



## **Regional Training Workshop on Delta Planning and Management**

### **Challenges, Approaches and Experiences from Asian Deltas and the Rhine-Meuse Delta**

For professionals working / interested in Asian Deltas

Host and venue: Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS), Dhaka, Bangladesh

Period: 19-23 October 2014

Organised by UNESCO-IHE, Wageningen UR, CEGIS Bangladesh, Vietnam National University - Center for Water Management and Climate Change, Delft University of Technology, and Deltares.

In collaboration with Partner institutes, Delta Alliance and Asian-Dutch delta projects.

Co-funded by CEGIS, Bangladesh, the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment and the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs.



UNESCO-IHE  
Institute for Water Education



C<sup>3</sup>GIS



TU Delft



## Background

River delta's, like the Mekong Delta (Vietnam), Ganges-Brahmaputra Delta (Bangladesh), Ayeyarwady Delta (Myanmar), and Ciliwung Delta (Indonesia) are developing rapidly and are characterised by large-scale urbanisation and industrialization processes. They are facing serious planning challenges related to issues like economic development, population growth, vulnerability to flooding, and food security. These challenges occur in a context of regional and global changes including upstream developments and climate change. The Mekong Delta, Ganges-Brahmaputra Delta and the Ciliwung Delta are for instance the largest areas to suffer the severe impacts of climate change due to their low elevation, high population density and high dependency of local settlers on agriculture and aquaculture.

There is much to learn from people in these deltas who always have lived with floods, droughts, typhoons, and who have developed many adaptation strategies to deal with such risks over the centuries. Addressing and resolving these complex planning issues requires planning approaches and methods which are process oriented, oversee the problems, create solutions from an integral perspective, and involve stakeholders to make use of current practices and experiences. An 'integral perspective' is often advocated to address multi-level interests (local, delta, national, international) as well as interests of different sectors in which key stakeholders are being part of the delta system. Such a planning approach is often seen as ideal, but in many countries, like the ones mentioned above, challenging given amongst others the planning history (often sectoral orientation and limited participation), knowledge and tools available, and capacities available to undertake and absorb such a planning process.

There is an emerging need to exchange experiences between professionals involved in various aspects of delta planning and discuss different planning approaches and methods and their feasibility in specific local contexts. This was also clearly demonstrated and articulated in the Delta planning Training Workshops of 2012 in Ho-Chi-Minh-City (Box 1) and 2013 in Yangon, Myanmar.

## Objectives

The aim of the training workshop is to bring together professionals from river deltas like the Mekong Delta, Ganges-Brahmaputra Delta, Ayeyarwady Delta, and Ciliwung Delta who play / or will play key roles in delta planning and introduce / discuss different types of planning approaches, identify feasible approaches and methods given the local contexts and share experiences including those from the Netherlands. More specifically:

- To expose participants to the latest thinking of delta planning with specific focus on environmental and social aspects and placed in a development context;
- To familiarise participants with the multi-level and multi-sectoral dimension of the topic - also by sharing the experiences of the participants from different backgrounds;

- To familiarise participants with approaches how to address these multiple dimensions - also considering uncertainty - and (institutional) conditions for implementing such approaches.
- To present, practice and discuss examples of approaches and methods of delta planning by means of European and Asian case studies; and
- To discuss how to further support the emerging Community of Practice of delta planners and managers and the knowledge networking between participants, and between participants and resources persons of the institutes involved.

The Mekong Delta, Ganges-Meghna-Brahmaputra Delta and Ciliwung Delta are focus areas of Water Mondiaal, the international chapter of the Netherlands Water Policy. The Water Mondiaal cooperation aims at the establishment or broadening of sustainable relations between organisations including companies in the Netherlands water sector and those of the delta countries. The training workshop aims to further support south-south inter-delta learning in relation to the many ongoing activities in the regional deltas (incl. development of delta plans, some of them Dutch supported, research programmes like NWO Urbanising Deltas of the World, and ongoing capacity development projects like Nuffic-NICHE). The training workshop aims to increase the knowledge about deltas worldwide and strongly supports inter-project learning and knowledge sharing. It is expected that several regional partners will be supported through this programme to participate in the training workshop.

*Box 1. Concept of the Regional Delta Planning and Management Training Workshops.*

In October 2012 the training workshop 'Challenges and Approaches in River Delta Planning: Sharing experiences from SE Asian Deltas and the Rhine-Meuse Delta' was held at the Centre of Water Management and Climate Change (WACC) at Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The training workshop was organized by UNESCO-IHE, Wageningen UR and Vietnam National University. In total 37 participants, many of them alumni from UNESCO-IHE and Wageningen UR were updated and shared experiences in different key areas of delta planning and management. According to the participants, the training workshop did live up to their expectations, in particular the south-south learning aspect was much appreciated. The participants strongly expressed their wish that this training workshop was to be repeated in the future in a different host country with different key delta issues. In a similar way we also received very positive responses from the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Hanoi, the Dutch experts involved in the Mekong Delta Plan and the Dutch business community. Based on these responses the idea came up to organise a yearly training workshop on 'delta planning and management', each year addressing different subjects.

The programme committee of the yearly delta planning and management training workshops:

- Ho Long Phi - Center for Water Management and Climate Change, Vietnam National University
- Malik Fida Abdullah Khan - CEGIS, Bangladesh
- Wim Douven - UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education
- Henk Wösten - Wageningen UR, the Netherlands

## **Outline 2014 Edition of the training workshop**

The training workshop offers a balanced combination of interactive lectures, case studies, field visit, and group assignments and discussions. The exchange of experiences between deltas will be facilitated through case study presentations and participant's discussions. To support and

encourage group interaction and creative thinking innovative learning methods, like brainstorm, group discussion, vision development, will be used during the training workshop. A fieldtrip to expose participants to practice on the ground will be an integral part of the training workshop.

The training workshop in Bangladesh is divided into four inter-related parts: 1) Delta challenges and approaches, 2) Delta themes (if needed in different parallel sessions), 3) Delta integration (with input of the Delta themes sessions) and 4) Closure including discussion on way forward. The four parts are further outlined below.

### **Part 1 'Challenges and approaches' (about 2 days)**

The training workshop will start with a small number of interactive presentations, the aim of which are to bring the group to a common level of understanding of the main issues and challenges of each of the three delta's and the planning approaches and methods applied. This will be contrasted with an overview of planning approaches and methods based on international experience, including subjects like:

- Delta planning challenges and overview of approaches and methods.
- Key elements of planning process; system and problem understanding, vision development, identification of scenarios, identification of delta planning strategies, evaluation and implementation.
- Planning and implementation phases and the use of knowledge, information and tools to facilitate these phases and e.g. to facilitate consent and prevent disagreements; e.g. the use of gaming.

This part will include presentations of local, regional, international Dutch case studies and projects to illustrate different approaches in delta planning based on examples and experiences.

### **Part 2 'Delta themes' (about 2 days)**

In the second part of the workshop a number of themes will be explored in greater detail. Some subjects for the 2013 Training Workshop could be:

- Delta dynamics, e.g. urbanisation, urban - rural interactions / changing livelihoods in deltas, soil subsidence in urban areas, scenario's on impacts and flood risks, changing balance between agriculture and aquaculture
- Innovative solutions, e.g. spatial planning and delta development, equitable and sustainable management of groundwater, salt tolerant agriculture, building with nature, sediment management

- Knowledge, information and tools to facilitate consent in strategic delta planning, e.g. participatory scenario development, incl. MOTA exercise developed by dr. Ho Long Phi of WACC, Vietnam

### **Part 3 'Delta integration' (about 1/2 day)**

In the third part of the training workshop experiences from the past days will be presented and cross-linkages between themes at the delta scale and possible issues between themes / stakeholder groups analysed. The results of the themes work will be presented to, and discussed with, a panel of experts and stakeholders.

### **Part 4 'Closure and way forward' (about 1/2 day)**

In this last part the need is explored to further support the Community of Practice for knowledge networking between participants, and between regional and international partners. This will be followed by the closing of the training workshop and handing over of the certificates.

## **Participants profile**

Mid to high level professionals from Asian deltas like the Mekong Delta (Vietnam), Ganges-Brahmaputra Delta (Bangladesh), Ayeyarwady Delta (Myanmar), and the Ciliwung Delta (Indonesia) who play / or will play key roles in delta planning. Participants will have broad backgrounds from civil engineering, water and land management, rural planning, urban and regional planning to water governance. In particular alumni of UNESCO-IHE, Wageningen UR and Technical University Delft who are currently working in the field of the training workshop subject are encouraged to apply for this training workshop.

It is expected that in total 30-35 participants will participate in the training workshop, with a good representation of the different Asian deltas, of government, private sector, academia and civil society. We will also encourage gender balance.

The selection process will be based on an evaluation of the application forms. Participants who can demonstrate a strong interest in, and need for, delta planning in their region will be selected. Female participants are strongly encouraged to apply.

## **Facilitators**

Overall facilitation of the training workshop will be UNESCO-IHE, CEGIS and Wageningen UR.

Guest facilitators and presenters from co-organisers, government, NGO's and private companies involved in delta planning and management will contribute to this training workshop.

## **Application and Registration**

Please find the application form for the training workshop next to this brochure. The deadline for submission of the application form is **15 August 2014**.

Candidates who submit applications will receive a confirmation of receipt. Soon after the submission deadline, the selection committee will evaluate all applications, and select the group of participants. Once this decision has been taken, all applicants will be informed of the outcome of the selection in the first week of September.

Training workshop fee, accommodation, insurance and a small daily allowance is provided by the organisers. Costs of visa and of travel to the workshop venue will have to be paid by participants themselves and / or from your on-going projects. In exceptional cases (partial) refunding of travel costs can be requested to the organisers.

Upon receipt of confirmation of attendance, further information will be provided regarding practical arrangements including visa and accommodation.

Applications are treated confidentially and will be considered in the order in which they are received.

## **Venue**

Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS), Dhaka, Bangladesh.

## **Language**

The training workshop's working language will be English.

**Preliminary programme Regional Training Workshop on Delta Planning and Management, 19-23 October, Bangladesh  
Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS)  
Gulshan-1, Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Time	SUNDAY 19 October 2014	MONDAY 20 October 2014	TUESDAY 21 October 2014	WEDNESDAY 22 October 2014	THURSDAY 23 October 2014
	Introduction, Issues, Challenges and Experience (Facilitation Malik Fida A Khan )	Delta Planning Approaches (Day facilitation Henk Wösten)	Delta Themes (Day facilitation Wim Douven)	Delta Themes, Field Trip (Day facilitation Ho Long Phi)	Delta Integration (Day facilitation <i>Participant</i> )
<b>09.30-10.00</b>	Registration	Recap previous day (participant)	Recap previous day (participant)	Recap previous day (participant)	Recap previous day (participant)
<b>10.00-11.00</b>	Welcoming Remarks by Malik Fida Abdullah Khan, Director, Climate Change Study Division, CEGIS  Speech on Introduction to workshop by Wim Douven, UNESCO-IHE  Speech by Chief Guest Dr. Zafar Ahmed Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Bangladesh  Speech by Chair Engr. Md. Waji Ullah, Executive Director, CEGIS  Exchange of Souvenirs	Key elements of Delta planning approaches  Methods of Delta planning approaches	Soil Subsidence in Urban Areas  Climate change impacts on Delta planning by Malik Fida Abdullah Khan	PPP in Delta planning  Salt-tolerant agriculture in Delta planning	Plenary feedback from delta themes
<b>11.00-11.30</b>	Coffee/tea time ----- Introduction of participants. Malik Fida Abdullah Khan , Wim Douven, Henk Wosten, Ho Long Phi	Tools and techniques used for Delta planning	Impacts of floods and disasters on Delta planning	Urban-rural interactions in delta planning	Discussion on outcomes and possible issues in Delta scale



<b>11.30-12.00</b>	Keynote on "Issues and challenges of Ganges-Brahmaputra Delta"	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>
<b>12.00-13.00</b>	Keynote Issues and challenges of Mekong Delta	Scenario development of Delta planning  Institutional and governance aspects of Delta planning	Changing balance between agriculture and aquaculture and its impact on Delta planning  Changing livelihoods in Deltas	Innovative solutions of Delta planning	Discussion on suggestions to address delta planning challenges
<b>13.00-13.30</b>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
<b>13.30-15.30</b>	Issues and challenges of Ciliwung  Issues and challenges of Ayeyarwady Delta  Issues and challenges of Netherlands Delta	Illustration of exercises on Delta planning	Spatial planning and delta development	Field trip (River Cruise on Buriganga/Padma Resort/ handicraft Village, Tangail/Panam nagar, Sonargaon)	Wrap-up and Closing  Wrap-up discussion  Discussion forum/community of practice for knowledge networking  Evaluation of training workshop
<b>15.30-16.00</b>	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>	<i>Break</i>		<i>Break</i>
<b>16.00-17.00</b>	Inter-comparison of Delta issues and challenges  Group activity	Illustration of exercises on Delta planning (Cont.) Introduction to Delta themes	Equitable and sustainable management of Groundwater in Delta planning  Significance of sediment management in Delta planning		Cultural event
<b>17.00-17.15</b>	Clarification and Discussion	Clarification and Discussion	Clarification and Discussion		-
<b>Evening</b>	Welcome Dinner	Free	Free	Dinner	Free

### UNESCO-IHE Global Partnership for Water Education and Research

The UNESCO-IHE Global Partnership for Water Education and Research is a global coalition of knowledge centers with the mission to build capacity for the sustainable management of water and environmental resources and delivery of water and sanitation services. The Partnership was founded in November 2002 with the signing of the Partnership Charter. In 2008, the Partnership counts 18 member institutions from 15 countries and over 40 affiliated MOU partners. The Partnership operates in the context of the UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education, as an important mechanism for the institute to fulfill its functions. Worldwide, the partners turn out 1,000 post graduate students in 45 master programs, 3,000 participants in short courses and reach over 500 decision makers through seminars and networks. Together the partners have an extensive portfolio of research projects and PhD degrees. The partners are actively involved in water sector related networks and provide professional services.

<http://www.unesco-ihe.org/Networks-Partnerships/UNESCO-IHE-Global-Partnership-for-Water-Education-and-Research>



### Delta Alliance

Delta Alliance is an international network devoted to finding successful responses to present and future challenges of delta-regions worldwide. Deltas belong to the most valuable but also to the most vulnerable areas in the world. With increasing pressure from population growth, industrialization, and changing climate, it is more important than ever that these regions increase their resilience to changing conditions. Delta Alliance brings people together who live and work in deltas. They can benefit from each other's experience and thereby contribute to an increased resilience of their delta region.

Delta Alliance consists currently of a network of 11 so-called Wings in the following Deltas: Mekong (Vietnam), Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (Bangladesh), Ciliwung and Mahakam (Indonesia), Yangtze (China), Pantanal (Brazil), Zambezi (Mozambique), Parana (Argentina), Rhine-Meuse (Netherlands), Nile (Egypt), San Joaquin and Sacramento (USA-California) and Mississippi (USA-Louisiana). Also other deltas have shown interest to join.

<http://www.delta-alliance.org/>