**Video: Hanoi in Bloom**

**Text transcript**

[Upbeat music starts playing in the background]

**Nga Hoang:** Hello, my name is Nga. I was born in Hanoi, the capital of Vietnam. I am now working as a freelance writer. I mainly cover stories about Hanoi.

*An aerial view of Hoan Kiem Lake; locals of various ages exercise around the lake; a man sits on a bench by the lake; cyclo drivers pedal around the city’s streets; people gather on a bridge over the lake.*

**Nga:** Today, I will take you on a tour around the flower villages of Hanoi. The idea of doing this story about these flower villages came to me very quickly. It was while drinking coffee with my friends on the street that I came across this flower peddler.

*Several female flower peddlers wheel their bicycles, which are laden with flowers.*

**Nga:** Well, they are ladies with conical hats riding bicycles laden with baskets of lilies and daisies.

*A close up shot of the flowers; passers-by gather around the bicycles, purchasing flowers.*

**Nga:** It’s a joy to watch them gracefully and quietly make their way through the endless chaos coming from all around. They are, to me, like unsung heroes.

*A flower peddler waters her wares.*

**Nga:** As funny as it may sound, I chased some of them down the streets, and this led me to the flower villages in Hanoi. They supply fresh flowers to the whole city of Hanoi.

*Neat rows of flowers at a flower village; a farmer tends to the blooms.*

**Nga:** And most importantly, this village has gone through a massive transformation, from a place of rice cultivation to flower growing.

*A male farmer cycles around the farm; a little girl runs around the farm; a female farmer tends to the crops.*

**Nga:** The lives of the villagers have improved significantly. However, these flower villagers are facing the threat of disappearing. In fact, some of the flower villages have already gone. Due to the city’s expansion and a rapidly-increasing population, the areas for growing flowers are now restricted only to small gardens. Now, more than ever, there really is no better time to visit these flower villages.

*More shots of the flower crops, and of various farmers tending to them.*

[Background music fades out]