



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 7.7 Centuries of experience taking care of the future: What regional water authorities do to help making cities resilient to climate change	
Chair	Jan Geluk, Regional Water Authority Hollandse Delta, the Netherlands
Organised by	Marc den Ouden, Regional Water Authority Schieland en de Krimpenerwaard, the Netherlands
Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan Geluk, Regional Water Authority Hollandse Delta, the Netherlands • Soet Huijbregts, Regional Water Authority Delfland, the Netherlands • Hans Waals, Regional Water Authority Hollandse Delta, the Netherlands • Jurgen Bals, Regional Water Authority Schieland and the Krimpenerwaard, the Netherlands
Session topic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The inclusion of stakeholder participation in the decision making process of the Water Authorities surrounding Rotterdam City
Objective of the session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The objective of the session is to share and discuss lessons learnt by Water Authorities surrounding the city of Rotterdam on how to stimulate stakeholder participation and to close the awareness-gap
Main conclusions and lessons learnt from the presentations	
<p><i>History of Dutch Water Management in Rotterdam</i> Water Authorities have been responsible for the maintenance of the dike system, flood protection and the local drainage system for many centuries. In time and as a result of the fusion of smaller Authorities, the importance of the Water Authorities grew. For the future, climate change, sea level rise, flood protection and heat stress become more important issues for the Water Authorities. Although the Water Authority Delfland has an excellent track record when it comes to the technical aspects of water management, the OECD concluded that public awareness and public engagement requires improvement.</p> <p><i>Dike improvement and stakeholder participation</i> Stakeholders were included in a dike improvement project in the Delfland area at the beginning of the project. Including stakeholders in the decision making process creates a sense of ownership and understanding and raises awareness of the problem and possible solutions. This has resulted in a positive attitude towards the project. Stakeholder participation results in cheaper solutions, taking different interests into account and results in more awareness and satisfaction.</p> <p><i>Blue Connection</i> The goal of the Blue Connection project is to bring the water into the city. This creates opportunities for recreation, nature and open spaces. Experience gained in this project is that large projects should be executed in small steps instead of one giant leap.</p> <p><i>Water Square</i> The Water Square was built in collaboration with many stakeholders (designers, the municipality, the Water Authority and users of the surrounding buildings). It resulted in a multifunctional square which is used for recreational purposes, whilst mainly functioning as a water retention basin for storm water collected from the hardened surfaces and rooftops. The involvement of stakeholders is identified as a strength, whilst adjustment of the planning is seen as a weakness.</p>	





DELTAS IN TIMES OF CLIMATE CHANGE II

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE, SCIENCE, CITIES AND BUSINESS
ROTTERDAM THE NETHERLANDS, 24 – 26 SEPTEMBER 2014

Main conclusions of the discussion

Stakeholder participation

Stakeholders need to be included at the beginning of the decision process and this process should begin with the problem instead of the solution. In the beginning of the process stakeholders get a the opportunity to develop their own ideas. This step introduces the priorities of the stakeholders. After the brainstorming session, limitations and boundary conditions (it needs to solve the problem) are introduced. This allows the stakeholders to evaluate their ideas. In the participation process it becomes possible to combine multiple projects, stakeholders and problems. Integration will help to solve multiple issues and create co-benefits. The Water Authorities evaluate the success of the process after it is implemented.

Scale

Stakeholder participation is applicable to projects of various sizes. A stakeholder analysis indicates which stakeholders need to be included.

Tricks

Stakeholders have priorities that might not directly be linked to the problem statement as formulated by the Water Authorities (e.g. Wifi for the water square or a quay along the dike). These priorities however should be taken into account as they smoothen the decision making process. Especially in areas that are publically owned, it is important that the structure not only protects but can also be enjoyed by the public.

Main result or conclusion of the session

Stakeholder participation results in cheaper solutions, takes different interests into account and results in more awareness and satisfaction amongst the stakeholders. Using participatory tools and taking priorities of stakeholders into account streamlines the participatory process. Stakeholder participation works well on various scales and integration with other projects and issues should be considered to maximise the return on the efforts.

Most exciting insights or outcomes

- Jan Geluk: "Water Authorities might be the oldest authority in the Netherlands, but it is also the most modern."
- Soet Huijbregts: "Even though it has nothing to do with the project, they make the people happy and agree with the project more easily"
- Jan Geluk: "The notion of first addressing the problem and trying to find a solution together, marks a paradigm shift for technicians."
- Hans Waals: "If everything looks well, you have overlooked something." (Murphy's law)

