



LEARNING CITIES & REGIONS CONFERENCE

Learning Resource Centres in Vietnamese Cities and Regions

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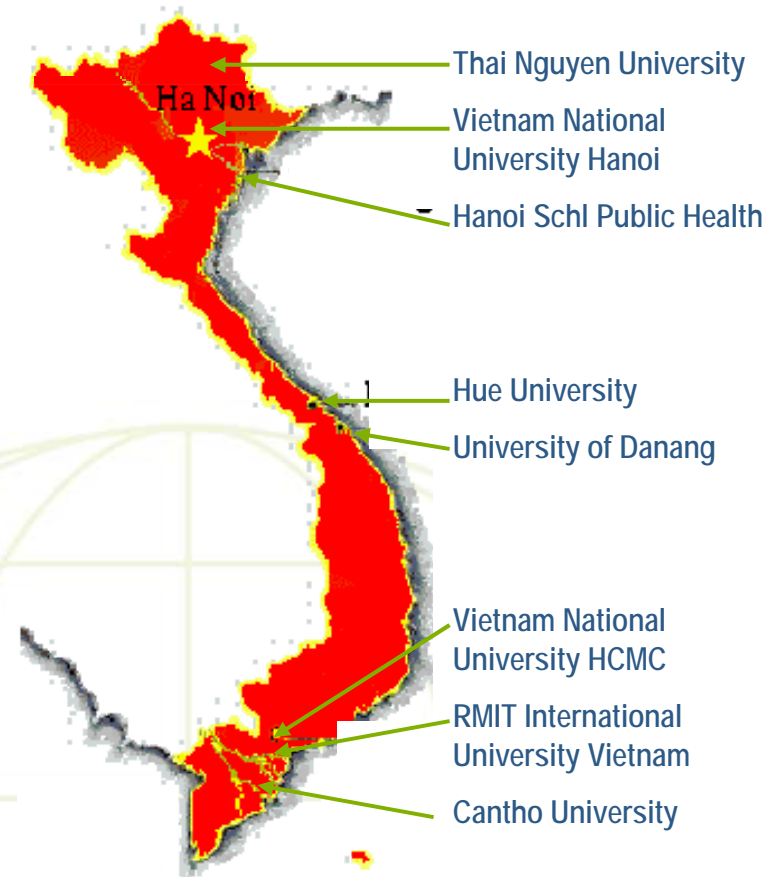
 Sheraton Towers, Melbourne
14 & 15 October 2002





Introduction: Universities in Vietnam

- Long reverence for learning
- Legacy of war and poverty
- National commitment to learning society, ICT literacy
- Dramatic demand > 6 x places
- Poorly resourced infrastructure
- Rudimentary connectivity
- Teaching and learning reforms
- System reforms: mergers, QA, training, openness, devolution
- IFI support, esp World Bank



Vietnam, Relevant Universities for Learning Resource Centre Program



Objectives: Learning Resource Centres

Typical objectives:

- Upgrade library and information resources, and library management systems
- 'e-learning and research management platforms that truly connect outside and inside institutions'
- Support modernisation of learning, research and regional engagement,
- Training & capacity-building for LRC, its users and stakeholders
- Enhance inter-university, national and international collaboration to make them work
- Sustainability: low energy, low operating costs, pay the way, reduce the digital divide

Typical LRC project tasks:

- Project and building planning and design
- Documentation, building and fitout
- Human resource evaluation, recruitment, training & education
- Procurement of ICT
- Acquisitions of library systems, information resources, other systems
- Commissioning, start-up
- Sustainable operation
- Post-occupancy evaluation
- Dissemination of experience



Objectives: Links to Learning Principles

OECD policy principle

Ensure educational provision, esp. good general education to upper secondary, and university research for regional spinoff

Org'l learning within firms, and networked

Org'l learning all sectors, not just hi-tech

Identify regional contributing resources and also impediments

Respond to emergent conditions & unlearn

Mechanisms for policy coordination

Foster appropriate regional social capital

Evaluate continuously, accord legitimacy

LRC corresponding objective

Both are key aims of LRCs. Note that in Vietnam private returns to HE > secondary, and social returns are \approx [Mooock et al 1998]

LRCs to transform univs within and among

LRCs linking to econ priority sectors first

LRCs dependent on universities' linkages with regional resources and impediments

LRCs foster unlearning: of information control, university rigidity, rote learning

Doing that region-centre and across gov't

Indirect aim of LRCs

Early days for LRC evaluations & impact

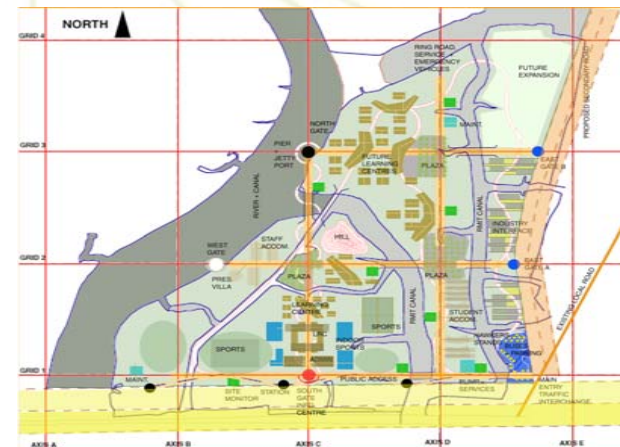


Data: RMIT Vietnam's LRCs

- RMIT International University Vietnam established 2001 – a new model
- Owned by RMIT, also financed by IFC, ADB, strong philanthropic support
- City campus operating 1 year, has LRC and ICT centre, 450 students
- A centre for ICT and Education programs, also for other universities
- Saigon South campus major LRC site, 10,000 students by 2010
- Major support capability of RMIT
- Common learning platform design principles for RMIT Melbourne, Vietnam, regional Australia



RMIT Vietnam City Campus, HCMC



RMIT Vietnam Saigon South campus plan, HCMC



Data: Hue University LRC

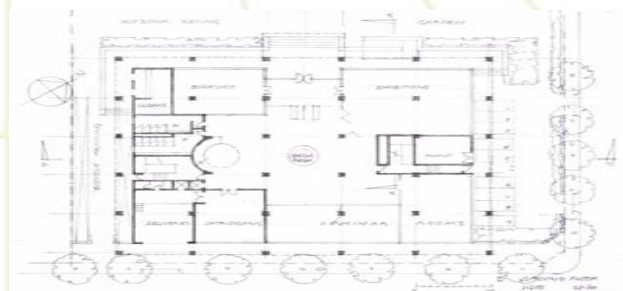
- Hue region: ancient cultural capital of Vietnam, knowledge economy via cultural tourism and conventions, using historic sites.
- Central Vietnam poverty - development need
- Multicampus university, 16,000 students, faculties in science, medicine, pedagogy, arts, economics and agriculture and forestry.
- LRC in main Le Loi Street on famous Perfume River. Pivotal location, serves city campuses and links with provincial library / archive being relocated
- Partners are Hue University, East Meets West, RMIT Vietnam, GHD, Atlantic Philanthropies
- 7000m², 900 places, ca USD 5 m
- Post-LRC cooperation with RMIT on educational programs, R&D to reach region together



Hue Citadel



Hue LRC, now under construction



LRC layout working sketch, ground floor



Data: University of Danang's LRCs

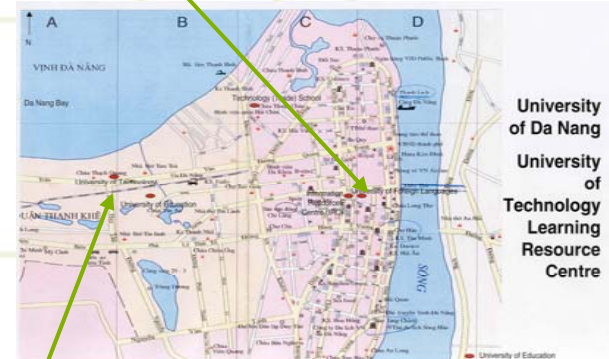
- Danang region: food, textiles, ceramics, transport, tourism; a hub on Vietnam's international cable links
- Central Vietnam poverty-reduction task
- Multicampus university, 16,000 students, faculties in Engineering, Foreign Languages, Education, Economics, Trade School.
- Partners for both LRCs have been variously University of Danang, East Meets West, University of Queensland, RMIT Vietnam, GHD, Atlantic Philanthropies
- 2000m² ,+ 5,500m², ca USD 4m
- Post-occupancy evaluation of locally-developed library management software and pattern of usage



First Information Resource Centre on city campus, with U of Queensland



Region a transport and tourism and transport hub with high bandwidth



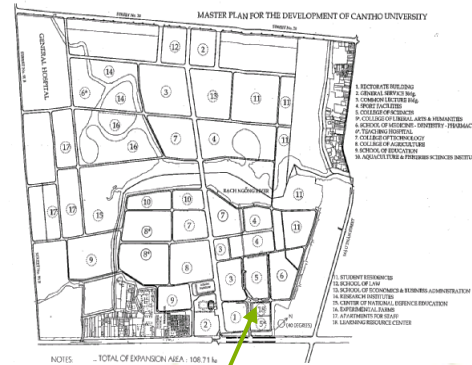
Second LRC at Technology Campus, west

University of Da Nang
University of Technology Learning Resource Centre

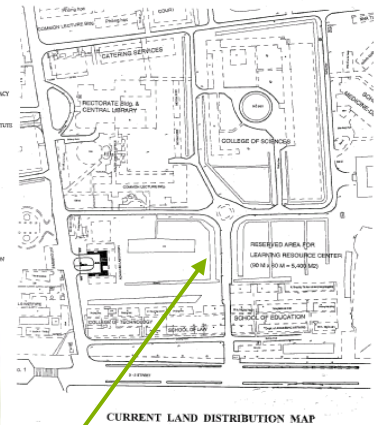


Data: Cantho University LRC

- Regional HQ for rich delta production but also poverty reduction need
- University focus on agriculture, aquaculture, forestry, ICT. 15,000 students
- Relatively developed library system, network of library branches, but still poorly-resourced
- LRC, 10,000m², to be part of university campus redevelopment
- LRC to be a vehicle for regional university extension, including several regional development projects
- Intensive use of distance education and on-line learning through the LRC



Cantho campus development plan shows LRC as site 18

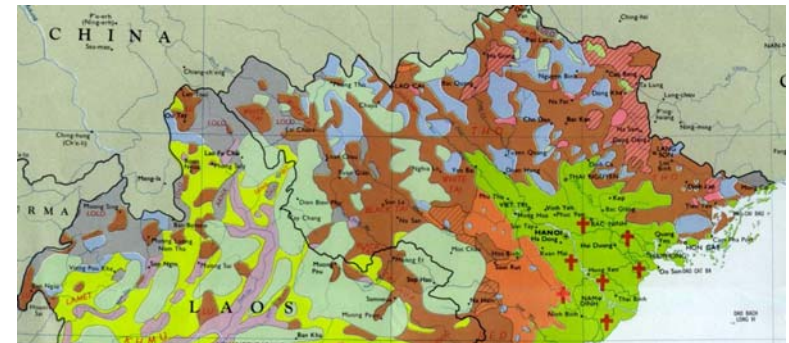


Cantho LRC development site

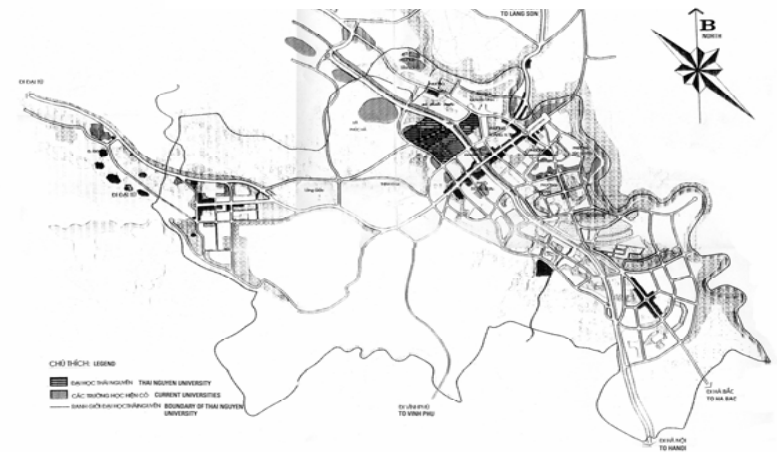


Data: Thai Nguyen University

- Serves the development needs for the northern mountainous area (NMA), economically undeveloped
- Diverse ethnic representation (55% are minorities) and multicultural mission
- 30,000 students in medical, education, industrial engineering, agriculture and fisheries and vocational colleges
- University campus development plan consolidating separate campuses
- Possible LRC feasibility study to examine distributed learning and information resources in this regional context



Thai Nguyen regional ethnic diversity



Thai Nguyen University campus development plan



Data: Vietnam National University Hanoi

- Pre-eminent university in Vietnam, highly autonomous, the result of mergers, 40,000 students and 2,300 staff
- RMIT's longstanding partner for joint masters program in systems engineering – joint building
- 5 campuses: Cau Giay, Thuong Dinh, Le Thanh Tong, Me Tri, Hoa Lac (the latter new campus 1000 ha to west of Hanoi)
- VNU Hanoi strategic mission for national development and international linkages for Vietnam; less so regional development
- Thus the hub for many national ICT, teaching and learning and research centres; relatively well-endowed
- Its potential role in the national LRC network is pivotal even though not part of the Ministry of Education and Training: LRC systems prototypes and testbed for change



VNU Hanoi, main Cau Giay campus



Key Lessons: LRCs in a Network

National decisions on policies, systems and standards have to address regional LRC problems: breaking regional and national bottlenecks iteratively and consensually

- National-level project on Information Resource Systems and Standards helped crystallise overdue decisions
- Towards common internet infrastructure via EduNet; university pressure to lower the firewall around international traffic
- LRC network described links into Vietnam Development Information Centre and Global Development Learning Network
- Common standards for cataloguing classification, font recognition, interfacing, search engines etc
- Consortial behaviour on library management system procurement, shared electronic subscriptions, interlibrary lending, publishing, repositories
- Replication of common LRC elements including layouts and building design, systems configuration
- Pooled staff training for LRCs at RMIT Vietnam



Key Lessons: LRCs in the Regions

- Radical attempt to create a network of LRCs across Vietnam
- Early days yet, still evolving, some way from learning cities and regions but Vietnam has set its goals that way
- Universities the host and the transmission medium to and from the cities and regions, LRCs not practically open to the public
- An open information resource base for economies of regions vs regulated access (resource constraints, firewalls, censorship, organisational silos) to be unlearned
- A supply-led change strategy: interactive learning platforms and e-libraries in advance of articulated regional learning needs



LRC working at RMIT Vietnam Ho Chi Minh City Campus



Summing Up: Vietnam Embraces New Learning Economy Through Regional LRCs

Partners for LRC network include:

- *Ministry Education and Training*
- *Ministry Culture and Information*
- *Ministry Science and Technology*
- *Ministry of Planning and Investment*
- *Participating universities*
- *US Library of Congress*
- *Atlantic Philanthropies*
- *East Meets West Foundation*
- *Simmons College Boston*
- *The World Bank*
- *RMIT Vietnam*
- *GHD*
- *National Library of Vietnam*
- *National Centre for Science & Technology Information and Documentation*



First LRC national systems and standards workshop