

Megacity Research Project TP Ho Chi Minh Integrative Urban and Environmental Planning Framework Adaptation to Climate Change

Ho Chi Minh City Metropolitan Region Climate Change Adaptation Forum 2010

Building regional climate change response capacity and strengthening inter-provincial cooperation



Forum

June 29, 2010

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Outcome

Ho Chi Minh City Metropolitan Region Climate Change Adaptation Forum 2010

Building regional climate change response capacity and strengthening inter-provincial cooperation”

**Tuesday, 29th of June 2010, SIUP South, HCMC
08.30am – 12.30am, ground floor conference room,
Southern Sub-Institute of Urban and Rural Planning, 65 Mac Dinh Chi Street, District 1,
Ho Chi Minh City**

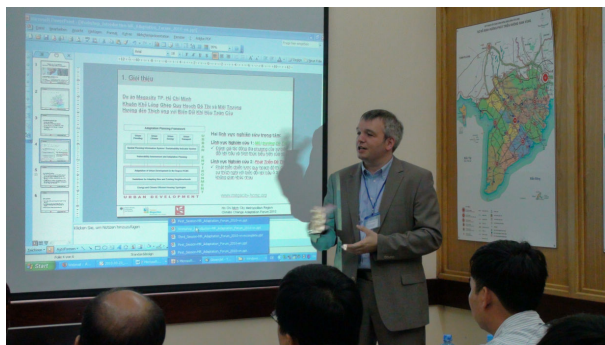
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Outline

Climate change adaptation requires regional integration, since most climate change impacts concern different sectors and administrative entities at the same time. Also, responses to climate change and development activities of specific sectors or regions influence the magnitude of climate change impacts on other areas. Discussions with provincial authorities revealed that all provinces in the region face similar challenges of climate change response and that an exchange of related information is desired by all respective planning institutions.

Responding to this desire, the ‘HCMC Region Climate Change Adaptation Forum’ was jointly organised by the Southern Sub- Institute and the HCMC Megacity Research Project. At the forum the provincial Departments of Natural Resources and Environment, several Departments of Construction, VIAP and other research and planning institutions were – for the first time – gathered to discuss and exchange views, strategies, and measures regarding climate change response.

The main objectives were to provide an exchange regarding climate change adaptation in the HCMC Metropolitan Region and to strengthen the resilience of the region by improving cooperation between planning authorities of neighboring provinces. Furthermore planning institutions were to be supported in their efforts to set up provincial action plans to respond to climate change as requested by the MoNRE and the ‘National Target Program to Respond to Climate Change’.



Presentations

“Introduction to the forum and to the challenge of regional planning” (Mr. Ng Quang Hung)

“Assessing the need for regional coordination and inclusive adaptation strategies” (Mr. Andreas Gravert)

“The ‘Action Plan to Respond to Climate Change’ – proceedings and problems of its preparation” (Mr. Nguyen Viet Thang)

Status of the preparation of the provincial action plans to respond to climate change – (reported by all provincial DoNREs)

“Building adaptive capacity in the HCMC Metropolitan Region” (Prof. Dr. Thorsten Wiechmann)

Participants

- Mr. Ngô Quang Hùng (SIUP South, Director)
- Mr. Trần Ngọc Bình (SIUP South, Vice-Director)
- Mr. Đỗ Ngọc Hoàn (SIUP South)
- Mr. Nguyễn Việt Thắng (SIUP South)
- Dr. Nguyễn Trung Dũng (VIAP, Head of Research Department)
- Dr. Nguyễn Chí Thành (Institute for Forest Planning)
- Dr. Nguyễn Ngọc Anh (Southern Institute for Water Resources Planning, Director)
- Dr. Nguyễn Thanh Nhã (HCMC Institute for Development Studies, Director of Information Center)
- Dr. Nguyễn Trung Việt (HCMC DoNRE)
- Ms. Đỗ Hoàng Oanh (HCMC DoNRE)
- Ms. Vũ Thùy Linh (HCMC DoNRE)
- Mr. Nguyễn Văn Thảo (HCMC DoNRE)
- Mr. Lý Khánh Tâm Thảo (HCMC DPA)
- Ms. Lê Ngọc Hân (Dong Nai DoNRE)
- Mr. Lê Minh Tân (Binh Duong DoNRE)
- Ms. Cao Thụy Thủy Tiên (Binh Duong DoNRE)
- Mr. Hồ Thanh Bình (Binh Duong DoC)
- Ms. Nguyễn Thị Kế Hậu (Binh Duong DoC)
- Mr. Nguyễn Đức Lập (Ba Ria Vung Tau DoC)
- Mr. Hồng Minh Tuấn (Tien Giang DoNRE)

- Ms. Phạm Thị Thanh Tuyền (Tien Giang DoNRE)
- Dr. Ngô Việt Nam Sơn (Washington University, Urban Planning Lecturer)
- Ms. Trần Thu Hằng (HCMC University of Architecture, Department of Urban Planning)
- Prof. Dr. Thorsten Wiechmann (Technical University Dortmund, Department of Spatial Planning)
- Mr. Andreas Gravert (Brandenburg Technical University of Cottbus, Department of Urban Planning)

Outcome

General

- Communication between planning institutions across sectors and across administrative boundaries is lacking;
- All participants however showed a very strong interest in the forum and in further activities alike;
- A lack of climate change response capacity was acknowledged by all provincial planning departments (“we are confused”) except for DPA and DoNRE of HCMC;
- Roundtables with planners in charge of climate change response from DoCs and DoNREs are a very effective way to strengthen capacity in the HCMC Metropolitan Region.

Assessing the need for regional coordination and inclusive adaptation strategies

- All provinces face similar institutional and environmental challenges in regards to climate change;
- All provinces regard the facilitation of an exchange between provinces as a crucial element to build capacity;
- All provinces agree that climate change requires inter-provincial cooperation.

The ‘Action Plan to Respond to Climate Change’ – proceedings and problems of its preparation/Status of the preparation of the provincial action plans to respond to climate change

- All provincial DoNREs are obliged to prepare a climate change action plan; DoCs are not;
- So far, only the DoNRE of HCMC and Vung Tau and the DoC of HCMC have begun to physically prepare this action plan;
 - Lack of information (‘what exactly needs to be done and when?’)
 - Lack of capacity (‘how to make it?’)
 - Lack of funding (‘how can we finance adaptation measures?’)
 - Overload with daily work (‘we have other problems!’)

Building adaptive capacity in the HCMC Metropolitan Region

- In Vietnam awareness towards climate change is high, strategies are in principle available, implementation of measures however is still lacking;
- 1.5 years after the ratification of the ‘National Target Programme to Respond to Climate Change’ nothing has been implemented in the sectors of construction and land use planning.
- Germany and Vietnam face similar (institutional) barriers regarding adaptation, the main difference between both settings might be that Middle Europe is stable, while Vietnam is rapidly developing; adaptation efforts have to consider this pace;
- Several instruments to mainstream climate change response and to strengthen related capacity in the construction and land-use planning sector have been discussed, along with proposals to facilitate regionally integrated climate change response.

Questionnaire

In preparation of the workshop all institutions were asked to fill in a questionnaire. The most important results are that all provinces rated the demand for the facilitation of an exchange between provinces with the highest priority. This proves that the climate change challenge provides a window of opportunity for improved regional and sectoral coordination. Furthermore, provincial authorities prefer formal/top-down measures (seminars/plans) rather than informal/bottom-up ones (informal working groups/strategic concepts).