## #1 - Dynamics in actor coalitions in the development of the Bangladesh Delta Plan

MSc thesis topic

TU Delft in cooperation with IHE Delft & Wageningen UR.

# ****Context****

Strategic Delta Planning is a novel approach. In the NWO UDW research project ‘’Strengthening Strategic delta planning Processes in Bangladesh, the Netherlands, Vietnam and beyond’’ we aim to understand these planning processes and its outcomes. In our research approach, we combine perspectives on the role of innovations (new ideas, technologies), participatory planning tools and actor coalitions on these planning processes (see Seijger et al., 2017)[[1]](#footnote-1).

In the context of the project we have the possibility for an MSc student to work on the topic of actor coalitions in Bangladesh. The Bangladesh Delta Plan (BDP) has recently been approved, which provides an opportunity to reflect on the role of actors in shaping the outcomes of the agenda setting and plan formulation phase. Two members of our project team have already conducted fieldwork in Bangladesh; Shahnoor Hassan on the use of planning tools in the BDP and Chris Seijger on ‘Tidal river management’ as strategic innovation. Data collected can be used as starting point for this projects.

**Assignment**

* Identify important actor(coalitions) based on the field work data;
* Define knowledge gaps;
* Fieldwork trip in Bangladesh;
* Provide an analysis of the dynamics in actor coalitions in the development of the BDP

**Period**

4-6 months; starting asap.

**Benefits**

* Learning in an action research project with a dynamic project team
* Travel and cooperate with our partners from Bangladesh (travel and living costs covered)
* The project team is organizing a training workshop on ‘participatory planning tools’ in Dhaka, most probably will take place in the second quarter of 2018.

**More information and contact**

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Or on project website: [www.strategic-delta-planning.unesco-ihe.org](http://www.strategic-delta-planning.unesco-ihe.org)

## #2 - Assessment of participatory planning tools in context of strategic delta planning in Asia

Subject for an MSc research or practical study

IHE Delft in collaboration with Deltares

**Context**

A key element in strategic delta planning, which is a novel approach, is the use participatory planning tools. In the NWO UDW research project ‘’Strategic delta planning’’[[2]](#footnote-2) we want to better understand the role of these tools and use training workshops as an instrument for this. Tools are those developed, applied by our Dutch project partners PBL (DENVIS), Deltares (scenarios) and Bosch & Slabbers (design charrettes), but also the MOTA tool – tools for assessing motivation and ability relevant for implementation purposes - by partner WACC in Vietnam. An initial assessment framework in which tool designers and users evaluate the role of the tools was developed[[3]](#footnote-3). This framework was tested in a training workshop delivered in Vietnam.

In the context of the project we have the possibility to deliver a second training workshop, most probably in Bangladesh. This gives the opportunity to further improve, and work on the overall objective to better understand, tailor, the tools, and draw lessons learned for professionals involved in delta planning.

**Assignment**

1. Further update and develop the assessment framework, based on experiences of the first training workshop.
2. Apply the framework in the second training workshop in Bangladesh, observe and collect data, and report on the findings and provide recommendations for further improvement.
3. Help organise the training workshop.
4. Provide reflection on participatory planning tools. What do tool developers promise, but what do users think of the tool? Translate insights from training workshop and tool assessments back to lessons learned for improving participatory planning tools.

**Period**

4-6 months; starting asap. The training workshop will take place in the 2nd quarter of 2018.

**Benefits**

* Learning in an action research project, with a dynamic project team, including tool developers
* Participating In the training workshop in Bangladesh (travel and living costs covered)

**More information and contact**

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1. Seijger, C., Douven, W., Van Halsema, G., Hermans, L., Evers, J., Phi, H., . . . Ligtvoet, W. (2017). An analytical framework for strategic delta planning: negotiating consent for long-term sustainable delta development. *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management, 60*(8), 1485-1509. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Strategic-delta-planning.unesco-ihe.org [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. MSc internship report by Joeri van der Stroom from Wageningen University: Evaluating Participatory Planning Tools. Available upon request by Jaap Evers, Maaike van Aalst [↑](#footnote-ref-3)