



City profile

The new Hanoi: Opportunities and challenges for future urban development

Divya Leducq^{a,*}, Helga-Jane Scarwell^b^a UMR CNRS 7324 Cités, Territoires, Environnement et Sociétés (CITERES), Polytechnic College of the University of Tours, 35 allée Ferdinand de Lesseps, 37200 Tours, France^b EA 4477 Territoires, Villes, Environnement et Société (TVES), Lille 1 University, France

ARTICLE INFO

Keywords:

Urban planning
Sustainable development
Hanoi metropolitan area
Vietnam

ABSTRACT

Hanoi is the political capital of Vietnam but still ranks second in importance after Ho Chi Minh City, the economic hub of the country. Nonetheless, due to its ancient history, location and political choices, Hanoi, after resisting urban modernity for a long time, now seeks to expand and has achieved international metropolitan status. The Millennium anniversary of Hanoi (2010) was a further step in the endogenous development of the metropolitan area. Combined with economic globalization since the Doi Moi national policy in 1986 and the current trend of competition between world cities, which is particularly fierce in South-East and Pacific Asia, it has led to some remarkable transformations of the city and in town planning. All activity sectors, population groups and newly developed areas of Hanoi have been vastly reshaped by these metropolitan trends, and by planning processes, funding and management decisions. The scale and diversity of issues highlight the city's ambition to expand, with a metropolitan area covering more than 3300 km², and to manage its urban transition and conflicting developments, notably the conversion of agricultural land, the implementation of more sustainable and participatory urban planning, the ability to attract sufficient foreign and domestic investment to drive urban growth, and, more generally, to open the country to globalization. Many objectives that seem at first sight to be irreconcilable.

1. Introduction

More than twelve years after publication of the previous city profile by Van Horen (2005), the shift “from rigid, top-down Soviet-style Master Planning to a more flexible Strategic Planning and urban management approach (Van Horen, 2005: 161; Quang & Kammeier, 2002) has been confirmed by a stronger neoliberal approach to urban planning driven by foreign and national investments that challenge the sustainable development of the sprawling metropolis of Hanoi. The aim of this paper is to examine recent urban development trends in Hanoi, one of the cities most impacted by new modes of regulation. The economic vitality commonly observed in developing cities in the non-western world was strengthened by the Millennium Year celebrations (2010), which acted as an additional lever for the decisions that have affected the capital city of Vietnam over the last ten years. Rather than focusing on the heritage and historical growth of the city (Logan, 2000), the purpose of this paper is to examine the socio-spatial fabric of the new Hanoi.

The local appropriation of the global metropolitan model through the circulation of ideas and references (McCann & Ward, 2012) is shaping the city, and current reforms and plans bring with them a

number of challenges for the sustainable urban development of the city. This discussion is based on field surveys and interviews carried out between 2012 and 2017, and on secondary sources.

First, we examine recent changes to the perimeter of Hanoi and the planning strategies laid down in the Master Plan for 2030–2050, implemented since 2010 and already thrown into question (Bertaud, 2011). We review a number of initiatives taken by the Hanoi planning authorities to transform Hanoi into “a vibrant metropolitan area in the global cities competition” (appx. 1, interview 1). Finally, we discuss the further challenges faced by Hanoi metropolitan area resulting from the tensions between sustainable development goals and current development trends.

2. Changes in urban form and planning policies in the last decade

2.1. A radical extension of Hanoi Capital Region

Hanoi is located in northern Vietnam's Red River delta nearly 90 km from the coast. The construction of new Hanoi is more than simply spatial expansion (Smith & Scarpaci, 2001); it is a city-region in a space strongly defined by water (Fig. 1). In 2008, by the Prime Minister's

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: divya.leducq@univ-tours.fr (D. Leducq).

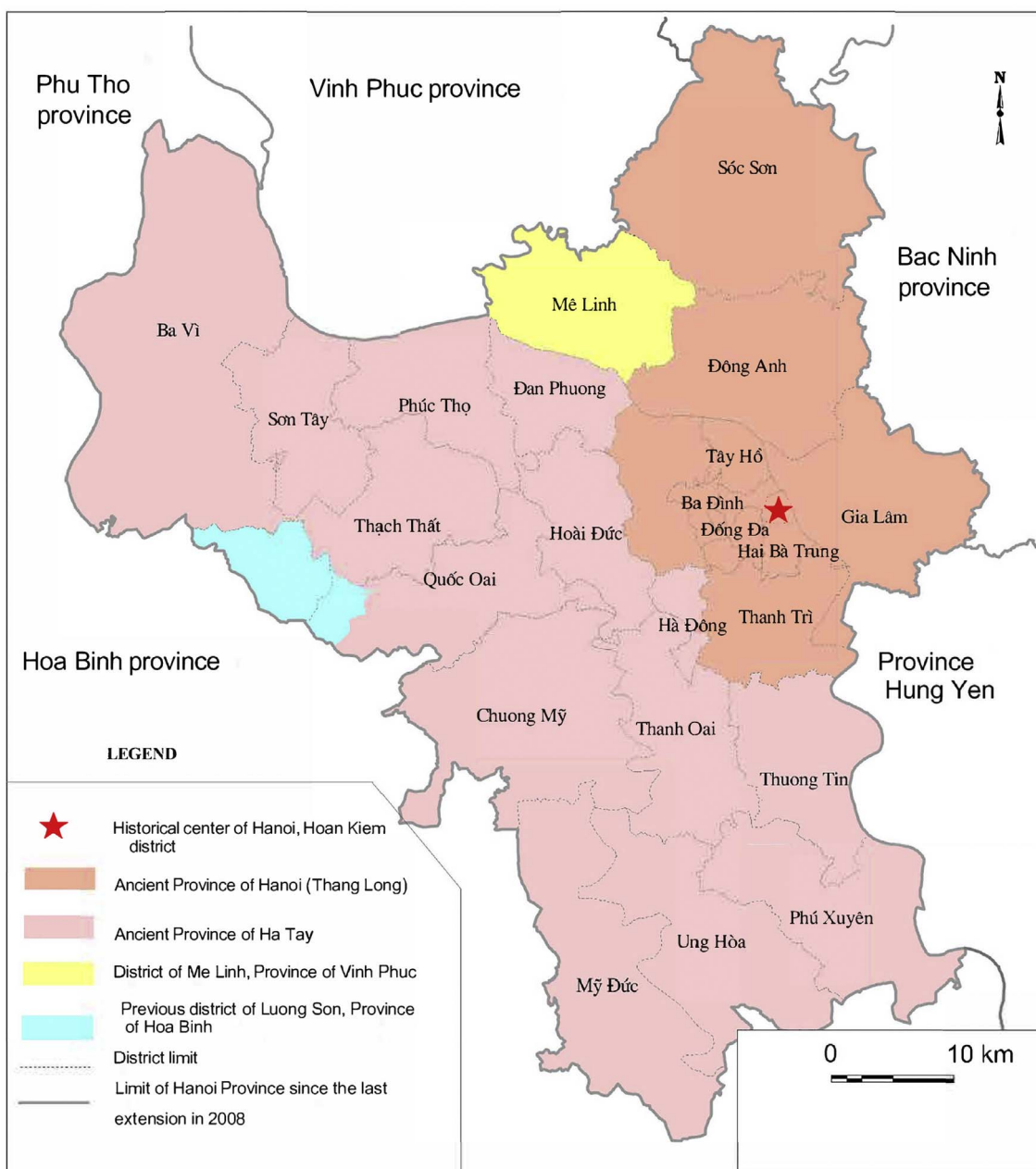


Fig. 1. Map of recent perimeter extension of Hanoi. Source: Modified by the authors, plotted by Tran Dinh Du, 2012, based on Master Plan 2030–2050 and various archive documents.

decision to bring Ha Tay Province, Vinh Phuc Province, Me Linh District and four communes of Luong Son District, Hoa Binh Province within Hanoi metropolitan area, effectively tripling its size to 3344 km², with 29 subdivisions, and a population of almost 7 million inhabitants. Hanoi extended its margins, incorporating agricultural and multi-activity villages (Fanchette, 2015; McGee, 1995). The extensive building and infrastructures in the periurban sprawl (Friedmann, 2016; Leaf, 2002) has had serious consequences for water management, notably inadequate drainage networks and increased flooding risks, coming on top of existing dysfunctions such as clogged irrigation channels and unequal access of irrigation water for agriculture (Labbé, 2016; Labbé & Musil, 2014).

New Hanoi, covering Hanoi and six neighboring provinces under its administration (Fig. 2), is predicted to have a surface area of 13,436 km² and a population of 15 million by 2020, raising the question of the governance of this vast territory (Saksena et al., 2014).

Although the top-down approach to urban development of the public authorities is still predominant, they are no longer the only stakeholders involved in the urbanization process. Centralized planning, orchestrated by the Government and managed by the People's Committee, has gradually been replaced by decentralized multi-party planning policies, involving new private or semi-private players.

2.2. Master plan for 2030–2050: aspects of strategic planning

The management trend in urban planning fostered by many cities in the world – San Francisco, Toronto, London, Melbourne (HUPI, 2011: chapter III International experiences, p. 5–138) – is visible in the recent Master Plan of Hanoi demonstrating the vision, values, commitments and specific areas of focus determining how urban and spatial planning strategies will respond to the needs and aspirations of Hanoi residents (HUPI, 2011: chapter II Assessment on existing condition of Hanoi

Download English Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/en/article/5107957>

Download Persian Version:

<https://daneshyari.com/article/5107957>

[Daneshyari.com](https://daneshyari.com)