

# Preparing city officials for the country's rapid urban transformation

Vietnam is one of the best performing economies in the world. It has recently joined the ranks of middle income countries. Urban areas in Vietnam produce about 70% of the country's economic output and attract majority of foreign direct investments. Urbanization, currently at around 28%, is estimated to rise to 38% by 2015 and 50% by 2025. The ability of cities to plan and manage this rapid transformation will play a critical role in achieving Vietnam's economic and social development goals.

## Our approach

Unprecedented pace of social and economic transformation in Vietnamese cities brings about both opportunities and challenges for Vietnam. The World Bank Institute (WBI) aims to strengthen the capacity of key urban institutions, city leaders and urban practitioners to respond to them.

WBI's Urban practice helps develop *Executive Development Program on City Management for City Leaders*, fosters peer-to-peer learning among cities within and outside the country, and supports relevant stakeholders in Vietnam's urban sector, including multi-stakeholder coordination platforms.

## Our program

*Structured Learning: Executive Development Program on City Management for City Leaders (Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen)*: The Ministry of Construction's Academy of Managers for Construction and Cities has been recently



designated as the national institution for the capacity building of city leaders in urban planning and management. WBI is working with the Academy of Managers for Construction and Cities to help implement its new mandate. At the same time it is developing an executive program for Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen in urban planning and management. The program draws its content and pedagogical approach from leading national and international institutions. In particular, WBI is assisting the Academy of Managers for Construction and Cities by tapping into the expertise and experience of other training institutions in the region.

*Knowledge Exchange and Connectivity: Peer-to-Peer Learning*. Systematic delivery of knowledge exchange activities is a crucial component of WBI's strategy. Moreover, peer-to-peer learning has proven to be an effective tool for formal and tacit knowledge transfer. Through

WBI, Vietnam has established formal linkages with cities outside the country for city leaders to learn from each other. Looking forward, we are seeking to establish more “learning laboratories” where Vietnamese cities can further meaningfully connect with other cities.

*Multi-Stakeholder Coalition Building.* In addition to the Academy of Managers for Construction and Cities, WBI is working with the Ministry of Construction’s Urban Development Agency, Urban Forum, Association of Cities of Vietnam, and other partners to develop a series of knowledge exchanges on best practices and cutting edge thinking in urban planning and management.

### **Our clients**

- The Academy of Managers for Construction and Cities
- The Ministry of Construction’s Urban Development Agency
- The Association of Cities of Vietnam

### **Our partners**

UN Habitat, Cities Alliance, International City/County Management Association, and leading international universities and training institutions.

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*WBI is a global facilitator of capacity development for poverty reduction. We connect practitioners, networks and institutions and help them to find their own solutions to address development challenges. With a focus on the 'how' of reform, we link knowledge from around the world and scale up innovations. We work with and through global, regional and country-based institutions and practitioner networks and help them develop customized programs that respond to specific needs. WBI connects globally and delivers locally.*

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