

Workshop Report

Workshop on Creating Flood Resilient Cities in Mekong Delta: Opportunities and Challenges

Co-Organized by:

**Institute for Environment and Resources (VNUHCM-IER) and the
Delta Alliance (DA)**

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, December 22nd, 2020



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GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE WORKSHOP

Title: “Creating Flood Resilient Cities in Mekong Delta: Opportunities and Challenges”.

Organized by:

Department of Hydrology and Water Resources (HYDROWARE), Institute for Environment and Resources (IER), Vietnam National University – Ho Chi Minh City (VUHCM)

Funded by:

Delta Alliance (DA).

Date of workshop: December 22nd, 2020

Venue: Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Introduction:

The workshop was a great opportunity for the researchers and the authorities of the Mekong Delta Cities improve their understanding to each other. Besides, the workshop was the best place for the different cities in the Mekong Delta to share and learn from each practical experience in urban flooding management, relevant policy, awareness improvement on the importance of the enhancing flood resilience for the cities.

Objectives:

The objectives of the workshop are:

- To present the result of the studies on preventing, manage and enhancing the resilient ability for urban flooding of the Mekong Delta’s urbans.
- To share the advantages, constraints, and current context of flooding management of each cities by the authorities of the Mekong Delta cities.
- To discuss on the general strategies and opportunities for the development of “Flood resilient City” for the Mekong Delta characteristics.

Participants

There are 35 participants in the training workshop, including the experts, authorities, researchers, Ph.D., MSc students and other staffs in the field of urban planning,

hydraulic, climate change, urban flooding management, etc. who is coming from Ho Chi Minh City and other Mekong Delta provinces and city, such as: Can Tho City, An Giang, Soc Trang, Vinh Long, Hau Giang, etc.

WORKSHOP OPENING AND DISCUSSION RESULTS

The director of Institute for Environment and Resources (VNUHCM-IER), Prof. Le Thanh Hai, formally opened the workshop. In his remarks, he stressed the importance of enhancing the resilience to flooding in urban area in the Mekong Delta, in especially with consideration of the climate change influence. He also gave very good comment that the workshop's topics are very particular, straight forward and should be much helpful for the practical application.

The workshop the hosted by Assoc. Prof. Chau Nguyen Xuan Quang as Chairman role. The topics which have been presented in the workshop include:

- Topic 1: Urbanization in the Mekong Delta Region
- Topic 2: Impacts of climate change and sea level rise to urban flooding problem in the Mekong Delta Cities
- Topic 3: Enhancing urban flood resilience by application green infrastructure approaches in Can Tho City.
- Topic 4: Urban flooding in HCMC and the lesson learnt for Mekong Delta Cities
- Topic 5: Application of sustainable drainage solutions in Mekong Delta: Opportunities and challenges
- Topic 6: Community-Based Approach for urban flooding mitigation in HCMC: housing and neighborhood scale.



Fig.1. The group photo of the workshop participants



Fig.2. The opening of Prof. Le Thanh Hai - Director of Institute for Environment and Resources (VNUHCM-IER)



Fig.3. The presentation of Mr. Pham Tran Hai (Ho Chi Minh City Institute for Development Studies – HIDS) on the topic of “Urbanization in the Mekong Delta Region”



Fig.4. The presentation of Mr. Ky Quang Vinh (Can Tho Science & Technology association) on the topic of “Impacts of climate change and sea level rise to urban flooding problem in the Mekong Delta Cities”

After the 06 interesting topics presented by the experts and researchers in the urban planning, hydraulic, urban flooding management during the morning session, the round-table group discussion was deployed in the afternoon session. The main outputs of the group discussion can be summarized as followings:

- The community participation is one of the most important criteria for the succeed of the Low Impact Development (LID) for urban flooding risk management projects. According to the practical implementation in Can Tho City, most of the local people at the project sites in Can Tho City are happy and eager for the co-benefits of LID projects in flooding management. However, in the implementation phase, most of the case they are not happy if the LID project located near there house. One of the main reasons for this is they are concern about the odor, mosquitoes, hygienic issues might happen if the project is not appropriated operating and maintenance.
- In enhancing of the flooding resilience of the cities under climate change context, the 03 main sectors should be integrating considered: “Housing + Livelihood + Transporting”. The project which is not analyzed and considered the whole 03 above sectors shall not be successful, especially in the Mekong Delta areas.
- The urban areas in Mekong Delta have its own characteristics which are very difference from the others city in Vietnam because of the complexity of Mekong Delta location, such as: high migration rate issue compared to the other cities, the flooding in urban areas might be caused by the rainfall water and saline water due to the influence of high tide, weak geological characteristic causing subsidence. Therefore, the further detailed studies for each cities should be conducted.
- The concept of “risks accumulation” was mentioned as an issue which further studies in flooding risk resilience capacity of the cities should also focus on.
- The fiscal approaches should also be the effective tools and can be used as a sanction against organizations and individuals irresponsible for flood protection in everyday operations.
- There is currently not legal framework which are supporting for the applying and implementing the Low Impact Development (LID) projects in Mekong Delta and

also in Vietnam. That is one of the reasons lead the number of large scale of LID in Mekong Delta is almost little during the last years.



Fig. 5. Assoc. Prof. Chau Nguyen Xuan Quang – Vice Director of Institute for Environment and Resources (VNUHCM-IER), leading for the round-table group discussion in the afternoon session.

CONCLUSIONS

In the closing session, the Assoc. Prof. Chau Nguyen Xuan Quang, appreciated enthusiastic of all participants in the workshop. All the topics are very helpful and the group discussion's outputs might lead to many further research trending in urban flooding risks management and for resilience of the Mekong Delta areas. Besides, Assoc. Prof. Chau Nguyen Xuan Quang also emphasized that, he believed that the funding for this workshop from Delta Alliance is the initial step for further sticky connection and correlation between the experts from Vietnam and experts from Delta Alliance's networks.

ANNEX: WORKSHOP AGENDA

Workshop on “Creating Flood Resilient Cities in Mekong Delta: Opportunities and Challenges”

Ho Chi Minh City, December 22nd, 2020

Time	Actions	Responsibility
Morning Section		
8:00 – 8:30	Welcome and opening remark	Organizer – IER Prof. Dr. Le Thanh Hai (Director, IER)
8:30 – 8:50	Urbanization in the Mekong Delta Region	Mr. Pham Tran Hai (Ho Chi Minh City Institute for Development Studies - HIDS)
8:50 – 9:10	Impacts of climate change and sea level rise to urban flooding problem in the Mekong Delta Cities	Mr. Ky Quang Vinh (Can Tho Science & Technology association)
9:10 – 9:30	Enhancing urban flood resilience by application green infrastructure approaches in Can Tho City	Mr. Dinh Diep Anh Tuan (Chief of General Office of DRAGON – MEKONG Institute - Can Tho University)
9:30 – 9:50	Urban flooding in HCMC and the lesson learnt for Mekong Delta Cities	Mr. Ho Long Phi – (Expert in urban flooding management, Former Director of Center of Water Management and Climate Change, VNUHCM)
9:50 – 10:20	Tea-break	All

10:20 – 10:40	Application of sustainable drainage solutions in Mekong Delta: Opportunities and challenges	Assoc. Prof. Chau Nguyen Xuan Quang (Vice Director, Institute for Environment and Resources IER- VNUHCM)
10:40 – 11:00	Community-Based Approach for urban flooding mitigation in HCMC: housing and neighbourhood scale.	Dr. Le Thi Thu Huong (Vietnamese – German University)
11:00 – 11:45	Brief conclusion for morning section & discussion	All
Lunch		
Afternoon section		
13:30 – 16:30	Group discussion for the Opportunities and Challenges in creating Flood Resilient Cities in Mekong Delta region	All
16:30 – 16:45	Summary conclusions & questions	IER