



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 7.4 How sustainable is your city water management?		
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Organised by	MSc K.A. Haans, Witteveen+Bos, the Netherlands	
Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSc Jos Frijns, KWR Watercycle Research Institute, the Netherlands • PhD Elisabeth Ruijgrok, Witteveen+Bos, the Netherlands • Herman Mondeel, Witteveen+Bos, the Netherlands 	
	Session topic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City Blue Print: a new method to compare cities on how sustainable their city water management is.
	Objective of the session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to make a baseline assessment of the sustainability of urban water services. Using cost benefit analyses to select the most desirable measures for climate adaptation and start a dialogue between stakeholders.
Main conclusions and lessons learnt from the presentations		
<p>The City Blue Print is a baseline assessment of the sustainability of urban water services. It measures the level of sustainability of a city's present water management. It visualises the sustainability by presenting a spiderwebdiagram scoring 24 different indicators divided over eight broad categories. It also traces the possible future measures that cities can take to improve their water management. It can be used as a quickscan and communicative instrument to compare cities and start a dialogue between stakeholders on where you want to improve. Already 30 cities have had an assessment. To learn from best practices a City Blueprints Action Group for benchmarking and collaboration has been formed by the European Innovation Partnership on Water.</p> <p>The comparison between similar cities is not very strong in a City Blue Print. It is a jungle of sustainability parameters. Sometimes suggested measures influence a sustainability indicator greatly or even reduce others. To be able to properly value benefits an economic perspective should be used. The use of cost benefit analyses (CBA) is suggested. A CBA assesses costs and benefits of investments for the sustainability of an urban water management system. There are more cost related indicators in this method so the assessment is done by comparing costs and benefits. A city sustainability model has been constructed that does not just look at the effects of a single measure, but takes a whole range of measures into consideration and employees a dynamic calculation model used for a more strategic planning.</p> <p>The CBA method has been used to assess (qualitatively) how sustainable Jakarta's water management is. It gave an insight on the right priorities to improve the water system of Jakarta. For instance the indicators related to ecology are 0. You cannot further reduce it so a small measure on green riverbanks and creating fish habitats would already greatly improve city's urban water system sustainability.</p>		
Main conclusions of the discussion		
Will the City Blue print of a city be different under various climate change scenario's?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The City Blueprint scores the current situation and does not take into account future 		





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scenarios. However, you can score well with today's climate, but not in the future although you are taking measures. It is very important to realise which are the tipping points of your cities Blue print. City Blue print indicators are like a black box. The definition of a parameter does determine the scoring.

- The score of an indicator does not state if something is wrong, but addresses which measures to take. A good score does not mean you are ready either, but it is not your first priority.
- The City Blue print can be enhanced with an indicator related to cost efficiency of sustainability measures
- The CBA might be more interesting for companies than for water governance. Large companies can use it to investigate if a city is a suitable location for building a factory. For instance Heineken which needs large amounts of fresh water. It can decide whether to build in Jakarta or another city.

What was the main result or conclusion of the session?

Both approaches are good and workable, but there are many assumptions in the scoring. This can start a discussion instead of a dialogue. The City Blueprint is mainly an instrument for dialogue between stakeholders as a starting point to improve urban water services.

