

Ha Noi, situated in the Red River Delta, is an ancient city with a long history of about 1,000 year and Viet Nam's second largest province. Ha Noi is the capital of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the centre of politics, administration and culture activities of the country. In 2008, the administrative boundaries of Ha Noi were extended to enclose the neighbouring province of Ha Tay as well as several districts and communes that formerly belonged to the provinces of Vinh Phuc and Hoa Binh. Upon completion of the project, the territory of the capital reached 3,300 sq km (3.6 times the size of its previous area).



Figure 1: Vietnam map and location of Hanoi.

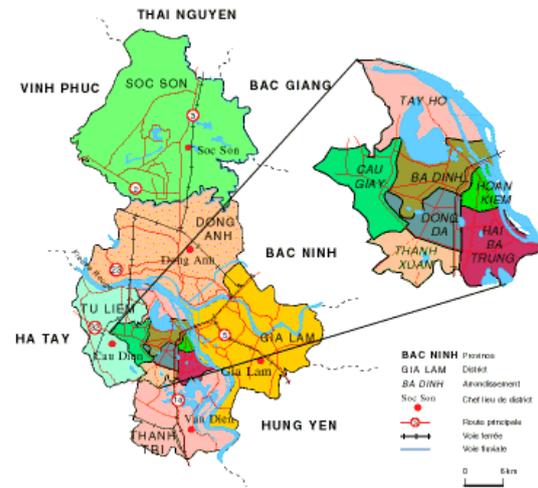


Figure 2: Map of Hanoi Metropolitan Area.

► *Administrative arrangement and planning fabric*

As a municipal state administrative agency and an executive organ of the Municipal People's Council, The Hanoi People's Committee (HPC) is in charge of executing the constitution, laws, governmental documents, and resolutions of the Municipal People's Council. The Committee operates a four-level administrative system to undertake State administrative management with specific tasks and authority prescribed by laws. Regional zoning plan is determined by central government for multi-function regions or special zones ranges from industrial, urban, agricultural to environmental and tourism. The spatial planning of Ha Noi metropolitan area falls under the responsibility of provincial government with all plans needed to be approved by a higher level of government authority before it can be implemented. The main planning instruments in Ha Noi include socio-economic, sectoral and physical planning are equally applicable at provincial and district levels, classified as medium-term (5 years) and short-term (annual) planning. Socio-economic plans are produced by the Ha Noi Provincial Department of Planning and Investment (DPI) and sectoral plans are prepared by other functional Ministries. Ha Noi's Provincial Department of Construction has overall responsibility for managing the physical planning process within the framework of master plans including physical planning, urban master plans, future land use maps and also reporting justifying decisions as well as allocating land to accommodate the proposals in the socio-economic plans. These plans are generally produced by the Ministry of Construction in consultation with relevant provincial and city departments.

► *Urban identity and some critical issues*

With a population of 2,812 million in 2001, Ha Noi is producing an average population density of 3,053 persons per sq km. In 2005, the city had an estimated population of 3.1

million people and has increased to 3.4 million in 2008. The 2008 expansion doubled the population from 3.4 million to 6.4 million (2008) and then to 6.5 million in 2009 with density of 1,943 persons per sq km. Among 5 types of land identified by the Central Government, agricultural land has lost the largest area in Ha Noi during the period of 1995-2000. The agricultural area decreased around 2,123 Ha due to construction and transportation purposes. The land taken from agriculture has been mostly used for 14 industrial zones in the city and to build/expand roads.

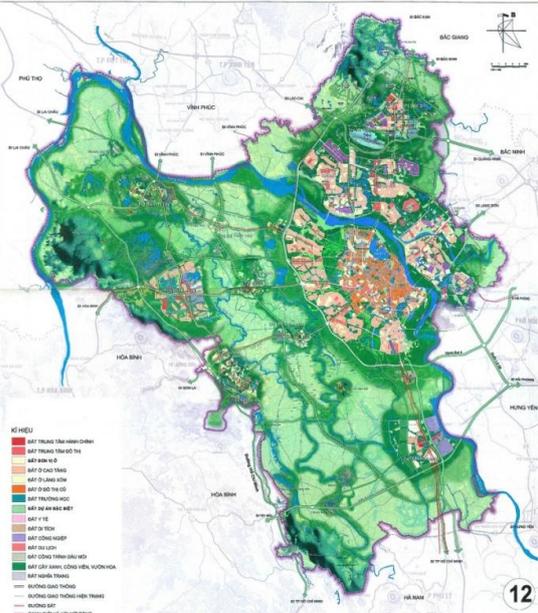


Figure 3: Hanoi Master Plan for 2030

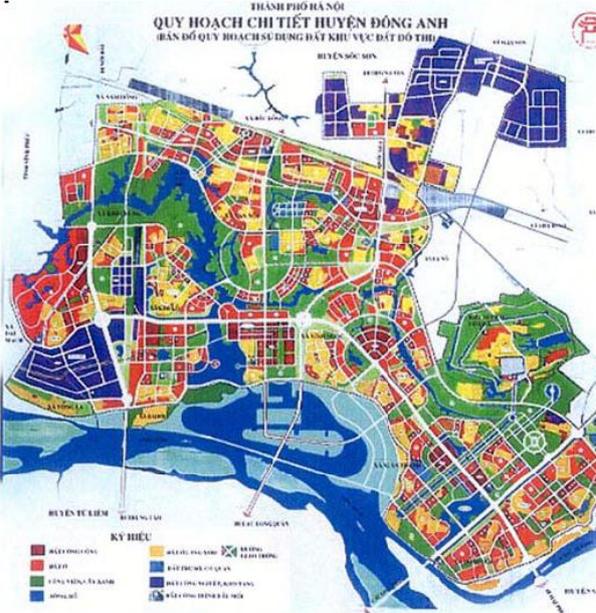


Figure 4: Detailed District Plan.

Although estimates of substandard housing vary widely, it is clear that slums in Ha Noi are extensive and growing. The Land and Housing Department estimates that at least 30% of Ha Noi’s population are living in very crowded conditions with living space per capita below 3 sq m. The poor areas in Hanoi are mainly located in suburban regions in Soc Son and Dong Anh districts. In the inner city, the poor households are living in the ancient quarters like in Hoan Kiem district and along the Red River like the Bach Dang and the Chuong Duong quarters.

► **Urban evolution and growth story**

An assessment of the urban growth showed that the Ha Noi had been increasing 6 times from 1975 to 2003 from about 10 km² to more than 60 km², and the rapid increase of the urban area was recognized in the period of 2001-2003. The major trend of expansion followed the linear branch of the transportation lines in the south and west side of the city. There have been profound transformations in housing production and distribution, with a boost of self built housing and appearance of a number of new urban areas. Spatial development orientation for 2030 includes Ha Noi city core and surrounding urban areas with the influential radius of 30-50 km approximately. The long-term and main development direction of Ha Noi is towards the east and northeast, to set up the urban clusters for the purpose of exploiting advantages form of geographical position, natural setting, transportation, and infrastructure facilities. According to the plan, Ha Noi will be expanded to north-west, south-west and north directions, especially the north of the Red River where Ha Noi New Town will be constructed.



Picture above was taken from skyscraper.com