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Planning a New University in Vietnam: Innovation in Urban Development

Professor David Wilmoth, RMIT,
Australia





Background and Purpose



Background:

- First international university in Vietnam
- Fully owned by RMIT
- Financed by RMIT, IFC, ADB: USD 34.5m
- Established Jan 2001
- Currently 700 students, 90 staff, long term capacity 12,000 students
- Education & training, research, project management, community, consultancy, study abroad

Purpose of Paper:

- Innovation in project planning from RMIT, GOV, IFC and ADB
- Technological innovation in RMIT Vietnam
- Technology is know-how in setting it up
- Innovative governance of RMIT Vietnam + within Government of Vietnam



Rationale for Project



- Vietnamese love of education, determination to develop, resources short
- High level of need in Vietnam: >1 m students eligible for 120,000 places
- Demonstrated demand: cash economy, remittances
- RMIT is #1 destination for Vietnamese offshore
- Government invited RMIT because of its standing
- Seeks demonstration effect, capacity-building for others
- Strong Vietnam-Australia cultural and historical links eg RMIT has 1100 Vietnamese-Australians
- Currently popular country among students
- Australia seen as good education partner
- Long-term growth prospects - HCMC entrepreneurship strong
- Regional positioning of RMIT; benefits to RMIT Australia



Innovations in Project Planning and Governance



By Government of Vietnam:

- A step from plan to market
- Vietnam opens services sector to DFI for profit
- Creates special decrees
- Allows FFO, independent curricula and offshore accreditation

By RMIT:

- New modes of learning
- Fully owned offshore university
- Finance from IFC, ADB
- Large risk to manage: e.g. 57 ha
- Strong philanthropic support
- Intermediate holding company

By international financial institutions

- First tertiary ed for ADB
- First greenfields university for IFC
- First DFI services sector in Vietnam (was the largest DFI to Vietnam 2000)
- Exchange of learning with RMIT



Education and R&D Fields



Education programs:

- Languages
- Preparation program
- Engineering
- Science
- Information technology
- Commerce and business
- Education
- Management
- Environmental studies
- Food, health, biotech

R&D areas include:

- Environmental esp. water
- ICT including software development
- Food and biotechnology
- Business management and finance
- Product innovation and appropriate design
- Urban development and infrastructure
- Education and training particularly learning with technology

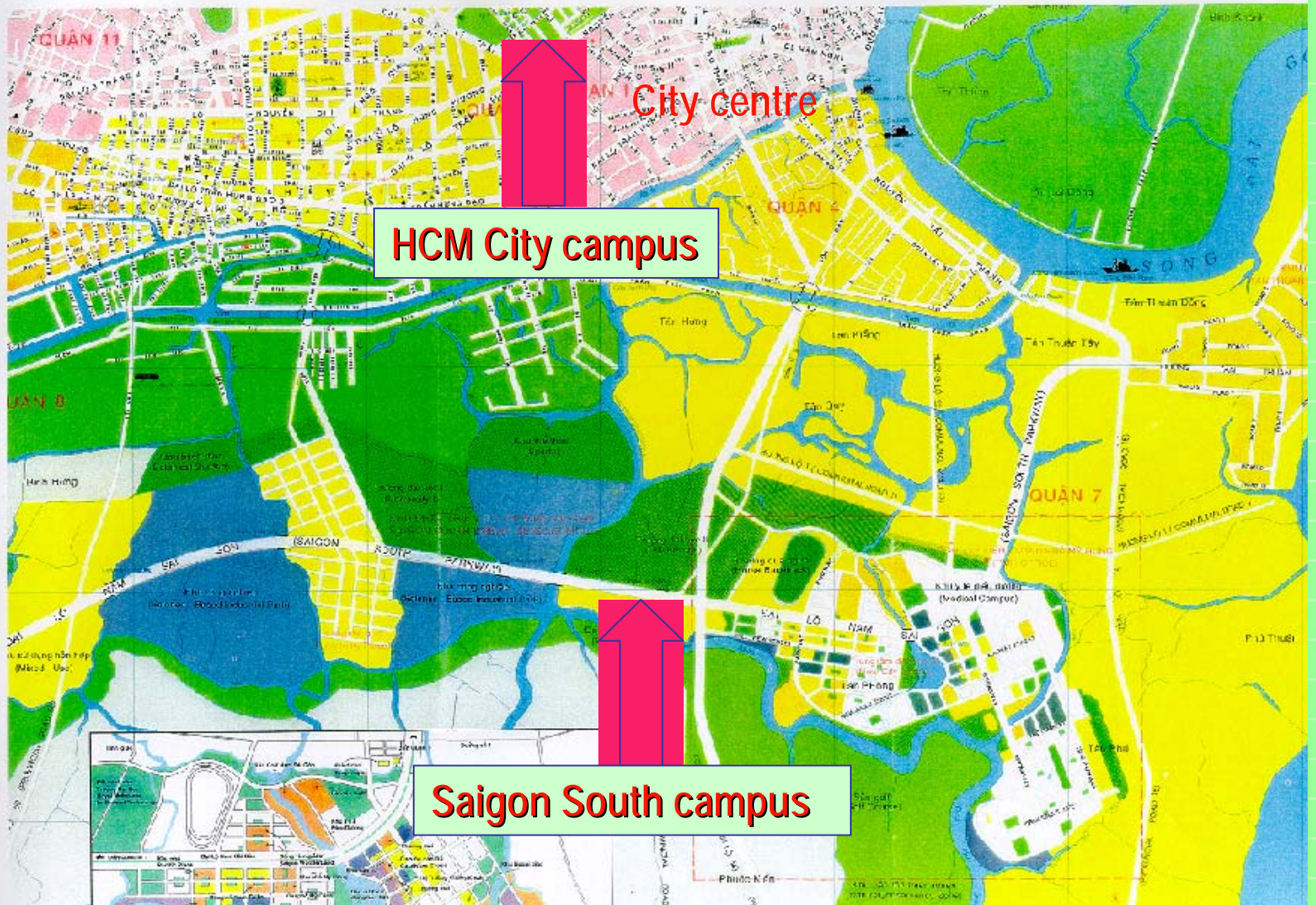


Ho Chi Minh City





RMIT Vietnam: 2 Campuses in HCMC



HCM City campus

Saigon South campus



RMIT Vietnam HCM City Campus

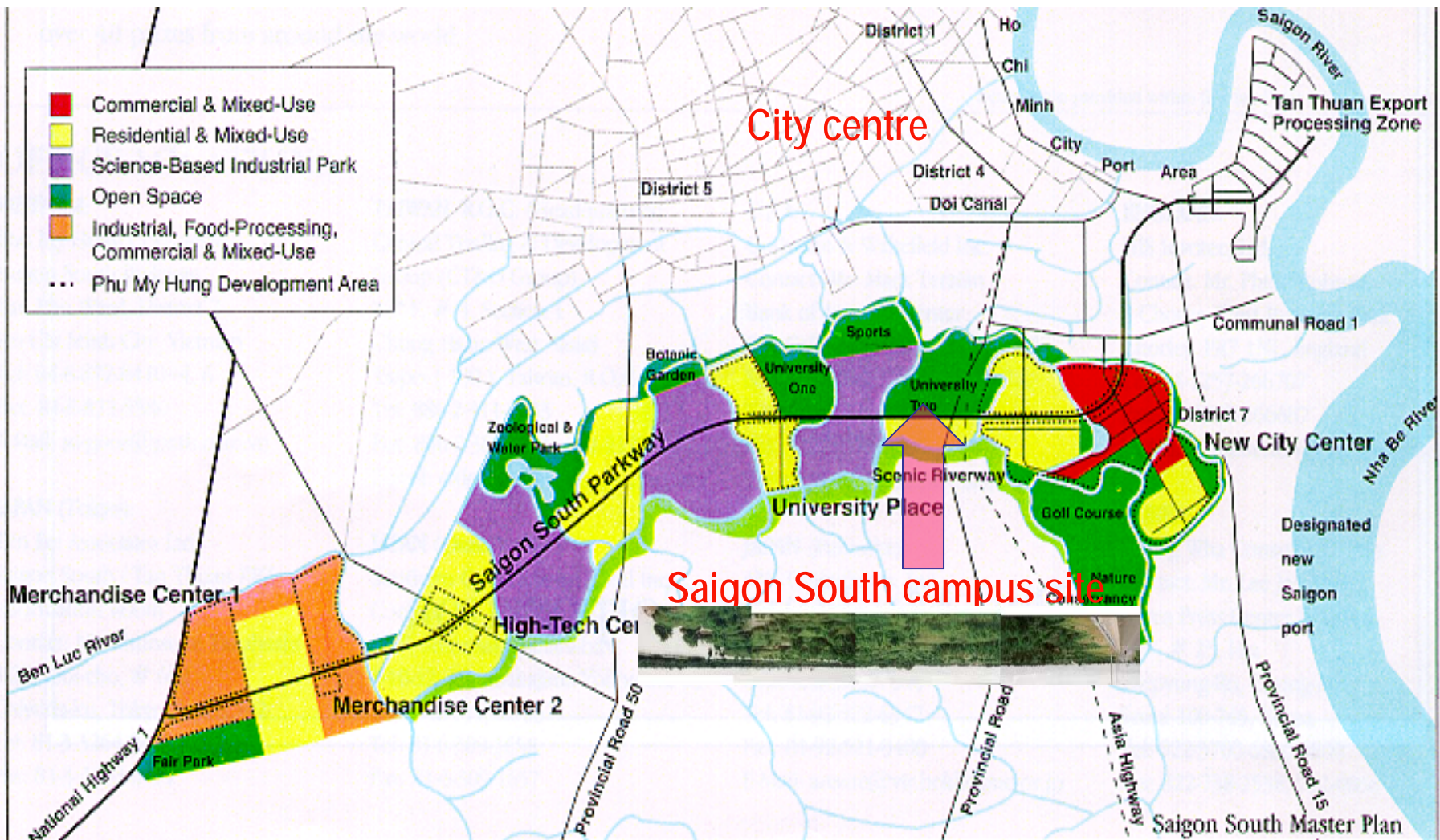




City Campus: New Modes of Learning



Saigon South Development Area





Saigon South City Centre

(Phu My Hung Corp)



Saigon South campus site

Looking north to downtown from Saigon South Parkway





Environmental Bottom Line



- Delta wetlands retention, soil and water remediation, landscaping improved
- District water and air quality controls Environmental monitoring, research , education and training
- Exemplary environmental design and planning, delta theme
- RMIT environment policy applies re ESD, materials, waste
- Use RMIT expertise including students eg offshore project
- Impact assessment meet ADB and World Bank standards



Social Bottom Line

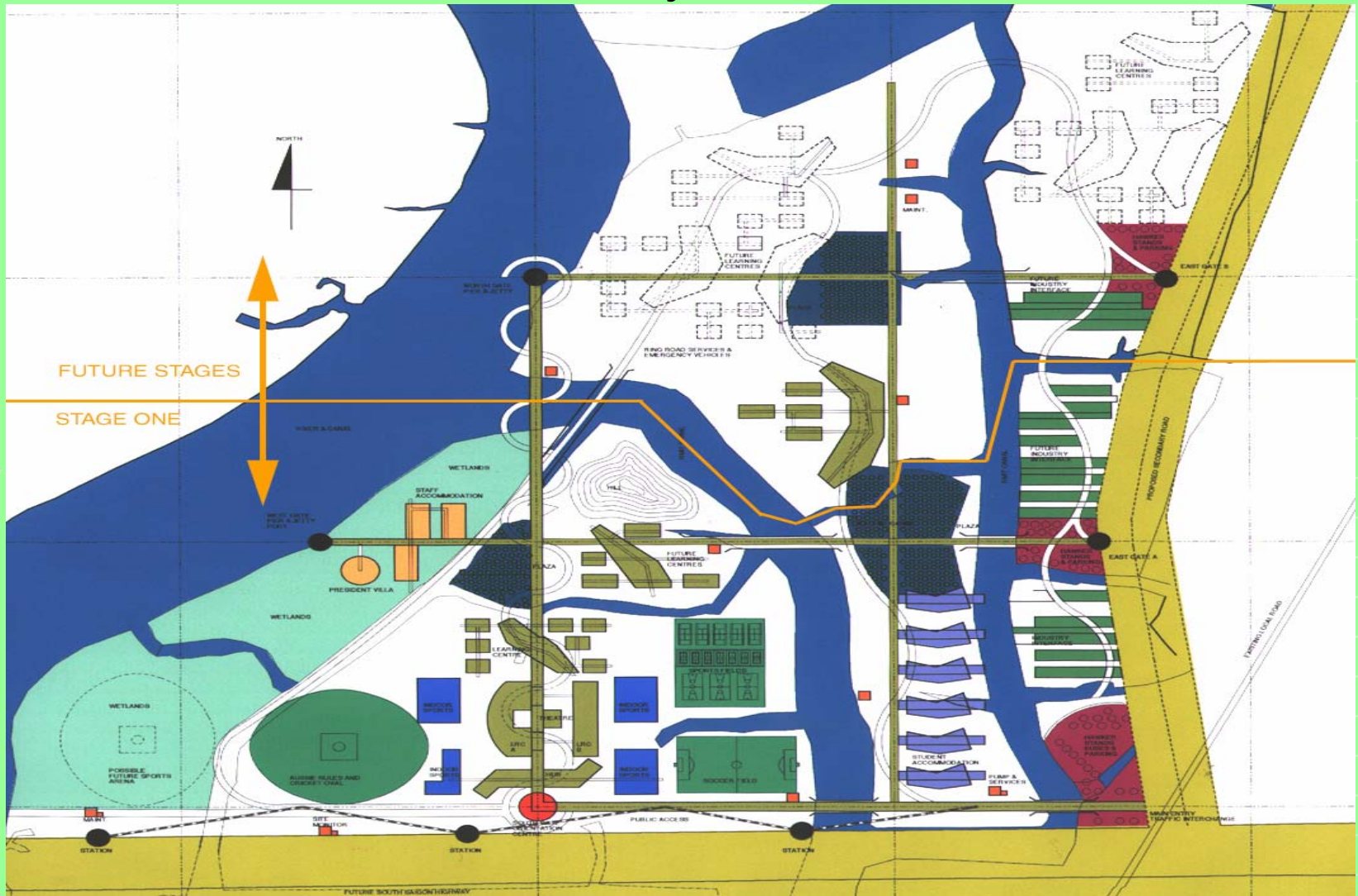


- Innovation in education and training policy and practice in Vietnam
- Human resource development and capacity building
- Wealth creation through earnings, innovations, employment multipliers
- Poverty alleviation through scholarships, targeted program development, equity policies including policies specific to gender ethnicity and regional background, student/trainee loan scheme
- Relocation of and compensation to 134 households involved with sustainable improvements to their living standards
- Venue for social and cultural development and events
- Creative new university community with international outlook reflected in design themes of campus



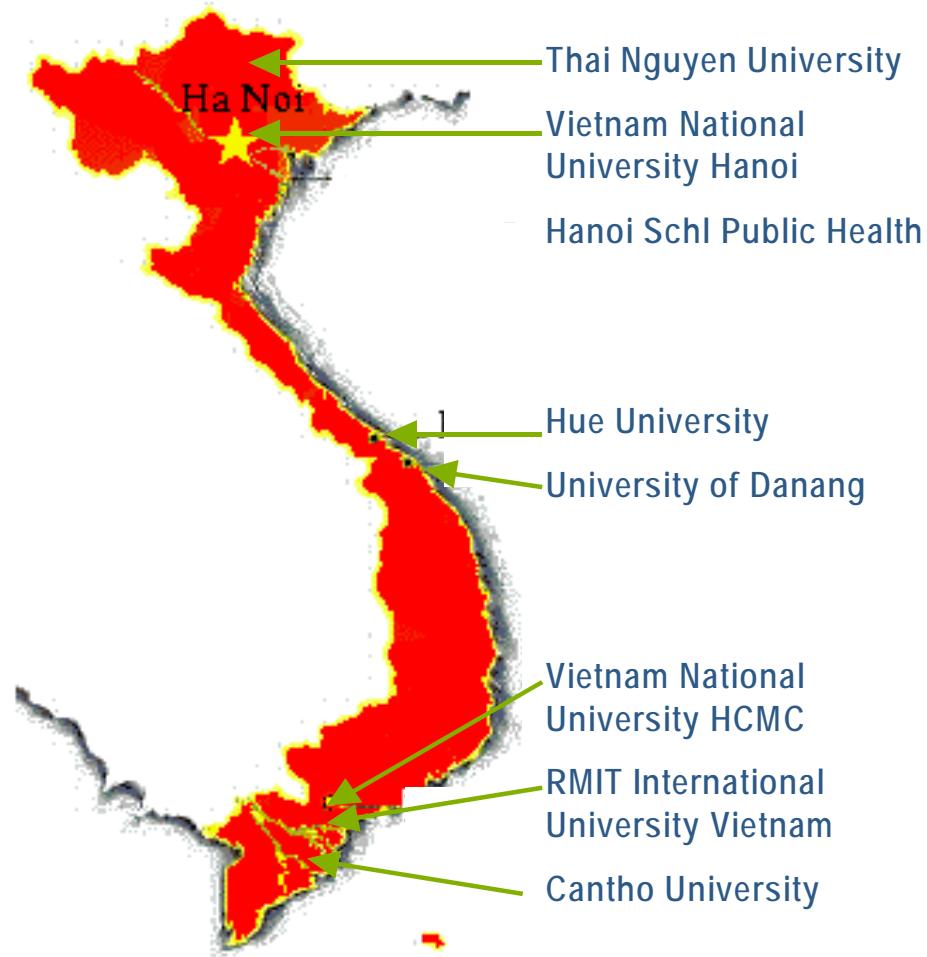
RMIT Vietnam Saigon South Campus Plan

(Norman Day & Associates)





Potential Network of LRCs in Vietnam





Hue University LRC

(Jackson Teece Chesterman Willis)



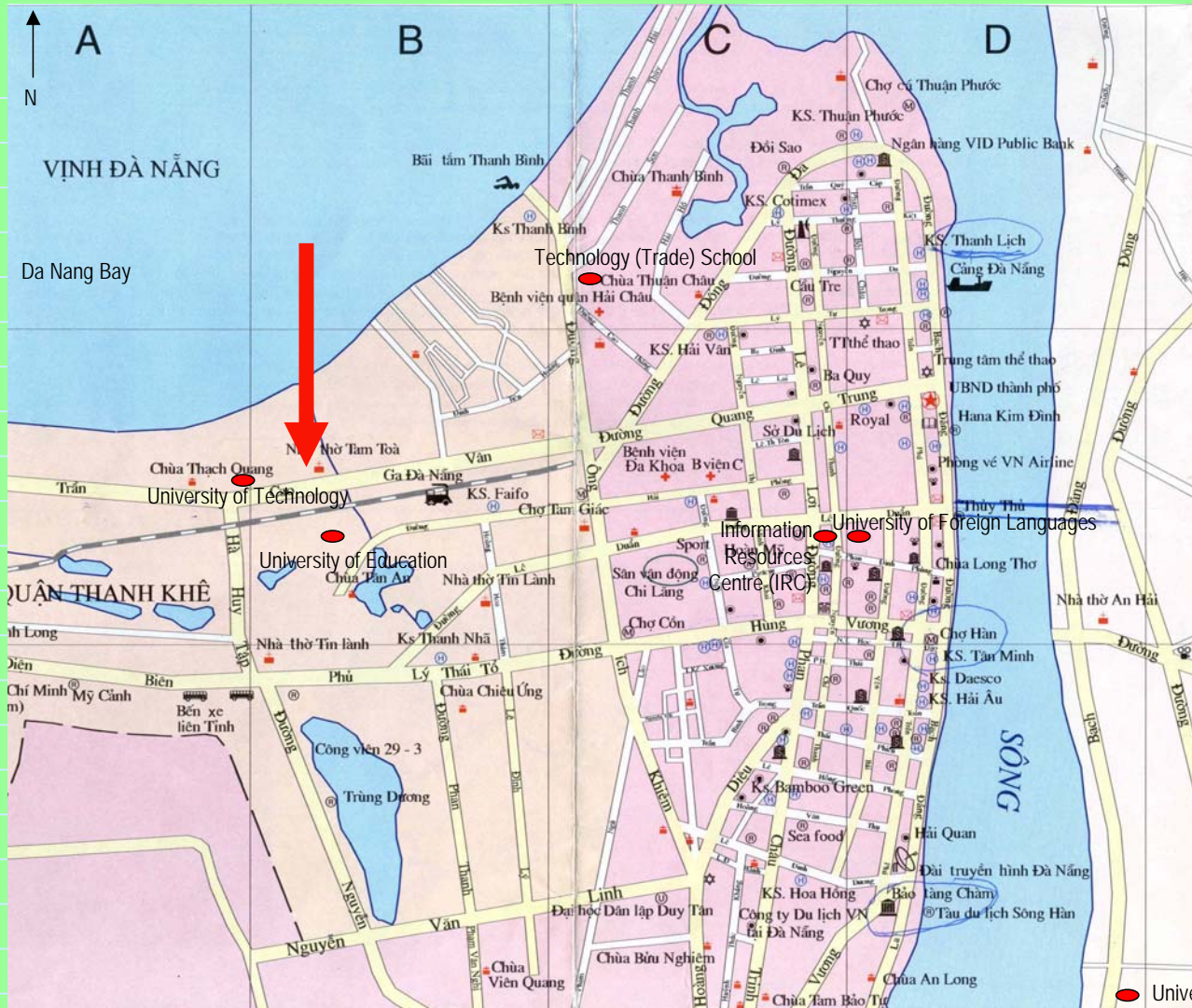


Danang University LRC 1





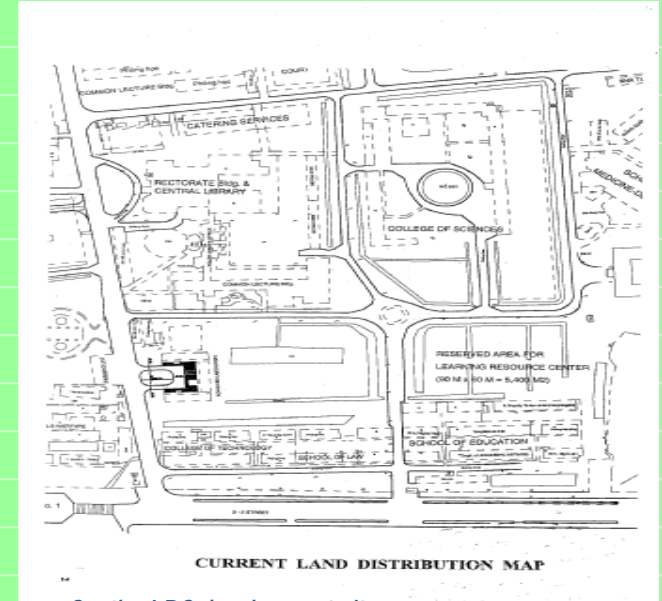
Danang University LRC 2



University of Da Nang
 University of Technology
 Learning Resource Centre



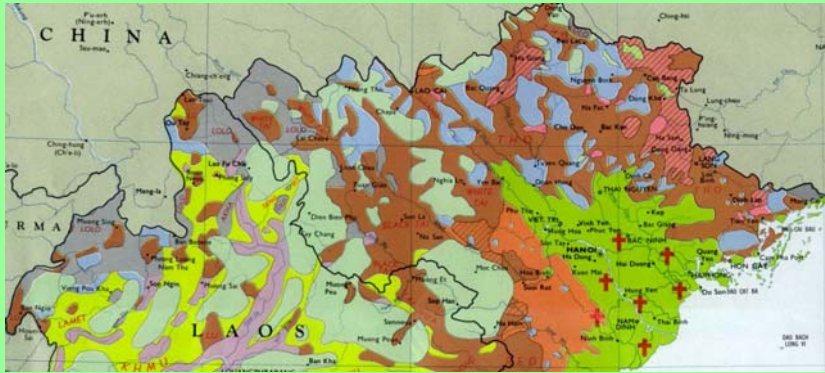
Cantho University & LRC site



Cantho LRC development site



Possible Thai Nguyen LRC



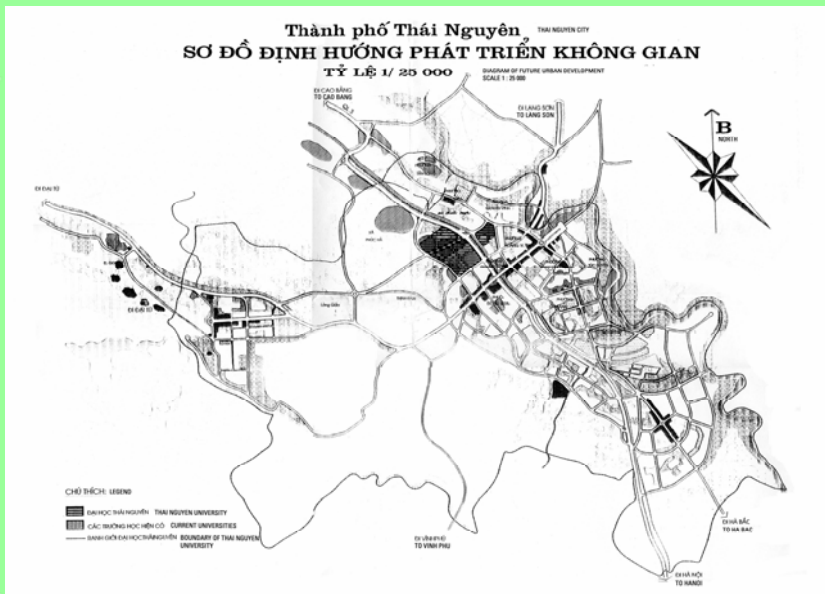
● University serves low-income northern mountain areas

● Ethnic diversity

● New LRC part of campus master plan

● Opportunity for distributed learning platform and regional research base

● Possible feasibility study





Vietnam Development Information Centre a LRC node, Hanoi

