

ROTTERDAM.CLIMATE.INITIATIVE

PRESS RELEASE

Design competition for new delta cities

'Changing Perspectives' to shed new light on the future of delta cities

Rotterdam, April 15, 2010 – Drastic measures are required to offer river delta cities permanent social and economic security and prosperity in the face of climate change. But exactly which measures? Visionaries from around the globe are invited to participate in a global ideas competition and to submit their design for a climate change resilient delta city for the future. The winning design will be converted into a workable plan for the *Stadshavens (City Ports)* district in Rotterdam.

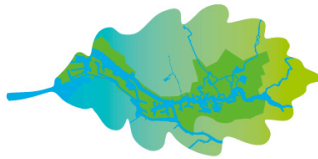
Today, nearly half of the world's population lives in large cities, predominantly delta cities. Accordingly, climate change will have a major impact on these river delta areas, confronting them with huge challenges. The participants in the competition are invited to find solutions for urban problems, and for the current and future threats posed by climate change.

Wanted: revolutionary measures

The uncertainties of a future characterized by ongoing urbanization, rising sea levels, changing precipitation patterns, aridity and changing groundwater levels require measures that in some cases need to address short-term issues, while others should provide long-term solutions. What we need, therefore, are revolutionary, innovative solutions, of a technical, architectural, social, urban planning or economic nature. Design teams who want to participate are invited to address (some of) the following themes in designing their solutions.

- Waterfronts (and multifunctional levees)
- Infrastructure and transport
- Public spaces (including climate buffers)
- Existing building stock (and its transformation)

The initiators of this competition are members of the public sector, the corporate sector and the world of knowledge and education, supported by UN Habitat, the World Water Council, Dutch Delta Design (DDD), the Co-operative Programme on Water and Climate (CPWC), the International Federation of Housing and Planning (IFHP) and the Netherlands Water Partnership (NWP).



ROTTERDAM.CLIMATE.INITIATIVE

24-hour improvement session

The competition is open to professionals of all disciplines. In teams of three people they will submit a proposal dedicated to one specific delta city. They may choose any existing delta city according to their preference, anywhere in the world. A professional jury will assess the proposals and make a shortlist of the seven best entries. These seven winning teams will be invited by 'Delta City of the Future' – all expenses paid – to come to Rotterdam on the day before the international 'Deltas in Times of Climate Change' conference for a 24-hour marathon session (*'designing around the clock'*) to explain how their concepts apply to the *Stadshavens (City Ports)* district in Rotterdam. The winner will be selected during this design session, and the winning idea will be presented to the administrators, scientists and international corporate delegates attending the conference. Tracy Metz will preside over the international jury.

No tabula rasa or static final picture

Participants will be informed in writing on the criteria for the design proposals. We are not looking for plans involving the destruction (and/or reconstruction elsewhere) of existing delta cities. What we do need are plans that address the need to adapt flexibly to an uncertain, ever changing environment.

Information and registration

Responsible for the organization are Rotterdam Climate Proof, UNESCO-IHE, Rotterdam University and Waterstudio.nl. Please register before 1 June at the following website: <http://www.unesco-ihe.org/Delta-City-of-the-Future>.

Participants will be informed about the procedure by email. The teams can subsequently submit their proposals before 1 July.