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## Solution to protect river culture facing urbanization trends in biggest cities in Vietnam

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### Abstract

This article delivers several solutions to protect tradition of river culture in Vietnam, especially in the two delta regions in the North (Red river delta) and in the South (Mekong delta). River culture is fading away due to process of urbanization and climate change that are taking place around the globe. In this paper we are examining this process, especially in the context of progressing urbanization process that poses many threats to national coastal economies.

**Keywords:** river culture, urbanization Vietnam, Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City

### 1. Introduction

Vietnam is located in the region of tropical monsoon climate, the weather is sunny, rainy and rainy, so there is a diverse river system, interlaced, scattered widely everywhere. Almost in every region, every region has rivers and canals. Images of rivers are present everywhere in Vietnam. Up to the northern mountainous area was Ky Cung River, a river originating from the Northeast of our country, flowing back to the North and flowing into the Tay Giang River in China; The Luc Nam River originating from China is the largest river in this area. However, in the Northern Delta, the largest river is the Red River, it originates from the Wei Son mountain range, near Dai Ly lake (Yunnan - China) flowing into our country in Ha Khau (Lao Cai). Very large river flow (from  $700\text{m}^3 / \text{s}$  to  $28\text{m}^3 / \text{s}$ ), annually transporting a large volume of alluvium (130 million tons) gradually fills the East Sea Bay to create a large, fertile plain (more than  $15,000\text{km}^2$ ). Along with the Red River, the Thai Binh River is also a large river, compensating alluvium for the Northern Delta. Luy river in Phan Ri. In the Southeast region, there is Dong Nai river system, there is a quite dense branch network, in which the main branches are La Nga river on left bank, Be river, Saigon river, Vam Co river in the right bank. Originating from different directions, the river system creates a large basin. Dong Nai River itself originates from Lam Vien plateau after the confluence of Da Dang and Da Nhim rivers. The total amount of surface water is up to 30 billion  $\text{m}^3 / \text{year}$ . The Southwest Delta is the largest delta in our country that is filled by the alluvium of the Mekong River (Mekong River). Originating from Cambodia, the Mekong River is divided into two main branches: the Tien and Hau Rivers, creating fertile and fertile lands. The above lists only the names of some famous and important rivers in the river system with 2,860 rivers with a length of 10 km or more in Vietnam. This intermittent system of rivers with many large rivers has contributed to creating Vietnam a source of life, an abundant source of economy. Moreover, the system of rivers spreads throughout the country has created a very unique cultural identity for Vietnam, the cultural identity of the civilized wet rice inhabitants in history. Rivers are also an important transport artery for the travel needs of people. Rivers are also a focal point of domestic as well as foreign trade. River ports and seaports are set up to meet the needs of exchanges and trade between regions, and to trade with other countries. Based on the basis to propose a number of solutions to protect river culture is extremely necessary. Therefore, the authors chose the topic: "Solutions to protect river culture for urbanization trends in the largest cities in Vietnam" as the research topic of this article.

## 2. Theoretical framework

### 2.1. The concept of culture

In 1940, Ho Chi Minh wrote: "For the sake of survival as well as the purpose of life, mankind created and invented language, writing, morality, law, science, religion, literature and art as tools for daily activities about food, clothing, shelter and methods of use. All of these creations and inventions mean culture. Culture is the synthesis of all modes of living and its manifestations that mankind has created in order to adapt to the life needs and the demands of survival" [Ho Chi Minh 1995: 431]. Federico Mayor, the UNESCO DirectorGeneral, said: "For some people, culture includes only great masterpieces in the fields of thinking and creativity; For others, culture encompasses everything that makes one nation different from another, from the most sophisticated products to beliefs, customs, lifestyles and labor. This second understanding was accepted by the international community at the Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies, held in 1970 in Venice" [UNESCO 1989: 5].

In 2002, UNESCO introduced the following definition of culture: Culture should be referred to as a collection of mental, physical, intellectual and emotional characteristics of a society or a group. people in society and it contains, in addition to literature and the arts, the way of life, the modes of coexistence, the values system, traditions and faith. That is why culture symbolizes the development of mankind through generations. A country rich in cultural traditions is a country rich in spirit.

Culture is a product of mankind, a culture created and developed in the mutual relationship between people and society. Yet culture itself is involved in creating people, and maintaining sustainability and social order. Culture is passed on from generation to generation through the process of socialization. Culture is recreated and developed in the course of human action and social interaction. Culture is the level of human and social development expressed in the types and forms of organization of human life and action, as well as in the material and spiritual values created by man.

### 2.2. The concept of river culture

Vietnam has many large and small rivers, wide and narrow, but almost all regions and regions have it. The dense network of rivers from the North to the South flows into the South China Sea, creating a favorable waterway transport environment. Except for the time of great storms and floods, Vietnam's rivers and seas have always been an important lifeline for people to travel, transport, trade and exchange products between regions and neighboring countries. Waterways are convenient transportation routes that are fast, cheap, safe and popular. Floating markets are a type of market often found in areas with main waterways, where both sellers and buyers use boats as means of transportation and transportation. More specifically, floating markets often appear in relatively wide river sections, neither too shallow nor too deep. If too deep it will make it difficult for the boat to anchor. It can be said that, especially with the water area as well as the "waterway revolution" with the horizontal and vertical canals, connecting strategic points in the region, created a new breakthrough for the formation of a floating market. So does the roadmap to create a breakthrough for the "regional center" start from a "center of goods transport

on the river"? Rivers are both a typical feature of the country and a prominent cultural feature that makes a difference.

### 2.3. Urbanization

From a regional point of view: Urbanization is a process of formation and development of urban-style forms and living conditions. From the viewpoint of the national economy: Urbanization is a transforming process of the distribution of factors of production forces in the national economy, population arrangement of non-urban areas into urban areas. Urbanization will help focus on strengthening the differentiation of urban activities and improve the quality of life of urban people across the country and around the world. In summary, urbanization is the process of transforming and distributing production forces in the national economy, arranging population, forming, developing forms and living conditions according to urban style and simultaneously To develop existing urban centers in depth on the basis of modernizing technical foundations and increasing population size.

## 3. Research results

### 3.1. Challenges in protecting river culture facing urbanization trend in Red river delta and Mekong delta

#### \* In the Mekong Delta:

- Lack of floods from upstream makes saline intrusion more serious than ever. People downstream are most affected. Not only lacking fresh water for cultivation, but also for running water. Right in the middle of rivers, canals, fresh water is scarce. There are river sections that are the source of life, now gradually becoming a place to discharge sewage and heavy pollution.
- The Mekong Delta, which is located in the lower Mekong River, is heavily affected by climate change and sea level rise due to the increasing number of hydroelectric dams built upstream, negatively impacting the reduction of water volume, changing the flow, affecting the nature and lives of millions of people here, threatening national food security.
- More than two-thirds of the water in Vietnam's river systems is formed from outside the territory, while mechanisms and policies for cooperation and sharing of water resources among countries are not effective.
- Continuous economic growth leads to increased demand for water of the socio-economic sectors while wasteful and inefficient water use is still common, plus water source continues to be degraded and depleted leading to the exhaustion and outdated water infrastructure.
- Conflicts and disputes in water use continue to increase; investment resources for management and protection of water resources do not meet the requirements; The legal system on water resources is still inconsistent and the implementation has not been as effective as expected.

#### \* In the Red River Delta

- Water shortage: As we have seen water resources tend to degrade; due to human impact and global climate change. . It is forecast that by 2025, Vietnam's water resources will be reduced by about 40 billion m<sup>3</sup>. The total volume of dry season water by 2025 could be

reduced by about 13 billion m<sup>3</sup>. The total demand for water for people and for socio-economic development is constantly increasing. The demand for the flow to maintain the downstream ecological environment in the dry season is also very large (about 4,300 m<sup>3</sup> / s). Nearly 40% of the annual amount of water arises out of the territory while disputes over water use among countries along the International River such as the Red River are increasing.

- Pollution of surface water: Black waste water includes wastes that are very hazardous to the environment, such as lignin, organic sulfide, fatty acids, and chlorinated organics. While the whole city has only 4 centralized wastewater treatment plants, 1 small treatment station in My Dinh New Urban Area with a designed capacity of 50,000m<sup>3</sup> / day and night, but most of the stations have a treatment rate still lower than requested.
- Floods in the Red River Delta: Over the past 100 years, the Red River Delta has had 26 major floods. These major floods occur in August, targeting the peak of the rainy season. Especially in 1971, the influence of La Nina cold water flow caused continuous heavy rains in the typhoon season that year. A storm from southern China near Hong Kong brought heavy rains on the Thao, Lo and Da Rivers. Flood waters from these rivers have combined to cause the historic floods of the Red River Delta. The level of the Red River on August 20 is up to 14.13 m in Hanoi. This water level in Hanoi is higher than the alert water level III to 2.63 m. The Red River water level measured 18.17 m in Viet Tri (higher than 2.32 m of alert level III) and 16.29 m in Son Tay (1.89 m higher than alert level III).

### 3.2. Opportunities in protecting river culture facing urbanization trend in Red river delta and Mekong delta

- In recent decades, Vietnam has achieved great achievements in both economic and social development. The national poverty rate has been significantly reduced. Vietnam's economy has experienced remarkable growth, especially in agriculture and industry. To achieve these achievements, it is undeniable the extremely important contribution of water resources. Water is also an important factor in ensuring food security, energy security and the cause of industrialization and modernization of the country.
- If the irrigation of the Mekong Delta is restored and developed quickly in the context of clearing air, sea and road, then Mekong Delta goods will have many opportunities to reach out to the domestic and foreign markets. Because, while the whole Mekong Delta is still an agricultural region, the production value of individual economies and households still account for a large proportion, the focus on building a high-tech agricultural center for plant varieties planting animals is essential; the center of refining aquatic products, fruits of wholesale agricultural and aquatic product markets will help floating markets have a unique and unique position; is the motivation to attract more friends to come here.
- Provinces of Tien Giang, Kien Giang, Tra Vinh, Ben Tre, Ca Mau, Bac Lieu, Soc Trang actively keep fresh

water for agricultural production, and water supply companies repair, upgrade the system water supply, minimizing the shortage of domestic water in drought and saltwater intrusion areas. The agriculture sector in Can Tho city has implemented urgent irrigation works to combat drought and salinity, such as dredging main canals and inland canals, investing irrigation pumping stations in fruit tree areas, building regional aquaculture and reasonable husbandry.

- Water for agriculture: the country plays a key role in the achievements of rice production in Vietnam, making an important contribution to making Vietnam the leading rice exporter in the world. Currently, water for agricultural production is the highest in the two deltas, the Mekong River Delta and the Red River Delta, accounting for 70% of the water used. Water also plays a decisive role in the growth of industrial crops, such as tea, coffee, pepper, sugar cane, rubber.
- Water for energy: Water has also played an important role in ensuring energy security of Vietnam in the context of constantly increasing demand for energy. The potential of hydroelectricity in Vietnam is quite large, concentrated mainly in the Red and Dong Nai river basins and river basins in the Central and Central Highlands. In 2010, hydropower contributed about 40% of the country's total electricity production. It is forecast that total hydropower capacity by 2025 will be 33,310MW, of which over 80% of this will come from hydroelectric plants built on Vietnam's rivers.
- Water for daily life and sanitation: up to now, most cities and towns in Vietnam have concentrated water supply systems and about 300/635 towns and townships have projects to build collective water supply systems. The total design capacity of water plants in urban areas is about 5.4 million m<sup>3</sup> / day, but it only meets about 70% of the urban water demand. Currently, with the demand of water supply for about 30 million people along with the demand for water for production, business, services, sanitation in urban areas, it needs about 8 to 10 million m<sup>3</sup> / day. . For rural areas, up to now, about 62% of the rural population has been provided with hygienic water, but if the standards of clean water are reached, this rate only reaches about 30%. Water supply for living and sanitation of people in many urban areas and most rural areas comes from underground water.
- In addition, it is also undeniable that the important contribution of the water to the strong growth in aquaculture production in recent years when the average growth rate is over 12% / year. It contributes significantly for the state budget, and creates many employment opportunities for workers. Similarly, the water has also contributed significantly to the development of industry, tourism and services in recent years.

### 4. Discussion

In Vietnam, the importance of water resources for sustainable development has changed markedly in both awareness and action. Accordingly, the need for sustainable and more effective management of activities of exploiting, using, protecting water resources and preventing,

overcoming the harmful effects caused by water; water resources management must be integrated, multi-purpose and in combination with other natural resources - a method of water resources management that has been successfully applied in some countries around the world and increasingly proves that an effective management method is being applied by many countries.

Comprehensive management of water resources has become a consistent point of view of Vietnam and is reflected in the 2006 National Strategy on Water Resources. Water resources management must be implemented. It is based on an integrated and unified method on the basis of river basins. The structure of water use must be compatible with the economic restructuring during the period of accelerating industrialization and modernization of the country; Water resources must be sustainably developed; economical, efficient and comprehensive exploitation and use. Must consider water products as goods; soon abolish the subsidy mechanism, socialize activities of protecting, developing water sources and providing water services. At the same time, this management method is also reflected consistently in decrees, decisions and circulars as well as the implementation of water resources management policies at all levels.

In particular, recently, the overall and comprehensive management view of water resources has been legalized and regulated in the Law on Water Resources No. 17/2012 / QH13 - the highest legal document on water resources. Accordingly, one of the principles of water resources management stipulated in the Law is: "The management of water resources must ensure consistency according to river basins, water sources, combined with administrative management up to each of localities. Water resources must be managed collectively and consistently in quantity and quality of water; between surface water and groundwater; water on land and water in estuarine, inland and territorial waters areas; between upstream and downstream, combined with management of other natural resources". Along with this principle, the Law also institutionalizes specific regulations and measures to implement integrated management of water resources in water resources planning, protection, exploitation and use activities and prevention and control of harms caused by water.

## 5. Recommendation and conclusion

### 5.1. Recommendation

The State should take measures to protect, maintain, and develop activities of living and trading on the water of people in the Mekong Delta (the West) to contribute to the preservation of literary values. Vietnamese cultural and non-small culture.

Supplementing regulations on water saving in order to implement the policy of combating wastefulness in exploiting and using water resources, regulations on water transfer in river basins; regulating and distributing water resources; exploration and exploitation of underground water and regulations on exploitation and use of water for daily life. At the same time, the Law has also added measures to manage the planning, construction and exploitation of water use of reservoirs in order to exploit, use, and synthesize effectively water resources.

Focusing on adjusting, preventing and overcoming the

harmful effects of water caused by activities related to exploitation and use of human water resources such as prevention of drought, floods, artificial floods, saltwater intrusion, subsidence, land subsidence, landslides, river banks, river banks. As for the prevention, control and overcoming of harmful effects of floods, floods, sea level rise and other harmful effects of water caused by natural disasters, they shall comply with the provisions of law on dikes and prevention against floods and storms, and other relevant laws.

More specific regulations on state management responsibilities on water resources of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, ministries, branches and local governments at all levels; supplement regulations on coordination and supervision of river basins in order to enhance the responsibility of coordination in the coordination and supervision of activities of exploitation, use, protection of water resources and prevention and control of harms caused by water causing systematic and uniform assurance of water resources in river basins and mobilizing the participation of relevant ministries, branches and localities in solving water resources issues within the basin. river.

### 5.2. Conclusion

Water is an essential resource for human life, the sustainable development of every nation and a top priority for sustainable development.

Sustainable development is not a new concept, but has actually been used in the management of renewable resources. People are fully capable of making sustainable development, ensuring resources to meet their current needs without compromising the needs of future generations, while reducing minimizing damage to socio-economic and environmental systems.

Vietnam has always affirmed that water is a particularly important resource, an essential component of life and the environment, determining the survival and sustainable development of the country and therefore, the Government of Vietnam has always efforts to strengthen and consolidate, institutions and policies in the field of water resources, promote cooperation with countries sharing the same water source with Vietnam as well as cooperate and enlist the support of national organizations Internationally, countries and regions in the world to effectively manage and protect water resources in order to contribute to the sustainable development process of the country as well as the world and the region.

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