

Calendar of events

Book presentation and expert discussion: Michael Waibel (Hg): Hanoi – Capital City

Illustrated book about Hanoi's urban development and history. Challenges of sustainable urban development

Book presentation

06.03.2015, 6 pm.

Goethe-Institut Hanoi

Free Admission

English-Vietnamese

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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

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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.

During the launching event the editor Michael Waibel will highlight the rationale behind the photo book "Hà Nội: CAPITAL City". Further Henning Hilbert will introduce about the 2nd edition of the photo book "TP. Hồ Chí Minh: MEGA City". A more academic input will be provided by **Dr. Hoang Manh Nguyen**, Director of the Institute of Tropical Architecture, Hanoi University of Architecture. He will give a talk about challenges of sustainable urban development in Vietnam.

Both photo books can be purchased after the talk, and there will be two complimentary copies of each book disbursed to the lucky winners of a draw. Last but not least, a series of select photos illustrating the recent urban development of Vietnam's capital city will be exhibited.

Event Schedule

- Short Movie briefly introducing about the photo book "Hà Nội: CAPITAL City"
- Introduction & Greeting
Dr. Almuth Meyer-Zollitsch, Director of the Goethe Institute Vietnam
- Greeting
Dr. Tran Quoc Thai, Deputy Director General, Vietnam Urban Development Agency (VUDA) (tbc)
- Hanoi: Challenges of sustainable urban development of Vietnam's capital city
Expert talk by Dr. Hoang Manh Nguyen, Director of the Institute of Tropical Architecture, Hanoi University of Architecture
- The Rationale behind the photo book "Hà Nội: CAPITAL City"
The editor Dr. Michael Waibel, Department of Geography, Hamburg University
- Introduction of the 2nd edition of photo book "TP. Hồ Chí Minh: MEGA City"
The co-editor Mr. Henning Hilbert, Vietnamese-German University (VGU)
- Lottery drawing of two complimentary copies of the photo book "Hà Nội: CAPITAL City" and of the 2nd edition of the photo book "TP. Hồ Chí Minh: MEGA City"
Dr. Almuth Meyer-Zollitsch
- Photo exhibition " Hà Nội: CAPITAL City" and Reception

Total duration: about 90 minutes. Languages: English / Vietnamese.

Bibliographical Information:

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

Waibel, M. & H. Hilbert (eds.) (2015) TP. Hồ Chí Minh: MEGA City. Sách ảnh / Photo Book. 2nd updated edition. Book series PAZIFIK FORUM of the Association of Pacific Studies; Volume 15. Fine Art Publishing House, Hanoi / Vietnam, 208 pages. ISBN: 978-604-78-2038-2.

The Hanoi photo book has been officially endorsed by:

- Vietnam Urban Development Agency at National Ministry of Construction (VUDA)
- Hanoi Urban Planning Institute (HUPI)

Cooperation with Vietnam
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Hanoi Grapevine
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- Hanoi University of Architecture (HAU)
- Institute of Tropical Architecture (ITA-HAU)
- Vietnamese German University (VGU)
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