An understanding of the interrelationship between urban growth, urban land use planning and climate-related disasters provide local planning authorities with the much-needed insight into the drivers of risk. The location of residential areas, industrial parks, critical public infrastructure and facilities are in themselves important spatial indicators to assess the vulnerability of urban communities to climate-related hazards. The Vietnamese city of Ho Chi Minh City provides an archetypical mega-urban example, where spatial planning for adapted urban land uses will be instrumental in addressing climate challenges. Research findings for the city demonstrate that through adapted land use planning, climate-related vulnerability parameters can be modified to reduce current and future urban risks. Yet planning alone is simply not enough. Effective adaptation strategies will require the implementation of a whole set of regulatory and non-regulatory techniques and mechanisms. For rapidly developing mega-urban regions the need for focused support and guidance in formulating suitable adaptation policies and spatially explicit zoning regulations is apparent. Within its multi-stakeholder environment borne out of conflicting interests, land use planning requires more than ever science-based information to formulate spatially explicit adaptation measures to climate change. (The research project in HCMC is funded as part of the German "Future Megacities" Programme).

Keywords: Land Use Planning, Adaptation to Climate Change, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam