



DELTAS 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 5. Bangladesh delta plan 2100	
Chair	David Schaub-Jones, SeeSaw Group, South Africa, Paul van Koppen, NWP, the Netherlands
Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Giasuddin Chowdhury, Bangladesh, Jaap de Heer, Twynstra Gudde, the Netherlands• Mafidul Islam, GED, Planning Commission, Bangladesh• Dr. Dang Kim Son, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam• Jos van Alphen, Staff Delta Commissioner, the Netherlands
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion with panel of presenters and audience What lessons can Vietnam and the Netherlands share with Bangladesh (and vice versa)?

'Everyone wants to have their own airport'

David Schaub Jones, from the See Saw Group in South-Africa, moderated the session which took place, Thursday afternoon in the Leeuwen Room II, WTC Rotterdam. The room was packed and at least 60 people attended the Delta Session.

Mafidul Islam, GED Planning Commission Bangladesh, kicked off, introducing the Bangladesh Delta and its main problems. In the Delta, three rivers Ganges, Brahmaputra en Manga, are meandering to the sea. The dense populated country (156 million inhabitants) consists for 80 per cent of flood plains. Due to climate change water safety and food are threatened. To avoid natural calamities good water governance is needed. Together with the Dutch government a comprehensive, integrated long-term plan is being developed. Scenario's based on thematic studies, will lead to an information portal which will be the basis for a new Delta plan.

Jaap de Heer, Twynstra en Gudde, is developing together with local people, the framework for the New Delta plan. He tells they are approaching the Delta from a different perspective and uses an aerial to illustrate this. 'Normally people just think of the Dhaka area but we are dividing the land in five hotspots with different geographical characteristics.' We are now working on scenarios and strategies for each of them. We want to finalise the new Delta Plan in 2016. More information: www.bandudeltas.org





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Giasuddin Chowdhury from Bangladesh continues the session. He is focusing on the challenges. Population growth, decreasing land, the uncertainty about the amount of water coming from neighbouring countries, melting of Himalaya glaciers, cyclones, storm surge and river bank erosion are mentioned.

From Bangladesh we switch to Vietnam. Dang Kim Son, from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in Vietnam talked about long term delta planning in the Mekong river basin. In Vietnam a New Delta Plan is being implemented (top-down) but failing to gain regional consensus. 'Everyone wants to have their own airport. Therefore, only a part of the Mekong is following the Deltaplan.' Royal HaskoningDHV is now helping Vietnam with a long term Delta plan that should include more regional and international interaction.

Jos van Alphen from the Dutch Delta Programme concludes there are many similarities between The Netherlands, Vietnam and Bangladesh. In all the densely populated countries a lot of authorities are involved. Van Alphen tells how the Netherlands developed their New Delta plan and explains more about the multilevel governance and the role of the Delta Commissioner.

During the discussion the question comes up if Bangladesh needs a Delta Commissioner, someone who has the bigger picture and is able to connect the different stakeholders. A lot of participants agree.

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

The building blocks most discussed in this session were:

1. Integrated approach
2. Long term approach versus short term measures

