoi jointed to Hatay province to extend the area to 3 times and twice of population. Most of our projects are situated in Hatay province. Their sizes rank from 1 ha to less than 99 ha. Most of our clients are the investors from state and private sector. We are major in designing landscape for luxurious villas, resorts, leisure parks.

## 3 Urban Problem

Expanding Hanoi capital means changing urban utility structure, urban spaces, and landscapes. Most of regions that used to be rural area is becoming city one. In facts, it needs time, budget to develop the city and fill all the areas of the city. During that time, the land will be uncultivated; rice fields will become grass land. The farmers don't have any way to earning, they'll sell a part of their land to make money. The shape of rural villages will be change quickly. The risk of losing character of Vietnam rural images is possible.

Procedure of landscaping in Hatay is unprompted. Many organizations involve in landscaping such as consultant offices, individual architects, and companies. Few of them have background as landscaping architect. There are some institute teach about landscaping such as Hanoi Architectural University, Forestry University etc. In fact, there is always an architect is lacking knowledge of plants and a forestry engineer is lacking knowledge of urban design or arranging spaces. The consequences are landscape is the same, unnatural, unattractive.

It is lacking of guidelines and standards for landscaping. The censor landscaping projects is not seriously.

The issues to be discussed in the guidelines are:

- How to identify the regions to be preserved for natural, agricultural and village landscape?
- What are principles, contents and criteria in designing landscape for various land use?
- How the awareness and knowledge about land use and landscape be improved in order to respond and protect it?

## 4 Proposal for Change and Improvement

### 4.1. How to identify the regions to be preserved for natural, agricultural and village landscape?

These regions have to be identifying in some database such as Global city indicators, local surveyed information and social survey. In general, harmony without inclusiveness is not fake, hence the choice these regions should be concerned with other areas and local social- economic development goals.

In case of Hatay as a new expanded of Hanoi, the natural landscape should include: the Bavi mountainous area, rivers and the banks, lakes. The agriculture landscape should involve rice fields, terrace fields, dykes, pastures. The village landscape should embrace every old village that was established before 1990. That time was before the open policy enforced so that every village has the same old traditional structure.

These regions can be identified exactly after analyzing natural database such as forestland, wet-land, slopes, etc. It is useful to co-coordinating many different layers such as use land map, and actual state land map and orientation space development map to choose the regions have to be protected.

### 4.2. What are principles, contents and criteria in designing landscape for various land use?

The principles in designing landscape for various land use should follow strategies and orientation of UN Habitat about ecosystem, protect natural

environment and enhance quality of living environment. Now, there are not any criteria for landscape design in Vietnam, but it is possible to refer from other countries, especially in China. Preservation of wetland in the core of a residential area is workable method to raise environmental consciousness in people as the same time protect bio-diversity.

It is necessary to have many different levels to protect landscape. Natural landscape must be protected stringently with low density of construction. It must be not possible to destroy large area for building such as levelling terrace, filling lakes or rivers, cutting down high trees. The agriculture land must be kept with no changing used intention. The village landscape must be concerned in their development. The old area should be preserved and maintain the traditional structure every year as the same time erecting new urban development areas. They will support the accommodation for new residents without destroying the old one.

The contents of designing landscape for various land use should touch upon the following points:

- Elaborate the master plan with special concern to environment,
- Saving natural resource especially water
- Preservation of wetland in the core of residential area is workable method to raise environmental consciousness in people and at the same time protecting bio-diversity.
- It is necessary to use local plants to establish unity as the same time growing other species to focus at the centres.
- Using greenbelt to separate other different functional areas.

The criteria of designing landscape for various land use should include the following guidelines:

- They should include guidelines for many different terrains such as mountain, hill, plain zone, wetlands.
- They should give recommendations for which plant can be grown in certain regions.
- They also have to link with other standards such as transport, housing, high rise building, and environment standards.



#### 4.3. How the awareness and, knowledge about land use and landscape be improved in order to respond and protect it?

It is necessary to improving the awareness and knowledge about land use and landscape among municipality and specialists such as planners and architects.

Awareness of the local government is crucial as it is the sanctioning and approving authority of community initiatives. They must know harmony without inclusiveness will lead to social and political confrontation. The key to city development is the right strategies and investment. Attaching master plan and managing land use to protect natural environment, arable land and historical areas and at the same time building new satellite cities are the workable solutions for municipality. Overall capacity development from top to grass root levels as well as integrating these levels are crucial. Through improving awareness, municipality can mobilize other economic investments and ventures as it benefits both the business and community.

Architect and construction associations can play important role in orienting awareness of municipality and people. While approving plans and projects, Architect and construction associations can outline principles to guide building harmonious cities for all generations, all spaces, all historical areas and new development areas. They can provide the framework in the form of building byelaws for architects and civil engineers for application in different projects.

Developers have important role also. If they have good knowledge of responsible to protect and building harmonious city, they will apply new technology to save energy, treat water and waste.

Innovative activities can include organizing events such as contests for ideas of harmonious living environment, campaigns to protect environment, seminar or dialogue between municipality and associations, visiting and exchanging experience from cities' achievement about harmonious environment.

#### 4.4. Swot analysis

##### ***Strengths:***

- Identify the regions that must be preserved and regions to develop at the same time protect natural, arable and village landscape.
- Avoid arable waste and destroy traditional village structure.

- Increase knowledge about the necessary of saving natural resource, using friendly technology and building harmonious city.
- Not much people know about the necessary of preservation natural, arable and village landscape.

***Weakness:***

- Difficult to impact to municipality and other people if working alone.
- It takes time to explain, disseminate for every one at the same time work for my own business.

***Opportunities:***

- Advertise for my own business and my individual.
- Increasing benefit through improving knowledge, skills in implementing projects.

***Threats:***

- The low concern of municipality with the private companies and their ideas is the main obstacle.
- Other stakeholder doesn't concern to preserve natural, arable and village landscape. Few of them are interested in both community benefit and their business benefit.
- Time for discussing and disseminating may be seriously threatening my proposal.

## 5 Personal Action Plan

My action plan has to meet tasks of a business manager and a member of Vietnamese architect association.

**Short term plan (2009):**

- Report to my organization and Vietnamese architect association about WUF4 include: Nanjing call for Harmonious Urbanization, introduction of WUF4, the organization WUF4 of Nanjing municipality, the strategy of UN-Habitat and standards for eco-city, experience of China to build

harmonizing city, the issues of WUF4, Nanjing exhibition centre, the method of landscaping design Nanjing city.

- Write articles about these issues for Architecture magazine, the Builder, Construction magazine, company website greenscape.archi.vn and other websites.
- Apply new knowledge into my projects.

#### Long term plan (2009-2014)

- Collect more information about harmonizing cities in the world.
- Compose books or document about harmonizing cities
- Summarize experience and compose books about landscaping in the north of Vietnam.
- Participate in teaching in the university.

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## Photos:

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