

# Amphibious houses as the adaptation option for local communities to increase their resilience in An Giang Province, Vietnam

Bach Tan Sinh\*

*National Institute for Science and Technology Policy and Strategy Studies, 38 Ngo Quyen, Hanoi, Vietnam*

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## Abstract

The notion about flood risk and how they should be managed has been discussed, shared and promoted recently in Vietnam. In An Giang Province, people - especially the landless and land-short - has been encouraged to develop their capacities to sustain their livelihoods during the flood seasons. Apart from the traditional production of rice, local communities have been supported to exploring the benefits from floods, such as diversifying agricultural activities, off-farming incomes. An appropriate Plan of Residential Clusters has been initiated and implemented to help local farmers in effectively responding to floods related risks after the severe floods in 2001 and 2012.

The resilience of local communities in An Giang moving into the residential cluster following the government plan of establishment of two types of residential clusters - the ones along the canal and the other in the areas away from canal - depends on the conditions promised by the government to be met as part of the resettlement plan. They include not only providing supports such as access to electricity and clean water, road connected their houses in the residential clusters with main road, provision of local jobs and other alternatives of income generation. Following the principle of living with water rather than fighting it, the paper is to examine the needs and role of amphibious houses of those residential clusters constructed in the flooding areas during the flood seasons as the alternative adaptation option for local communities to water related natural disaster risks to coping with both the repetitive seasonal and the infrequent extreme floods that affect the environment at the community level.

*Key words:* resilience, climate change, disaster risk, community, amphibious

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\* Corresponding author.  
*E-mail address:* sinhbt@gmail.com