



DELTA IN TIMES OF CLIMATE CHANGE II INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

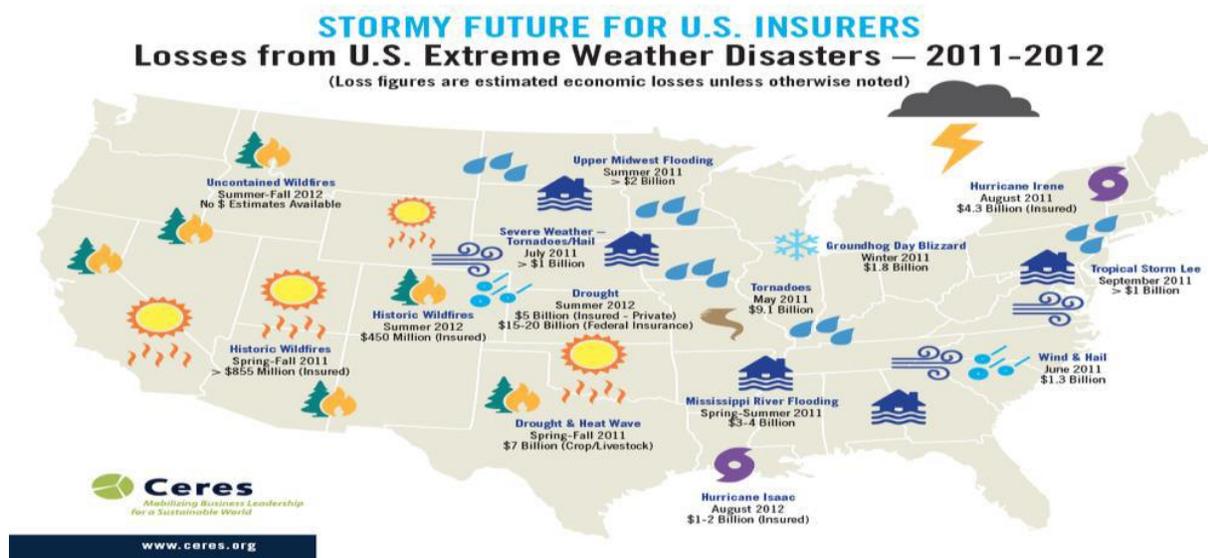
OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE, SCIENCE, CITIES AND BUSINESS
ROTTERDAM THE NETHERLANDS, 24-26 SEPTEMBER 2014

Delta Sessions	
DS 2 USA: Developing resilient communities	
Chair	David Schaub-Jones, SeeSaw Group, South Africa, Paul van Koppen, NWP, the Netherlands
Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Jan Peelen, Royal Netherlands Embassy, Washington D.C., the NetherlandsDavid Waggoner, Waggoner & Ball Architects, USARoselle E. Henn, US Army Corps of Engineers, USACharles Iceland, World Resources Institute, USAPanel Discussion with panel of presenters, additional experts and the audience about the presented topics.

'Prevention Pays'

The USA session revolved around the experiences in the USA with the 'Rebuild by design' approach. This is a very innovative concept with a lot of attention for the role of design and integral development that includes social aspects next to water safety requirements. The approach was applied in the Sandy-affected region to protect people from future climate events while strengthening everyday resilience within communities. Other interesting developments in the US that will be highlighted in this session are innovations in data analysis in climate adaptation efforts.

Jan Peelen, Royal Netherlands Embassy USA, kicked off and emphasized in his presentation that climate change is a clear and present danger in the USA. The USA coasts houses 39 % of all Americans and counts for 45 % of the US GDP. 50 % of the population is vulnerable to sea level rise. He also stated that drought is potentially an even greater threat to the USA. The USA economy has lost billions of dollars due to extreme weather disasters in 2011-2012.





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Industrial companies are worrying about the effects but the big question is: are we paying now or later?

Fortunately there are several federal efforts to rebuild a resilient USA and the federal government allocated billions of dollars for projects, like the Climate Action Plan and the Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Taskforce. Jan Peelen also talked about climate resilience projects in Louisiana, New York and Miami and emphasized that the majority of the projects are driven by local interests.

Roselle Henn, Deputy Director USA National Planning Center for Coastal Storm Risk Management U.S. Army Corps of Engineers mentioned the immense damage from hurricane Sandy. A special law has been adapted to restore the damage and the government has allocated 5.1 billion dollars. Henn expects that a comprehensive study to address the flood risks of vulnerable coastal populations in areas that were affected by Sandy will be completed by Jan 2015. Goals are to provide a Risk Reduction Framework, consistent with USACE-NOAA Rebuilding Principles and to support Resilient Coastal Communities and robust, sustainable coastal landscape systems. "Prevention pays", was the main message.



According to David Wagoner from Wagoner & Ball Architects it's 'all about architecture'. He was inspired by the so-called 'Dutch Dialogues' where together with US parties Dutch water experts





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conducted surveys on opportunities to protect US cities against the effects of climate change and weather disasters. He talked about his visits to several projects in the Netherlands and stated that the USA could learn a lot from the Dutch approach. At the same time he emphasized the need to have an open design process to maximize learning and integrating architecture with engineering.

Charles Iceland, senior manager Aqueduct, elaborated about different tools that his organisation has made to identify for example the water stress in different countries of the world. The tool is highly appreciated by companies and universities who are using it more and more. Aqueduct uses the IPCC scenarios to predict how supply and demand of water will determine the (local) water risks. He also talked about a new tool: a flood risk analyser which has been developed by the World Resources Institute and four leading Dutch research organizations, supported by the Government of the Netherlands. The Aqueduct Flood Analyser will be a first-of-its-kind freely available, open source analytical tool that will reveal the potential human and economic impacts of current and future flood risks worldwide. The initiative will offer world-class information to help decision makers respond to this profound and growing risk, which disproportionately affects the world's poorest communities, according to Iceland.

Building blocks for a delta approach

This Session is part of nine sessions, where the 'Delta Approach' in nine deltas was discussed. Also, the twelve 'Building Blocks' for a delta approach were introduced; preconditions for sustainable delta management. The building blocks are essential for a delta approach and can be applied in all deltas. For the twelve building blocks and the online magazine and video 'The Delta Approach' see: www.dutchwatersector.com/delta

