



DELTA IN TIMES OF CLIMATE CHANGE II

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE, SCIENCE, CITIES AND BUSINESS
ROTTERDAM THE NETHERLANDS, 24 - 26 SEPTEMBER 2014

Deltas in Depth scientific sessions	
Deltas in Depth 5. Urban adaptation to climate change	
DD 5.1 Urban adaptation to climate change: Introduction and keynotes	
Chair	Dr. Cynthia Rosenzweig, Columbia University, USA
Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prof. Bruce Glavovic, Massey University, New Zealand• Peter Bosch, TNO, the Netherlands• Stelios Grafakos, Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands

Cynthia Rosenzweig opens the session. She starts with the notion that Cities are now in the picture of the United Nations. In the last Climate Summit which was held in New York, cities climate adaptation in cities received much attention. This is the first session out of 6 (within this theme). Cynthia asks attention for the Urban Climate Change Research Network (UCCRW). All visitors are invited to join this network. This session consists of a key note and two presentations. The main goal is to find out whether we are going in the right direction with cities which have to deal with climate change. For this reason, discussion is really important.

Keynote Towards reflexive adaptation and resilient coastal communities, prof. Bruce Glavovic, Massey University, New Zealand

The key note deals with reflexive adaptation and deals with the question what is required to build adaptive capacity, resilience and sustainability of coastal communities in the Anthropocene? Insights are drawn from case studies in a forthcoming book, *Climate Change and the Coast: Building Resilient Communities* (CRC Press). These case studies show that adaptation at the coast needs to be responsive, deliberative, transformative, holistic, integrative, inclusive, equitable and empowering. These characteristics are developed into a conceptual framework that is termed "reflexive adaptation" that will help communities better understand and address distinctive features of the challenge presented by climate change. Reflexive adaptation is about more progressive planning, step by step, constantly monitoring and reflecting on current circumstances. For this reason processes should be inclusive and meaningful. Priority actions are outlined to help guide coastal communities translate this concept of reflexive adaptation into practical reality.

Q1: Do you have principles for social norms?

A1: The process is really important. Sometimes rules of engagement have to be redefined.

Q2: Are there case studies available about the role of leadership in this context?

A2: Leadership is of course important in this context. In New Zealand after the earth quake in St. Paul's Church the role of the mayor was very important. But this was in case of the emergency. In times of rebuilding maybe another type of rebuilding is needed.

Climate Proof Cities: How Dutch cities can prepare themselves for climate change impacts, Peter Bosch, TNO, the Netherlands

Peter Bosch works for TNO (Dutch technology and knowledge institute) and gives a presentation about climate proof cities. How can they prepare themselves for climate change. Peter bases his presentation on a large Dutch knowledge program (Knowledge for climate). After 4 years of investigation the consortium is able to present some conclusions. Peter states that all cities are





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vulnerable. Urban heat in combination with agglomeration can cause problems. For the city of Rotterdam, a vulnerability-map is made. Adaptation in cities in the Netherlands is an accumulation of local effects. Peter states that measures on small scale are very important. A huge variety of adaptation options are available (green roofs, water storages). Green roofs in the Netherlands are not that effective due to the well isolated buildings. Surface waters function as energy storages. In local climate adaptation attempts synergy can be realized by combining adaptation with mitigation. Measures can be included in public works in cities. Actors can and maybe should mainstream it in their regular policies.

Q1: How can we bring incentives for measures to be taken by private parties?

A1: there are attempts for more cooperation between banks and private estate sector.

The UCCRN assessment report on climate change and cities: Guidelines for developing climate change strategies, Stelios Grafakos, Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies, Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands

Stelios Grafakos works for the Institute of Housing and Development Studies (Rotterdam, Netherlands). He worked on the UCCRN assessment report which is about guidelines for developing climate change strategies. Stelios states that the literature for barriers on adaptation and mitigation is increasing. There is more attention for climate adaptation now. It is important to integrate urban agenda's. Stelios introduces the theoretical framework of scales to study the differences between adaptation and mitigation. The energy and water sector can cooperate more in order to realize climate adaptation. Based on international case studies some conclusions can be drawn. Temporal horizons diverse between adaptation and mitigation. Understanding the scales is important in understanding the dynamics of climate adaptation.

Discussion

As appetizer for the discussion a video about the UCCRN network is showed. This video shows the vulnerability of cities due to climate change. The goal of the UCCRN network is to build coherent intellectual force. Whereas the IPCC is more on the national level, the UCCRN focusses more on the city level.

In the discussion attendants are focussing on the notion of reflexive adaptation. It is a notion everybody wants to agree with. But how do we know we are doing the right thing? Indeed, turning it into practice is difficult. It also has to do with justice. And justice in a practical sense is difficult. After a crisis people mostly focus on getting back to life. Building a reflexive practice is really difficult. The example of New York is mentioned. Former mayor Bloomberg was seen as a real leader. But his policy was mere top-down. After Bloomberg, De Blasio came. Environment was not his top priority. But, the climate summit last week helped De Blasio to come forward with climate change adaptation. The example shows that climate adaptation is about a interaction between bottom-up and top-down initiatives.

Another part of the discussion is about the concept of inclusion. It is a nice principle but in practice really difficult. For example the slums in cities. Climate disasters are really hearting these areas. How to include these inhabitants in making policies? Social inclusion in practice is really difficult.





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According to the participants it is really important to bring your agenda in other peoples cultures. Empathy is needed for policy makers.

In the other sessions of this theme, presenters zoom in further on several themes of urban adaptation to climate change.

