

ROTTERDAM.CLIMATE.INITIATIVE

Climate Proof

Press Release

Rotterdam the pioneer of Connecting Delta Cities **International cities join forces against the impact of climate change**

Rotterdam, The Netherlands, May 2009 – **Seven low lying international cities are fighting climate change together. On Rotterdam's initiative, the delta cities Rotterdam, New York, Tokyo, London, Jakarta, Shanghai and Hong Kong are working together on the Connecting Delta Cities Initiative. These cities are collectively developing solutions for flooding, extreme rainstorms and the long hot summers associated with climate change.**

The international alliance will officially start when the mayors of seven cities sign the letter of intent in Seoul this week. The mayors of the 40 largest cities taking a stand against climate change, are meeting in the capital of South-Korea.

50% lives in delta cities

By 2040, more than 50% of the global population is expected to live in global delta cities. Connecting Delta Cities (CDC) provides a stage for state-of-the-art science and policies regarding climate change in several key global cities. Innovations and bottlenecks in adaptation policies will be addressed as well as areas with a potential for extensive knowledge exchange.

Dredging against floods

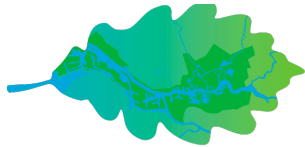
The pioneering city Rotterdam, The Netherlands' second city with 600,000 inhabitants, is working with Jakarta against flooding in Indonesia. The Dutch harbour city which lies six metres below sea level (making it the lowest city in Europe) is helping by developing a dredging plan. Amongst other things this includes Dutch floating bulldozers being used to deepen rivers, decreasing the impact of flooding during extreme rainstorms.

International workshop

An international workshop is planned for June in New York where Rotterdam, Jakarta and the host city will share information about the problems they have experienced and their approach to climate change. Hong Kong and Rotterdam are currently working on an article that describes the best way to apply the necessary climate adaptations to existing policies and procedures. An element of Rotterdam's approach is to take measures against climate change into account in both new build projects and renovations. The other CDC cities will also benefit from the information in this international article.

Documentary

The documentary 'Connecting Delta Cities' is a film on how climate change affects delta cities all over the globe. The film shows how scientists and policy makers in Rotterdam, New York and Jakarta are responding to climate change. The responses in each city are very different although the threats are similar. The film sends a positive message by



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showing that cities can learn from each other: they have a common threat and a common duty; to protect the delta city.

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The CDC's point of departure is climate proofing delta cities. The harbour city Rotterdam is set to achieve that in 2025 with a package of concrete measures under the name *Rotterdam Climate Proof*, the climate adaptation programme of the *Rotterdam Climate Initiative*. The aim of the Rotterdam Climate Initiative is to reduce CO² emissions by 50% in 2025 and to ensure that Rotterdam is 100% climate proof in the same year.

With this package of concrete measures Rotterdam is preparing for changing circumstances. The measures make the city more attractive for residents, safer, while remaining accessible and stimulating the economy. Rotterdam is *the* water city as it has pooled all the knowledge by cooperating with water boards, universities and businesses.