

Policy lessons learned from Urban Resilience Strategies in 3 cities of Vietnam

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With more than 3200 km of seashore and two lowland deltas, Vietnam is going to be one of the most affected places by climate change and sea level rise in the world. Coastal and delta cities including Da Nang, Quy Nhon and Can Tho will be the most vulnerable. Therefore, climate change adaptation is an urgent challenge facing these cities in Vietnam. Facing this problem, the Government of Vietnam approved the National Target Program to Respond to Climate Change (NTPRCC) in December 2008. The program requires provinces and cities to develop their local action plans accordingly. However, climate change is a new issue with high level of uncertainty and major impacts on all sectors and areas while resources, awareness and capacity of cities on climate resilience remain limited. In addition, there has been neither specific guideline provided by the national concerned agencies nor local experience in dealing with climate change related impacts.

In this context, the experiences of building local capacity in engaging multi-stakeholders, promoting community participation in decision making process and implementing adaptation activities, through inter-sector coordination have been widely recognized as imperative for sustainable development in Vietnam. This paper examines the whole urban resilience planning process, with a number of innovative approaches, tools and method for developing cities urban climate change resilience strategy under the context of uncertainty. The policy lessons drawn from the Asian City Climate Change Resilience Network (ACCCRN) supported by Rockefeller Foundation and implemented in Vietnam during the last two years (2009-1010) can be considered the first hand experience to share with the wider communities of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction.