VGBC Background

The non-profit Vietnam Green Building Council (VGBC) is a project of Green Cities Fund, a California (US) INGO. It opened its offices, the first in Vietnam dedicated to sustainability and adaptation in the built environment, in April 2008. Its first project, V-SCCAN (Vietnam Sustainable Climate Change Adaptation Network), went online the previous month. VGBC’s work currently focuses on its LOTUS suite of assessment tools, which integrate climate change adaptation indicators into sustainable building ratings.

Vietnam has vast exposure to climate change. VGBC believes sustainability and adaptation to climate change are closely linked, as co-benefits of the former build resilience. Reducing the water and energy requirements of buildings, for instance, or using passive (non-mechanical) means to cool them increase a community’s ability to weather the uncertainty of climate change. Urban neighborhoods may accomplish much, though certainly not all, of their physical adaptation through a framework of deep sustainability.

VGBC’s main partners include Hanoi Architectural University, the Vietnam Association of Civil Engineers for the Environment, the Global Cities Institute of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), and the World Green Building Council, which endorsed it as an “Emerging Council” in 2007. Through its international advisory board, which features a number of highly credible former and current Vietnamese officials, and through its staff, VGBC maintains a large informal network of international and local experts.

The organization expects to work with Vietnam’s Ministry of Construction (MoC) in 2009-2010 to develop national green building standards and assessment tools, as well as innovative building adaptation measures. The two bodies plan to cooperate on demonstration projects involving the private sector. This partnership gives VGBC a unique opportunity to build resilience across vulnerable urban areas in Vietnam and perhaps the region.

VGBC “seeks to build the resilience of communities most likely to be hit hardest by climate change” (Rockefeller Foundation, 2007) -- partly through vulnerability studies and building standards. In Vietnam this extends to a large percentage of the population, tens of millions of coastal urban dwellers. VGBC will help build resilience by providing tools, strategies, and standards that will allow the building sector and decision-makers to move communities across Vietnam toward a healthy, ecologically sound, and adapted built environment.
Hiring Notice: Country Director

Job Description

Position Start:
• Two month apprenticeship (trial and training) period as assistant
director begins in Feb/March 2009

Duties:

Organizational
• Report monthly to Green Cities Fund (GCF) on activities
• Develop organizational strategy and direction with GCF personnel

Partnerships and Relations
• Establish and maintain relations with business members, academic and
government partners, the VGBC Board, and its technical committees
• Supervise VGBC communications (website, press release, etc.)
• Speak and present at local or international workshops as required
• Learn and transmit core VGBC principles and activities
• Ensure organizational adherence to Vietnamese law and highest
standard of international ethics

Fundraising
• Plan and execute fundraising and grant-seeking strategy
• Write grant proposals
• Recruit new business or organizational members
• Secure revenue streams for VGBC operations

Supervise Research
• Contribute to development of VGBC research products (such as
LOTUS green building assessment system)
• Develop strategic proposals and research projects with GCF staff,
technical committee, and Board

Supervise Hanoi Office
• Coordinate all staff duties and activities
• Control VGBC finances and set budget in partnership with Board
• Manage VGBC technical systems (email, accounting, website, etc.)

Global benefits can be achieved while
addressing local
issues of urban air
quality, energy
efficiency in buildings,
solid waste
management, water
supply, water
treatment, and urban
mobility.

--Anthony Bigio
Requirements:
- Excellent spoken and written English
- Good communication skills
- Management or related professional experience / education (architecture, ecology, engineering, etc.)
- Research skills
- Dedication to environmental and climate change issues in Vietnam
- Ability to learn quickly, think independently, and be creative
- Standard computer skills (Word, Excel, Web)

Preferences:
- Some knowledge of Vietnamese language and culture
- Some knowledge of the following: architecture, urban planning, sustainable concepts, ecology, and climate change.
- Two-year commitment
- Goal of long-term employment with VGB, a non-profit organization (INGO).

Further Information:
- Open to local and international applicants -- VGB is an equal opportunity employer and will consider all applicants equally regardless of age, nationality, or gender.
- Salary range: 14-26.25 million VND (800-1500 USD).
- Guaranteed raise structure and bonuses contingent on fundraising performance included in standard contract.
- Good working conditions in flexible and friendly atmosphere.

Contact
To apply for the position, please send a letter of interest and CV (both in English) to Mr. Jalel Sager at jsager@vsccan.org. Requests for further information may also be directed to the above email address, or see VGB’s website at http://www.vsccan.org.

Round 1 Deadline: February 1, 2009
Only short-listed candidates will be scheduled for interviews.