

1. Long An: HCMC gateway to the Mekong Delta

Long An to the west of HCMC connects this city with the Mekong Delta where supplies some 50% of the rice output and accounts for the whole volume of rice exported. It has convenient networks of roads and waterways, especially the National Route 1A, that allow easy transport to and from the Mekong Delta and the Southern Vital Economic Zone including HCMC, Bà



Rịa- Vũng Tàu, Đồng Nai and Bình Dương.

With a borderline of 137.2 km adjacent to Cambodia, Long An could develop trade with this country, and moreover, with other ASEAN members, thereby joining multilateral trade with regional countries.

The Long An area is some 4.5 square kilometers divided into 13 districts and a provincial town (Tân An); six of them are in Đồng Tháp Mười flood plain; the rest has natural conditions favorable for agricultural and industrial development. At present, the economic life of the province is developing steadily. Unlike other provinces in the Mekong

Delta, Long An enjoys a great advantage of being adjacent to HCMC – the biggest economic center of the country, the biggest market for farm products from the Delta and the most important supplier of capital, managerial skills and technology for the Delta.

With such a favorable position, Long An seems attractive in the eyes of both local and foreign investors when they realize a potential market including the Mekong Delta and the Southern Vital Economic Zone.

The Long An population is 1,306,202 (1999 census) with a density of 294 people per a square kilometer and 51.5% of it

is in the working age. The population growth is mainly due to the flow of migrants from other provinces to Đồng Tháp Mười forming a source of cheap labor for future industrial estates.

2. Cooperation between HCMC and Long An in developing industrial estates

The table shows that with so many industrial estates and export processing zones HCMC is running short of land needed for urbanization as required by its town planning and the master development scheme for the next decade with the aim to turn HCMC into "a civilized and modern city in the South that acts as an industrial, scientific and trading center of the

COOPERATION BETWEEN HCMC AND LONG AN IN DEVELOPING INDUSTRIAL ESTATES

by MEcon. HUYNH THANH TỬ

Table 1: HCMC industrial estates (up to December 2002)

Industrial estate	Area (ha)	Developer
Tân Thuận EPZ	300	Tân Thuận Joint Venture
Linh Trung1 EPZ	62	Linh Trung Joint Venture
Linh Trung 2 EPZ	62	Linh Trung Joint Venture
Bình Chiểu IE	28	Bến Thành Corporation
Hiệp Phước IE	332	Tân Thuận Industrial Development Company
Tân Tạo IE	440	Tân Tạo Ltd.
Tân Bình IE	142	Tanimex Co.
Vĩnh Lộc IE	207	Cholimex Co.
Northwest Củ Chi IE	215	Củ Chi Trading and Investment Co.
Tân Thới Hiệp IE	29	Tân Thới Hiệp Ltd.
Lê Minh Xuân IE	100	Bình Chánh Investment and Construction Co.
Phong Phú IE	163	Phong Phú IE Joint Stock Co.
Cát Lái 4 IE	127	Bến Thành Corporation
Hi-tech Park in District 9	804	HCMC People's Committee
Total area	3,197	



Southeast Asian level" as expected by the Resolution 20 of the Polibureau.

In addition, the HCMC government has made plan to move some 1,000 factories causing pollution and bad effects on the sustainable development of the city from residential areas to suburbs by 2005. This makes the task of developing new industrial estates suitable to the master zoning plan for the years 2001-2010 more urgent and difficult.

That is why Long An becomes a solution to the problem. And this is a chance for Long An to en-

ter a new stage of development.

3. A pattern of cooperation in developing industrial estates

The problem to developers five years before is the shortage of capital needed for developing new areas. Today, what concerns them most is convenient areas for their investment projects while the flow of capital from both domestic and foreign sources is on the increase. From here comes a pattern of cooperation in building industrial estates in which HCMC supplies capital, technology and managerial

skills while Long An provides building sites and labor force.

Under this pattern, a series of projects to build industrial estates has come into being.

(1) Tân Đức IE in Đức Hòa District: This IE will be developed by the Bình Chánh-based Tân Tạo Infrastructure Ltd. (ITACO). The Long An People's Committee has passed the project to build an industrial and residential complex in Đức Hòa and Hậu Thanh Communes (Đức Hòa District) on an area of 1,000 hectare (535 hectares for the industrial estate, 422 hectares for the residential area and 167 hectares for entertainment facilities).

(2) The 100-hectare Đức Hòa 3 IE Project is undertaken by Saigon Tourism and Trading Company (SP.Co) and approved by the Long An People's Committee.

(3) Mỹ Yên Industrial and Residential Complex Project (Bến Lức District) undertaken by Construction and Housing Company under HCMC District 10 authority (CONSERCO) will be developed on a total area of 136 hectares (70 for industrial estate and 66 for residential area.)

(4) The Mỹ Yên Industrial-Residential Es-

tate and Tân Bửu IE Project (Bến Lức District) will be carried out by the Public Utility Service Company of HCMC District 4 including three sections: Mỹ Yên IE (67.2 hectares), Tân Bửu IE (99.5 hectares) and Mỹ Yên-Tân Bửu Residential Area (181.9 hectares)

(5) Tân Bửu IE Project undertaken by the Public Utility Service Company of HCMC District 11 is making plan to pay compensation to local residents.

(6) Vĩnh Lộc 2 IE on an area of 256 hectares in Long Hiệp Commune (Bến Lức) will be developed by the Chợ Lớn Investment and Export-Import Company (CHOLIMEX).

(7) Cầu Tràm IE Project undertaken by the Public Utility Service Company of HCMC District 11 is combined with two residential areas of 13.2 hectares in Cầu Tràm and Long Trạch Communes (Cần Đức District).

(8) Long Hậu 1 IE will be built in Cần Giuộc District by the HCMC-based Tân Thuận Infrastructure Company including 130 hectares for industrial use and 20 hectares for a new residential area.

(9) Long Hậu 2 IE undertaken by the Saigon Import-Export Company (INCOMEX) is spared for infant companies. It includes 200 hectares for industrial use and 30 hectares for a residential area. The project is waiting for approval from the Long An People's Committee.

With its convenient position and a big stock of land, Long An has become a promising destination for both local and foreign investors and provided HCMC-based infrastructure companies with a great business opportunity. The cooperation between HCMC and Long An will help make the best use of local resources to turn IEs into useful tools for the economic growth and industrialization. ■