



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	
UDW 1. How research and practice meet and feed each other to develop new delta management approaches	
Chair	Dr. Huub Savenije, Chair UDW Steering Committee, Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands
Presentations	<p>Introduction & Conclusion: dr. Huub Savenije</p> <p>Mekong Delta: Issues, collaboration and research needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case & Research Perspective: dr. Hieu Trung Nguyen, Can Tho University, Vietnam • Policy Perspective: dr. Dang Kim Son, Institute of Policy and Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development, Vietnam • Research/Business Perspective: dr. Gerardo van Halsema, Wageningen UR, the Netherlands <p>The Netherlands Delta: Issues, collaboration and research needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case & Business Perspective: dr. Ralph Schielen, Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment-Rijkswaterstaat, RiverCare research programme, the Netherlands • Research perspective: Dr Ho Long Phi, Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City, Center for Water Management and Climate Change, Vietnam • Policy perspective: MSc Willem Ligtvoet, PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency, the Netherlands <p>The Bangladesh Delta: Issues, collaboration and research needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case & Business perspective: dr. Jaap de Heer, Twynstra Gudde, the Netherlands • Research perspective: dr. M. Shah Alam Khan, Bangladesh University of Engineering Technology (BUET), Bangladesh • Policy perspective: Mayor Moniruzzaman Moni, Khulna City Corporation, Bangladesh
Panel discussion	<p>Mediator: BSc Corné Nijburg, Water Governance Centre, the Netherlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Bui Tran Vuong, Division of Water Resources Planning and Investigation for the South of Vietnam, Vietnam • Dr. Nelson Matsinhe, Universidade Eduardo Mondlane (UEM), Mozambique • Dr. Poulomi Banerjee, SaciWATERS, India • MSc Arjen Zegwaard, Wageningen UR, the Netherlands • MA Renske Peters, Delta Alliance international, the Netherlands

This session aimed to present the UDW programme and to investigate delta planning processes with experts from UDW and related projects, by rethinking alignments and configurations across sectors and actors.

Huub Savenije introduced the [UDW programme](#), and the seven recently started projects that resulted from the first call for proposals. They cover a variety of issues, namely: strategic delta planning, adaptive delta management, groundwater security, sustainable water supply, reuse of waste water and flood risk and resilience. Different countries are involved - Bangladesh, Vietnam, Indonesia, India, Mozambique, and the Netherlands - and most projects follow a comparative approach.





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Next, nine experts from different backgrounds (research, policy and business) presented their views on the Mekong, Netherlands, Bangladesh deltas, followed by a discussion with a panel and the audience to make comparisons and draw general conclusions. The following key points were made:

Main issues and future challenges

- The resilience of people living in deltas is affected by a combination of both rapidly increasing natural and social uncertainties.
- While natural factors have long been incorporated in delta management and planning, more emphasis needs to be paid to social and economic factors (including the informal economy and migration).
- Specifically governance requires attention, for instance with regard to institutional arrangements in rapid growing peri-urban communities.
- The complex natural and social reality of deltas calls for holistic and adaptive planning processes.
- Planning should be inclusive and not only focus on long term but also on short term resilience.

Collaboration between different stakeholders

- Much can be learned from international cooperation. For instance, Dutch experience is used in drawing up the Mekong and Bangladesh Delta plans, while the Dutch can also learn a lot from experiences (such as flood awareness) in Bangladesh and the Mekong for adaptation based management.
- Innovative solutions for delta development requires new mechanisms for interaction between research and practice. The current mismatch relates to different languages, time frames, and results aimed for. This mismatch also causes a gap between the vision and the implementation of a delta plan.
- Within the policy domain there is need for increased cooperation between regional and national government departments.
- Local communities should be involved in planning processes from the start, not just in the implementation phase.

Implications for research

- Research should take a holistic approach to studying deltas, and preferably learn from experiences in other deltas.
- Researchers should play a role in building capacity of practitioners and enhancing resilience of the poor.
- A shift in focus towards the implementation of delta management is needed.
- Research should come up with ideas on how science-policy-development linkages can be made practical and effective.
- Main issues for research are: adaptive delta management, effective governance frameworks, short-long term impact, inclusive and participatory planning.

The session was concluded by Huub Savenije who underlined the need for researchers to actively feed their socio-technological knowledge into policy making processes and the implementation of strategic-





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delta planning. UDW has been designed for this type of exchange, and it is now up to the projects to bring this into practice. The projects can be followed on the [UDW website](#).

