

Research On Solutions To Build Sadec City, Vietnam Into A Smart City By Applying Information And Communication Technology And Other Means To Improve The Quality Of Life

Ho Tra Giang

Hospitality & Tourism Management Faculty, FPT University, Vietnam
Email: GiangHT12@fe.edu.vn

Abstract

The gap between citizen participation in all steps of smart city initiatives has been identified as one of the key challenges in successfully scaling smart city initiatives in advanced cities. Proposing solutions and coordinating with the country to build a legal framework for smart city governance nationwide, as well as regulations to manage technology risks are necessary. This article analyzes the potentials of Sadec City, the remaining problems and by analyzing and comparing with other studies, the article will focus on effective solutions. The results show that the bold ideas, enthusiasm as well as the efforts of the leadership teams will play an extremely important role in formulating policies to implement, at the same time it is the cooperation of the leaders and businesses for a sustainable development.

Keywords: development, sustainability, smart city, technology

1. Introduction

Overcoming the dangers and challenges of the war, Sadec's army and people fought bravely and won victory in the spring of 1975 to join the whole country in building socialism. In the post-war socio-economic recovery, Sadec has won many achievements to enter the doi moi process and continue to industrialize and modernize the country. The city has an area of 59.11 km², the population in 2019 is 106,197 people, the population density reaches 1,797 people/km². SaDec city is the economic, financial, educational and cultural and tourist center in the south of Dong Thap province. Sadec city plays an important role as the center of the area south of the Tien River in Dong Thap province. Overcoming the dangers and challenges of the

war, Sadec's army and people fought bravely and won by victory. Spring 1975 to join the whole country in building socialism [1]. In the post-war socio-economic recovery, Sadec has won many achievements to enter the doi moi process and continue to industrialize and modernize the country. A loving and prosperous Sadec always urges and beckons the children of the homeland and all regions of the country to join hands for a stable and sustainable development of Sa Dec. The construction of this place into a smart city is an extremely necessary thing to develop the city's fields and integrate into the development process of Vietnam in particular and the world in general [2].

2. Socio-economic status of Sadec City

Sadec Industrial Park currently has more than 30 businesses registered to operate, with 43 investment projects, creating jobs for more than 8,000 employees; in which 24 enterprises are operating, 6 enterprises are implementing projects that have not been put into operation. Due to the impact of the Covid-19 epidemic, it has negatively impacted the tourism sector of Sadec City. In the first 10 months of 2020, the number of visitors to historical and cultural relics in the area was 670,880 visitors (of which international visitors 30,982), down 5% (international visitors down 23.3%) compared to that of the year. same period (the number of visitors 704,799 arrivals, of which international visitors 38,212).

In addition, for new investment projects that have not yet been implemented, leaders of Sadec City need to coordinate with relevant departments and agencies to speed up the progress and support investors to implement; regularly

monitor and grasp the production and business situation in the area, support the recovery and development of individual business households [3]; At the same time interested in supporting the development of startups. Focus on directing and promptly removing difficulties and obstacles in the work of compensation and site clearance; speed up the implementation of basic construction works.

3. The development potentials of tourism

For a long time, Sadec has been famous for growing flowers, taking care of ornamental plants and gradually becoming a famous ornamental flower production area in the Mekong Delta. With harmonious terrain and favorable climate, Sadec tourism industry has been exploited and maximized in depth and sustainability by the city [4]. Dubbed the flower city, Sadec currently has nearly 650 hectares of flowers and ornamental plants.



Figure 1. A flower village in Sadec City, Vietnam

In addition to developing tourism associated with local industries,

during recent years, Sadec has made efforts to call on people and encourage investors to promote the development of tourism in a wide range. Promoting inherent strengths,

in the period of 2021 -2025, with a vision to 2030, the locality will strengthen synchronous implementation such as completing more infrastructure, adding accommodation facilities, building new hotels, synchronous

entertainment venue to attract more tourists to Sadec. The enhancement of entertainment venues also helps the locality to attract long-term guests, stimulating tourism and economic development together [4].



Figure 2. An eco tour in Sadec City, Vietnam

Instead of developing small flower gardens, Sadec people are working side by side in tourism. Successful operating models with dozens of businesses and establishments working together to develop traditional flower villages associated with community tourism [1]. Many new accommodation facilities have been formed, along with which services have also been promoted at flower gardens such as taking tours by tram, building observatories, watching flowers on hot air balloons... attracting a large number of tourists. In parallel with the local efforts, big investors are also making efforts to promote various types of tourism in Sadec.

4. Economic development potentials

Famous for its potentials such as ornamental flower villages, historical and cultural relics, in the first 6 months of 2019, Sadec welcomed more than 630 thousand visitors. This number could have increased significantly if Sadec had large-scale accommodation instead of just relying on small homestay services as at present. Besides the traditional cultural tourist attractions, Sadec still lacks a lot of entertainment, shopping, etc. to attract tourists.

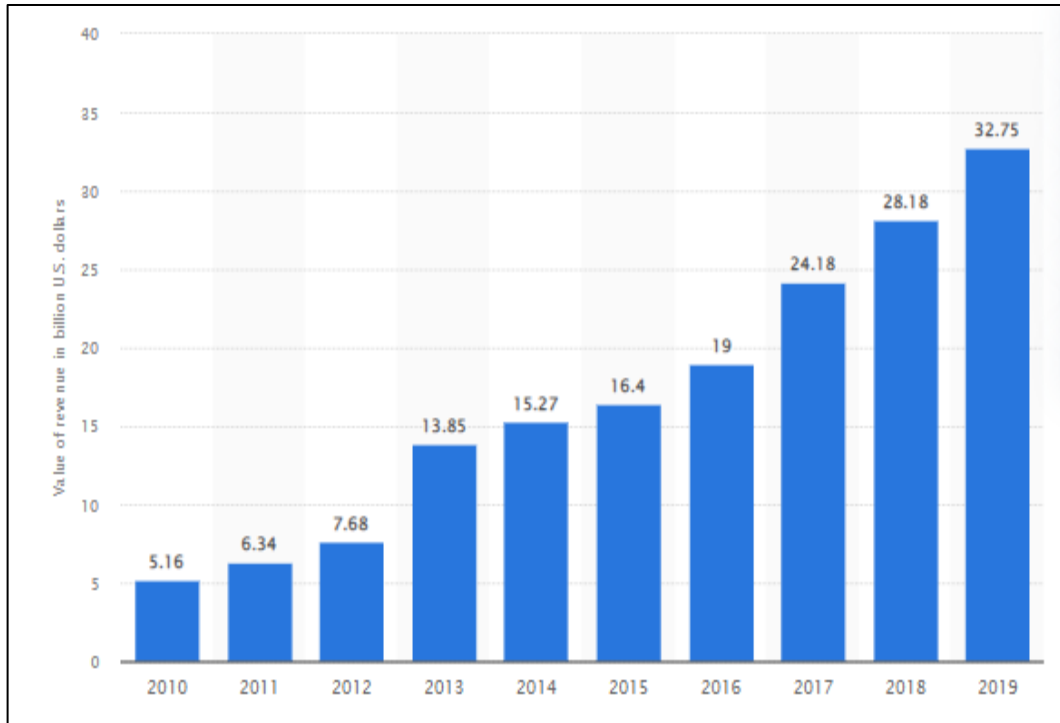


Figure 3. The number of tourist arrival Vietnam

From planning industrial development, exploiting the right potential of the land fund, SadeC creates a spacious appearance, opening up many prospects to accelerate socio-economic development in the area [3]. In particular, SadeC industrial park, which has been in operation since 1998, has created a vibrant and bustling atmosphere for the town as well as the economic region south of the Tien River. With a convenient location and many preferential policies to attract investment, Sa Dec Industrial Park quickly invited many businesses to do business.

In 2004, SadeC Industrial Park had only 14 registered business projects, up to now this area has 43 registered

investment projects. In 2011, the attractiveness of SadeC industrial environment became even more remarkable thanks to the expansion of Tan Cang SadeC port system. With a total area of over 4 hectares, the wharf is nearly 70m long, the port can receive ships of 5,000 tons. SadeC port is a connection point in the water transport chain from Cambodia - Mekong Delta - Ho Chi Minh City. Ho Chi Minh - Cai Mep (Ba Ria - Vung Tau). Therefore, together with Cao Lanh Tan Cang, the fact that Sa Dec Tan Cang has a container shipping service has created a great advantage for businesses in the area in terms of transportation costs, reduced delivery time and increased transportation costs competitiveness of enterprises. Thereby, opening a favorable environment to invite investors.



Up to now, as the center of the region, Sadec has more and more projects, establishments and industrial enterprises operating. The industrial production value of the town increases every year at a high rate [5].

Along with the task of socio-economic development, Sadec also cares about preserving historical and cultural relics and developing tourism in association with the economic development planning of the province and town. Especially the project of developing Sadec flower village in the direction of industry. Sadec Ornamental Flower Village is one of the three largest ornamental flower production areas in the Mekong Delta with an ornamental flower production area of 343.6 hectares.

Sadec is currently continuing to invite investment to implement many important projects in the area. In particular, promote the strengths of regional linkages between Sadec with localities and businesses inside and outside the province. From

there, jointly develop and exploit effectively, potentials and strengths of each place in order to improve development efficiency and increase competitiveness in the integration trend [5].

5. The need to develop into a smart city in the Melong Delta region

The goal of Dong Thap province is to build Sadec city into an economic and cultural center, with emphasis on tourism development associated with urban development. By 2020, Sadec city will be built as an urban center bearing the identity of the land of thousands of flowers and reaching grade II urban status. By 2030, strive for Sadec to become a grade I city and beyond to become a "pearl of the Mekong" by 2050.

Focusing on development according to the proposed orientation, in the past few years Sadec city has achieved some positive results. The economic structure changed positively in the direction of increasing the proportion of services - industry. In urban construction and

development, Sadec city has implemented and completed many important projects. The infrastructure system and urban landscape architecture of Sadec city in recent years have also been invested and built relatively synchronously, the urban living quality has been increasingly improved, creating spaciousness and urban beauty.

Playing the role of an archipelago connecting cities, Sadec has many opportunities to gain an international position and become the "pearl of the Mekong" as expected. To realize this goal, Sadec city has many plans to change the urban face, "put on a new shirt" for the whole city.

Accordingly, to build a smart, modern and typical urban space, Sadec city is divided into 3 specific zones. Zoning 1 is the central urban core. The existing urban area will develop a number of key areas to form city-level public and commercial service centers [3].

Zone 2 is the production belt associated with low density population. The city will focus on restructuring the area to become a large-scale and modern ornamental flower production area associated with a system of trade, service, research, development, tourism and entertainment. This is also an activity to help preserve the communication village spaces, and at the same time help adapt to climate change, especially the problem of flooding and salinity for urban areas [4].

Zone 3 is a new urban development area. This will be the birthplace of new urban areas based on existing strengths in ornamental flower production, rice economy, eco-

tourism combined with new trends in research and development of green technology. Ecopole) and international resort tourism in the west and northwest of the city.

Based on this zoning, Sadec city establishes 5 factors to create an urban identity worthy of the "Mekong pearl" which are: Sadec city of tourism, history, city of flowers, green and harmony [3].

The absence of large-scale urban areas also slows down the tourism development of Sadec city. A solution that is most suitable for Sadec at this time is to build urban areas that integrate many utilities, serving the accommodation needs of both residents and tourists. These urban areas have both created shopping and entertainment spaces and brought Sadec step by step closer to the image of a modern urban area.

6. Suggestions

The implementation of smart city construction is a process, which should be derived from the requirements and practical conditions of each locality. In order for the development of smart cities in localities to bring practical effects, the following recommendations need to be paid due attention by localities during the implementation process [1].

Firstly, it is necessary to unify the awareness throughout, smart city development is to solve major urban problems in the locality, taking the people as the center, but must be closely linked with the digital transformation process, not separate and not duplicate. It is important to understand that the construction of a smart city is also the process of digital transformation in that city.

Second, the central role of the people in the process of building a smart city needs to be understood from both sides, both as a service object and as a participant through appropriate forms of socialization investment. A modern smart city information infrastructure but people don't know, don't want or can't afford to exploit, will not bring benefits [6].

Third, Smart city development must start from the planning stage. The determination to build a smart city must be affirmed in construction planning projects and urban development programs, schemes and projects. There should be regulations and standards to ensure that smart city components can be linked together into a sustainable smart city whole [7].

Fourth, Smart city should be considered as a modern and efficient method of urban development and operation, not a discrete collection of IT applications of departments. The problems in the city are closely related to each other, it is not possible to solve separately the problems of traffic, education, health, environment, etc.

Fifth, it is necessary to consider urban information infrastructure, digital infrastructure and especially data infrastructure as an essential infrastructure of the city, a foundation for intelligentizing technical and economic infrastructure [8]. A strong, unified and secure information infrastructure is the foundation for building digital government, digital economy and digital society in urban space.

Sixth, Smart city construction requires active participation of all levels of sectors, not the exclusive

task of any particular sector or agency.

7. Conclusion

Economic development has led to a significant increase in the number of families with good and high incomes in Sadec. However, the urban construction in Sadec is still in a state of lack of synchronization, with no clear direction. An image that is not difficult to see in this city is that alternating between the massive garden houses is a rather messy, unorganized common residential area. Therefore, the urban image of Sadec is still inadequate, not modern and beautiful. The absence of large-scale urban areas also slows down the tourism development of Sadec city. The cooperation of departments and people to develop this place into a smart city is inevitable.

References

- [1]. Su, K., Li, J., & Fu, H. (2011, September). Smart city and the applications. In 2011 international conference on electronics, communications and control (ICECC) (pp. 1028-1031). IEEE.
- [2]. Bakıcı, T., Almirall, E., & Wareham, J. (2013). A smart city initiative: the case of Barcelona. *Journal of the knowledge economy*, 4(2), 135-148.
- [3]. Nam, T., & Pardo, T. A. (2011, June). Conceptualizing smart city with dimensions of technology, people, and institutions. In *Proceedings of the 12th annual international digital government research conference: digital government innovation in challenging times* (pp. 282-291).
- [4]. Vu, K., & Hartley, K. (2018). Promoting smart cities in

- developing countries: Policy insights from Vietnam. *Telecommunications Policy*, 42(10), 845-859.
- [5]. Hoang Viet Bach, K., & Kim, S. K. (2020). Towards Evaluation the Cornerstone of Smart City Development: Case Study in Dalat City, Vietnam. *Smart Cities*, 3(1), 1-16.
- [6]. Luong, N. D., Ha, U. T. T., Hung, P. T., & Minh, N. B. (2020, June). Investigating urban household water-energy nexus towards supporting sustainable and smart city policies: The case of Hanoi City, Vietnam. In IOP Conference Series: Materials Science and Engineering (Vol. 869, No. 2, p. 022033). IOP Publishing.
- [7]. Nguyen, H. L. (2020, June). Strategies for developing tube houses in Vietnam within the framework of “smart city” concept. In IOP Conference Series: Materials Science and Engineering (Vol. 869, No. 2, p. 022003). IOP Publishing.
- [8]. Smith, B. W. (2010). Debrief of an assistant area development officer, Blake WH Smith, Sadec Province, Vietnam, 1967-1968.