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**PRESS RELEASE**

*Hanoi, the 9th of December 2021*

**VIETNAM AND DENMARK STRENGTHEN KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE**

**ON SUSTAINABLE AND LIVEABLE CITIES**

*Hanoi* **–** Today, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Vietnam and Denmark, the Embassy of Denmark and ASHUI Co. Ltd. jointly presented the exhibition *‘Nordic Sustainable Cities’*. The exhibition showcases successful green projects in Denmark and the other Nordic countries. The opening of the exhibition was followed by the seminar *‘Sustainable and Liveable Cities – From Nordics to Asia’* aimed at promoting continued exchange of knowledge and experience between Danish and Vietnamese professionals, architects, city planners, experts, researchers, university teachers and students. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event was held offline in Hanoi with a limited number of participants and online with participants from Copenhagen, Tokyo, Singapore and Vietnam.

*‘For the past few years, the Embassy of Denmark and our local partners have been cooperating closely on sustainable and liveable cities to promote exchange of knowledge and experience between experts of our two countries on how to create better cities for people. Together we would like to raise awareness on the high importance of balancing infrastructure development with improving life quality and well-being of city residents. In light of this, we hope to place environment, social equity, and cultural and recreation possibilities on an equal footing with economic development. Through the exhibition and the seminar today, I hope that our Vietnamese partners and friends will find stories behind our strivings to make Copenhagen and other Danish cities among the most green and liveable cities in the world inspirational and helpful for their ongoing endeavours to develop*

*and transform Vietnamese cities to become more sustainable and liveable.*’ said H.E. Mr. Kim Højlund Christensen, Ambassador of Denmark in Vietnam at the opening of the event.

The exhibition *‘Nordic Sustainable Cities’* is open to the public from the 9th of December 2021 to the 19th of December 2021 at AgoHub (12 Hoa Ma, Hanoi). The virtual exhibition is open online for all public access on: *nordiccities.ashui.com*.

During the seminar, the book *‘How to Study Public Life’* by Prof. Jan Gehl and Dr. Birgitte B. Svarre, translated into Vietnamese by Dr. To Kien, was launched. In this book, Jan Gehl and Birgitte B. Svarre draw from their combined experience of over 50 years to provide a history of public-life study as well as methods and tools necessary to recapture city life as an important planning dimension. Since its first publication in 2013, this book has become an essential tool-oriented asset for all who are striving to create ‘cities for people’. Participants at the seminar will also get the opportunity to engage in discussions with the two authors about their book and their key-note presentations on Danish Urban Design.

The exhibition and the seminar are part of a comprehensive cultural and public diplomacy programme undertaken by the Embassy of Denmark in Vietnam to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Vietnam and Denmark.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

**The Embassy of Denmark in Vietnam**

Denmark was among the very first Western countries to establish diplomatic relations with Vietnam. It happened as early as 50 years ago - in 1971. Soon after that, Denmark began providing humanitarian assistance and preferential loans to Vietnam to support its post-war reconstruction. Danish development aid to Vietnam particularly accelerated from 1993 when Vietnam was selected a priority country for Danish development cooperation. By 2015, Denmark had disbursed some 1.3 billion USD in Official Development Assistance, making it one of the largest bilateral donors in Vietnam.

In 2013, Denmark was the first and so far the only Nordic country to sign a Comprehensive Partnership Agreement with Vietnam. This was an important milestone as it elevated our bilateral relationship from traditional development cooperation to a full-fledged partnership encompassing political dialogue, trade and investment, green growth, energy, food safety, education and health.

This year, Denmark and Vietnam celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries. For further information about the Danish-Vietnamese relationship and the Embassy of Denmark in Vietnam please visit: [www.vietnam.um.dk](http://www.vietnam.um.dk/) and [www.facebook.com/dkvietnam](https://www.facebook.com/dkvietnam)

**ASHUI**

Since its establishment in 2000, ASHUI.COM has been focusing in communication and promotion activities related to architecture, urban planning and civil engineering in Vietnam. For the past 20 years, Ashui.com has connected and cooperated with many well-known architects, designers, experts and enterprises in the sector locally and internationally. The Ashui Awards, established by Ashui in 2012, have been recognized as annual ‘local Oscar’ for the civil engineering sector. In 2020, Ashui initiated and organized on an annual basis the Vietnam Design Week to connect and praise Vietnamese best design and designers. For more information about Ashui, please visit: [https://ashui.com](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__ashui.com_&d=DwMFaQ&c=TetzAZAhVSko12xaT-KIa3n01u3Wp4WIyD-BXEVx9_hZ47o99lwGOl4RKAkT0Qeu&r=24OQ8eVD1dlKjqTU3kQbRA&m=LQS0jpovcNKhiblSOi4mMBmEn_oaZd2DjUk7sdsvikE&s=F75uIos7MlUE3B5ncsF2nPkO0ejS2jV_0F_ysTcPR5A&e=).

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