


International conference

Deltas in Times of **Climate Change**

Rotterdam, the Netherlands
29 September – 1 October 2010

Second announcement



Deltas in Times of
Climate Change
Rotterdam 2010
Connecting world science and deltas

Building Delta Networks

Deltas offer abundance. Their soils are rich and well-watered. They link rivers and inland waters to the oceans. They are the centre of economic and cultural activity, and home to more than half the world's population. Yet climate change poses severe challenges for deltas. As land subsides, sea levels rise, and populations grow, deltas and their cities are becoming more vulnerable. Increased incidence of floods, salt water intrusion and heatwaves threaten the economic vitality and attractiveness of deltas worldwide. Dealing with subsidence and adapting to climate change have become imperative. The need to address these challenges calls for cooperation of deltas worldwide.

A long time ago, the Rhine and Meuse rivers formed a low lying and fertile area, later called the Netherlands. A vulnerable delta slowly became one of the best protected and richest areas in the world through large scale and innovative measures. Rotterdam, located on the cross point of sea and rivers, grew into an important port city. The first city in the Netherlands with a strategy for coping with climate change, Rotterdam is the perfect city to host the first conference on deltas and climate change.

At this conference, researchers will exchange the latest scientific insights on topics such as flood risk management, salt water intrusion and governance. In addition, sessions will be organised by and for policy makers, senior political officials, the business community and practitioners. Panels of leading figures from the political and business communities will discuss subjects such as international cooperation and financing mechanisms for adaptation.

Two networks are central to this conference. The first is the **Delta Alliance**, an international alliance promoting effective cooperation among deltas worldwide. During the conference this new network will be launched. The second network is **Connecting Delta Cities**. It aims to share best practices between delta cities. Celebrating its second anniversary, it will organise sessions to plan for further cooperation together with the C40 (a group of the world's largest cities committed to tackling climate change). These networks will link scientists, experts and policymakers, strengthen international cooperation and offer opportunities to develop innovative delta management techniques

Finally the conference will offer an opportunity for **Water Mondiaal**, the Dutch programme for international cooperation on water management in delta areas, to further elaborate its programme in close cooperation with its partners.

We cordially invite you to join us in the conference **Deltas in Times of Climate Change** to discuss the most recent scientific insights, to share best practices and to create effective international networks.

Pier Vellinga
Chairman Knowledge for Climate
The Netherlands

Ahmed Aboutaleb
Mayor of Rotterdam
The Netherlands

David Miller
Chairman C40, Mayor Toronto
Canada



The Delta Conference in Rotterdam

Advancing knowledge and connecting deltas

The conference **Deltas in Times of Climate Change** offers a unique opportunity for scientists to exchange new knowledge, for cities to strengthen cooperation and to exchange knowledge in delta management, for delta countries to build knowledge networks and for businesses to enter into partnerships to develop innovative climate adaptation measures. Deltas under climate change face many challenges but also many opportunities. The focus lies on: how can we work together in creating safe, vital and sustainable deltas worldwide.

The conference pursues three main goals:

1. Exchanging up-to-date science on climate change and delta planning

Discussions in parallel sessions will focus on themes such as: flood risk management, salt water intrusion and fresh water supply, climate in urban areas, health, governance and economics.

2. Strengthening international cooperation between deltas and delta cities

By building networks such as Connecting Delta Cities and the Delta Alliance powerful platforms can be developed to share knowledge and experience and draw attention to the needs of deltas under climate change.

3. Exploring and strengthening the links between science, policy and practitioners

Bridging the gap between science and practice is a prerogative for climate proofing deltas. Cooperative efforts between scientists and practitioners can foster innovations.

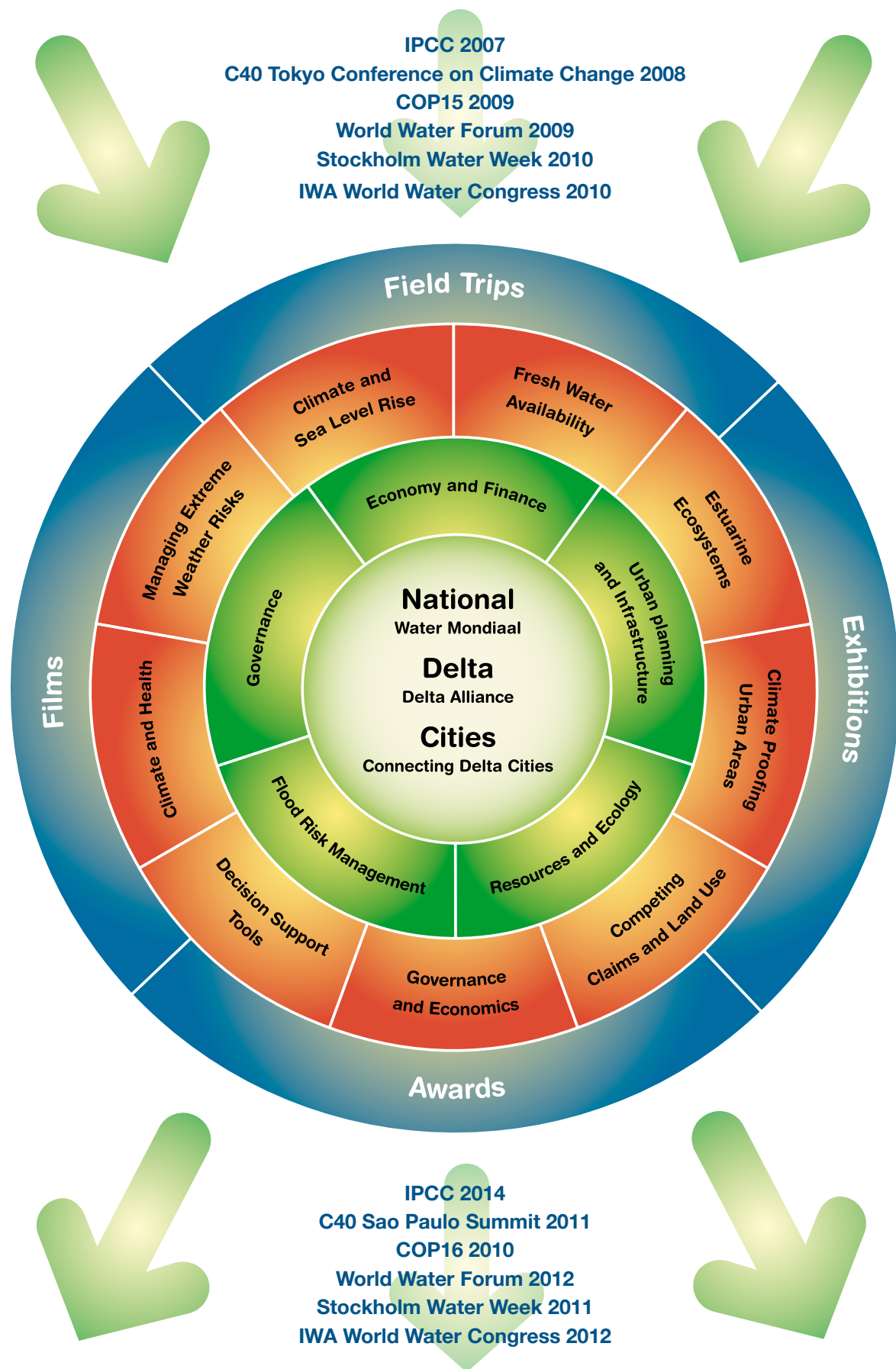
These goals will be achieved by bringing together scientists, the business community, policy makers, government officials, practitioners and mayors from deltas all over the world.

The hosts

Deltas in Times of Climate Change is organised by two official Dutch climate research programmes (Climate changes Spatial Planning and Knowledge for Climate), the City of Rotterdam and the C40 Large Cities Climate Leadership Group.

The conference will be held in the centre of Rotterdam, a city at the forefront of climate adaptation: it turns challenges into opportunities and takes integrated measures to create a safer and more attractive city.





The programme in headlines

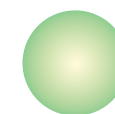
Plenary sessions

On Wednesday 29 September the conference will open with presentations by prominent figures. Ahmed Aboutaleb, Mayor of Rotterdam, will welcome the participants. Dr. Nguyen Thai Lai, vice Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Vietnam and the Dutch minister of Spatial Planning will present the climate change policy of their delta countries. Prof. Michael Oppenheimer of Princeton University, and the (vice) chair of the IPCC will inform the audience of the latest scientific insights on climate change, sea level rise, river run-off, storm surges and cyclones.

In the afternoon of Thursday 30 September the Delta Alliance will be launched in a plenary session. High level representatives from delta countries and cities will address the audience and sign the agreement. The session on Friday 1 October includes an opening plenary, followed by three high level round table discussions and a closing plenary with the closing address by prof. Cees Veerman, chairman of the Dutch Delta Commission.

Parallel sessions

A number of parallel sessions are organised on Wednesday 29 September in the afternoon, on Thursday 30 September and in the morning of Friday 1 October. How these parallel sessions are interconnected is shown in the diagram.



Building and strengthening networks takes place in the **centre**. Here the main objectives are to establish, connect and re-enforce networks, both existing and new. On a national scale, the Water Mondiaal programme takes a central position. Regarding delta regions, the Delta Alliance is a key network. At city level, Connecting Delta Cities, associated with the C40, will play a major role.



The **first ring** represents the Policy programme **Deltas in Practice**. The sessions are structured around five themes. They focus on best practices, exchanging experiences and innovative ideas. These sessions will also provide input for the discussions that take place in the centre.



The **second ring** represents the Scientific programme **Deltas in Depth**. Presentations of scientific results, methodologies and innovations are organised around nine themes. Scientists and other experts discuss the latest scientific insights on a range of topics, indicated in the diagram.

Whereas the above programme concentrates on specific themes, the sessions **Challenges and solutions in the World Deltas**, organised in the morning of Thursday 30 September, will take a closer look at challenges and solutions in several delta regions: climate change and sea level rise, impacts and policy responses per region.



The **third ring** offers a wide variety of side events such as films, field trips, exhibitions and award ceremonies.



The conference builds on the results and findings of the IPCC and of events such as the World Water Forum, Stockholm Water Week and COP15 and will provide new input in the following meetings of these institutions. This is represented by the **arrows** that flow in and out of the circle.

Field trips

In the afternoon of Friday 1 October participants are offered planned excursions to initiatives showing how the Dutch kept their feet dry and how they are preparing for future climate challenges.

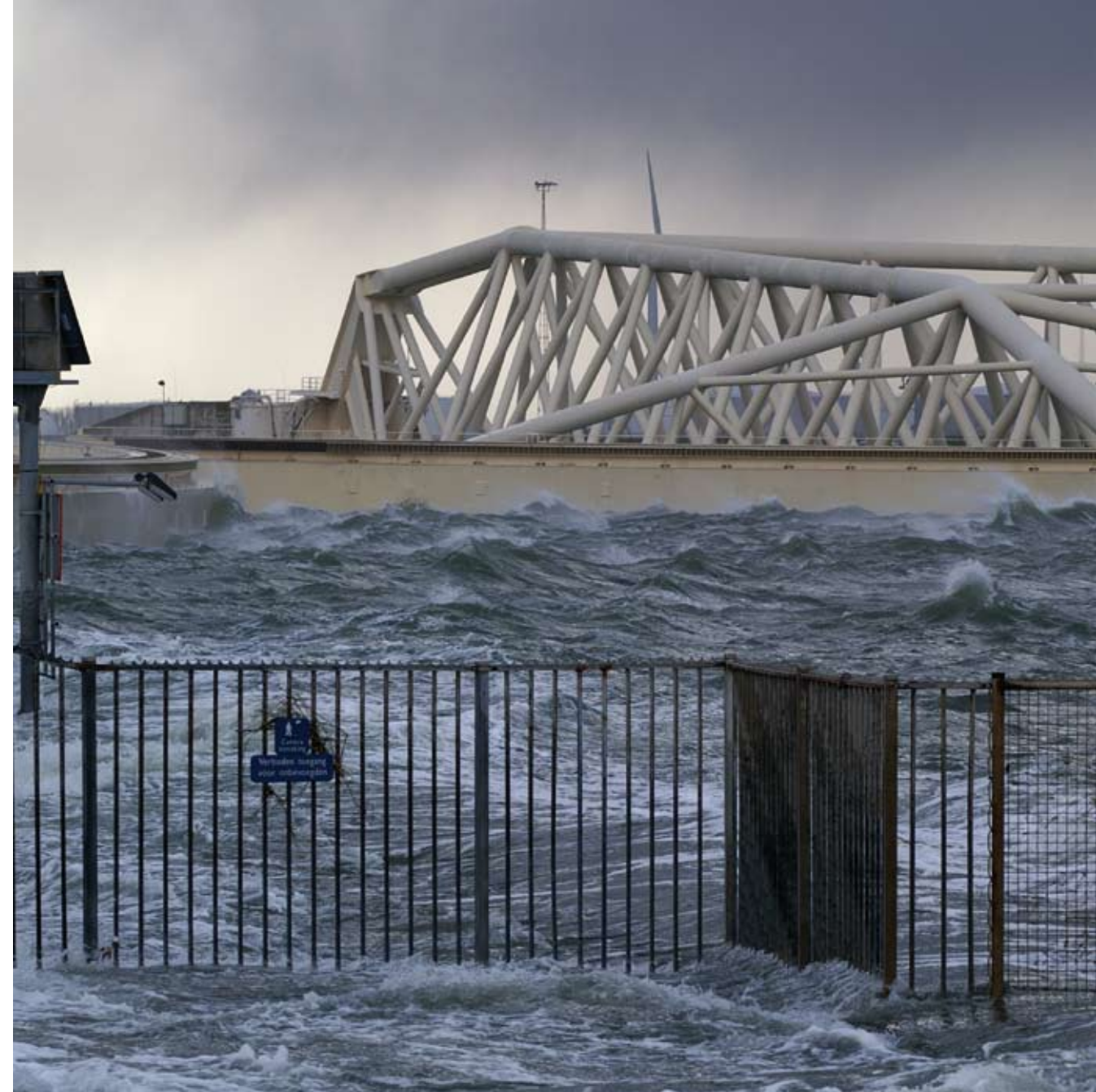
- 1 Fighting floods and droughts • Field trip to Delta Works and Flood Disaster Museum
- 2 Nature Overflow • Visit the National Park Biesbosch
- 3 Taking Back the Land • Explore the 'Maasvlakte 2.0'
- 4 Rotterdam Climate Proof Cruise • Boat trip Rotterdam and city ports
- 5 Safe behind the barrier • Field trip to the Maeslant Storm Surge Barrier
- 6 Typical Dutch! • Take a look at the Dutch windmills at Kinderdijk
- 7 Sleep Safe below Sea Level • Improving coastal protection at Delfland
- 8 Testing, Testing! • Testing the levee facility at Deltares
- 9 Coastal Protection by Mother Nature • Field trip to Sea Tower
- 10 Floating Pavilion • Visit the water and climate icon in Rotterdam
- 11 Two Wheels and Lots of Fresh air • Bike trip around Rotterdam
- 12 Visit the Mussels from Zeeland • (electric) Bike trip to Yerseke aquaculture

More information about the field trips can be found on the website www.climatedeltaconference.org

Prize ceremonies and awards

Three awards will be presented:

- **Delta City of the Future.** During the conference a 24-hour design competition will be organised, with a prize awarded to the best team submission.
- **Delta Alliance students award.** Royal Haskoning, Delta Alliance and the City of Rotterdam will award three prizes to the winners of the Delta Competition 2010, in which students from around the world are invited to submit their ideas for how delta cities can respond to their climate change challenges within a complex urban environment.
- **Best Young Delta Scientist award.** A prize will be awarded to a young scientist with the best paper. Criterion: PhD research should be no more than five years old.



Delta Alliance Network

The Deltas in Times of Climate Change Conference will be a major stepping stone in the development of the international Delta Alliance Network. The conference will formalize that network and build momentum and content for increased international cooperation between delta regions. The Delta Alliance will be launched on Thursday 30 September with high-level representatives of California, Indonesia, the Netherlands and Vietnam. Examples of successful cooperation between delta regions will be showcased. Further cooperative activities will be defined during the conference, making use of the top experts from deltas around the world present for that the event. The Delta Alliance is working closely with the World Estuary Alliance (WEA), and will use the conference to identify opportunities to work more closely with WEA and other international initiatives to work on safe, vital and sustainable deltas in times of climate change. Most importantly, the conference will provide new impulses to the growing international community working towards resilient river delta regions.



The parallel sessions in detail

The following section describes the parallel sessions that will be convened during the conference. The content of the Scientific programme **Deltas in Depth** is determined by the convenors and approved by the Scientific Committee. The latest science on issues of importance to deltas worldwide is presented and discussed. In the specific **Challenges and solutions in the World Deltas** scientists and policymakers will present and discuss together climate change scenarios, adaptation options and policy response for various deltas. The Policy programme **Deltas in Practice** focusses on best practices and exchanging experiences and innovations.

Policy programme: Deltas in Practice

The **Deltas in Practice** sessions are hosted and organized by a variety of international stakeholders. Special attention will be given to the outcome of the sessions, which should be solution oriented and of value for all visitors worldwide, whether it is from the perspective of learning, sharing experiences or raising awareness. The outcome and follow up actions will be presented in the plenary meetings and high level panel discussions on the closing day. The sessions are structured around five themes:

Flood Risk Management

In most delta regions, people live and work both inside and outside the levees. Climate change increases the risk of levee breach or flooding. In order to guarantee safety against flooding in a changing climate, proactive measures are needed. It is therefore essential to invest in knowledge about water systems and about possible protection measures. Investing now will prevent huge costs in the long run. Various sessions will be organised that address flood control and flood risk management. Innovative flood defences in an urban context will be discussed, some allowing for a combination of functions and offering both protection and room for residential or recreational purposes. Examples of sessions:

- Urban levees; integration of water protection and spatial planning
- Dutch Delta Plan; water protection in the Rijnmond region
- Flood control 2015; smart levees

Resources and Ecology

Delta cities depend on upstream river basin management. Economic sectors such as fisheries, tourism and harbours usually suffer from negative impacts of river basin management (low summer discharge, pollution, ecological degradation), but also public health and environmental quality are affected. Climate change adds to these problems and delta cities consequently have to take adaptive action. Coastal and delta development and rapid urbanisation have diminished natural flood defence lines, such as mangroves or natural vegetation in open flood plains. New insights in ecosystem development and related resilience of natural systems offer promising ways of adaptation by introducing 'climate buffers' and 'building with nature' measures. Examples of sessions within this theme:

- Guidance for transboundary basins
- Delta cities upstream interventions
- Modules for building with nature
- Future ecosystem engineering: natural climate buffer areas

Urban Planning and Infrastructure

Urban planning has proved to be the key element in adaptation strategies and measures, whether it concerns urban climate (heat island effect), urban water management or sustainable energy infrastructure. It is about adaptive building and the assimilation and retrofitting of the existing building stock. It also concerns the multifunctional use of public space and accessibility of cities and ports.

It is essential that city planners and architects are aware of their role in climate change adaptation and of the opportunities climate change can offer in making delta cities more attractive and prosperous. Many workshops within this theme will focus on best practices on how to grasp these opportunities. Examples are:

- Floating pavilion as a catalyst for a sustainable urban delta
- Combining urban planning and building design with sustainable water and energy infrastructure
- Adapting to urban heat islands
- Urban Climate Framework
- Delta City of the Future (designing around the clock)
- Smart delta cities
- Integrated adaptation strategies
- Ports and waterways

Economy and Finance

Carrying out adaptation plans costs money. Financing institutions like the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank are preparing financing schemes for climate adaptation. However, adaptation plans don't fit the finance schemes yet.

Many innovative businesses have already proposed solutions for climate related problems. Most of these innovations do not enter the mainstream. How can we make these innovations work?

Insurance companies are looking for ways how to influence the public and private sector to pay attention to adaptation measures in order to reduce climate change risks.

In this theme financial institutions and the demanding parties will be brought together in content based sessions to come up with new ideas and set agendas for future events. Examples of sessions are:

- Insurance of climate change risks
- Making the economics of innovation work
- Financing of adaptation

Governance

Preparing for the future is not only a matter of innovative techniques. At least as important is the governance framework (judicial, administrative and communicative).

Climate change heavily affects urban and rural systems. It obliges national governments, provinces and municipalities to think about their role and responsibility. At the same time, climate adaptation is not the sole responsibility of public actors, but asks for active involvement of citizens, corporations and non-governmental actors.

This brings forth such questions as: what are the barriers and pitfalls to successful adaptation strategies, and what best practices of climate governance can be identified worldwide?

Topics within this theme are: the role of private actors in realizing adaptation strategies; the role of public actors in enabling climate adaptation by others; strategies to facilitate collaboration between mutually dependent actors to adapt to a changing climate. Session examples:

- Climate adaptation; legal, administrative and communicative steering mechanisms
- Right to water and water rights under climate change
- Climate adaptation in complex urban systems

Challenges and solutions in the World Deltas

The morning of Thursday 30 September will start with an opening address by the Dutch Delta Programme Commissioner Wim Kuijken. Sessions will be organized around various deltas and delta cities. They will take a closer look into the challenges and solutions per delta. Presentations will be given about climate change and sea level rise scenarios, and their possible impacts on that specific delta. Adaptation options, strategies and the policy response will also be discussed. Together with the scientific sessions these sessions can be seen as a stepping stone towards the fifth IPCC report. The synthesis of these sessions will be presented before the launch of the Delta Alliance in the afternoon. The sessions include the following deltas or delta countries: Mekong, Elbe, Thames, Hudson, Rhine, Po, Jakarta, Bangladesh, California and the Nile. Representatives of these regions, including their scientific community, are organising these sessions.



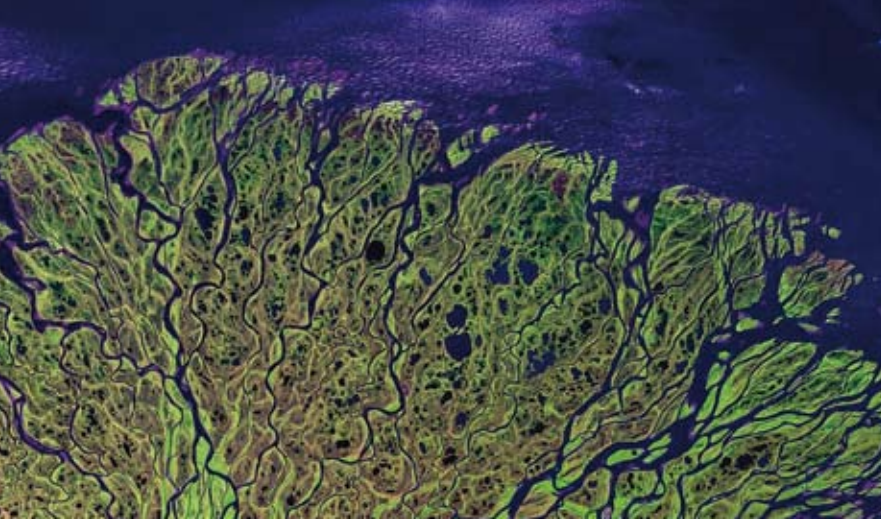
Connecting Delta Cities

Connecting Delta Cities is a vital network that unites people striving to make their cities climate proof. By sharing knowledge and best practices they join forces in pursuit of innovative adaptation strategies.

Connecting Delta Cities:

- Acts as a platform for information exchange of knowledge and best practices
- Operates as a show case for other cities
- Connects councils, politicians, municipal departments, knowledge institutes, NGOs and the private sector

During the conference the Connecting Delta Cities network will celebrate its second anniversary by showing the results of two years of successful co-operation within the network. Furthermore, the network will use the conference to share best practices, exchange knowledge, strengthen the existing ties between the delta cities, and meet in private to collectively set the future agenda.



Scientific programme: Deltas in Depth

In scientific workshops, scientists from all over the world present their findings. The best papers will be selected for publication in scientific magazines. The programme is structured around the following nine themes:

Regional climate, sea level rise, storm surges, river run-off and coastal flooding

Uncertainties surround climate change and sea level rise. There are risks of coastal flooding and storm surges. The climate system, sea level rise, and their physical and socio-economic impacts on coastal and river flooding will be discussed.

Convenors: Dr. John Church, Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, CSIRO, Australia • Dr. Wilco Hazeleger, Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute, KNMI, the Netherlands • Prof.dr. Marcel Stive, Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands • Prof.dr. Hans von Storch, Institute for Coastal Research, Germany

Fresh water availability under sea level rise and climate change

Scientific evidence is mounting about increased frequencies of floods and droughts in deltas. Salinization takes its toll. Land use claims put ecosystems under pressure. The impact of climate change on fresh water availability and solutions for optimizing freshwater demand and supply in deltas will be discussed

Convenors: Prof.dr. Eelco van Beek, Deltares, the Netherlands • Prof.dr. Gerald Galloway, University of Maryland, USA • Ainun Nishat PhD, International Union for Conservation of Nature, IUCN, Bangladesh

Climate change and estuarine ecosystems

Estuarine ecosystems are threatened by growing demands on limited freshwater supplies and by eutrophication, pollution and climate change. In this theme, the ecological functions and socio-economic values of estuarine ecosystems will be put in the context of climate change.

Convenors: Prof.dr. Peter Herman, Netherlands Institute of Ecology, NIOO, the Netherlands • Dr. Hans Paerl, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA

Climate change and climate proofing urban areas

Climate change affects cities and surrounding areas through increasing extremes in precipitation, droughts and temperatures. Adaptation of urban patterns, public space, water systems and buildings is essential to keep cities livable. The impacts of climate change on the city and adaptation measures in delta cities are central to this theme.

Convenors: Prof. Simin Davoudi, Newcastle University, United Kingdom • Prof.dr. Jim Hall, Tyndall Centre for Climate change Research, United Kingdom • Prof.dr. Helmut Mayer University of Freiburg, Germany • Prof.dr. Tejo Spit, Utrecht University, the Netherlands • Prof.dr. Chris Zevenbergen, UNESCO-IHE, Institute for Water Education, the Netherlands

Competing claims and land use in deltas under climate change

Urban expansion, infrastructure, agriculture, nature and leisure all compete for land in delta areas. Measures to protect people from the effects of climate change also require more space. The theme focuses on competing claims on land, the impact of climate change on relationships between various land uses and adaptation solutions.

Convenors: Prof.dr. Fu Congbin, Chinese Academy of Sciences, CAS, PRC • Dr. Saleemul Huq, International Institute for Environment and Development, United Kingdom • Prof.dr. Paul Opdam, Wageningen UR, Alterra, the Netherlands • Prof.dr. Martin Wassen, Utrecht University, the Netherlands

Governance and economics of climate adaptation

This theme focuses on governance and economic issues related to climate change in deltas. The central question is how to govern multi-level and multi-scale processes in ways promoting climate proof development. Part of the problem relates to which measures are the most cost effective and yield the most socially desired benefits.

Convenors: Prof.dr. Ekko van Ierland, Wageningen UR, the Netherlands • Stéphane Hallegatte, CIRED and Météo-France, France • Prof.dr. Katrien Termeer, Wageningen UR, the Netherlands • Dr. Elizabeth Wilson, Oxford Brookes University, United Kingdom



Decision support instruments for climate adaptation policy

Uncertainties in the climate arena enlarge the complexity of the decision making process. In this theme, decision support tools for adaptation policies will be presented and case studies will offer lessons about processes and the role of decision support instruments in them.

Convenors: Dr. Suraje Dessai, University of Exeter, United Kingdom • Prof.dr. Piet Rietveld, VU University, the Netherlands • Prof.dr. Kerry Turner, CSERGE, School of Environmental Sciences, United Kingdom

Climate and health in delta areas

Climate change is an emerging threat to public health. Developing country populations in coastal areas are particularly vulnerable. Recent research will be presented about the impact of climate change on health in delta regions. National or local health programmes and interventions will also be discussed.

Convenors: Dr. Andrew K. Githeko, Climate and Human Health Research Unit, Kenya Medical Research Institute, Kenya • Prof.dr. Pim Martens, Maastricht University, ICIS, the Netherlands

Managing risks of extreme climate events

Climate risk in coastal areas is largely determined by the frequency and magnitude of extreme climate events and by socio-economic trends. This theme covers management of climate related losses, the role of financial instruments, damage reduction measures, evacuation and risk communication and information and tools needed for the management of extreme events.

Convenors: Prof.dr. Jeroen Aerts, VU University IVM, the Netherlands • Myles Allen, University of Oxford, United Kingdom • Prof.dr. Reimund Schwarze, DIW Berlin, Germany • Dr. Swenja Surminski, Association of British Insurers, United Kingdom

Recommendations Committee

- Ahmed Aboutaleb, City of Rotterdam, the Netherlands
- Dr. Ghassem Asrar, World Climate Research Programme, WCRP, Switzerland
- Harry Baayen MSc, Deltares, the Netherlands
- Dr. Frits Brouwer, Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute, KNMI, the Netherlands
- Dr. John Church, Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, CSIRO, Australia
- William Cosgrove, Ecoconsult Inc., Canada
- Dr. Aalt Dijkhuizen, Wageningen UR, the Netherlands
- Prof.dr. Robbert Dijkgraaf, Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, KNAW, the Netherlands
- Lenie Dwarshuis - van de Beek, Province of Zuid-Holland, the Netherlands
- Prof.dr. Leen Hordijk, Institute for Environment and Sustainability, Joint Research Centre, Italy
- Dr. Nguyen Thai Lai, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Viet Nam
- Prof.dr. Ruud Lubbers, Minister of State, the Netherlands
- Ed Nijpels MSc, ONRI Dutch association of consulting engineers, the Netherlands
- Ms. Yvonne van Rooy, president Executive Board Utrecht University, the Netherlands
- Dr. Sybe Schaap, Dutch Association of Regional Water Authorities, the Netherlands
- Cees Slingerland MSc, Wageningen UR, Environmental Sciences Group, the Netherlands
- René Smit MSc, chairman Executive Board VU University Amsterdam, the Netherlands
- Prof.dr. Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, Potsdam Institut für Klimafolgenforschung, PIK, Germany
- Prof.dr. András Szöllösi-Nagy, UNESCO-IHE, Institute for Water Education, the Netherlands

Scientific Committee

- Prof.dr. Pavel Kabat, Climate changes Spatial Planning (chairman Scientific committee), the Netherlands
- Dr. Maarten van Aalst, Red Cross, Climate Centre, the Netherlands
- Prof.dr. Jeroen Aerts, VU University Amsterdam, Institute for Environmental Studies, the Netherlands
- Prof.dr. Terry Barker, Cambridge Centre for Climate Change Mitigation Research, United Kingdom
- Dr. Bryson Bates, Australian Commonwealth Scientific and Research Organization, CSIRO, Australia
- Dr. Ger Bergkamp, World Water Council, France
- Prof.dr. Guy Brasseur, National Center for Atmospheric Research, Earth and Sun Systems Laboratory, USA
- Prof.dr. Peter Driessen, Research Programme Knowledge for Climate, the Netherlands
- Dr. Wilco Hazeleger, Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute, KNMI, the Netherlands
- Prof.dr. Carlos C.A. Nobre, National Institute for Space Research – INPE, Brazil
- Florrie de Pater MSc, Knowledge for Climate / Climate changes Spatial Planning (secretariat Steering committee), the Netherlands
- Prof.dr. Katherine Richardson, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
- Prof.dr. Johan Rockström, Stockholm Environment Institute & Stockholm Resilience Centre, Norway
- Prof.dr. Jan Rotmans, Erasmus University Rotterdam, the Netherlands
- Dr. Saleemul Huq, International Institute for Environment and Development, United Kingdom
- Dr. Sybil Seitzinger, The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Sweden
- Prof.dr. Marcel Stive, Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands
- Prof.dr. Hans von Storch, Meteorological Institute, University of Hamburg, Germany
- Prof.dr. Pier Vellinga, Research Programme Knowledge for Climate, the Netherlands
- Dr. Charley Vörösmarty, University of New Hampshire, USA
- Dr. Roderik van de Wal, Utrecht University, the Netherlands
- Prof.dr. Tetsuzo Yasunari, Hydrospheric Atmospheric Research Centre, Japan

Steering Committee

- Prof.dr. Pier Vellinga, Knowledge for Climate (chairman Steering committee), the Netherlands
- Florrie de Pater MSc (secretariat), Knowledge for Climate / Climate changes Spatial, the Netherlands
- Dr. Raimond Hafkenscheid, Co-operative Programme on Water and Climate (CPWC), the Netherlands
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- Arnoud Molenaar MA, City of Rotterdam, the Netherlands
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- Michael van der Valk MSc, Co-operative Programme on Water and Climate (CPWC)

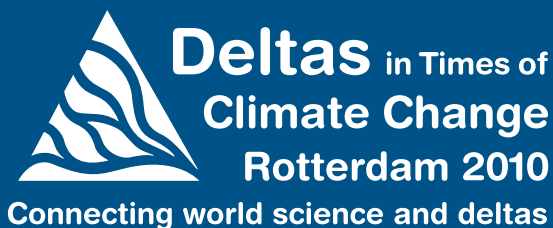


Registration

Fees:

Early bird (till July 15, 2010)	€ 325 (three days)
	€ 195 (one day)
Regular (from July 16, 2010)	€ 395 (three days)
	€ 250 (one day)
Registration onsite	€ 450 (three days)
Student	€ 225 (three days)

The fee is inclusive of VAT and field trips on Friday.



www.climatedeltaconference.org

Venue of the conference

The conference will be held at the World Trade Center in Rotterdam.

Language

The official language of the Deltas in Times of Climate Change conference is English.



More information

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