



DELTA IN TIMES OF CLIMATE CHANGE II

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE, SCIENCE, CITIES AND BUSINESS
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The Dutch Delta programme

The Dutch Delta programme was started to keep the Netherlands a good, safe and attractive place to live and work in now and in the future. Basic values are solidarity, flexibility and sustainability. The Dutch use multi level governance, joint fact finding and strategy development to collect creative and innovative ideas, develop synergies with local developments and build social acceptance. The programme is institutionally embedded in the Delta commissioner, Delta Fund, Delta Act, Delta Program and Delta Decisions. The Delta Program Commissioner fosters cooperation and formulates advice for formal decision-making. Examples of what happens in the Delta Program are pilots for climate resilient design and waterproof urban (re)construction. These are typical long-term adaptation measures that also have short term benefits, such as improved urban spatial quality



Main conclusions of the discussion

TRM is a promising approach for Bangladesh, but it needs to be integrated in a holistic concept, paying attention to local socio-economic impacts besides technical impacts. It can be implemented fast as part of the Delta Plan, starting with a pilot and then up scaling it. Close cooperation with local villages is needed, as well as an improved institutional set-up.

The bottom up “Counties compact” to deal with climate change is revolutionary in the USA. The political culture is normally more top-down. However, at Federal and State level, many politicians regard climate change as a “left wing conspiracy”. But the question remains whether this partnership will be able to fund and implement increased protection levels. And how many Katrina’s have to happen before the US national government will take action on a large scale?

The Dutch Delta programme is successful as a collaborative planning programme. Still, it will take a huge effort to implement the spatial adaptation plans that reduce flood risk. As the Dutch have high protection levels, there are few incentives for municipalities to come into action, and adjust building codes for example. There is no legal instrument yet to enforce spatial adaptation.

Main result or conclusion of the session

In order to enable climate change adaptation, you need an appealing encompassing plan: a step by step approach with short term and long term benefits. Although there is no one size fits all approach, Bangladesh, USA and the Netherlands can learn from each other!

Most exciting insights or outcomes

- “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” Presentation of Karen Langbehn
- “Common ground among stakeholders is required for joint implementation of climate adaptation. Stewardship about future generations may be an appealing common ground for climate adaptation in different cultures. Let’s start promoting this!” Mr. Thomas, lawyer, USA

