



## EMBASSY OF DENMARK

### PRESS RELEASE

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#### **Urban Design and Development towards Sustainability**

**HANOI** – “Danish week – Sustainable and Liveable Cities” is a week-long series of urban design and development activities co-hosted by the Danish Embassy, Vietnam’s Ministry of Construction, the National University of Civil Engineering and the University of Architecture Ho Chi Minh City. The event kicked off today.

With an increasing urbanization, Vietnam is facing considerable challenges. The infrastructure of water, waste and transportation is being pushed to the limit; in some cases beyond the limit, which challenge the health and quality of life of its citizens – and so does the pollution and lack of clean air. The “Danish Week – Sustainable and Liveable Cities” aims at gathering Vietnamese government officials, community planners, architects, urbanists and representatives of the private sector to exchange knowledge, experiences and insights with leading Danish experts in urban design and management and on that background to make recommendations for sustainable development of the major cities in Vietnam.

The event includes seminars, masterclasses as well as tours of urban development areas and architectural projects in both Hanoi and HCM City. Two seminars under the theme of sustainable urban design and development will take place in Hanoi today and in HCM City on Thursday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. During the seminars, Danish experts will share their experiences, lesson learnt and best practices from the process of transforming Denmark’s capital city to what is now known as one of the most sustainable and livable cities in the world.

Students from the National University of Civil Engineering and the University of Architecture in Ho Chi Minh City will have the opportunity to attend masterclasses conducted by the two celebrated Danish architects Professor Tom Nielsen from Aarhus School of Architecture and Tina Saabye, the City Architect for Copenhagen.

Mr. Bo Mønsted, the Embassy’s counsellor, said “According to recent statistics from P4G (Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals 2030), cities cover 3 % of the total area of the planet, but are responsible for 60 % of the energy consumption, 70 % of the greenhouse gas emissions and 70 % of our waste. Increased urbanization is predicted to trigger an enormous demand for new sustainable solutions, especially in developing countries like Vietnam. Denmark has a long history of addressing these issues and is known as one of the world leaders within green technologies. Therefore, I believe Denmark has much to offer to big cities like Hanoi and HCM City when it comes to finding new sustainable solutions in order to make the cities more liveable,”.

This is the second year that “Danish week- Sustainable and Liveable Cities” is held in Vietnam.

#### **Denmark – Vietnam Comprehensive partnership**

Within the framework of the Comprehensive Partnership Agreement signed by the two countries in 2013, the Danish-Vietnamese relationship is a partnership focusing on political dialogue, cultural exchange, commercial activities and targeted ODA-projects matching Denmark’s strengths within areas such as green growth, health, education food and agriculture with present challenges faced by Vietnam.

*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 <https://www.facebook.com/dkvietnam>*

Presentations at the seminars can be downloaded [here](#)

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