Spatial Planning in Vietnam

By

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2. CURRENT PROBLEMS
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Overview

Three quarters of the country is covered by mountains and plateaus. Flatlands are limited to the coastal Red River and Mekong deltas.

Administrative structure is divided into three regions (northern, central, and southern) and six socio-economic sub-regions.

The **Doi Moi reforms (Renovation-1986):**

- Moving from plan economy towards a orientation market economy and opened policy.
- Rapid Industrialization in rural outskirts, urbanization expansion in urban outskirts.
- Increasing foreign and domestic investments
- Changing Planning approach methodology
- Land use change

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Surface area</strong></th>
<th>329,241 km²</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population</strong></td>
<td>About 92.70 million (2016: WB.)</td>
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<td><strong>Population density</strong></td>
<td>282/km²</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Percentage of urban population</strong></td>
<td>33.6% (2015); 35% (UNDP 2017)</td>
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<td><strong>GDP</strong></td>
<td>USD 201.9 million (2016)</td>
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<td><strong>GDP per capita</strong></td>
<td>USD 2,215 (2016)</td>
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| **Percentage of employment by industry** | agriculture: 48%  
industry: 21%  
services: 31% (2012) |
| **Economic growth rate** | 6.21% (2016: GSO) |
## Local Government & Spatial Planning system

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Centrally-Controlled Cities&lt;br&gt;(5 cities: Ha Noi Capital, Ho Chi Minh City, Hai Phong, Da Nang, Can Tho)</td>
<td>Districts</td>
<td>Wards</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prefectures</td>
<td>Townships</td>
<td>Counties</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Towns</td>
<td>Wards</td>
<td>Counties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provinces&lt;br&gt;(58 provinces)</td>
<td>Prefectures</td>
<td>Townships</td>
<td>Counties</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prefecture-level cities</td>
<td>Wards</td>
<td>Counties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Towns</td>
<td>Wards</td>
<td>Counties</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Country map divided by regions.**<br>Source: Viet Nam Institute of Architecture, Urban and Rural Planning (VIAP)
The Law on Urban Planning 2009:

Urban centers are classified into 6 Grades, including Special Grade and Grades I, II, III, IV and V:
- Centrally-controlled cities must be an urban center of Special Grade or Grade I.
- Prefecture-level cities must be an urban center of Grade I, II or III.
- Towns must be an urban center of Grade III or IV.
- Townships must be an urban center of Grade IV or V.

Total 774 cities and towns including: 2 cities at Special grade, 15 cities at grade I, 21 cities at grade II, 42 cities and towns at grade III and 68 towns and townships at grade IV and 68 towns and townships at grade IV.
50 % of urban population is concentrated at 16 big cities.

National spatial policy: the Socio-Economic Development Plan (by MPI) and the Spatial Plan (by MOC).
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**Spatial Planning in Vietnam at the National & Regional levels**

**Law on Construction 2013**

**Construction Planning**:  
1. Regional Construction Planning;  
2. Urban Planning (defined by Law on Urban Planning 2009);  
3. Special Functional Zone Planning; and  
4. Rural Planning.

**Regional Planning**:  
1. Region of Joint/Multi Provinces (1st level of administration);  
2. Region of Province;  
3. Region of Joint/Multi prefectures (2nd level of administration);  
4. Region of Prefectures;  
5. Region of Special Functional Areas; and  
6. Region of Highway Corridor, Economic Corridor of Joint/Multi Provinces.

**Special Functional Zone Planning**:  
1. Zones of Economy;  
2. Zones of Industry areas, Export Processing Zones, High-tech areas;  
3. Zones of Ecology, tourism;  
4. Zones of Conservation areas, Historical-cultural areas;  
5. Zones of Research - training areas and sport areas;  
6. Zones of Airport or Seaport;  
7. Zones of Core Infrastructural Nodes; and  
8. Others mandated by Regional Planning or approved by Authority.

**Rural Planning** is planned for commune (not wards or townships) or nodes of small population.

**The Law on Urban Planning 2009**:  
(1) General Planning, (2) Zoning Planning, and (3) Specific Planning.
Current problems and causes:

• Limited coordination of multi sector planning
• Overlap planning in other sectors
• Top-Down approach planning rather than Bottom –up
• Lack of community & civil organization participation in planning process
• Lack of transparency & accountability
• Changing land use planning causing instability for investment
• City expansion (urban sprawl) is more than improving quality of life
• Lack of green areas & public space
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What are going ahead?

- Strong integrated coordination of multi-sector planning (new Planning law)
- Forwards advance methodology with international association
- Bottom – Up approach planning to feet market economy
- Enhancement of community & civil organization participation in planning process
- Transparency & accountability
- Attracts investment
- Sustainable development & environmental protection
- Improving quality of life rather than city sprawl
- Increasing green & public areas and heritage conservation
CONCLUSION

• **Spatial planning system** in Vietnam is still considered as uncompleted context that has been causes inflexible in development process as well as waste of time and financial source, affecting on quality of life and sustainable development in the whole country.

• **The need for stronger international association and cooperation** with oversea countries towards advance approach in spatial planning work.
Thank you!