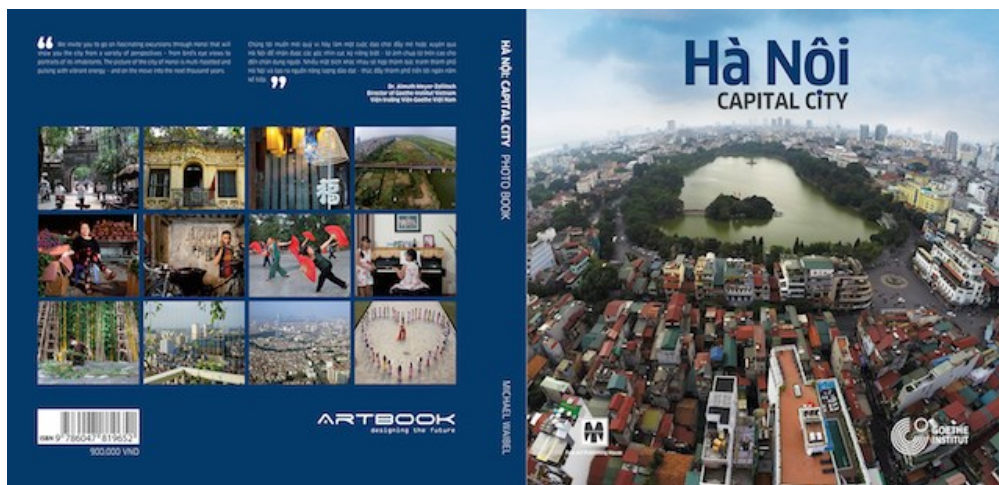




Urbanization of Hanoi via a German expert

"Hà Nội: CAPITAL City" is a photo book publication illustrating the recent urban development of Hanoi. The editor of this coffee table book is Dr. Michael Waibel from Hamburg University, Germany. The book has been published in German, Vietnamese and English language.



Cover page of photo book "Hà Nội: CAPITAL City"

Besides the capital city of Hanoi is moving vigorously with the global development trend is the image of Hanoi with 36 streets and French architecture with many small squares and parks. Via this book, Hanoi's urbanization process is being described within 6 chapters ranging vom bird eye's views till portraits of the city inhabitants within their private living environment. The book also contains a number of essays by long-term residents of the city whose views show a multidimensional picture of Hanoi. The soul of Hanoi is captured via more than 600 photos made not only by the editor himself but also by about 20 local and international photographers reflecting the changes and development of urbanization in Hanoi.



1.-4. Nhà sinh hoạt khu phố được cải tạo, xây mới năm 2000 tại số 38 Hàng Đào, quận Hoàn Kiếm
(In im Jahr 2000 umfassend rekonstruiertes und renoviertes Gemeinschaftshaus in der Hang Dao Straße 38, Hanoi-Kern-Distrikt)
A communal house, completely restored in 2000 at 38 Hang Dao Street, Hanoi-Kern-Distrikt
© Michael Weibel 1987 (1.)
© Michael Weibel 2002 (2.)
© Michael Weibel 2003 (3.)
© Sylvia Köllner 2014 (4.)



Some images of comparison between the past and present (communal house at 38 Hang Dao Street)

The chapter “Change over Time” recalls the physical changes within 20 years from the appearance of architecture, transportation to urban lifestyle and culture. The face of the city is portrayed via building skyscrapers of the rich with many activities and entertainment, besides with that contrast images of less advantagous people in Hanoi.



Physical changes of Hanoi due to modernization

The book was endorsed by the contribution and support of many organizations who love Hanoi want to express their ideas and hint of the posed problems. Hanoi is standing at the junction in the globalization process, the rapid development threatens the balance between the tradition and modernity. Anyone who will look at the photos of this book - especially the Hanoians - will have to think about how Hanoi will determine its position in times of globalization and how to be able to preserve its cultural heritage and its unique blend of architecture?

Dr. Almuth Meyer-Zollitsch, Director of Goethe Institute Vietnam, talked about Hanoi as follows: “Hanoi’s residents are proud of their grand history, which has always been a story of self-assertion. In the midst of great changes they honor their traditions and maintain cherished habits: visiting the pagoda; sitting and drinking tea in small groups in front of the house or in one of the city’s numerous small squares; gathering for early morning calisthenics... Hanoi has kept its soul. Visitors sense it as well, the marked contrast to other Southeast Asian cities with their freeways and concrete jungles, marveling at Hanoi’s many squares and small parks, the tree-lined avenues with their leafy canopies, the bustling neighborhoods and the endless stream of motorbikes.

But rapid development threatens the balance between the traditional and the

modern. More and more cars clog the roads, green spaces become construction sites, historic façades disappear, the city chokes on exhaust fumes, and hastily implemented infrastructures threaten to collapse. Urban planning is hardly able to keep pace with the challenges and demands of the citizens. Is Hanoi at a turning point in its urban development?"

At the same time the editor of this book Dr. Michael Waibel highlights the fact that Hanoi is undoubtedly one of the most beautiful urban sites in Southeast Asia: "It was founded under the name of "Thang Long" in 1010 as the seat of the Vietnamese emperor in the midst of the Red River delta. Various historic influences mix here and form an inspiring mélange of different architecture: relics of stately grandeur from the imperial era; lavish, tree-lined boulevards from the French colonial period; ostentatious villas in quiet gardens; numerous peaceful pagodas; innumerable buildings from the peak of socialist planned economy; and new buildings signaling the capitalist economy, growth and Doi Moi. With the goal of transforming Hanoi into a "modern and civilized" metropolis, the political elites follow ambitious plans. This publication aims to visualize the recent urban change of Hanoi, Vietnam's capital."

Dr. Michael Waibel has been studying the urban change within the city of Hanoi and its development perspectives since the mid 1990s. This includes the organization of numerous conferences in cooperation with the Goethe-Institute. Most of the images published within the coffee table book were made especially for this book by the editor or taken from his extensive photo archive.

Thus, in order to keep Hanoi beauty in the eyes of anyone, a relevant long-term strategy is needed to reconcile economic growth with its prevalent heritage and preservation efforts. This is a complex challenge with many difficulties requiring the involvement of many organizations and sectors. Along with the current program of cutting down, replacing 6,700 trees in Hanoi at present, this book ever becomes respectfully with the unforgettable image of Hanoi.

Book Information:

Waibel, M. (ed.) (2015) Hà Nội: Capital City. Sách ảnh / Fotobuch / Photo Book. 1st edition. Fine Art Publishing House, Hanoi, Vietnam, 308 p. ISBN 978-604-78-1965-2.

In Hanoi, the book is available at Infostone bookshop, at the larger shops of Hanoi Book Company, at Bookworm and the bookshop of Ho Chi Minh Museum.

* Bao Xay dung online

* Publication permit No. 2033/GP - BTTTT Hanoi, November 30, 2011.

* Editor in chief: Nguyen Anh Dung

* Deputy Editors-in-Chief: Nguyen Thai Binh, Tran Thi Thu Ha, Tao Khanh Hung, Vu Van Tien

* Address: 37 Le Dai Hanh, Hai Ba Trung, Hanoi - Telephone: 04.39780862. Fax: 04.38216555

* Email: webmaster@vnctimes.com.vn