

CONSULTATION WORKSHOP SUSTAINABLE URBAN COOLING IN CAN THO CITY



SUMMARY REPORT

Date/Time	: 2:00 PM - 17:30 PM, 12 th December 2023
Venue	: Muong Thanh Luxury Can Tho Hotel, Ninh Kieu Dist., Can Tho)
Chair	: Mr. Pham Nam Huan - Deputy Director of Can Tho Department of Natural Resources and Environment
Co-chair	: Ms. Nguyen Dang Thu Cuc, Deputy Head of the Department of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigation and Ozone Layer Protection, DCC/MONRE

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Emphasis on enhancing coordination among ministries, localities and sectors for urban cooling initiatives.
- Discussion on policy assessments, proposals for potential sustainable cooling projects and development of criteria for these projects in Can Tho City.
- Collection of feedback on potential projects and initial results on the Urban Cooling Action Plan (UCAP).
- Discussion on the mechanism for mobilizing financial resources for sustainable urban cooling.
- Highlights of the need for comprehensive planning, including green spaces and effective resource use.
- Importance of integrating cooling solutions into urban planning and infrastructure projects.
- Commitment to mobilize financial resources for sustainable and resilient urban development.

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

Viet Nam's rapid urbanization and accompanying fast-paced real estate sector is driving growth in cooling demand and associated emissions. At the same time, heat is now a critical public health issue for many of Viet Nam's cities and this will worsen with rising temperatures due to climate change. Cities can take comprehensive action through urban planning, enforcement of building standards, raising awareness to citizens, attracting finance, demonstrating sustainable approaches and effectively planning for Urban Heat Island Effect (UHIE) & increasing cooling demand.

Can Tho is located in the Mekong Delta region of Vietnam, which experiences a tropical monsoon climate with hot and humid conditions throughout the year. The average temperature is around 28°C, and there is no cold season. Therefore, cooling is essential for the comfort and

well-being of the residents and visitors of Can Tho.

One aspect of cooling in Can Tho is the use of air conditioning in buildings. Air conditioning is a common feature in many hotels, restaurants, shops, offices, and homes in Can Tho. However, air conditioning also consumes a lot of electricity and contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, which can worsen global warming and affect the environment. Therefore, finding ways to improve the efficiency and sustainability of air conditioning is a challenge and an opportunity for Can Tho.

Department of Climate Change (DCC), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) & Can Tho Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DONRE) in partnership with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) & Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), under the framework of Cool Coalition implementing a project with

aim to support Can Tho (i) to adopt UCAP, that integrate action on cooling and extreme heat into a range of municipal plans and masterplans. Interventions will include trainings & capacity building of cities to take action towards improved urban design, nature-based solutions, passive cooling measures, municipal incentives, district cooling and public procurement; (ii) support in mobilizing finance to implement urban cooling demonstrations in pilot cities, project will explore in integrating urban cooling under the existing Environmental

Protection Fund (VEPF); integrate cooling into city level policy framework including masterplans and climate change adaptation & mitigation planning.

The objectives of the workshop are as follows:

- Collection of feedback on the list of potential projects and initial results on UCAP (policy, modelling and policy);
- Discussion and exchange on the mechanism for mobilizing financial resources for sustainable urban cooling.

CORE SESSIONS_ KEY SUMMARIES

Opening remark



Mr. Pham Nam Huan, Deputy Director, Can Tho DONRE said under the directive of Official Document No. 3309/VPUB-XDĐT, the People's Committee of the city is engaging in a project aimed at implementing climate-friendly urban cooling in Viet Nam, with specific roles assigned to the DONRE to coordinate and support the DCC in the project's implementation. Achievements to date include a policy assessment, proposals for potential sustainable cooling projects, and development of criteria for these projects in Can Tho city. A consultation workshop is being held to further gather feedback and refine the UCAP, with a call for active participation and continuous support from all delegates to ensure the project delivers effective and feasible cooling solutions for the city.

Presentations:



1) *Overview of the projects - Sustainable Urban Cooling* - **Mr. Nguyen Ba Tu, DCC** presented an overview of the government's environmental protection policies. He also provided brief descriptions of the sustainable urban cooling project, which is being implemented by DCC in collaboration with UNEP and GGGI.



2) *Assessing policies and programmes on urban cooling in Viet Nam* - **Ms. Nguyen Minh Hue, a policy expert from the GGGI**, provided a summary of international experiences in urban cooling policy and solution. This included national-level policies from countries such as India, Singapore, and Cambodia, as well as city/province-level policies from West Sydney - Australia, and the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation - India. Her presentation also summarized both technical and non-technical solutions that are widely applied globally for urban cooling. She also evaluated the current government policies related to sustainable cooling, along with the policies and action plans of Can Tho City,

and provided recommendations for Can Tho City in the implementation of urban cooling policies.



3) *Initial results on Urban Cooling Action Plan (UCAP)* - **Dr. Ngo Hoang Ngoc Dung, an expert from the UNEP**, presented the outcomes of developing the Urban Cooling Action Plan for Can Tho City. The focus was on the results of simulation calculations, reviewing potential solutions for urban cooling to identify the most effective strategies for Can Tho City. Recommendations for urban design and planning included considerations for urban spaces, nature-based solutions, surface materials, and the integration of cooling solutions into urban planning.



4) *List of potential projects and selection criteria* - **Dr. Trinh Quoc Dung, an expert from the UNEP**, discussed the criteria for selecting pilot projects. These included the alignment with national policies; project characteristics such as scale, energy-saving potential, investment costs, and technology transfer challenges; project readiness; and the potential for project expansion. The presentation also addressed a list of 05

projects in Can Tho City with the potential to pilot sustainable cooling solutions.



5) *Financial mechanism on urban cooling for potential projects* - **Ms. Dao Thi Mai Hoa, Senior Investment Officer from the GGGI**, summarized the mechanisms for mobilizing capital for sustainable cooling projects that are commonly applied worldwide. She also discussed the barriers in Vietnam and provided recommendations for implementing these mechanisms in Vietnam.

ANNEX 2 AS WORKSHOP AGENDA

Time: 13:30 - 17:15 ICT, 12 December 2023

Venue: Muong Thanh Luxury Can Tho

Format: Half-day Workshop

Time (GMT+7)	Activity	Presented by
13:30 - 14:00	Registration	
14:00 - 14:05	Introduction of delegation	Representative of Can Tho DONRE
14:05 - 14:15	Opening Remarks	Mr. Pham Nam Huan, Can Tho DONRE
14:15 - 14:30	Overview of the projects - Sustainable Urban Cooling	Mr. Nguyen Ba Tu, DCC
14:30 - 14:50	Assessing policies and programmes on urban cooling in Viet Nam	Ms. Nguyen Thi Minh Hue, Policy Expert, GGGI
14:50 - 15:30	Initial results on Urban Cooling Action Plan (UCAP)	Dr. Ngo Hoang Ngoc Dung, Technical Expert, UNEP
15:30 - 15:40	Tea-break	
15:40 - 16:00	List of potential projects and selection criteria	Dr. Trinh Quoc Dung, Senior Technical Advisor, UNEP
16:00 - 16:15	Financial mechanism on urban cooling for potential projects	Ms. Dao Thi Mai Hoa, UNEP
16:15 - 17:00	Discussion	All participants
17:00 - 17:15	Closing Remark	- Ms. Chau Thi Kim Thoa, Can Tho DONRE - Ms. Nguyen Dang Thu Cuc, DCC



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Discussion and Way Forward



Mr. Huynh Vinh Tri from the Can Tho City Investment Project Management Board: Currently, the Can Tho City Investment Project Management Board is managing various infrastructure development projects (transportation, water irrigation, etc.). For the projects being implemented, especially transportation infrastructure projects, cooling factors have been and are being considered, including [enhancing green space](#), [constructing clean green streets](#), etc. School construction projects are also combined with water surface and green space. In addition, the resettlement arrangement for households involves planning residential areas for the project. These resettlement areas must include the construction of internal roads and houses that are suitable with cooling solutions. The planning aims to ensure that the relocated residents have access to adequate [infrastructure and housing](#), [reflecting a comprehensive approach to urban development and the well-being of the affected population](#). Through this workshop, the Can Tho City Investment Project Management Board has also identified the [objective, role, and potential of sustainable cooling solutions for future projects](#). In this December, the Prime Minister also approved the Can Tho City's Development Plan for the period 2021 - 2030. In the process of implementing the above Plan, when assigned specific

mission by the City People's Committee, the Project Management Board will integrate sustainable cooling solutions into the projects. However, the most important point is the need to arrange investment capital.



Ms. Le Thi Thuy Kieu, from the Science and Technology Association in Can Tho City: The presentations have proposed useful solutions for urban cooling; among them, it is suggested that more attention should be paid to the issue of urban trees. [Planting trees and creating green spaces](#) can completely mobilize resources from the citizens, specifically: [encouraging planting trees at home](#), [building houses towards green spaces](#). However, there needs to be preferential policies for investors of housing development projects with green spaces.

The proposal emphasizes developing an urban greenery system, aligning with Resolution 59-NQ/TW goal of transforming into a green urban city. [It encourages individuals to participate in greening their surroundings by planting trees within their premises](#). Moreover, it advocates for the [green design of buildings](#), suggesting that [architectural planning should incorporate environmental considerations](#).



Mr. Thanh, from University of Can Tho: The issue of urban heat islands needs to consider the differences among time of year; specifically in Can Tho, the hottest time is usually in April and May. Attention should be paid to maintaining the city's canals, limiting encroachment and construction that reduces water surface. The development of urban green spaces, especially in vacant land areas, is necessary. Water regulation between seasons should be implemented to ensure that even in the dry season, the necessary water surface area is maintained. For housing, current roofs are made of iron; therefore, solutions for cooling iron roofs with water should be considered.



Ms. Phan Kieu Diem – University of Can Tho: It is necessary to analyze and evaluate project's outcomes according to different urban functional groups (residential housing, industrial facilities, aquaculture facilities, etc.). Based on this, a set of technical solutions and capital mobilization solutions for each of the above groups should be proposed. Regarding the impact of extreme heat phenomena, it is also necessary to

evaluate according to groups of vulnerable citizens.



Mr. Pham Hoang Vu– Victoria Hotel: We always focus on ecological environmental issues within the hotel (wastewater, waste, etc.), including sustainable cooling issues. We hope that the project has a specific roadmap and specific requirements so that we can understand and coordinate implementation. It is necessary to popularize the necessity of urban cooling in the community to raise public awareness.

Mr. Nguyen Quoc Viet - Hoan My Cuu Long Hospital: We also focus on green spaces and trees within the hospital. Based on the solutions presented at the seminar, it is suggested to open the canal near the hospital to create a water surface area, serving to cool the environment. In addition, clean energy sources are also very useful, but the investment cost is still high, so it is suggested to have state support.



Coordination among all stakeholders is crucial to select priority projects to respond to climate change effectively.

The representative of the Can Tho City Department of Natural Resources and Environment thanked the opinions of the stakeholders and suggested that the consulting expert group absorb and study the contributed opinions to build the UCAP report for Can Tho.

Moving forward, we will continue to mobilize financial resources to ensure these plans are realized, reflecting the commitments to sustainable and resilient urban development in the face of environmental challenges.

ANNEX AS PARTICIPANTS LIST

No.	Name	Organization
1	Nguyen Dang Thu Cuc	DCC/MONRE
2	Nguyen Ba Tu	DCC/MONRE
3	Ta Thi Thanh Huong	GGGI Viet Nam
4	Dao Thi Mai Hoa	GGGI Viet Nam
5	Do Hung Manh	GGGI Viet Nam
6	Chu Le Thuy Duong	GGGI Viet Nam
7	Le Thanh Tung	Project Coordinator
8	Trinh Quoc Dung	UNEP consultant
9	Ngo Hoang Ngoc Dung	UNEP consultant
10	Nguyen Minh Hue	GGGI consultant
11	Pham Dang Huan	Department of Natural Resources and Environment
12	Chau Thi Kim Thoa	Department of Natural Resources and Environment
13	Nguyen Thanh Van	Local Coordinator, GGGI
14	Quách Thanh Trúc	Department of Foreign Affairs
15	Thai Thanh Tung	Department of Foreign Affairs
16	Nguyen Vu Quang	Department of Planning and Investment
17	Cao Nguyen Ngoc Dien	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
18	Nguyen Duc Thinh	Department of Construction
19	Nguyen Thanh Tao	Department of Construction
20	Le Van Ha	Department of Transportation
21	Nguyen Thi Bich Van	Department of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs
22	Phan Thi Ngoc Diem	Department of Justice
23	Nguyen Thanh Tung	Center for Industry Promotion and Energy Efficiency of Can Tho city

No.	Name	Organization
24	Cao Thi Minh Thao	Institute of Economics and Society
25	Ms. Hong	Institute of Economics and Society
26	Nguyen Hoang An	People's Committee of Binh Thuy District
27	Vo Thi Minh Trang	People's Committee of Vinh Thanh District
28	Tran Hien Hau	Center for Resource and Environmental Monitoring
29	Vo Quoc Hung	Management Board of Export Processing and Industrial Zones
30	Nguyen Xuan Toan	Management Board of Export Processing and Industrial Zones
31	Huynh Vinh Tri	Investment Construction Project Management Board
32	Pham Thi Dien	Women's Union of Can Tho City
33	Nguyen Minh Tri	Can Tho City Radio and Television Station
34	Nguyen Minh Lam	Can Tho City Radio and Television Station
35	Le Thi Thuy Kieu	Union of Science and Technology Associations Can Tho City
36	Nguyen Quoc Viet	Hoan My Cuu Long Hospital
37	Pham Hoang Vu	Victoria Can Tho Resort
38	Duong Thi Trang Nhung	Management Board of Cai Khe Trade Center
39	Nguyen Trong Nghia	Management Board of Cai Khe Trade Center
40	Dinh Diep Anh Tuan	Representative of Dragon Institute: vbdkh@ctu.edu.vn
41	Nguyen Xuan Loc	Can Tho University
42	Phan Thi Kieu Diem	Can Tho University
43	Vuong Tan Huy	Can Tho University
44	Trương Thanh Vân	Veterans Association
45	Ngo Minh Khue	Cooperative Alliance
46	Nguyen Hoang Cung	Dai Thuan Thien Clean Agricultural Products Co., Ltd.
47	Le Hoang Hai Anh	Climate Change Research Institute
48	Do Thi Ngoc Duy	Can Tho City Youth Union