

# Villes en développement

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pour le développement urbain, l'habitat  
et l'aménagement spatial

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Patrimoine Sans Frontières - D. Raze

## Viet Nam

The French-speaking community will hold its next congress in Viet Nam in 1997. I feel this is a good idea. Of course, I do not forget that the main language in Viet Nam is, and must remain, Vietnamese and that many young people today speak English rather than French. But I feel that it is useful to recall, in such a context, that the world needs a variety of languages - the "living heritage" that developed and improved over many centuries, closely related to the history and culture of the world's peoples. We feel that the French-speaking community is in one of the best positions to get the message through. This being said, the ways of multilingualism are not as simple as those of language uniformity - it requires innovative and dynamic approaches. For me, the development of space is a very fertile and constantly changing field, which can therefore offer particularly interesting opportunities as regards the application of such a philosophy. Indeed, the various disciplines involved (technology, human sciences, law) often require "in depth" translation. For example, can we be certain that we are always talking about the same thing when we pronounce the word "ownership" - even though this is quite an ancient word? As to emerging new concepts, they often raise many difficult questions as to clarity and semantic evolution - hence are difficult to translate. I therefore am very pleased to note that 3 French organisations<sup>1</sup> decided 20 years ago to join efforts in order to set up the URBAMET

network, specialised in the planning of space. Today, the network is multilingual, involves a lot of French-speaking participants and centralises the document descriptions sent by over 100 European centres.

For me, all such initiatives, aiming at making the French language and its concepts transparent to other languages, are interesting and must be supported. And because France and Viet Nam are cooperating in the area of urban planning, as shown in this issue, I will do my best to facilitate the development of a specialised French/Vietnamese dictionary. I am pleased about the current cooperation between the French and the Vietnamese in my capacity as the Secretary of State responsible for "Francophonie". I am also happy about it as a Reunionese, who, like many islander, is quite aware that space is limited and must therefore be adequately managed. And, finally, as a woman with part of her roots and all her childhood memories in Viet Nam, I can only talk about that country with emotion and wish that the beauty of its landscapes, its cities, its countryside, its markets contribute to its development without suffering irreparable damage. ■

Margie Sudre,  
*Secrétaire d'Etat chargé de la francophonie*

<sup>1</sup> The Institute of Planning and Urban Development of the Ile-de-France Region (IAURIF), the Secretariate of Urban Development and Housing Missions (SMUH) and the Association for the documentation of planning in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region (DOCAMENOR).



# A Strategic Corridor,

by Jean Brunot-de-Rouvre, Senior Civil Engineer  
(Ponts et chaussées)

***In the classical imagery, the geography of Viet Nam is compared to the long stick peasant women carry over their shoulders, with one heavy basket at each end; the baskets are compared to the two deltas in the North and in the South - the country's rice baskets, distant by over 1000 km, and the long stick represents the narrow coastal strip in between, which around the town of Hue is not wider than 60 km.***

This is where Gia Long established his capital city in 1804, both as a challenge to Hanoi and as a sign of recovered unity between the North and the South after the long rivalry between the Trinh and Nguyen Lords. Today, with a similar concern for national unity, the Government of Viet Nam takes specific care of the central corridor and includes into a single metropolitan area the two cities of Hue and Da Nang, distant by 100 km, but separated by the Pass of the Clouds - a climatic, historic as well as psychological barrier.

Situated in a narrow, inhospitable and typhoon-prone territory, devastated by wars, the central area does not have the same assets as the two "growth triangles" around Hanoi and Saigon. However, the opening up of Viet Nam, its integration into the ASEAN and the rapid growth of all the countries in the region are now modifying the overall regional context. For all of the Eastern part of Thailand and the Southern part of Laos, the Vietnamese coast is the nearest route to the sea. Now that a road has been built as a priority to link up the 3 countries (RN 9 from Savannakhet to Dong Ha) in the East-West corridor, the overall development plan of the central corridor is now focusing on the ports - a gateway to the Mekong regions and no longer just a link between Northern and Southern Viet Nam. Three sites are in competition: the magnificent Bay of Da Nang, very well sheltered but which poses access and environmental urban problems; the Bay of Dzung Quat, in the Southern extreme of the same Province where the Government decided to set up the first refinery; and the Bay protected by the Chon May Cape, which has the advantage of being situated North of the Pass of the Clouds, hence the best location

in terms of container transportation to Thailand.

These locations are being examined by us and by a Japanese team from JICA, with good coordination from our Vietnamese counterparts. We are more specifically in charge of the study of the Thua Thien-Hue Province, where the royal citadel and mausoleum included by UNESCO as part of the World Heritage can be found, as well as the biggest lagoon in South-East Asia - which spreads over 80 km on both banks of the mouth of the River of the Perfumes. This prestigious and fragile heritage requires specific precautions to be taken - which is not so easy to implement in a country with a growth rate of 10% per annum, where regulations are in the process of being drafted and land rights negotiated. Hence the identification of a "sensitive zone" to be protected, taking into account ecological data (biodiversity of the climatic frontier over the Bach Ma Range, overdevelopment of the lagoon and expansion of aquaculture, and above all reforestation of the area - which suffered the biggest "ecocide" of history when the Americans sprayed defoliants), as well as notorious landscapes, which were determining in the choice of sites for palaces and tombs according to the rules of geomancy, the rules of nature and its hidden forces. In addition, rivers suffer brutal floods and it is not rare to have major traffic links interrupted by water. In such a context, protection of the area is not a simple task, in particular because the lagoon and the sea must also be included in the process. The Compagnie Nationale du Rhone was invited to prepare a package of measures and a modelised plan for the watershed, to locate the proposed dams in the more appropriate manner.

However, we can only be credible if French investors come and set up

concrete development projects: this is what the Vietnamese are expecting as a result of the studies carried out by us and by the Japanese. This is also in the interest of our firms, which are not sufficiently involved in Asia - while Asian investors do invest in Viet Nam. Serious options are currently under review in the hotel and textile industries and in

the processing sector (agricultural, animal and fish products). The harbour development projects, the project of tunnel under the Pass of the Clouds, the project of expansion of the airport should offer new opportunities. Hue has a long tradition of cooperation with France and is the most Francophone city in Viet Nam: it is worth our interest. ■

## The Challenges of Urban — Development,

by Christian Taillard, Lasema-CNRS

***Urban development is turning into a major challenge for Viet Nam: although only 20% of the overall population lives in towns, there are major discrepancies among the various regions - which the American war stressed even more.***

In the Southern half of the country, the fact that rural people fled to the towns doubled the number of urban dwellers (20% in 1960; 43% in 1971). The draining of towns began when people started returning to their villages of origin and when the unemployed were forcedly transferred to new economic zones after the fall of Saigon. Informal returnees and new cadres from Hanoi increased again the urban population (29% in 1991). In the Northern part of the country, on the contrary, the number of urban dwellers was twice lower in 1960 (10%); the urban population initially decreased because approximately one third of it was evacuated after American bombings. After reunification, it grew up to 14% in 1979, then became stable as the number of returnees from the new economic zones was matched by the departure of many cadres to the South.

As from 1991, the lifting of the social control of people and the new economic policy led to a recovery in urban growth throughout the country (5.1% per year in Ho Chi Minh Ville and 7.1% in Hanoi in 1994). The recovery is a cause of concern for Government as towns are undertaking a significant process of rehabilitation of their infrastructure - the epitome of all the contra-

dictions of on-going reforms. Ho Chi Minh Ville has only 22% of the urban population of Viet Nam and is 3 times more populated than Hanoi. This is still a long way from the hypertrophy of Bangkok, where 57% of the urban population of Thailand concentrate (34 times more populated than the second town in the country !). The urban population of Viet Nam is distributed in three roughly equal parts: 2 large metropolitan areas (0.9 and 2.8 million people), the medium-sized towns (50 to 400,000 people) and the small towns (less than 50,000 people). Such a balanced distribution is a strong point for a country with an agricultural-based economy (the relative share of agriculture decreased from 40 to 29% of the GDP between 1991 and 1994) as it improves the interface between countryside and towns and limits migratory flows towards medium-sized and large towns.

In Viet Nam, urban growth can be viewed as a shift from an alveolar structure of contiguous towns reproducing the provincial mesh to an organised hierarchical network transgressing both natural and administrative units, in the context of the double metropolization process led by Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh Ville. This process involves two major specific and competing networks, which does not leave much room for a possible third linear urban development process in between. The recently launched national research programme on the development of central Viet Nam is an attempt at meeting such a challenge, together with French scientific and technical cooperation. ■

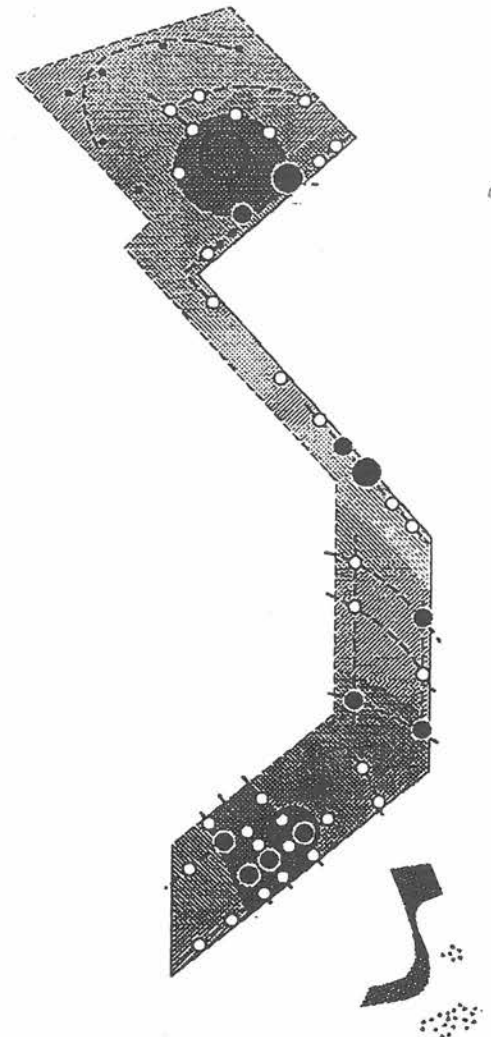
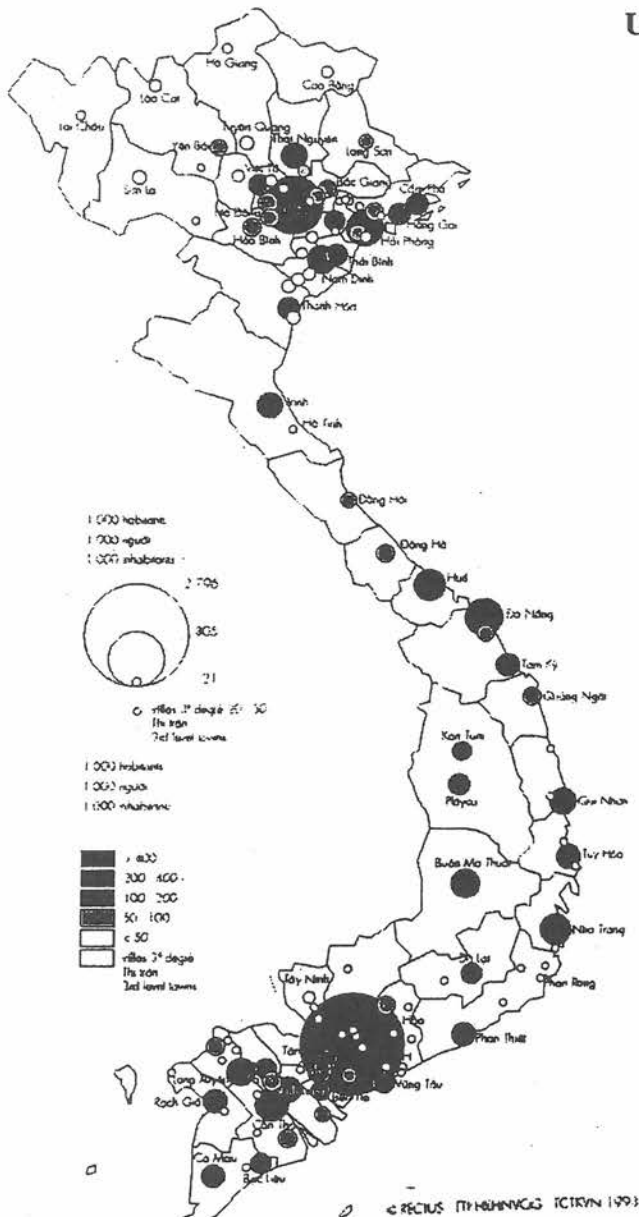
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## SYSTEMES URBAINS

### HE THONG DO THI

### URBAN SYSTEMS



- Métropolisation/Siêu đô thị hóa/Metropolisation**
- le centre en tête du delta principal (Hanoi) / Trung tâm ở đầu châu thổ (Hà Nội) / Metropolis at the head of the principal delta (Hanoi)
  - le centre et le delta principal adjoint (Hà Chí Minh-Ville) / Trung tâm ở cạnh châu thổ (TP-Hồ Chí Minh) / Metropolis and principal adjacent delta (Ho Chi Minh City)
  - la 1<sup>re</sup> périphérie/Vùng ngoại vi thứ nhất/1st metropolitan ring
  - la 2<sup>e</sup> périphérie/Vùng ngoại vi thứ hai/2nd metropolitan ring
  - la 3<sup>e</sup> périphérie/Vùng ngoại vi thứ ba/3rd metropolitan ring
  - la 4<sup>e</sup> périphérie (en devenir) / Vùng ngoại vi thứ tư (đang hiện diện) / 4th metropolitan ring (emerging)
  - Margine (espace résiduel) séparant les deux systèmes spatiaux / không gian còn lại ngăn cách hai hệ thống lãnh thổ / Margin between the two spatial systems

### Cooperation in the area of urban development

The Division of Architecture and Urban Planning (DAU), and the whole Ministry of Equipment, Housing, Transport and Tourism actively cooperates with Viet Nam, and in particular with the pilot central region and the towns of Hue and Danang. Before the Ministry of Culture became responsible for architecture, an audit on cooperation between French and Vietnamese schools had been carried out,

and cooperation had been established between the School of Architecture of Lille and the School of Architecture of Hue. In addition to receiving delegations from Viet Nam, we also wished to take part in the workshops on regional development which concentrated on urban dynamics and strategic development planning, focusing our efforts on the Hue Province. In 1996, DAU funded studies on the linkages between the town

and the university, the transport system and economic development. Together with UNESCO, we are working on how to regulate both the conservation of the urban and natural heritage and the development of tourism and the economy. In future, concrete cooperation efforts in the area of urban development and the establishment of networks with our partners such as the Nord-Pas-

de-Calais region and ISTED, should ensure active participation of the Department responsible for land use and urban planning.

**Jean-Marie Butikofer,**  
Senior Civil Engineer  
(Ponts et chaussées)  
Chargé de mission,  
International Affairs, DAU

## The Franco-Vietnamese agreement on land use planning DATAR-Institute for developmental strategy

The inter-Governmental Agreement of September 14, 1994, defined the overall cooperation framework in the area of land use planning aimed at training Vietnamese leadership at central and local levels and at developing a methodology for regional planning adapted to :

- the shift in planning policies resulting from the move towards a market economy in Viet Nam

- the emergence of regional governments with new levels of responsibility and resources
- the growing concern for the conservation of the country's environment and heritage in a context of sustainable development.

"A common perception of regional and country planning" for Viet Nam and France?" This comment made by the Vietnamese Chairman of the Joint Committee when the Agreement was signed can be explained, despite the very different contexts, by the fact that basic concerns on both sides are similar :

- more than 50 % of foreign investment is concentrated around Saigon - a situation similar to that of "Paris and the French desert" which led to the establishment of DATAR (Delegation for country planning and regional action).

- the break up of the country between the North and the South, the towns and the countryside, the plains and the mountain areas must be avoided at all cost : a similar concern for national unity is the rationale for country and regional planning.

The Vietnamese Government wished to benefit from French experience (with the *Law on land use planning and development*) in order to correct the growing regional imbalances resulting from market deregulation, particularly in the *strategic corridor of central Viet Nam*, where the Provinces of Thua Thien-Hue were identified for case studies. Land use planning is an inter-ministerial process; therefore, the Agreement involves several ministries on

both sides, which are represented on the Steering Committee : The Ministries of Planning and Investment, Construction (urban planning), Science and Technology, Environment on the Vietnamese side and on the French side, DATAR, Equipment, Foreign Affairs.

Within the Ministry of Planning and Investment, the *Institute of Developmental Strategy* is in direct contact with the 53 Provinces in the country to design and approve provincial development plans and to outline a regional strategy - starting with the three development triangles or corridors in Viet Nam. A French expert, Civil Engineer Jean Brunot-de-Rouvre, is based in Hanoi and is regularly involved in field work with the regional authorities of Hue and neighbouring provinces. This work is strengthened by a process of *decentralised co-operation* between the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region and the two Provinces of Thua Thien-Hue and Quang Nam-Danang. French and Vietnamese experts meet on a regular basis at

seminars organised for the leadership of national and provincial administrations on important topics for contemporary Viet Nam such as coastal areas, water, tourism, urban development, industrial development. Vietnamese leaders are invited to France every year to see what France has done in terms of regional planning and development and specialised training workshops are organised, including a linguistic preparation to Vietnamese. Finally, the project provided the Institute of Developmental Strategy in Hanoi, then the Planning Committee of the Thua Thien-Hue Province, with equipment and software to set up geographic databases. Training sessions take place both in France and in Viet Nam, with the assistance of specialised French companies, which in particular helped with the transcription into Vietnamese of the Geoconcept software package (Alsoft and ADS).

**Jean-Yves Potel,**  
DATAR

## Protecting the national — heritage - Landscape and developed areas,

by Jean-Marc Blanchecotte, Senior State Town  
Planning Designer

***There is in Hanoi a unique and exceptional architectural and natural environment heritage : Hanoi is a meeting point of French and Vietnamese cultures, where a specifically Vietnamese approach involved taking in the foreign input, whether Hindu, Chinese, Cham or French, and marking it with its own stamp while preserving the linkage - so specific to Vietnamese philosophy - created by man between the three natural powers : sky, earth and water.***

Throughout history, construction respected these natural linkages : French concession in 1875, military constructions until 1900, public construction until 1910, master plans of Hebrard and Pineau. The Hebrard Master Plan in 1923, organised the towns into administrative, commercial, residential, industrial, sporting etc. neighbourhoods, providing for open perspectives with parks and squares, and for symmetrical and hierarchical street networks. The Pineau Plan in 1943, based on historical and archeological research, integrated the typical architectural forms of Viet Nam, and imposed the so-called Indochinese style for major public or residential buildings.

Therefore, the quadrangular and regular layout of the colonial town was naturally joined to the narrow and irregular layout of the "36 streets" with the green network of aligned plantations.

Thus, the prevailing homogeneity in the general layout control process

influenced façade alignment, the interface between open and built-up areas, large walks, tiny local streets and through-ways at the heart of built-up blocks.

In Hanoi, trees on lake shores maintain the symbolic values of the Vietnamese landscape : the sky, protected by the low level of the buildings ; the earth, present through the vegetal cover that invades the town (in order to understand this, just climb to the top of any public building); water, with the various lakes, in particular that of Hoan Kiem downtown.

Will the respect for Vietnamese sensitivity - which prevailed throughout the various construction periods of the town Hanoi, be challenged in future through thoughtlessness or lack of long-term thinking ?

It would be a paradox if the genuineness of the town was lost in a time of peace and growing investment inflow, while it was kept it throughout the war.



Hanoi can rehabilitate and develop itself while preserving its cultural heritage, which must impact on socio-economic issues : the old town must have a sacred dimension, enabling residents to feel deeply rooted in space and time. Avoiding the trap of the " museum-town " means accepting that the town is changing and transforming itself, without disruption, while planning its expansion on the basis of development plans that take into account the assets from the past : large planted avenues, façade alignment, green breathing space, controlled layout ; it also means refusing the occasional destruction of remarkable architectural complexes (including the vegetation cover).

In order to preserve its architectural, natural and human wealth, Hanoi must be protected by strict legislation and a master plan that include these specific notions linked to its heritage, supported by a policy that associate the State, the town and its residents.

The UNESCO seminar on urban development policy and the protection of the architectural heritage of Viet Nam, held in Hanoi and Hue in March 1994, recommended to make an inventory of all buildings and landscapes to be included in the national heritage, and to design a plan aimed at protecting Hanoi, including the required legislation. ■

Hanoi - Mot-Cot Pagoda  
" The Single-Pillar Pagoda " 1049, restored in 1922

Photograph by Jean-Marc Blanchecotte



# Cooperation between the Nord-Pas-de-Calais region and central Viet Nam (Hue/Danang)

by the Nord-Pas-de-Calais Region

**On September 21, 1993, during a visit to Lille of an official Vietnamese delegation, the Regional Council of Nord-Pas-de-Calais signed a cooperation protocol with the Thua Thien-Hue and Quang Nam-Danang Provinces and with the towns of Hue and Danang.**

A true partnership was established in an atmosphere of mutual trust and concrete projects are being implemented in the following areas:

- environment, waste management and sewage treatment
- training of administrative managerial staff and trainers in the fields of forestry, agriculture, health, planning, sustainable economic development, tourism
- cultural and tourism exchange, enhancing French-speaking community.

Projects are tailor-made for each partner as major challenges and issues are not the same in both towns and in the Provinces.

## The Town of Danang

In Danang, the main concern in 1993 was sanitation in one of the Northern neighbourhoods. It was therefore decided to work in this area, as there was a strong demand from residents.

Wastewater from a neighbourhood with 80,000 residents is discharged into two contiguous swamps which pour into the sea. The swamps, which are the drainage area of a flat watershed, are covered with water hyacinth, water lily and other water weeds : discharged water is treated by a biological process of surface retention. However, the stench and the proliferation of mosquitoes are a nuisance for the residents, who complain to the People's Town Committee.

In addition to its function as a temporary storage and treatment facility for wastewater, this site has an important role in terms of land development and economic activity.

The swamps are being landfilled with household refuse by the residents who hope to reclaim the whole area : the swamps now only spread over 3 hectares, instead of

the original 8. Local people use the plant production; periodical weed collection is essential for the biological balance of the lagoon (efficiency of nitrate and phosphate absorption).

Wastewater is biologically treated by the weed-covered swamps; consequently, the pilot project aims at consolidating and expanding this form of water treatment. The selected site will not provide biological water treatment for the whole residential area (the swamp surface area is too small as compared to the number of residents). At the same time, the economic and social functions of the swamps should not be challenged.

Community sensitization upstream will be necessary; to this end, the project will take into account the following constraints :

- it must be flexible in order to avoid being put into question within a decade;
- it must not be aesthetically ugly and on the contrary should create a water garden;
- it must provide for under-water facilities adapted to climatic conditions (frequent floods);
- it must provide for continued farming activities;
- it must ensure that maintenance will be affordable for the local economy through product development;
- it must reduce the nuisance caused by the smell.

The Urban Community of Lille also signed an agreement with the town of Danang in the field of sanitation (toilets). Regular exchange with the Regional Council allow adequate coordination of the project.

## The Town of Hue

It was jointly decided with the local municipal authorities to work on the problem of municipal refuse.

The Hue disposal site is located at 15 km from the town; it was

regularly reaching saturation point and was overflowing into a nearby river. It was therefore urgent to intervene. A refuse crusher (for use after manual sorting of the refuse - 90 % of which is organic) was sent by the Nord-Pas-de-Calais Region. Initially, a waste treatment plant was asked by the Vietnamese but the crusher is a compromise solution which allows to produce compost for the farming sector. The capacity of the crusher is 50 cubic metres per hour - much over the current volume of refuse treated daily on the site (100 cubic metres), which covers the anticipated increased volumes to be treated in future years. Its operation, paid for by the town, requires 20-25 l of fuel per hour, which is quite reasonable.

When the town of Hue is able to have its own treatment plant as planned, the crusher can easily be transferred to another small town. Partnership is continuing between the town of Hue and the Nord-Pas-de-Calais Region ; assistance in the area of refuse transportation is currently under study as the transportation capacity of the town does not meet its current daily needs.

In addition, people used to throw garbage near sewer manholes, which ended up in blocking the sewers themselves. In the rainy season, the streets used to be easily flooded as a result. A simple but spectacular experiment consisted in cleaning up one of the sewers with an immediate resorption of flood water, which led the municipality to ask for assistance in this area.

An initial operation of cleaning and rehabilitation of the sewers was carried out in the Southern part of the town in 1994/95; a second operation is under way in 1996 in the Northern part of Hue. ■





**Préparer un projet de développement municipal** (How to prepare a municipal development project), by L. Godin, A. Sinet, C. Bouchaud, Group Eight, Washington : Economic Development Institute of the World Bank, 1996, X-222 pages. This document gives an outline of the type of projects aimed at decentralisation and consolidation of urban infrastructures such as those financed by the World Bank in recent years. It is not a policy document on the rationale for municipal development projects but is a practical guide for preparing such projects. It was prepared on the basis of the experience of medium-income countries, particularly those in French-speaking Northern Africa.

Contact : Learning Resources Centre, Room M-P1-010, The World Bank, 1818 H. Street NW, Washington DC 20433, USA

**Coopération décentralisée. Guide d'information.** Support to regional authorities, by Iris Boinvilliers. Paris: Editions du GRET/Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 1996, 350 pages.

Aimed at elected representatives and the staff of regional governments as well as all their partners : professional bodies, public institutions, etc., this guide is an attempt at explaining the ill-known area of decentralised cooperation. It contains information on all actors, practices and procedures, in particular those aiming at obtaining cofinancing funds from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Price : FF. 140.

Contact : GRET, 213 rue La Fayette, 75010 Paris, France

**Interdépendances villes-campagnes en Afrique**, coordinated by C. Coquery-Vidrovitch, H. d'Almeida-Topor and J. Sénéchal. Paris : L'Harmattan, 1996, 293 pages.

Who are the main actors in the urban-rural interface? In what ways are towns the catalyst of rural development? What are the population flows between towns and rural areas? These are some of the questions this publication tries to answer. The aim is to outline some of the major trends in the urban/rural interface in Sub-Saharan Africa since independence.

Price : FF. 170.

Contact : L'Harmattan, 5-7 rue de l'Ecole Polytechnique, 75005 Paris, France.

# Water supply in the town of Lao Cai

by Henri Scanavino, BETURE

**The town of Lao Cai is located 385 km North-West of Hanoi. Established in 1907, at the confluence of the Red River and the Nam Thi River, which are natural borders with China, it is the political, economic and cultural centre of the Lao Cai Province.**

The railway line from Europe to Viet Nam via the Trans-Siberian goes through the town; so does the Red River which enters Viet Nam at Lao Cai. The town also is a cultural centre for various minority ethnic groups such as the Dao, Xa and H'mong. Lao Cai was completely destroyed in 1979 by the Chinese Army, during the last conflict between China and Viet Nam.

After several decades of war in Viet Nam, the reconstruction of infrastructure requires huge resources. The priorities are set by the Ministry of Planning and

Investment. In 1993, the Vietnamese Government decided to focus on the development of mountain areas inhabited by minority ethnic groups and gave the go-ahead to the water supply project at Lao Cai.

Beture, of the Caisse des Depots et Consignations Group, signed a memorandum of agreement with the People's Committee of the Province of Lao Cai to assist in fund raising and project implementation. A feasibility study and the application for funding were prepared by the Beture experts. The Economic Development Unit in Hanoi was

contacted and the water supply project of Lao Cai was included in the financial protocol signed between France and Viet Nam for 1993. Given the social nature of the operation, and the American embargo on Viet Nam (still in existence in 1993), the project benefited from a French Government grant amounting to FF. 12 million. According to the urban development studies carried out by the Ministry of Construction, the town of Lao Cai, almost inexistant in 1991, had a population of 45,000 in 1995 and should have 51,000 residents in the year 2000. On the basis of a daily consumption of 100 litres of water per resident, the needs were estimated at 7,500 cubic metres per day, including 50% for domestic use and the remainder for administrative, industrial and commercial users. These 7,500 cubic metres are supplied by a pumping station built on the Nam Thi River (6,000 cubic metres daily) and by an existing borehole with a capacity of 1,500 cubic metres per day. The water supply project is a turn-key facility installed by the Beture experts. It was

## Conservation of landscapes and tourism development in Viet Nam

In Viet Nam, Dât-nuoc and Sông-Núi mean homeland and its landscapes : land and water, river and mountain. These simple words express the deep-rooted attachment of the Vietnamese for their immediate natural surroundings. Sông-Hương-Núi Ngủ - the River of Perfumes and the Ngu Mountain thus refer to the region of Hue, but also to the nostalgia of its landscapes... This perception of the natural environment is not merely an aesthetic concept but a quest for some form of communion with nature, and a reflection on oneself. This immaterial dimension of natural environment is essential to the Vietnamese approach and should be borne in mind when

intervening on the Vietnamese environment and on its majestic and magic landscapes, perpetuated from generation to generation. Today, the media culture, i.e. cinema and TV, as well as the globalization of travel and the quest for more authentic values contributed to the emergence of new reference criteria as regards landscapes. Nowadays, Western societies are more interested in far away natural environment, the quality of which may be a determining factor in the selection of travel destinations. In this context, and in as far as tourism is in itself a factor of development, the importance of natural landscape protection is essential for Viet Nam. What is essential is to try

and avoid the mistakes made in developed countries and to adapt tourism, i.e. :

- green tourism as a development approach, aiming at protecting the natural environment as well as local rules and customs, which involves the local people;
- sustainable tourism for which the main investment required from organisers, hosts and tourists themselves is in the immaterial field (significance of the natural and cultural environment vs. the level of comfort)...

**Lê Thúc Diệp,**  
Landscape Designer  
CETE, Nord-Pas-de-Calais



implemented in close cooperation with the managerial staff of the Lao Cai Province and the Wascenco Company, a State enterprise responsible for water supply and sanitation in Viet Nam.

The intervention includes a pumping station of raw water of 250 cubic metres per day and HMT 80 m, a treatment plant with a capacity of 6,000 cubic metres/day and 12.5 km of ductile cast-iron pipes of dia. 100 to 400 mm.

Beture carried out the technical studies, then invited French companies to bid for the required equipment. Beture provided the overall design, the coordination and the supervision of the work and trained two municipal staff who are responsible for maintenance and operation of the facilities. Wascenco, the company of the Ministry of Construction, did all the civil engineering work, installed the piping and assembled the equipment provided by France. The project was implemented over 14 months for a total cost of FF. 16.4 million, including FF. 12 million of grant from the French

Government and FF. 4.4 million provided by the Vietnamese Government.

The People's Committee of the Lao Cai Province is the owner of the system. The facilities are managed and operated by the Provincial water company, a public service under the Provincial Construction Department. In Lao Cai, the average yearly income per resident is about FF. 800. The State must finance or largely subsidize many services. With the assistance from France, the Water Authority may eventually become self-sufficient and be able to operate without any subsidy from the State. The cost price of a cubic metre of water is now estimated at 1,800 Dongs (FF. 0.85) and the selling price will vary from 1,500 Dongs for domestic users to 3,000 dongs for industrial or commercial users.

A second phase of work should start shortly to meet the needs of the year 2001: the production capacity will be upgraded to 13,500 cubic metres per day and an additional 25 km of pipes will be installed. ■

### " 36 streets " endangered ?

Between the Imperial City and the Red River, the old commercial town of Hanoi is alive. Here, you eat pho, you strike business deals around a water pipe while children play between the food stalls. In this popular area, life is on the narrow and winding streets planted with banyans. Houses have a narrow front opening with a small shop on the street and a long back-yard for production : the " tubular " houses have been typical of this area since the 15th century. From the banks of the Red River, the " 36 streets " area look like a overhang of red brick

rooftops - an enchanting and now endangered view. Here and there, well above the rooftops, the grey concrete shape of one of the " mini-hotels " sticks out - with its blind walls ignoring traditional harmony.

Patrimoine Sans Frontières launches a contest for the rehabilitation of the area, to implement a pilot project... It thus hopes that the international community will be sensitized to the problem and that an overall plan for the conservation of the area will be adopted.

**Patrimoine Sans Frontières**

### Cooperation between Greater Lyon and Ho Chi Minh Ville

Cooperation between Greater Lyon and Ho Chi Minh Ville, which started at the end of the 80's, engaged in 1992 on the path of decentralised cooperation. The Urban Development Agency thus provides a direct technical and methodological support, which, although modest, is adapted to local needs and continues with time.

The two main areas of cooperation are :

- planning and regulation of urban development : drafting of planning documents, regulations and studies on the protection of the national heritage
- traffic and transport : assistance to the definition of a pu-

blic transport policy and setting up of an observatory of traffic flows.

Two national service cooperation agents are posted within the technical services of Ho Chi Minh Ville and ensure regular exchange with Lyon. The studies conducted in the field are supported by experts' visits to Ho Chi Minh Ville and Vietnamese trainees go to Lyon for training.

**Jean-Charles Castel,**  
Urban Development  
Agency of la Courly



Patrimoine Sans Frontières - D. Raze



## New Board at ISTED

The General Meeting of ISTED was held on June 26, 1996, and new Board Members were appointed. Jean Baudoin, who retired in March 1996, was replaced as the President of ISTED by Jean Smagghe, Senior Civil Engineer (Ponts et chaussées). The Vice-Chairmanship for "Towns", a post left vacant when Felipe Starling left for "Aéroport de Paris-ADP", was filled from January 1996 by Georges Cavallier, Senior Civil Engineer (Ponts et chaussées), President of the 5th Section in charge of Country Planning and Environment in the General Council of Ponts et Chaussées, in replacement of Jean-Paul Lacaze.

## Sources d'Asie

An information network on the socio-economic and institutional conditions in Asian countries and on their historical and cultural background is being set up in order to support and improve the effectiveness of French operators in Asia, particularly in the economic area. From 1997, Sources d'Asie will be the unique access point for information sources on Asia and will develop the exchange of data. → Contact : Rémi Perelman or Maurice Bérou, Tel (33-1) 45 52 45 05 or 45 52 84 03. Fax (33-1) 45 52 45 79

## Training Kit on Urban Environment

This kit is an environmental training document designed and prepared by the decentralised cooperation agency Cités Unies Développement for elected representatives and municipal officers of Mediterranean towns of the Medcités network or other municipalities in order to promote sustainable urban management. Case studies included in the kit illustrate the main topics : urban environment, sustainable development and decentralised cooperation; the regulatory, economic and human framework of municipal management of the environment; management policies for local environment. There is a French and an English version of the Kit. Price : FF. 750. → Contact : Cités Unies Développement, 22 rue d'Alsace, 92532 Levallois-Perret, Cedex, France

# News on cooperation

## Lome Seminar

About 60 French technical assistants and national partners from 18 countries in Subsaharian African and the Caribbean met at the Seminar on the cooperation strategies in the urban sector organised by the African School of Architecture and Urban Design of Lome, Togo, from June 18 to 21, with funds from the French Ministry of Cooperation. From the conclusions of the United Nations Habitat conference in Istanbul and the preliminary conclusions of two studies launched in 1995 on the mechanism of urban development in Subsaharan Africa and the perspectives of French cooperation in the urban development sector, this Seminar helped to redefine the terms of French assistance; a document presenting the new approach will be published towards the end of the year.

## CD ROM and INTERNET

On the occasion of the Habitat II Town Summit, CDU prepared a CD ROM on French research on towns and housing, which can also be accessed by Internet. It includes a databank on urban research and reports from the Construction and Architecture Plan, Interurba and the Club du Sahel, the directories of French Research Institutes abroad and a special issue of the CNRS «courrier» on research and towns. The service should soon include the "Good International Practices" identified by the UN during Habitat II. Available on request. Contact : Michel Griffon, DAU/CDU, Arche de la Défense, 92055 Paris-La-Défense Cedex, France - <http://www.min.equip.fr/dau/cdu/datas/ecran1.htm>

## Habitat II

French cooperation is satisfied with the conclusions of the Habitat II Conference. The global Plan of Action and the Istanbul Declaration, adopted overnight on June 14, around "27 hours", are in line with the position of France : acknowledgement of the determining role of towns in the history of civilisations and economic development, importance of a country planning policy providing for adequate town/countryside linkages, focus on the issues of social balance, adequate management of urban services, access to services and jobs, urban environment, the right to housing as a human right... The role of regional and local governments was recognised both at the conference and at the first world assembly of towns

(AMVAL), where the principle of a permanent and flexible coordination between large international and regional local government organisations was upheld. It is worth mentioning that the Fortaleza projects (Brazil), supported by French cooperation over the last 10 years, were included in the list of the 12 Best "Good Practices", that there was a strong representation from African local governments and that the Taksim talks, organised at Istanbul by the French delegation, were successful : these dealt in a very open atmosphere with sometimes sensitive issues such as towns and trade, financing housing and towns, etc. The capitalisation process has started with the Lome Seminar (June 18-21, 1996).

## Seminar for the technical assistants of the french Ministry of Cooperation September 3-5, 1996, Paris-la-Défense

The 3 dimensions of African neighbourhoods : urban planning, social development, municipal management : experience and future prospects.  
Organizer : ACT Consultants, 17bis rue Richard Lenoir, 75011 Paris, France  
Objective : to acquaint participants with this new methodology of urban planning at grassroots, to improve the institutional inclusion of neighbourhood projects in municipal management, to define their role in French cooperation actions and programmes.  
Description : First Phase : training aimed at placing the neighbourhood project among the instruments available for social and urban development  
Second Phase : two case studies.  
Third Phase : widens the scope through contacts with a group of experts and representatives of various institutions; attempts to draw up a theory.  
Fourth Phase : conclusions and formal recommendations.

# ISTED

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et des Techniques  
de l'Équipement  
et de l'Environnement  
pour le Développement

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