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PRESS RELEASE

American water experts arm themselves in Rotterdam against new 'Katrina'

Rotterdam, 11 February 2009 - Leading water experts from the United States will visit Rotterdam on 13 February to witness the defence this world port puts up against flooding. Ever since Hurricane Katrina struck the coast of Louisiana, inundating 80 per cent of the city of New Orleans, the United States have expressed great interest in the Dutch water management approach. Reporters are given an opportunity to attend (parts of) the programme and to talk with the American water experts.

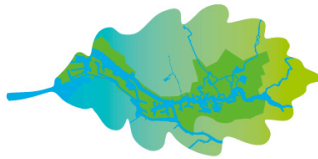
An American delegation of high-ranking officials, engineers, architects and reporters will visit Rotterdam to witness the extraordinary approach of the port city in person. Rotterdam not only arms itself against the consequences of climate change, but also views water management as an economic opportunity and a way to make the city even more attractive. Earlier, staff members of Rotterdam Climate Proof (RCP), the climate adaptation programme of the Rotterdam Climate Initiative that was set up to climate proof the city, were invited to explain their approach in New Orleans. The Dutch corporate sector benefits from their collaboration: despite the economic downturn, the US invests hundreds of millions of dollars in the prevention of new floodings. In earlier phases, large contracts were signed with Netherlands-based corporations.

American Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management inspects Rotterdam's 'best practices'

The delegation includes experts of the American equivalent of the Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management, the *US Army Corps of Engineers*. This organization has already signed a 150 million dollar contract with Arcadis, and will now visit Rotterdam to be informed extensively on the *Maeslantkering*, the RDM Campus, the *Wilhelminapier* and the *Stadshavens* district, where sustainability and climate change resilience are central elements of the approach.

Lowest-lying point in Europe – lowest-lying point in North America

The State of California – the location of the lowest-lying point in North America – will also send water experts to visit the lowest-lying point in Europe. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's state is interested to find out whether the Rotterdam approach can be applied there as well. Accordingly, representing the state will be the Chairman of *California Delta Vision*, the organization responsible for water management policy



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in a region measuring approximately 250,000 hectares. In addition, the committee in charge of climate change related issues in the San Francisco Bay Area will be represented. Furthermore, the delegation will include experts of the *American Planning Association*.

Clean Tech Delta

Rotterdam Climate Proof (a programme of the Rotterdam Climate Initiative) is an ambitious set of measures aimed at climate proofing the city of Rotterdam by 2025. RCP offers additional opportunities to enhance the city's attractiveness as a place to live, work, relax and invest in. Rotterdam is developing into a leading, sustainable port city with a view to becoming *the* 'Clean Tech Delta' in Europe. New technology will be developed at the Rotterdam Climate Campus in partnership with water boards, the corporate sector and institutes of higher education. This technology can subsequently be applied directly in the *Stadshavens* (City ports) district, where some 1600 hectares are available for innovative projects.