

Vietnam envisaged having 1,000 urban towns by year 2025

Apr 15, 2009

VNBUSINESSNEWS.COM - Viet Nam will have around 1,000 urban areas with a combined population of 52 million by 2025, according to a master plan just approved by the Government.

Under the plan with a vision to 2050 prepared by the Ministry of Construction, these towns are to obtain adequate, modern infrastructure and a healthy living environment.

The plan will help to reduce the urban-rural gap in living standards, protect the environment and use natural resources in a manner that will ensure sustainable urban development.

The plan also specifies socio-economic growth, architecture orientations and infrastructure development.

Major cities such as Hanoi, HCMC, Can Tho, Danang, Haiphong, Vinh, Hue and Quy Nhon will have satellite cities to compensate for accelerated population growth as well as to limit the increase in manufacturing plants in inner-city areas.

The plan also requires each city to have a particular design and architecture depending on its economy, culture, history and technological development.

The Ministry of Construction and relevant agencies will oversee the architecture of Hanoi and HCMC. The architecture of historic cities like Hue, Hoi An, Dalat and Sapa will be protected and embellished to make them unique.

From now to 2015, Vietnam will give priority to developing economic zones and metropolises. However, some experts have expressed concern about the low urban management capacity in Vietnam given this huge urban development master plan.

* In a related development, a master plan for developing the HCMC zone, announced early this month, will help the city and seven other southern provinces address economic and urban development issues, Deputy Construction Minister Tran Ngoc Chinh said.

The zone will encompass HCMC, Binh Duong, Binh Phuoc, Ba Ria-Vung Tau, Tay Ninh, Dong Nai, Long An and Tien Giang.

In 2005, the Southern Sub-Institute of Urban and Rural Planning proposed establishing an economic zone in which HCMC would serve as the nucleus surrounded by independent satellite areas and areas connecting the city with neighboring provinces. The connection to the southeast is Ba Ria-Vung Tau Province; to the east, Dong Nai Province's Long Khanh and Nhon Trach Districts; to the north, Binh Phuoc Province's Chon Thanh District; to the northwest, Tay Ninh Province's Trang Bang District; and to the southwest, Tien Giang Province's My Tho City.

The HCMC zone will have advantages to develop trade links with neighboring Cambodia and Thailand and those in the Mekong Sub-region via the Trans-Asia route since it consists of some provinces that border these countries.

However, many urban planning experts said that in order to develop the zone, which will have a population of 20-22 million by 2010, a long list of concerns would have to be addressed. Those concerns include fast urbanization, lack of infrastructure, the widening gap of living standards between the inner cities and the suburbs, the disconnection between ports, pollution and gridlock traffic. (SGT)

[>>> Read more](#)

[ADB To Lend Vietnam \\$72 Million Loan For Infrastructure Development](#)