



EMBASSY OF DENMARK

PRESS RELEASE

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Launching the Vietnamese version of “Cities for People” to inspire cityscapes on a human scale

Hanoi – Under the co-organization of the Danish Embassy in Vietnam, Ashui and other partners, today sees the launch of Cities for People’s Vietnamese version, a book written by the award-winning Danish architect Jan Gehl, at AGOhub. Author Jan Gehl also attended the launch ceremony, turning it into a meet-and-greet with Vietnamese architects and urban planners.

Translated by the architecture news-hub Ashui, the book is one of Jan Gehl’s latest publications and has been translated into 34 languages. Over the course of nine years, “Cities for People” has been decorated with various international awards, such as the 2011 Environmental Design Research Association, Planetizen, and it topped Brent Toderian’s 100 Best Books on City-Making 2013.

Thought provoking and holding a mirror up to our modern society, “Cities for People” seeks to address the question of what cities are for, if not for people. Taking into account changing demographics and lifestyles, the author looks into how to develop cities that are lively, safe, sustainable and healthy. In other words, the book provides a detailed analysis of public spaces and their social dimension. Not surprisingly, the places that Gehl deems essential to a successful city are those designed with good room for safe walking and biking leading to a less sedentary life “behind steering wheels and computer screens”.

Promoting such interesting architectural philosophy as “a good city is like a good party: guests stay because they are enjoying themselves”, “Cities for People” is a page-turner not only for professionals involved in sustainable urban development, but also for those without a professional interest in architecture. Although written in the format of a light textbook, it is extensively illustrated with over 700 photos and drawings showing examples from Gehl’s work around the globe. Gehl’s readers are encouraged to pause to think about their own city spaces and their own experiences. The book is the celebrated Danish architecture’s strong assertion that thoughtful design can improve city spaces in a way that increases the quality of life for the humans who work and live there.

“The Vietnamese Version of “Cities for People” will be the 33rd foreign language version of this book. Actually, in just 9 years it has been published in nearly all corners old the globe. “I donate the book for free translation (No Royalties) into other languages, including Vietnamese because I wish that my research could be helpful to people all over the world. I fell it natural to give it to people in other countries who may use this book to create better cities for their people,” said Gehl.

“Redefining what it means to create a vibrant city, “Cities for People” gives us a perspective on how people-friendly cities could work and look. By translating the book into Vietnamese, we hope it will make its way into the urban planning and design curriculum as well as inspire those responsible for urban and transport planning policies in Vietnam. We hope that the Danish people-centric and green-town planning would be helpful for Vietnam,” said the Embassy’s Deputy Head Ms. Louise Holmsgaard.

The book is published and distributed by Ashui. For additional information, please visit:

www.ashui.com/citiesforpeople/book

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Professor/Architecture Jan Gehl

Jan Gehl is a celebrated Danish architect and urban designer. For more than 40 years, based on his research, Jan Gehl has helped to transform urban environments around the world into cityscapes people can actually use and enjoy. He co-founded Gehl Architects in 2000 together with Helle Sørholt and held a Partner position until 2011. Jan Gehl is currently a senior advisor at Gehl Architects. He also continues to research and develop the people first approach through his books and lectures. Over the course of his career, he has published many books, including “Life between Buildings”, “Cities for People”, “New City Spaces”, “Public Spaces – Public Life”, “New City Life”, “How to study public life” and most recently “People Cities”. He is an honorary fellow of RIBA, AIA, RAIC and PIA.

The Danish Embassy’s Culture Program

Promotion of cultural exchange and people-to-people links between Denmark and Vietnam have been very significant. There has been an increase in cultural co-operation between the two countries with emphasis on creation, people’s access and participation in arts and promotion of cultural diversity.

For further information about the Danish-Vietnamese relationship and the Embassy of Denmark in Vietnam please visit: www.vietnam.um.dk and <https://www.facebook.com/dkvietnam>

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