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Business

Civil engineering university & Belgian Embassy focus on urban development

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Source: The Embassy of Belgium

ECONOMIC TIMES National University of Civil Engineering and embassy co-held "Learning Networks for Sustainable Neighborhoods in Vietnam" workshop in Hanoi on September 6.

by **Ngoc Lan**

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The Faculty of Architecture and Planning at the National University of Civil Engineering (NUCE), in close cooperation with the Belgian Embassy in Vietnam, held a workshop entitled “Learning Networks for Sustainable Neighborhoods in Vietnam (LNSNV)” on September 6 in Hanoi.

The learning network is an initiative of the Faculty of Engineering Technology at the Catholic University of Leuven (KUL) in Belgium and aims to increase the sustainability of urban development in an integrated manner in flood and drought-sensitive areas through a multidisciplinary approach.

The ambition of the LNSNV is to bring together Belgian and Vietnamese experts in architecture, engineering, urban planning, sustainable energy, landscape architecture, social sciences, greening, hydrology, and other spheres, together with project developers, to support the implementation of sustainable neighborhoods.

The workshop discussed urban development under climate change and focuses on flood risk mitigation, the role that green networks in the city can play, the need for housing associated with climate adaptation, and urban planning, landscape architecture, and sustainable energy.

North-central Ha Tinh province and central Da Nang city are the first two localities where these experts will work to help increase resilience to climate extremes in the future.

Dr. Pham Hung Cuong, Head of NUCE’s Department of Architecture and Planning, said that residential zones in these areas are under severe pressure from urbanization and industrial production, which

sometimes do not go hand-in-hand with environmental preservation. “We want to take advantage of this network to practically assess the current conditions of these zones and identify opportunities and challenges in making them sustainable in the future,” he said. “Vietnamese experts have done quite a lot of research on sustainable development, but how to turn the research findings into reality is something we need to learn from the Belgian experts.”

Ambassador of Belgium to Vietnam, H.E. Jehanne Roccas, told the workshop that a knowledge-sharing network is an excellent idea since Vietnam is among the countries most affected by climate change, and Belgian universities are also working very hard to find solutions to the problem. “When I went to the sea shore [in Vietnam], I saw a lot of damage, not only from climate change but also from urban planning mistakes and poor construction,” she said. “I hope the network will provide lots of opportunities for academics, the private sector, and institutions of the two countries to work together and come up with practical, sustainable solutions.”

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