**Assessment of the project**

**Preserving Heritage - Protecting Future: Towards Sustainable Protection**

**of Ha Noi Lake System with the Community Participation**

Ha Noi Lake system is an integrated part of Hanoi landscape and natural resources. It plays an important role in Ha Noi’s history, culture, economic development, and environment. However, the past economic growth and urbanization put tremendous pressure on Hanoi lake system. It has been seriously degraded, polluted and decreased in the size and in number. According to JICA, during the last 15 years, Ha Noi lost 19 lakes, equivalent of decreasing in term of the lake area from 850 ha to 547 ha (Xa Luan Newspaper – 3/2009).

There was a lack of a comprehensive baseline data about lakes that is popular and easy to understand among all stakeholders. The baseline data can help identifying current and future risks that are threatening Ha Noi Lake system.

This project assessed the status of the lakes in the six districts of the old Hanoi by 2010, risks and climate change impacts, and provided tools (a State of Art baseline document of Hanoi lakes and an institutional study) needed for promoting community participation in protection of Ha Noi lake system in coming decades.

The project was implemented by the Center for Environment and Community Research (CECR) in partnership with Hanoi University of Technology, University of Construction, Vietnam Television, Development Worldwide (DWW), Czech Republic, and Vietnam Environment Protection Fund. Both DWW and VEPF were involved in supporting, monitoring, and assessing the project implementation. The main financial support was provided by Vietnam Environment Protection Fund, and the Czech Embassy Small Grant Programme.

Main project output is:

* Book describing Hanoi lakes – map, photos, water quality, etc. The book and project results were also presented at the international conference of the VEPF and DWW in Hanoi on November 3, 2010.

Main project outcome is:

* The project/book and related activities help and will help advocating and promoting active participation and collaboration among local people, authorities, local organizations and business sector in restoring and conserving of Ha Noi lake system. The book can be also an important tool for addressing international donors as well as for attracting visitors of Ha Noi. It would be thus very valuable to have it translated into English.

The project was done in highest professional quality and there is a significant potential to ensure environmental protection of Ha Noi lakes due to the project:

* This is first comprehensive detailed description of the lakes including lakes water quality data.
* Description/mapping is done systematically and by usage of the same methodology.
* A lot of stakeholders participated in the project.
* Data collected are important base for future monitoring of lakes status and for preventive and remedial measures (changes of urban development around lakes, environmental conditions, etc.).

Mgr. Daniel Svoboda

Chairman

Development Worldwide, civic association