



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 Practice, policy-practice sessions	
Deltas in Practice Theme 2. Adaptation strategies	
DP 2.2 Regional adaptation strategies: Tips and tricks from three inspiring delta regions	
Chair	Dr. Kim van Nieuwaal, Knowledge for Climate, Utrecht University, the Netherlands
Organised by	Dr. Kim van Nieuwaal, Knowledge for Climate, Utrecht University, the Netherlands
Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Kim van Nieuwaal, Knowledge for Climate, Utrecht University, the Netherlands • MSc Lissy Nijhuis, Rotterdam City Region, the Netherlands • Juliette Daniels, Climate UK, United Kingdom • Dr. Tran Hong Thai, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam
Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSc Lissy Nijhuis, Rotterdam City Region, the Netherlands • Juliette Daniels, Climate UK, United Kingdom • Tim Reeder BSc CSci FCIWEM, Environment Agency, United Kingdom • Dr. Tran Hong Thai, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam
Session topic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change is a global issue. In practice however, adaptation to climate change is generally accomplished at the regional level and one of the major drivers is integral system's approach.
Objective of the session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on various experiences from around the world, this workshop aims to identify and discuss the most useful critical success factors for setting up and putting regional adaptation strategies in deltas of the world into practice. The latest and most valuable lessons learnt will be exchanged.
Main conclusions and lessons learnt from the presentations	
<p><i>Building blocks for adaptation in the Rotterdam region</i> In November 2013, the City region of Rotterdam launched the "Building blocks for climate adaptation strategies in the Region of Rotterdam." These building blocks are to form the basis for specific adaptation strategies for communities within the Rotterdam City region. The presentation shows the importance of motivated individuals and peer pressure as well as the need for clear images and some luck. http://deltacities.com/cities/rotterdam/climate-change-adaptation</p> <p><i>Preparing London for extreme weather and climate change</i> The presentation draws out where London has been successful and where there have been - and continue to be - barriers for action. The need for identification and prioritisation of a long term strategy for cities has been put forward and adaptive plans have been put in place. Questions are posed how the uncertainties around longer term climate change can be addressed. This needs to be set in the context of perceived economic stress and how we can present the issue as an opportunity for the economy as well as a threat. www.climatelondon.org.uk</p> <p><i>The Mekong Delta Plan: regional strategy for the sustainable long-term development of the Vietnamese Mekong delta</i> The Mekong Delta Plan provides recommendations for a sustainable long-term development of the Vietnamese Mekong Delta, with special attention to water management and climate change. The presentation provides insight into the challenges the Vietnamese Mekong delta faces (both the result of antropogenic factors like upstream development and socio-economic pressures, and climate related factors) and how a strategy built on maintaining or increasing resilience towards</p>	





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these challenges can help provide a sustainable future. Implementing the key recommendations requires buy in from both Vietnamese and international partners and addressing institutional arrangements. www.mekongdeltaplan.com

Main conclusions of the discussion

The way the national level relates to the regional level is important when creating an adaptation strategy. If you look at Rotterdam and Copenhagen, both cities are ahead of national government. They went from city level to global level without a national level in between. Copenhagen currently pushes for a national strategy. In London the adaptation reporting is on national level. Additionally, they have a contract for local delivery and outreach. Vietnam treats climate adaptation like an investment strategy - that is integrated into the social economy - and structured on national and provincial level with a steering committee. The Vietnamese government consulted scientists on the impact of climate change and made assessments on how to invest and why. They publish national guidelines to control the budget flow.

Stakeholder participation is important when you want to roll out your strategy. So how do you involve the stakeholders? And how do you get an integrated acceptance throughout the different themes? Vietnam made a law to involve the private sector (and will create a new law on environment). The Rotterdam city region invests in marketing and facilitates the use of the building blocks by the surrounding communities, to get an integrated result.

The London Climate Change Partnership (since 2001) has led to key actions to develop plans and actions for the City to be prepared for the impacts of climate change. These include the Thames Estuary 2100 plan for protecting the City, the Mayor's Adaptation strategy, the London Plan and strategic plans for key partners such as Thames Water, the financial district (the City) and Transport for London.

Main result or conclusion of the session

Critical success factors for setting up and putting regional adaptation strategies into practice:

- One key actor
- Incorporating Science and practice
- Political willingness
- Re-labeling existing plans/initiatives
- Focus on frontrunners

Most exciting insights or outcomes

- "Climate change is a global issue. Knowledge exchange is more important than ranking." ~ Lissy Nijhuis
- "Don't talk too much; treat it like an investment strategy." ~ Dr. Tran Hong Thai

