



Centre de Prospective
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ARCHITECTURE

After Villa Collapse, Hanoi Will Examine All Colonial Buildings - Saigoneer September 28, 2015

<http://saigoneer.com/vietnam-news/5348-after-villa-collapse-hanoi-will-examine-all-colonial-buildings>

A large-scale of the city's colonial buildings will be settled in Hanoi. It results from the collapse of a 110-year-old villa in downtown Hanoi last week on Trần Hưng Đạo street.

There are about 1,600 villas and properties from the pre-independence era in Hanoi : 562 are privately-owned residential properties and 1,100 structures are owned by the government.

The trouble, however, is two-fold: first, Hanoi's colonial villas are considered heritage buildings and protected by the local authorities, meaning the architecture cannot be repaired or changed in any form. For homeowners, this makes the renovation process extremely complicated and often deters people from making repairs.

Second, most of the ancient villas in the city are actually owned by the government.

While the audit is a good first step toward ensuring the safety of families in Hanoi's colonial villas, it remains to be seen if, how and when action will be taken to improve the living conditions of the capital's residents.

Local Architects Transform One Half Of This Twin House Into Green Office Space - Saigoneer September 25, 2015

<http://saigoneer.com/saigon-development/5339-photos-local-architects-transform-one-half-of-this-twin-house-into-green-office-space>

The 100-year-old French villa in disrepair in Saigon - VNB September 26, 2015

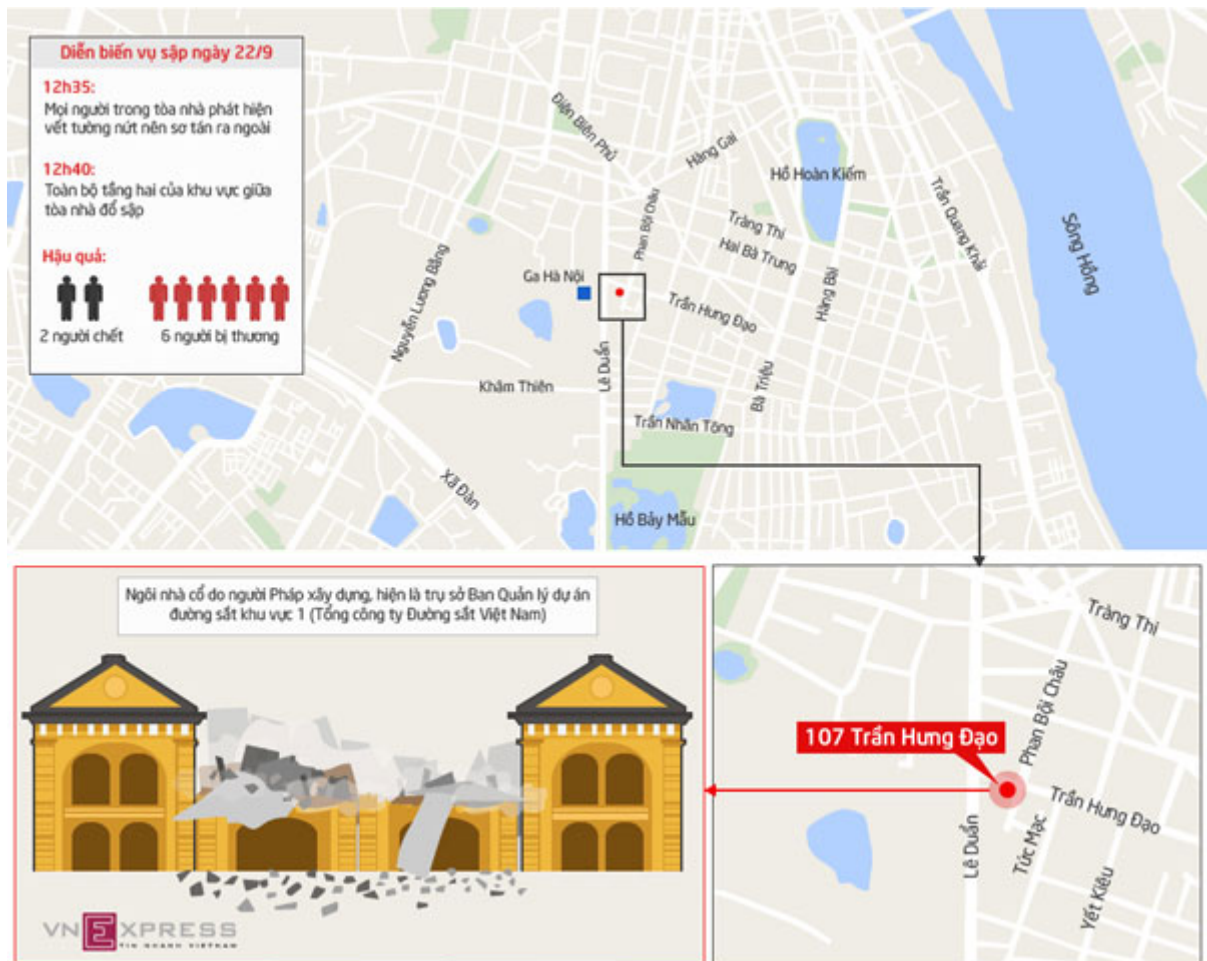
<http://english.vietnamnet.vn/fms/vietnam-in-photos/142182/the-100-year-old-french-villa-in-disrepair-in-saigon.html>

2 killed, 6 injured in 110-year-old villa collapse in Hanoi - Tuoi Tre News, September 23, 2015

<http://tuoitrenews.vn/society/30576/2-killed-6-injured-in-110year-villa-collapse-in-hanoi>

Collapse of an old villa in Hanoi, 2 killed – VN Express, September 22, 2015

<http://vnexpress.net/tin-tuc/thoi-su/sap-biet-thu-co-o-trung-tam-ha-noi-hai-nguoi-chet-3283350.html>



Vị trí nhà sập ([xem chi tiết](#)). Đồ họa: VIỆT CHUNG.

ENVIRONNEMENT

Urban dilemma: Fast-growing Ho Chi Minh City misses most environmental targets — Thanh Nien News September 29, 2015

<http://www.thanhniennews.com/society/urban-dilemma-fastgrowing-ho-chi-minh-city-misses-most-environmental-targets-51847.html>

Vietnam's southern metropolis has been trying to improve air and water quality for its residents over the past five years, but many of its goals remain unattainable, a new report said.

Ho Chi Minh City, which posted an average economic growth of 8 percent during the 2011-2015 period, set seven major goals for itself to reduce pollution and improve waste treatment.

However, as the year 2015 is about to end, the city's government now admits that it has only been able to succeed in minor targets, which are :

- 80%-90% of industries, companies which produce more than 10m³ of waste water per day have a sewer system which complies with standards
- 100% of industrial zones, free trade zones and high technologies zones have a collective treatment wastewater system
- 100% of inhabitants are sensitized to environmental protection

Among the other targets which have not been achieved:

- 90% of new urban areas and 50% of existing urban areas get a collective wastewater system

- To reduce 80% of intramural water pollution and 60% of extramural water pollution
- To reduce 70% of air and sound pollution triggered by production activities and reduce of 50% pollution caused by transports;

The city's government said in a report that weak policies are to blame for the failure, promising to keep working on the unachieved goals in the next five years.

No specific plans have been announced to mitigate negative impacts caused by increased industrial activity and fast population growth. Its population has grown around 14 % over the past five years, to around 8.6 million, not including a massive influx of migrants.

Proposal for planting coconut trees on Ho Chi Minh City streets comes under fire —Thanh Nien News September 28, 2015

<http://www.thanhniennews.com/society/proposal-for-planting-coconut-trees-on-ho-chi-minh-city-streets-comes-under-fire-51795.html>

Experts are divided over a proposal by the Vietnam Coconut Association to plant coconut trees along Ho Chi Minh City streets.

Coconut trees should be planted along canals and new streets, she said.

According to the association, the palm's fibrous root system also absorbs surface water to replenish the dwindling groundwater and reduce flooding, a serious problem in the city.

Vietnam Coconut Association wants to plant 100,000 trees on 500 km of streets along canals.

However some critics argue that the tree will endanger inhabitants and damage sidewalks.

Viet Nam prepares for UN climate change talks in Paris - VNS September 21, 2015

<http://vietnamnews.vn/environment/276049/viet-nam-prepares-for-un-climate-change-talks-in-paris.html>

In preparation of the COP21 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Vietnam had written its INDC (Intended National Determined Contributions). These commitments outline what post-2020 climate actions each country will intend to take under the new international climate agreement. The INDC of Vietnam include two components:

- The adaptation component will present the country's priorities in adapting to climate changes between 2021 and 2030.
- The mitigation component provides the national detailed plan in GHG discharge reduction during 2021-30.

The policy dialogue on climate change before COP 21 was co-organised by the French Development Agency and Oxfam Viet Nam.

INNONDATIONS

Int'l experts offer City solutions to flooding — VNS October 01, 2015

<http://vietnamnews.vn/society/276480/intl-experts-offer-city-solutions-to-flooding.html>

Leaders of HCM City consulted international experts about flood-prevention solutions during a meeting chaired by the city's Party Committee Secretary Le Thanh Hai on September, Wednesday 31.

International experts said the flooding situation had reached a "red alert" level, especially after the heavy rain that fell on September 15, which flooded 77 roads.

I Chang Tsai, a Taiwanese expert on flood prevention, warned that with the increasing impact from climate change the city should prepare for the worst scenario, which could affect 12 per cent of the city's population and erode 23 per cent of land.

"We can send the water away, but we cannot treat it. So we need to expand spaces for the water to flow. During the floods in 2013, we had to break dykes to create a stream for the water. When the water began to rise, we used mobile bridges," German expert Olaf Jue Hner said.

The foreign experts also suggested the use of new technologies to upgrade the existing drainage system in HCM City, and construction of new infrastructure for flood prevention.

They said that training of human resources for flood-prevention tasks was badly needed as well.

Nguyen Ngoc Cong, director of HCM City's Flood Prevention Centre, said this year the city would build six big sluice gates in Tan Thuan, Ben Nghe, Phu Xuan, Muong Chuoi, Cay Kho and Phu Dinh.

In addition, it would build 68 small sluice gates and a 7-km dyke along one side of the Sai Gon River to prevent flooding.

The projects, valued at VND9.85 trillion (\$437.8 million), will be completed in two years. The fund has been approved by the State Bank of Viet Nam.

The city is also in negotiations with the World Bank to build two big sluice gates at the Vam Thuat and Nuoc Len canals.

Besides developing a sluice gate system, the city will focus on upgrading the drainage system, with the aim of easing 31 flooding points by 2018.

HCMC to improve flood defences — VNS September 26, 2015

<http://vietnamnews.vn/society/276284/hcmc-to-improve-flood-defences.html>

The HCMC authorities' want to construct eight tide-control culverts and speed up zoning plans for reservoirs. In the wake of floods on September 15, the DoT had decided to take the appropriate measure.

Seventy two streets had been submerged 10 to 60 cm under water. The outdated and overloaded drainage system and climate change were blamed for the flooding. To mitigate the problem, the department will step up inspections of drainage systems and improve flood response operations.

The master plan for drainage and combating floods was approved by the Government in 2008.

Moreover, according to the HCM City Anti-Flooding Center, the height of the tides have been increasing in the last few years due to climate change : between 2011 and 2014 tides of over 1.5m have occurred 76 times while almost two-thirds of the city lies at an altitude of less than 1.5 metres above sea level.

To protect the inner districts from flooding, the city needs eight tide-control culverts, 68 sewers and hundreds of kilometres of embankment along the Sai Gon River and extensive network of canals.

Construction of these structures is expected to be completed by 2018. Building and upgrading the drainage system will be financed by the Government, four wastewater treatment plants will be funded through PPPs (public-private partnership), and loans will be obtained for the remaining projects.

HCM City struggles to cope with record rainfall, floods — VNB VNS September 21, 2015

<http://vietnamnews.vn/society/276046/hcm-city-struggles-to-cope-with-record-rainfall-floods.html>

Do Tan Long, a senior official from the HCM City Anti-Flooding Center said the city's sewage systems, which was designed originally for rainfall of 86mm failed to deal with this year's rain, which is the highest recorded level by far at 142 mm.

Long said that the city's sewage systems, which were built in 2005, are no longer able to handle such a large amount of water within such a short amount of time on top of rising tides of nearby rivers.

Experts, however, had little confidence in the city's anti-flooding plan. Asst. Prof Ho Long Phi, Director of Centre for Water Management and Climate Change told the Thanh Nien (Youth) newspaper that the proposed projects with an estimated cost of VND11 trillion (US\$ 480 million) barely covered one-fifth of the required investment to put a stop to flooding.

The un-flooded urban area - TN News August 21, 2015

<http://www.thanhniennews.com/business/the-unflooded-urban-area-50605.html>

POLLUTIONS

Viet Nam plans to control air quality - VNS September 26, 2015

<http://vietnamnews.vn/society/276285/viet-nam-plans-to-control-air-quality.html>

The MoNRE will held on Thursday a workshop on the national draft plan for managing air quality by 2020. The aim of this event is to control sources of emissions, to improve the ambient air environment, and ensure a healthy environment for all people.

By 2020, the dust, sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrite (NO_x) arising from the cement production facilities, electricity, and chemical production, should reduce by 20 per cent.

The plan would also include completion of the financial mechanism and diversifying investment sources, strengthening international co-operation on science and technology, inspection and supervision of the implementation of the law on air protection, and raising awareness about pollution and air quality.

Pollution from coal-fired power plants kills 4,300 Vietnamese every year: study —Thanh Nien News September 29, 2015

<http://www.thanhniennews.com/health/pollution-from-coalfired-power-plants-kills-4300-vietnamese-every-year-study-51873.html>

Each year, 4,300 people died in Vietnam because of pollution from coal-fired power plant.

A study released at a conference in Hanoi on Tuesday (09/29/2015) claims that once all planned power projects become operational, the annual death count may hit 25,000.

Water sources are also concerned by the waste discharged from these plants.

Speaking at the conference, Tran Dinh Sinh, who runs non-profit group Green Innovation and Development, said the number of deaths caused by coal power pollution will increase, which will result in a heavier burden on the healthcare system.

Sinh was particularly concerned about Vietnam's plan to increase power outputs from thermal plants, eventually to 50 percent of its total power generation in 2030. He said with this plan, Vietnam is going against the global trend to move from fossil fuel to greener alternatives.

Many factories discharge untreated wastewater — Vietnam Net Bridge September 27, 2015

<http://www.vietnambreakingnews.com/2015/09/many-factories-discharge-untreated-wastewater/>

A recent report highlights that only 85% of 3,300 manufacturing facilities in the city have built standard wastewater treatment systems.

According to the city government's report on environmental pollution reduction in the 2011-2015 period, the city earlier targeted that by 2015 around 80-90% of the manufacturing, service and trading facilities in the city would have had environmental treatment systems and signed contracts with special units for waste collection and treatment in accordance with the existing regulations.

The city has problems to control the factories who discharge less than 10 cubic meters. Often these ones have no treatment systems.

The city also wanted 90% of new urban areas to have central wastewater treatment facilities and half of the old urban areas to have such systems. However, only 13% of the total wastewater volume in the city is treated.

DEVELOPPEMENT RURAL

HCM City hailed for rural progress — VNS October 03, 2015

<http://vietnamnews.vn/society/276582/hcm-city-hailed-for-rural-progress.html>

HCM CITY — The HCM City administration yesterday reviewed the progress made in the five years since implementation of the Government's New Rural Area Programme began.

The city, not only leads the country in socio-economic development, but is also a leader in implementing the programme, which seeks to dramatically improve the standard of living in rural areas.

Praising its significant progress in achieving the target – 50 of its 56 rural communes have achieved the "new rural area" norms — Deputy Prime Minister Vu Van Ninh said the city's achievements had greatly contributed to the country's socio-economic development.

With three of its five rural districts also achieving the recognition, HCM City leads the country in terms of both number and quality. The five rural districts with a combined population of 1.5 million still faced many difficulties.

Rural life improvement

Though the agricultural area in the city has reduced due to urbanisation, the sector continues to grow at an average of 5.8 per cent. The value of output per hectare was reported at over VND325 million (\$14,400) last year, twice the 2010 value, and four times the national rate. It is expected to reach VND800 million (\$35,600) by 2020.

TRANSPORT

HCM City re-routes traffic at congested intersection — VNS September 26, 2015

<http://vietnamnews.vn/society/276286/hcm-city-re-routes-traffic-at-congested-intersection.html>

The city's Department of Transport has made traffic changes at a highly congested intersection in District 7. According to the department, Tran Xuan Soan Street from Huynh Tan Phat Street to Tan Thuan 4 Street will become a one-way street for cars. In addition, parking is no longer allowed on Lien Cang A5 Street. In addition, from now until April 5, 2016, part of Ton Duc Thang Street in District 1 will be bordered by a fence for the construction of the Ba Son metro station line running from Ben Thanh to Suoi Tien.

Saigon Is Getting Some Flashy New Bus Routes - Saigoneer September 25, 2015

<http://saigoneer.com/saigon-news/5341-saigon-is-getting-some-flashy-new-bus-routes>

According to the Communist Party of Vietnam's online newspaper, from October 1, Saigon will launch two new bus routes, connecting both District 2 and Tan Son Nhat International Airport with the downtown area.

The brand new bus route 35 will travel from District 2's Thao Dien neighborhood through Thu Thiem Tunnel to Vo Van Kiet Street in District 1. The 16-kilometer route will be use about 120 times a day from 5:50am to 8pm. The goal is to decrease the traffic congestion over Saigon Bridge.

Elsewhere in the city, another new route from Tan Son Nhat International Airport will depart from the international terminal and make its final stop at 23-9 Park near Ben Thanh Market, according to Dan Tri.

PLANNIFICATION

Eastern HCMC facing overpopulation – VietnamNet, October 02, 2015

<http://english.thesaigontimes.vn/43249/Eastern-HCMC-facing-overpopulation.html>

In districts 2, 9 and Thu Duc, the pace of population growth is faster than that of infrastructure development. [...]

In the past two years, many big real estate companies including Khang Dien, Novaland, Thuduc House and Nam Long have carried out dozens of housing and urban area development projects.

Previously, real estate companies concentrated on land lot projects, but many of them have switched to apartment projects as more traffic infrastructure projects have been put into use in the eastern part.

According to a report on Thu Thiem new urban area released by CB Richard Ellis Vietnam (CBRE), apart from Dai Quang Minh Real Estate Investment Company's Sala project comprising hundreds of villas and townhouses, and 5,600 luxury apartments, other major housing projects have been approved in the eastern part.

Le Van Nam, former chief architect of HCMC, told the Daily that the east has experienced abnormally fast growth in residential area development. Nam said it is necessary to have residential area projects in the east to help ease overpopulation pressure in the inner-city areas, but the population growth should match the development of infrastructure.

Hanoi building near Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum taller than allowed: inspectors — Thanh Nien News October 01, 2015

<http://www.thanhniennews.com/society/hanoi-building-near-ho-chi-minh-mausoleum-taller-than-allowed-inspectors-51956.html>

The Discovery Complex II building in Hanoi is higher than expected. Located near the Ho Chi Minh mausoleum, which is only 21.6 meters high, the Discovery Complex measures now 69 meters while the approved height was 53 meters. Hanoi inspectors have concluded that construction rules were overstepped multiple times between 2010 and 2015. The Hanoi government said it will strictly punish the developer for its violations.

Vietnam's Bitexco Financial Tower Signaling Profits for Thu Thiem Investors — Vietnam Briefing, September 30, 2015

<http://www.vietnam-briefing.com/news/vietnams-bitexco-financial-tower-signaling-profits-thu-thiem-investors.html/>