

Presentation

**by Mr. Keophilayvanh APHAYLATH, Vice Governor of
Vientiane Capital to Intergovernmental Tenth Regional
Environmentally Sustainable Transport Forum**

Your Excellency

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of Vientiane Capital, I have the honor to be assigned by this meeting to present on “Creating Capitals as Livable Cities”. As we are aware that each capitals is characterized by the difference of its origin and geo-location.



Their leaders and capital governors have developed visions and policies to develop their capitals which are probably similar, but different to each other depending on the reality of each capital. However, all capitals have one similar thing referring to overall indicators which are used to create sustainable and livable cities. There exists an example earlier such as eco city, smart city and etc.

Vientiane capital is an ancient city in Southeast Asia, it has unique geographical location and origin. Vientiane had been developed slowly in the past. But in the past 4 decades, particularly the last decade, it has made significant progress on economic development with GDP rise of more than 10% per year and this year it has a per capita income of 4.700 USD, a population of 1 million, an increase by 2,5-3% per year, the number of vehicles increased 15% per year, accounting for more than 800.000 vehicles.

City area has quickly been extended covering 40% of total Vientiane area. Vientiane has not only enjoyed favorable opportunities but also faced challenges like flooding, drainage problems, environmental problem, traffic jam and social disorder. Therefore, Vientiane started to conduct a research on how to develop its capital about 10 years ago and had adopted 6 visions and 6 strategies. Of which, fundamental concept is to develop

visions and 6 strategies. Of which, fundamental concept is to develop Vientiane as a sustainable, livable and eco city in the future.

On this significant occasion, I would like to represent some concepts and experiences to exchange with you as follows:

For the process of creating a livable Vientiane capital in Lao PDR, we considered a multi indicators model of various capitals and brought into use, especially any indicator appropriate to the feature of Vientiane. Vientiane undertook vision and policy on creating Vientiane as livable city, including 6 indicators: peace, clean, green, light, charm and prosperity which describe as follows:

1. Peaceful City

Creating a peaceful capital consists of 7 indicators:

- Ensure smooth and systematic transportation, no traffic congestion;
- Reduce traffic accidents to a lower rate;
- Out of crime (burglary, robbery and corruption);
- Community (village) of solidarity, free from conflicts and disputes;
- Prevent from conflagration and deal with fire rapidly (to destination not more than 10 minutes);
- Free from unemployment and poverty and especially the hard-core poor households; and
- Ensure to a better welfare of people.

2. Clean City

Clean city must meet high standard of health or even free from wastes, rubbish, radiation which designated by 8 indicators:

- Clean street;
- Clean building;
- Clean drinking water;
- Clean vehicle (private and public);
- Clean plant, factory, firm (out of pollution, leftover chemical substance, smoke, smell);
- Clean public utility (park, restaurant, bus station, opera, club, Cultural hall, airport);
- Clear sky (free from the coverage of smoke, air-pollution, and normal temperature); and
- Clean consumption.

3. Green City

Including 4 indicators:

- Natural forest (forest conservation) covering 60% of the area of 3,290km²/60/100;
- Planting more forest, grow more decorating trees along the road side of main roads, and in yard and workplace areas;
- Private green: Grow grass along the roadside, football field, 20-25% land use for green area;
- Public green: Establish public garden covered by shadowy trees, one garden in one district in the area of 10 hectares, one garden in one village in the area of at least one hectares, one garden in one large public office in the area of 0,5 hectares

4. Light City

Capital should ensure light at the night time which measured by 4 indicators:

- Light street;
- Light public utility;
- Light private building in municipality;
- Light ancient site and important monastery;

5. Charming City

Charming city is a city that attracts people to live in, visit and miss it when leaving, it concludes 4 indicators:

- **Natural charm:** land: mountain, large plain, natural water resource, large river, fresh air, green forest throughout the year;
- **Architectural charm:** unique architecture, not high but large house, coefficient of land use appropriate to building;
- **Cultural charm:** community of solidarity, full of heritage and antique, elegant tradition, family based, beautifully decorating clothing (ladies dressed in ancient and traditional clothing) and the city of festival (giving arms on Thatluang festival)
- **Relationship charm:** simple, honest, guest-caring, art-literature caring peoples.

6. Prosperous City

In general, we understand that creating capital as prosperous city has been aspiration for long time and is the future goal of every capital in new era. Vientiane set up the vision which aims to put the attempt in supporting urban development so as to match up lives of object, mind and nature. Environment is the source, reference for development of object and mind. Material life is not the only foundation of people's living but also condition to better develop people's mind. Civilized mind is a driving vehicle to support the development of material life, to preserve sustainable environment and to inherit value of national culture. Indicators of developing our civilized capital in terms of civilized object represent as follows:

▪ **Object Civilization:**

- **First:** To ensure harmony of economic development and underscore the goal of cultural life. Development should comply with layout plan and meet the need of people: Infrastructure, building, shopping mall, office, house...should be appropriate (not too luxurious) but must ensure sustainability, livability and sustainability.
- **Second:** To guarantee the preservation of unique architecture with modernity, standard road, cleanliness, neatness. Relocate and allocate the market, deal with dirty and slum.

▪ **Moral Civilization:**

- **First:** Moral civilization reflects culture and living of Vientiane people such as heritage, history and tradition which have been preserved and extended in accordance with the target set by Vientiane capital. The elements of heritage, history and tradition also support development of Vientiane, including simple livelihood, modesty, unique clothing (Women wears Sin, shawl and rolls up hair), Lao New Year festival, the Beginning of Buddhist Lent, Boat Racing festival, Thatluang festival, etc.
- **Second:** Moral civilization reflects decorative design of archaeological sites. Heritage and antiques were preserved and reserved; ensure to survive colorful diversity of culture, tradition, clothing, and multi ethnic groups.

- **Civilization in taking advantage of natural resources reasonably and effectively (naturally friendly)**

All of those, it does not mean Vientiane has already achieved all indicators, some remain challenging to us. But importantly, they are our vision, strategy and plan which we will exert our utmost effort to implement into realization in the future. Given indicators provide conditions to educate Vientiane people in creating livable Vientiane and persuade governmental organizations in jointly developing Vientiane capital, and to impress tourists and investors to visit and run business in Vientiane. In addition, Vientiane made gradual progress on developing its capital in the past 10 years due to the above-mentioned indicators.

We are well aware that it is complicated to create livable city since we are short of experiences and face budget constraints. Therefore, I take this opportunity to propose other cities to exchange perspectives and experiences according to such indicators. We welcome to accept all views, technical assistance, lessons and fund whether any capital provides. Meanwhile we are heartfelt to exchange our lessons and papers so as to exchange information with other cities in Asia.

Thank you very much