Sustainable Urban Development in Urbanization Process of Vietnam

Le Hong Ke*

Vietnam is one Asian countries with about more than 80 millions people, more than 50 percent of labor and an area more than 324,000 km². Vietnam is continuing renovation policy with more and more effectives as well as comprehensive development for economic and social development. During last 10 years of the 1990’s was 7.5% per year on average. This resulted in increased income per capita from USD 100 in 1999 to USD 289 in 1995 and up to USD 420 in 2001 and up to USD 630 in 2005, and now about 750 USD, especially in HCM Hanoi, Hai Phong and Da Nang cities, it’s higher: Urban economy, space, infrastructure…especially, investment environment are much more better. However, urban infrastructure and urban economic foundation, especially some small cities and towns are not to meet the demand of urban development as well as sustainable urban development.

In the year 2000, Viet Nam had an urban population of 19 million and the urbanization rate was 22%, estimated urban population would be 30.4 million people and urbanization rate 33% by 2010; 46 million and 45% by 2020. The urban housing area, social and technical infrastructure to be improved, especially for urban poor areas.

Urban space, infrastructure networks and environment is unbalanced, which the gap between the rural and urban areas, the developing regions and less developing regions. These situation may have some problems: urban socio-economic development, urban spaces, infrastructure, employment, environment, urban management…

These situation are more and more improved so far: socio-economic growth, country, regional and urban infrastructure, especially transportation networks…

So far, more than 20 cities and provincial towns have been implementing projects on water supply, drainage and environment sanitation with the ODA funding sources. Many new projects have been implemented and situation to be much more better so far.

Urbanization leads to increasing immigration flows from rural to urban areas, are now step by step have been improved. Institution as well as management in urbanization process have been more and more better, especially urban land use, urban spaces, architecture buildings, infrastructure networks, environment, urban management,…

And, policies of urban management like mobilizing investments both government and NGOs, private sectors, prioritizing investments in urban and rural infrastructure, attracting internal and external investment capital, reduce urban poverty…

In order to have “Sustainable Urban Development” with 10 proposed key criteria to be made at first of all. And to day setting up a programme or projects of urban and rural development planning in conditions of Climate Change and Sea level rise to be very nessesary and important. So, many opportunities as well as challenges are waiting for us.

* Institute for Researching Environment and Sustainable Development Planning
1. Briefly for Vietnam and Urbanization process

1.1. General information:

Vietnam is one Asian countries with about 80 millions people, more than 50 percent of labor and more than 324,000 km². Vietnam is continuing renovation policy with more and more effective as well as comprehensive development for economic and social development. And now became a 150 member of WTO to be a large opportunity for more and more development.

Economic growth rate during last 10 years of the 1990’ was 7.5% per annum on average. This resulted in increased income per capita from USD 100 in 1999 to USD 289 in 1995 and up to USD 420 in 2001 and up to USD 630 in 2005, and now about 750 USD. (Figure 1). This outstanding growth rate created continuous changes into urban lives. Moreover, the internationally and regionally economic integration do facilitate communication and better access to advanced and diverse socio-economic activities; people, particularly in developed urban, no longer strive for food but move toward better accommodated conditions and head to positive public affairs, relax in sport, cultural, educational, commercial and environmental related activities.

![Figure 1. Income improvement during last 15 years](image)

Infrastructure and economic foundation or for urban development remains weak. Whereas, economic growth does not match with the population growth. In fact, unemployment rate among the people of working age remains high, especially in big cities at 10-15%. Homeless people and illegal residential areas, which have caused pressing environmental and social problems, are mainly in big cities. Structure of the labor force shall be changed toward the industry-commerce-service, which creates more jobs for non-farm labors. This is considered an element that contributes to effective urban development and urbanization.

1.2. Urbanization process in Vietnam:

1.2.1. Number, classifications of cities and towns:

The urbanization process in Vietnam follows the same principles applied in other countries in the region and the world. So far, there are about 600 cities and towns in the whole country, of which:

Regarding urban classifications: 02 special cities; 12 cities at class I; 19 cities at class II; 29 cities at class III; and the rest are class IV and class V (about 600 cities and towns)
1.2.2. Urban population distribution:

The urban population distribution in the whole country is unbalanced, which deepens the gap between the rural and urban areas, the developing and less developing regions. This trend is becoming worse with time. In the past, there was a relatively close relation between the urban and rural populations. However, this close relation is fading with the big gaps in economy, culture, and infrastructure for services and recreation of rural and urban areas. The slow developing area accounts for 82% of the total natural area while the developed area accounts for 18%. In general, a proportionately development strategy for the three regions of North - Centre - South has not yet been worked out. It should be noted that the central region does not yet have an economic center, which is strong enough to become a counterbalance to the focal economic zones of the North and the South.

Moreover, approximately 50% of the urban population is living in the two big cities of Ha No and Ho Chi Minh cities. A lot of new towns have been built in 2 big these cities. However, there are a lot of cities, towns in midland, mountainous, and island areas to push up socio-economic growth in the region. Whereas, big cities have attracted a great quantity of industrial labors, creating a pressure to the living environment of urban population. The smaller cities in fact have inadequate capacity and are not yet able to play the role of centers in the urban networks of provinces, region, and the nation.

1.2.3. Direction of urbanization and city profile in Vietnam

1.2.3.1. Orientation for urban development and urbanization process

a) Estimation on Population Growth:

Decision ref. No.10/1998/QD-TTg of Oct 23, 1998 by the Prime Minister on approving the "Master Planning Orientation for Urban Development in Viet Nam for the period 2000 - 2020" has the following issues:

Figure 2: Population, urban and rural population and urbanization rate during 1995 - 2020

In the year 2000, Viet Nam had an urban population of 19 million and the urbanization rate was 22%. It is estimated that the figures would be 30.4 million and 33% by 2010; 46 million and 45% by 2020.

b) Estimation on urban land use planning

In 2000, the total urban area of Viet Nam is approximately 63,300 ha, making up 0.2% of the national area and an average of 45 m2/ person. It is estimated that the figures will go up to 243,000 ha, making up 0.74% and an average of 80m2/ person by 2010; 460,000, 1.4%, 100m2/ person by 2020. ( Figure 3 )

The urban housing area has reached about 80 mill square meters, making an average of 5.8 m2 per person. Social and technical infrastructure of urban residential areas has generally been asynchronous and degraded with poor environmentally quality.
c) Urban space development and Urbanization

The allocation of population in the whole country is unbalanced, which deepens the gap between the rural and urban areas, the developing and less developing regions. This trend is becoming worse with time. In the past, there was a relatively close relation between the urban and rural populations. However, this close relation is fading with the big gaps in economy, culture, and infrastructure for services and recreation of rural and urban areas. The slow developing area accounts for 82% of the total natural area while the developed area accounts for 18%. In general, a proportionately development strategy for the three regions of North-Centre-South has not yet been worked out. It should be noted that the central region does not yet have an economic center, which is strong enough to become a counter balance to the focal economic zones of the North and the South.

1.2.3.2. City profile in Urbanization process

a) Problems of urban social-economic development:

Technical and economic foundation or the momentum for urban development remains weak. Whereas, economic growth does not match with the population growth. In fact, unemployed rate among the people of working age remains high, especially in big cities at 15-20%. Homeless people and illegal residential areas, which have caused pressing environmental and social problems, are mainly in big cities. Structure of the labor force shall be changed toward the industry-commerce-service, which creates more jobs for non-farm labors. This is considered an element that contributes to effective urban development and urbanization.

b) Urban infrastructure

Ministry of Construction with its function has evaluated urban situation as follows:

- Urban transport:
  
  Most of provincial towns have construction plan, of which the transport network plan plays an important role. In the past years, urban road systems have been substantially upgraded and improved. Main roads often have extended roadbed that well match with other relevant technical works.

  However, the proportion of land area for transport remain low of < 10% compared to the standard of 20-25% of the total urban area. For example, in Ho Chi Minh city the urban road land area averagely accounts for 3%. This figure is 3% in suburban area and 8-14% in urban centre.

  The proportion of parking area currently makes up < 1% compared to the standard of at least 3-3.5% of the total urban area. For example, this figure is 0.31% in Hanoi and 0.1% in Ho Chi Minh city.

  Some big cities have public transport means. However, public transportation is inadequate and has not yet met the demands. (In Ho Chi Minh city, it only satisfy 3% of passengers. Hanoi is striving to satisfy 25% of passengers by the year 2005.)

  Most of the main streets in urban areas have been asphalted. Interregional urban roads and lanes have been asphalted or concreted. Proportion of asphalted streets in Hanoi has increased from 92% in 2000 to 95% in 2005. Sidewalks have been completed in many cities. Vinh city, for instance has finished 80% of the sidewalks for the streets here.

- Urban water supply:
The total design capacity of water supply system is 3.7 mill. m³/24 hours. The actual operation capacity is of 85% of the design capacity. 61 of 64 provincial towns have each a water supply project.

Use of running water is on average 80 -100 litter/person/day. This figure is 100-120 litter/person/day in big cities.

Urban drainage and solid waste management

So far, approximately 20 cities and provincial towns have been implementing projects on water drainage and environment sanitation with the ODA funding source. Many new projects have been initiated in line with the urban drainage orientation up to 2020, which has been approved by the Prime Minister. Water drainage has focused mainly in flood prevention for urban areas. Wastewater disposal plants have been built in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh city and Buon Me Thuot.

Only 40-50% of wastewater has been dealt with 70-75% of municipal solid waste has been collected in big cities. The figure reduces to 30-35% for small and average towns. This rate is much higher in Hanoi, where 90% of solid waste has been collected.

Collection of waste material for recycle and reuse has increased from 20% in 2001 to 25% in 2004.

There are 13 of 64 provinces and cities have landfill sites although most of them are not comprehensive and properly operated. Only 5-6 provinces and cities have landfill sites of sanitary standards.

Urban Public lighting:

On average, 60-80% of arterial streets in urban areas have public lights. This figure is 95% in big cities. Most of district and provincial towns have public lighting systems of various scales.

Urban green tree area: The urban area for green trees is little compared to the standards.

Figure 3: 10 urbanization regions of Vietnam
For example, green tree area is 5.3m$^2$ per person in Hanoi (in 2004); 8.25m$^2$/person in Quay Neon; 4.7m$^2$/person in Nha Trang; 3.5m$^2$/person in Ho Chi Minh city. It is even lower in mountainous municipal areas such as Cao Bang, Bac Can, Ha Gang.

Planting of green trees in urban areas almost is spontaneous. Trees planted are usually not carefully selected in order to grow well in the ecological environment of the localities.

- Environment and urban environment

In urbanization process, environment and urban environment will impact to:

Land will be exploited exhaustedly for urban development which narrows down area of the green and water surface. Demand for water for domestic use and production is on the increase. Sewage treatment and drain out of domestic and industrial sewage is very poor leading to deficiency of water sources and causing urban water logging. Several factories and plants cause pollution to wide scale areas, which were previously sub-urban. Due to uncontrolled urban development, these factories will be gradually surrounded by crowded residential areas. Enhancement of urban space means more agricultural land to be acquired, causing impact on the national food security and lives in suburban. Rocket growth of industrial production brings about a huge volume of pollutants, particularly the increasing volume of toxic and dangerous substances. Boom of vehicles cause serious air and noise pollution; Urban’s transportation is becoming overloaded and downgraded.

Urbanization leads to increasing immigration from rural to urban areas, creating high great pressure on accommodation and hygiene, occurrence of slums and urban marginalized areas. Urban public place and heritage have been encroaching.

1.3. Migration problem from rural areas to urban areas in urbanization process

The results of recently research in 2 big cities Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh city shown that, migration from rural areas to urban areas by following reasons:

- By economic issue and income, it is best opportunity for migrants, about 80% for HCM city and 60% for Hanoi city (figure 5).
- By study, research at secondary schools, technical colleges and universities
- By marry and family living

a) In Hà nội:  

b) In Hồ Chí Minh city:

![Figure 5: Migration flows from rural areas to HCM city and Hanoi.](image)

- And others
2. The institution and policy in urbanization process

2.1. Institution in urbanization process

The fact shows that problems still remain in urban management despite more concern and thorough grasp of the issues among urban administrative organs. This is generally reflected by unchanged or even unclear understanding of contents and definitions in the State management of urbanization. This difficulty significantly affects the need for urban development in a modern, traditional and environmental-friendly way for sustainable development process. The problem results in the fact that uncontrolled urban development, particularly along national highways, misinterpretation of planning implications, defiance of construction law, etc. are still prevailing without effective measures. There is no clear orientation for developed urban architecture. Moreover, there is a limit in policy and insufficient fund sourcing mechanism as well as poor mobilization of community strength for urban development. Administrative procedures for land transfer, construction licensing and investment project appraisal are still troublesome, complicated and invalid while historically persistent shortcomings are slowly removed. All of these are preventing reorganization of urban management as well as maximizing use of potential resources for urban development.

2.2. Policy in urbanization process

2.2.1. Policy for mobilizing every economic sectors and ownerships

There are more than 100,000 state enterprises of various economic sectors, of which 5,300 are state-owned and 2,300 joint-venture enterprises. Since the issue of the Law on Enterprises in 1999, the private economic sector has grown up significantly, creating many jobs and meeting diversified needs of localities in the countries.

2.2.2. Policy for prioritizing investments in urban and rural infrastructure

Vietnam supports the policy to develop technical and social infrastructure in order to create an environment that attracts capital investment to improve the people's accommodation and promote synchronized urbanization in rural areas. Based on the regional planning, general planning, detailed and sectoral planning the government will develop projects to attract capital to build up infrastructure systems of regions and urban areas in the whole country. These systems include roads, water supply and drainage, energy supply, and environment sanitation in focal economic region and urban areas.

Infrastructure development is through projects financed by various funding sources, from the state and local budgets to private sources. Besides, international organizations such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and foreign governments have also provided funds for improving the infrastructure systems.

2.2.3. Policy for exploiting land and urban land areas

As of 2000, Vietnam has a total natural land area of 32,424,000 ha. The area of land under utilization accounts for 22,896,800 ha (69.54%). Of which:

- Urban area : 72,200 ha (0.22%)
- Rural area : 371,000 ha (1.13%)
- Specialized land area : 1,532,800 ha (4.66%)

The specialized land is the area occupied by industrial zones, urban and rural infrastructure (roads, irrigation schemes, public works etc.).

The above land use categories show a modest land area used for urbanization and
industrialization, although it notes a pressure on land use:

The agricultural land area accounts for approximately 10,000,000 ha. The average agricultural land area per agriculture labour is currently 3,700 m². The lower average areas are 2,053 m² in the North Central region and 1,479 m² in the Red river delta. Average area per capita is only 1,203 m²; 717 m²; and 494 m² respectively.

In the past 50 years, over 6 mill ha of natural forest has been destroyed. The forest cover has reduced to 35.2% with 9.8 mill ha of natural forest and 1.8 mill ha of plantation forest. Along with forest destruction, forest degradation has also become alarming.

2.2.4. Policy for attracting internal and external investment capital

Nowadays, the Government has created favorable conditions to attract local and international investors to develop Vietnam's basic infrastructure. Recently, Vietnam has supported the implementation of BOT projects, which are concerned by many investors. However, constraints with regard to policy mechanism have kept the investment capital for infrastructure at a minimum level. The Government has funded most of large-scale infrastructure works with loan fund lent by foreign organizations.

2.2.5. Policies to urban reduce poverty

Vietnam has been trying to reach the 8 Millennium Development Goals proposed by the UNDP for the period up to 2015. It has achieved encouraging results in poverty reduction and hunger elimination. In fact, the number of poor households has reduced by 50% in the decade of 1990.

3. The impacts in urbanization process

3.1. Positive impacts:

Pushing up the transferring process of economic structures which would result in a higher GDP level.

Increased investments into infrastructure at national, regional and city levels have created favourable conditions for socio-economic development in general and urban development in particular.

Expanding urban systems comprehensively and sustainability with regard to urban population sizes, classes, infrastructure, space and architecture.

Increasing investments in urban areas with establishment of industrial zones and new urban areas.

Contributing to reduce poverty rate and create more jobs in urban areas; improving and upgrading slums in big cities such as Ho Chi Minh, Ha Noi, and Hai Phong.

3.2. Negative impacts

The influx of people from rural areas in to urban areas for jobs is not controllable. This makes the matter of overcrowded urban population even more exacerbated in terms of housing and infrastructure and their legality.

The urban population has exploded whereas the urban infrastructure has not developed to match it.

It is a fact that there is a big gap between the living standards of urban population and rural population. Urban environment is degraded. Social evils become more serious.
Capacity for urban management to be not to meet the requirement at more and more higher levels.

Environment and urban environmental problem to be more and more serious. Hence, urban ecology is not balanced.

4. Establishing the criteria for Sustainable Urban Development in Vietnam

4.1. Why we need Sustainable Urban Development?

4.1.1. The concept of “sustainable development” came into being in movements for environmental protection in early 1970s. In 1987, in the report on “Our Common Future” by the UN’s World Commission on Environment and Development, “sustainable development” was defined as “the development that satisfies the needs of the current generations without compromising the capacity of future generations to satisfy their own needs”.

4.1.2. It is global trend for development: The Earth Summit on Environment and Development held in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in 1992 and the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2002 specified that “Sustainable development” is a development process, which has close, reasonable and harmonious combination of three elements of development: economic development, social development, and environmental protection.

4.1.3. The Government of Vietnam implements international commitment about sustainable development for country level any international level.

The criteria for assessing sustainable development are stable economic growth, good implementation of social progress and equality; appropriate exploitation and thrifty utilisation of natural resources, protection and improvement of the living environment’s quality.

Figure 6: Triangle of three factors in Sustainable development

4.2. Which background for establishing Sustainable Urban Development

4.2.1. Implementation of Strategic Orientation for Sustainable Development of Vietnam

The Strategic Orientation for Sustainable Development in Vietnam have been established and composed of five parts as follows:

Part 1: Sustainable development, Vietnam's anticipated path.

Part 2: Priority economic areas for sustainable development.

Part 3: Priority social areas for sustainable development.

Part 4: Priority areas in natural resource utilisation, environmental protection and pollution control for sustainable development.

Part 5: Sustainable development implementation arrangements.
In accordance with the Agenda 21, Part 4 is one of the most important part which relates directly to “Sustainable development in generally and Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) in especially of Vietnam”.

4.2.2. Legal documents for proposal of SUD


Decision No.36-CT/TW dated Jun 25, 1998 on “Enhancing the environmental protection in the era of industrialization and modernization” which emphasizes that “Environment protection is a basic content inseparable in policies and socio-economic development plans of all levels and agencies.

National Strategy for Social Economic development of Vietnam for period of 2000-2010 and the vision to 2020. “Develop the economy rapidly, effectively and sustainable; economic growth is accompanied with social equity and environmental protection and harmonize the man-made environment and natural environment, preserving the biodiversity”.


National Strategic Orientation for Sustainable Development in Vietnam is a framework strategy, composed of broad strategies, which are the legal foundations for ministries, sectors, localities, organisations and relevant individuals to follow during their implementation and co-operation activities in order to ensure the sustainable development in Vietnam in the 21st century. The Strategic Orientation for Sustainable Development raises the challenges facing Vietnam, sets out orientations, policies, legal instruments and priority activities that need to be implemented in the 21st century.

4.3. What are requirements for sustainable development in urbanization process:

4.3.1. Sustainable urbanization must be from the viewpoint of equal development of economic growth, social and environmental stability and close linkage between rural-urban as well as traditional and modern architecture.

4.3.2. Distribution of Urban areas and Rural areas must be come a population more suitable with a closely and united structure. And it should going to have more and more short distance between Urban and rural areas.

4.3.3. Urban area should include 3 key functions: Living-working-relaxing. It should ensure that generations living in urban and surrounding areas will not have to trade off with each other and increasing physical and spiritual lives.

4.3.4. Sustainable urban development (including economic growth, social equality, urban population, land use, ecological balance, environmental protection,) should be integrated into urban planning projects by urban planning standards, construction codes…as well as urban classes and urban grades.

4.3.5. Base on urban planning projects for establishing the frameworks for reducing urban poor, creating jobs, improving urban infrastructure, in regions, cities and towns of whole country.

4.3.6. Establishing the urban environmental standard, urban ecology, and integration of these factors into urban design, urban planning, and regional planning projects as well as in implementing them in urbanization process.
4.4. Which factors should influence to Sustainable Urban Development?

As point of view urban planners, the urban life is very a comprehensive life for both economic, social, cultural issues and physical issues like housing, infrastructure, environmental issues. They created a completion life and together with their activities should be created a complicated life. In the same time, these issues under the natural conditions of city. They must be moved toward stability and sustainability. May consider some factors following in urban life to differences aspects:

4.4.1. Urban physical aspects, they are:
- Natural characteristics: climate, topography, natural landscape like lake, river, mountain, hill, plantation,
- Urban land use, Urban infrastructure, Urban environment,
- Urban architectural buildings, heritages, housing, urban living space

4.4.2. Urban non-physical aspects: Social aspects: urban community relation, tradition habit, urban cultural life,

4.4.3. Urban development factors: Economic growth, living conditions, urban life standard, urban community, urban coordination and management capacity,

And others related factors

4.5. What are criteria of Sustainable Urban Development?

As report on Agenda 21 of Vietnam, a publication for “Analysis of impacts of Urbanization to Sustainable Development of Vietnam”, there are 10 criteria groups for sustainable urban development in urbanization process, they are:

4.5.1. Criteria Group 1: Urban economic growth: Transferring economic structure toward “Industrial-Trading and servicing - Agricultural sectors”; increasing urban taxes; real property; urban competition,

4.5.2. Criteria Group 2: Stable Creation of jobs for urban community: Formal sectors in urban Industrial-Trading and servicing and others as well as informal sectors in urban community, private sectors, especially for urban poor areas.

4.5.3. Criteria Group3: Urban civilization, education and training levels and development resources: both quality and quantity need to be higher and more at any levels like: primary schools, secondary schools, colleges, universities, post graduations…

4.5.4. Criteria Group 4: Urban management capacity for sustainable urban development: capacity strengthening at time to time for urban management and urban skills. Especially training and strengthening capacity for the people who are responsible for urban management issues as well urban management skills.

4.5.5. Criteria Group 5: At higher levels of urban services: Health care, education and training game, urban recreations, urban community joining activities, shopping, and others…

4.5.6. Criteria Group 6: Urban technical infrastructure with sufficiency, stability and sustainability: urban transport, water supply, drainage and sewage networks, floods, electricity and energy supply, communications…

4.5.7. Criteria Group 7: Urban social infrastructure with sufficiency, stability and sustainability: urban comfortable housing, urban green tree, parks, kindergartens, education schools, urban clubs, libraries, urban community facilities, and others.
4.5.8. **Criteria Group 8**: Urban community mobilization in urban planning, urban development and urban management: Need comments from urban community in urban planning, urban investment projects, urban management, urban development controls, urban activities coordination, especially need to raise the women role in any urban activities and urban management.

4.5.9. **Criteria Group 9**: Urban environmental protection and keeping ecological balances toward urban sustainable development: integration of environmental issues into urban planning, into urban development investment projects, urban management and control activities, safety urban transport, ensuring quality and quantity of water supply, implementing the best for urban air, sewage, drainage, solid waste collection, transfer and treatment with appreciate and modern technologies, …especially mobilization of urban communities in these actives.

4.5.10. **Criteria Group 10**: Urban mechanism and institution with favorability and flexibility: It is needed to implement with the best results as well as bring urban life in order, safety, stability and development.

4.6. **How to identify criteria for Sustainable Urban Development**

The question is not easy to answer for identification them. However, there are some ways to do and answer the questions as follows:

4.6.1. On National Norm and Urban Planning standard:
- National Construction Norm
- Sectoral Urban Planning Standard
- National Environmental Protection Standard
- Others Sectoral Standard

4.6.2. On General Statistical Office: It is formal material for economic and social deployment at national level, local levels as well as sectoral levels.

4.6.3. Surveying and investigation by town planners, investigators, urban managers, urban communities, scientific as well as others who are interested to urban development and urbanization issues.

4.6.4. Researching, calculating and electing by urban managers, towns and city planners...

5. **Opportunities and Challenges**

5.1. **Opportunities**

5.1.1. Urbanization process and urban development to be contributed more and more in industrialization and modernization process of country, especially in urban areas.

5.1.2. National economic growth rate is stabilized, in which, urban economy contributes largely to overall development and creates driving force for urban development, particularly for small and medium urban, types IV and V.

5.1.3. Urbanization process and urban development are the historical, regional and international trend and as a process. Urban means a dynamic market on various faces: land, house, finance, infrastructures, etc.

5.1.4. Urbanization process and urban development create a dynamic for competition
between region to region, cities and cities, towns and towns. These are chances of urban business, urban production regulated by the market mechanism and law.

5.1.5. Urbanization and urban development to be create good opportunity to join Asian and world, especially when Vietnam became the 150 member of WTO.

5.2. Challenges

5.2.1. Urbanization process and urban development should be influenced and impacted to nature environment and urban environment with any form: natural resources, urban social and cultural problems,

5.2.2. Urbanization process and urban development are more and more development to be creating a distances more and more differences between urban areas and rural areas as well as distances between poor and rich people to be larger.

5.2.3. Urbanization process and urban development requires the demand of infrastructure development both social and technical infrastructure more and more higher while urban and country infrastructure were very weak so far.

5.2.4. Urbanization process and urban development requires demands of capacity for urban management and skills to be more and higher while these issues were very weak so far.

5.2.5. Urbanization process and urban development also requires the finance more and larger while the situation was limited.

5.2.6. Today, in conditions of Climate Change and Sea level Rise, the challenges to be more and more for development urban as well as rural areas in Vietnam, Asian countries and the worlds.

6. Conclusion and Recommendation.

6.1. Conclusion

Urbanization and urban development are two issues of one social development phenomenon as law at nowadays. Having a wise scientific and practical strategy of development will contribute significantly for sustainable development of one country. Therefore, study on a system of criteria for sustainable urbanization to be very necessary and importance.

6.2. Recommendation

6.2.1. Urbanization process and urban development should distributed with balances, equality between the developed and less developed regions, plane and mountain regions, seashore and midland regions...

6.2.2. In order to have equal distribution of urban and avoid concentration in big cities and create opportunities to develop rural and urban areas, especially to small cities and towns.

6.2.3. Urbanization process and urban development with comprehensively sustainable socio-economic development and efficiency of technical and social infrastructures as well

6.2.4. Urban planning must include financial sources for urban development, including any resources: state budget, enterprise, joint venture cooperation, private sector, community participation…

6.2.5. Joint-sectors and coordination within a region or among regions for both responsibility and benefit.
5.2.6. Setting up a programme or Project of urban and rural development Planning in conditions of Climate Change and Sea level rise.

_Hanoi, May 2013_

_LHK_

**REFERENCE**

4. Environmental Protection Law - National Politics Publishing House 2005