



# 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   |  |
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| Deltas in Practice Theme 6. Awareness, capacity building and community resilience  |  |
| DP 6.2 Water & Heritage: protecting deltas, heritage helps   |  |
| Chair  | Prof. Rohit Jigyasu, ICOMOS International Committee on Risk Preparedness (ICORP), Japan  |
| Organised by   | MSc Erik Luijendijk, International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS-NL) and ICOMOS International Committee on Risk Preparedness (ICORP), the Netherlands   |
| Presentations  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prof. Rohit Jigyasu, ICOMOS International Committee on Risk Preparedness (ICORP), Japan</li> <li>• MA Hatthaya Siriphattanakun, Ministry of Culture, Thailand</li> <li>• MSc Rombout Jongejans, Friesland Water Authority, the Netherlands</li> </ul> |
| Session topic  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The role of heritage in the protection of deltas</li> </ul>   |
| Objective of the session   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To raise national and international awareness of and share ideas on the mutual interests of water management and heritage management in creating future perspectives for the urbanising deltas of the world.</li> </ul>                               |
| Main conclusions and lessons learnt from the presentations   |  |
| <p>The session starts with an introduction on the theme of Water and Heritage by Dr. Rohit Jigyasu. He highlights the critical relationship between water and heritage and the challenges due to climate change, urbanisation and lack of cooperation between water and heritage sectors. This is followed by the launch of a special short movie prepared by ICOMOS Netherlands on the international importance of water and heritage cooperation: risks and opportunities.</p> <p>MA Hattaya Siriphattanakun highlights the relationship between heritage and water management in the history of Ayutthaya through several examples of cultural heritage in Thailand. Her presentation also touches upon current challenges and resilience strategy.</p> <p>Rombout Jongejans deliberates on the role of the continuing use of the World Heritage Site of Wouda Pumping Station. The presentation emphasizes the sustainability aspects of this unique industrial heritage and the importance of linking the past and the future to address the growing challenge of climate change.</p>   |  |
| Main conclusions from the discussion   |  |
| <p>The Ayutthaya case shows the importance of restoring canals and floating houses in order to utilise the traditional water systems. This requires cooperation between heritage experts and water managers. However, one should test the applicability of traditional management systems under new ground and climate conditions. It is also stressed that sustainability of traditional water management will also necessitate linking culture and tourism. Therefore it is important to work out a sustainable economic model that enables restoration of the canal system as well as its maintenance through cooperation between various stakeholders such as the Fine Arts Department (Ministry of Culture) and the Municipality in the case of Ayutthaya.</p> <p>The Wouda pumping station, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is hailed as a standalone system with very high educational value. In fact, a new pumping station is proposed to be built on the same principles highlighting the significance of this heritage property not just as a relic of the past but also as a source of knowledge and inspiration for the future. This case shows that reusing heritage</p> |  |





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is financially sustainable because there is no depreciation of its value over time. Whether it is about maintenance in-house or repairing of machine parts, this heritage needs to be kept alive. It is also important to consider how tourists can contribute financially to the maintenance and management of such heritage properties.

### Main result or conclusion

We must find ways to integrate the cultural approach in planning. At the moment it is voluntary, limited and largely dependent on political decision-making. However, there is a need to increase awareness about the contribution of cultural heritage to climate resilience and disaster risk reduction. Heritage is not elitist but is intimately connected to the lives of the people and is a source of knowledge that has evolved over time. For example, underwater harvesting system of kanats in Morocco has been recognized and reused again after years of neglect. Therefore raising awareness of the importance of water related heritage among communities as well as decision makers is very important.

