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BOOK: HA NOI CAPITAL CITY

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Hanoi, city of the rising dragon, has a history stretching back for a thousand years. All significant turning points in Vietnam's history have left their mark on the city. Hanoi has kept its soul. Visitors sense it as well, the marked contrast to other Southeast Asian cities with their freeways and concrete jungles, marvelling at Hanoi's many squares and small parks, the tree-lined avenues with their leafy canopies, the bustling neighbourhoods and the endless stream of motorbikes. Hanoi's growth and economic development is at a crossroads, though. How can Hanoi position itself as a world-class city in global competition without giving up its rich cultural and urban-architectural heritage? The city has further to live up to the demands of the higher living standards of its citizens; has to cope with the constant migration of the rural population to the city; overcome its traffic problems and, last but not least, provide an attractive location for international investors and knowledge-based industries. The challenge for Hanoi is to build on its uniqueness under global competition, instead of just falling back on it.

Michael Waibel is a senior researcher and project leader in urbanism at the Department for Geography of the University of Hamburg. In early 2014, he has already published the highly successful photo book "TP. Hồ Chí Minh: MEGA City" together Henning Hilbert from Vietnamese-German University (VGU).

The second book of this series introducing now about Hanoi's recent urban development has an attractive coffee table book format and has been published in three languages, in Vietnamese, German and English. It contains over 600 photos illustrating the multi-faceted and vibrant city from a variety of perspectives – from bird's eye views to portraits of its inhabitants. In addition to the visual illustrations, this publication has assembled some essays by Hanoi residents who share their personal perspective and reflect diverse, multigenerational points of view. This may contribute to a comprehensive picture of this city. The whole publication is targeting a wide audience. The work is based on many years of academic work stretching back till the late 1990s. Among other it got funded by the German National Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) within the initiative "Research for Sustainable Megacities of Tomorrow". Further, a series of conferences in cooperation with the Goethe Institute have been organized, which dealt with urban sustainability issues, green housing, green growth or most recently with creative hubs and urban development.

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- Hanoi University of Architecture (HAU)
- Institute of Tropical Architecture (ITA-HAU)
- Vietnamese German University (VGU)

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