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Sustainable urban development in face of climate change

Vietnam needs a strategy for sustainable urban development because the country is becoming urbanized rapidly and is expected to be one of the countries most affected by climate change.

This issue was discussed at a conference in Hanoi entitled 'Climate change and urban development' held by Germany's University of Hamburg and the Ministry of Construction on September 14.

Michael Waibel from the economic geography faculty at the University of Hamburg stressed that though Vietnam contributes very little to climate change, it is among the countries most vulnerable to climate change. He warned that climate change is likely to threaten the country's major progress over the past two decades.

Waibel suggested Vietnam should focus on adaptation but also needs to develop mitigation measures.

He added that there is often a negative correlation between climate change and urban development but the majority of measures to cope with the issue may be tools to create sustainable development.

Meanwhile, Do Tu Lan, Vice Head of the Vietnam Urban Development Department, said that Vietnam's urban system is primarily located in coastal areas and therefore at risk from climate change and sea level rises.



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