



# 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 7. Governance and finance	
DP 7.1 In search of new (public-private) partnerships for resilient delta cities: practices in Rotterdam and New York: unique or 'a few of many?'	
Chair	Msc Martin van der Does de Bye, RebelGroup, the Netherlands
Organised by	Msc Martin van der Does de Bye, RebelGroup, the Netherlands
Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MA Luc de Vries, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, the Netherlands.</li> <li>• Henk Ovink, Department of Housing and Urban Development, USA.</li> </ul>
Session topic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing adequate flood protection and safeguarding freshwater provision will require huge investments. Government funding and programmes alone are not sufficient. New public-private partnerships are needed.</li> </ul>
Objective of the session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The aim is to bring together a wide range of stakeholders who are challenged to share their experiences and views on risks and opportunities, leading to a set of practical guidelines to combine resilience projects with other functions and benefits.</li> </ul>
Main conclusions and lessons learnt from the presentations	
<p>The Dutch and New York delta areas searched for new opportunities to develop and raise support for resilient, innovative solutions for flood risk management and (urban) landscape development, driven by a new public-private approach.</p> <p>Experiences from the Dutch delta:          The second Delta programme represents a multileveled governmental organisation. It focuses on development of pre-disaster integral adaptation strategies towards the year 2100. To involve the private sector in the development of the strategy, a multiplatform of public and private actors was launched to make business models around different cases (themes). Lessons learnt:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing knowledge and specifying information leads to better and mutual understanding. Use practical cases.</li> <li>• An integral, multifunctional approach creates value (not just economical). E.g. by combining functions that incorporate different goals like flood protection and urban or landscape quality/ecology/energy.</li> <li>• Involvement of private sector at an early stage leads to synergy.</li> <li>• Adaptive delta management: create a long term vision together, and develop a stepwise and flexible approach to realise this vision.</li> </ul> <p>Experiences from New York:          Hurricane Sandy brought disaster and despair to NY. Rebuilding was not an option. Lessons learnt:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The process of climate change is too slow and too diffuse to create urgency and collective action. Emotion (caused by the consequences of Sandy) is one of the biggest drivers for action.</li> <li>• There is an interdependency between different problems. But interdependency of challenges also leads to many opportunities to solve problems.</li> <li>• Delta life comes with (manageable) risks but also with many benefits (otherwise people wouldn't live there).</li> <li>• All issues (social, economic, cultural, ecological) have a spatial impact.</li> <li>• Invest in thinking, research and design: innovate together to create a resilient region.</li> </ul>	





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- NY challenged talent teams from all over the world to come up with solutions that increase flood resilience and improve other urban challenges like sustainability, urban decline, economical development, etc.

### Main conclusions of the discussion

- Does it help to define nation wide risk levels and how should these be defined? This is difficult because nations and even people have different perceptions of risk.
- A bottom up process and attitude is needed
- Do not come up with solutions right away at the beginning of the process, investigate first!
- Specify problems/challenges on local scale.
- Climate change is a community issue, not just a government issue.
- Involve the financial sector at an early stage.
- Stress the benefits of the plan, and who it concerns. It is rather difficult to define the soft benefits, but do address or quantify them.
- Design connects people and knowledge at all levels. It makes a strategy tangible.
- It is difficult for the public sector to arrange private financing in the design phase. This becomes easier when projects start. Profit is an important requirement for the private sector.

### Main result or conclusion of the session

Set of practical guidelines:

1. Research by design to work out challenges and solutions. This leads to better understanding, collaboration and innovation.
2. The basis of working together is knowing and trusting each other. The process is key for this trust.
3. Facilitate joint fact finding from all different perspectives. Use science and data for understanding interdependencies and vulnerabilities regardless of political boundaries.
4. Deadlines, ambitions, visions, sustained leadership and partnerships are needed and critical on all levels. The development of reasonable goals with measurable outcomes and targets and a clear way to operationalise them is essential.
5. Cultures and laws are important determinants of the outcome. Be aware that implementation of innovative concepts may need new or adjusted governance.
6. The volume of funds for the design process must be proportional and appropriate. Non-governmental funding can catalyse a multitude of governmental funding and vice versa.
7. Identify key opportunities and icons that stand out as examples (to pave the way).

### Most exciting insights or outcomes

- It's not only about making a plan. It's also about changing a culture. Therefore it is about 'us'.

