



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 6 Vietnam: shared framework for development	
Chair	Prof.dr. Stefan Kuks, Water Authority Vechtstromen, Institute for Innovation and Governance Studies, University of Twente, the Netherlands/ Nguyen Thai Lai, Vietnam (Co-chair)
Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Tran Hong Thai, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam• Dr. Gerardo van Halsema, Wageningen UR, the Netherlands• Victoria Kwakwa, The World Bank, Vietnam• Arthur Gleijm, Rebel Group, the Netherlands

‘Cooperation, coordination, leadership. It is all easily said, but hard to do.’

In this session, a sustainable delta approach for the Mekong Delta takes centre stage.

Stefan Kuks and Vice-Minister Nguyen Thai Lai from Vietnam were co-chairs during this session. They know each other since 2009, when the partnership between the Netherlands and Vietnam in order to improve climate resilience in the Mekong Delta started. Sitting behind a table with the flags of The Netherlands and Vietnam they demonstrate the good relation between both countries.

Paul van Koppen (NWP) was moderator of the well attended session about Vietnam that took place on Thursday, Van Leeuwen Room II, WTC, Rotterdam

Tran Hong Thai from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Vietnam starts the session by explaining the Mekong Delta is under pressure. The agricultural river basin is suffering from floodings and salinization. This area is delivering 18 per cent of the national GDP and 80 per cent of the national rice production. Vietnam also is exporting rice to countries all over the world. If the sea level rises with 1 meter Vietnam will lose her rice-barn.

Gerardo van Halsema from Wageningen UR, is working on a sustainable framework for a future Mekong Delta. Together with local people he investigated different growth scenarios and on the basis of this research they developed a roadmap for agro-industrialisation. This should prevent people from leaving the area and offering them enough perspective to earn a living. In order to achieve that they plan starting cooperation's and agro business hubs.

Victoria Kwakwa, coordinator Vietnam from the Worldbank emphasizes Vietnamese rice production signifies food security for the whole globe. Thus, she wants the whole world to act. 'We need more cooperation and more coordination.' The World Bank is prepared to invest in resilience but the investment of the Vietnamese government is always going to be larger, states Kwakwa. She praises the partnership between the Netherlands and Vietnam in which the Dutch are helping the Vietnamese. 'This is about leadership.'





DELTAS IN TIMES OF CLIMATE CHANGE II

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

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

Arthur Gleijm, one of the founders of the Dutch Rebel Group, states private-public partnerships are essential to finance climate resilience projects. Dams or dikes are hard to get funded, but combined projects might be interesting for private investors. He adds public partners often look at the wrong way to investors. ‘Most of them look only at the wallet, but that is not the way to approach private partners. They want to know if the investment can be paid back.’ He advises to act on a national level combining investments in sound economic costs and benefits. There is still good and cheap (low interest) money in Vietnam but it is spent on the wrong things.

Vice-minister Lai ends the session with the following words. ‘Cooperation, coordination, leadership. It is all easily said, but hard to do.’

Building Blocks for a delta approach 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. Cooperation with other government levels and stakeholders
2. Finance and implementation

