



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 Theme 9. Governance of adaptation	
DD 9.5 Actors and agendas in the governing adaptation	
Chair	MSc Eric Massey, VU University Amsterdam, the Netherlands
Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prof. Catrien Termeer, Wageningen UR, the Netherlands• Gusti Ayu Ketut Surtiaru, Indonesian Institute of Sciences, Indonesia• Dr. Michelle Lim, Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science, University of Dundee, United Kingdom• Dr. Diego Sepúlveda Carmona, Technical University of Technology, the Netherlands

In addition to the multiple technical challenges in dealing with climate change, various social, political and normative challenges impede the governance of climate adaptation. This is what is discussed in this session. The different presentations cover actors and agendas in the governance of adaptation. They all acknowledge the difficulties in relation to governance arrangements and the inclusion of different actors and stakeholders.

The session kicks off with a presentation by Catrien Termeer (Wageningen UR), who presents the results of the ‘Kennis voor Klimaat’ study. By providing a structured overview of conditions for success, the presentation provides an interesting background to the other presentations. Successful governance arrangements, Termeer discusses, need to be effective, legitimate and resilient. By acknowledging the role of politics, Termeer identifies the importance of dynamic and mixed arrangements. In these ideal arrangements, the roles and responsibilities between different actors (government, private, community) are well-defined and there is room for informal networks and multiple leaders with various styles. She furthermore argues that mainstreaming, an often suggested measure, may actually block innovative solutions. Instead, she argues for a more ad-hoc and strategic way of linking various policy domains with adaptation solutions.

The second presentation, by Gusti Ayu Ketut Surtiari (IIS) discusses multi-level governance in the context of flood adaptation measures in Jakarta. By studying political and social processes, this study attempts to assess the implementation process of relocation as adaptation measure to growing flood risk. In her presentation, Surtiari reveals that the success of relocation is partly due to individual attempts in support of the adaptation measures. Moreover, building on existing policy measures, and the collaboration between national and provincial level are prerequisites for success. Involvement of various stakeholders (including community) and transparency regarding the process, enlarge fitness and leverage for the relocation policies. However, the speaker questions the sustainability of the success, since government resources are limited, and support and inclusion can be expected to be of limited duration.

In her discussion on multi-scale governance of ecosystems services, Michelle Lim (University of Dundee) explores participatory methods for policy development to address future climate-related uncertainties. The resulting ‘decision-support tool’ will help governments maximize positive aspects of possible future scenarios. This tool combines both biophysical elements with social governance elements. In her presentation, Lim acknowledges the importance of informal structures, and the





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interaction with formal structures. For governance arrangements in a multidisciplinary context, she advises governments to look at successful interdisciplinary cases and use them as an example.

As touched upon in the other presentations, there are many possible linkages between adaptation strategies and other policy domains. The presentation by Dr. Diego Carmona discusses a research framework on how adaptation can be linked with development perspectives in the urban Lower Parana Delta in Argentina, as to create dynamic adaptation strategies for developing countries.

He starts from the assumption that there is non-integration of goals and rules at diverse governance levels, and power deviation at municipal level causing competitiveness and diminishing longer-term actions. Moreover, he acknowledges power imbalances between different stakeholders involved. His study is both normative and explorative. With the results an innovative tool for supporting decision-making processes and improving citizen participation will be created.

Although the four presentations are of a different nature, they share the focus on the challenges regarding the multi-disciplinary and multi-layered governance of climate adaptation. Whereas the second presentation dealt with an empirical exploration of governance arrangements, the other three speakers attempt to address the normative question, by providing guidelines or tools for successful governance arrangements.

