

Newsletter of Strategic Delta Planning Project – 1 May 2018

NWO UDW meeting Dhaka We had a good NWO UDW programme meeting 21-23 January in Dhaka. The project was well represented with Fida Khan, Prof. Naveera, Shahnoor Hasan, Quan, Leon, Gerardo and Wim. Also Dillip Datta of Khulna University participated, with whom we collaborate on a tidal river management research project (tidal river management as a strategic choice), with CEGIS and Chris Seijger. During the meeting Quan very successfully pitched the MOTA concept and applications, also to policymakers. Quan received many positive responses, and the approach is clearly seen by many as one having strong societal relevance.

We also chaired a session about MDP implementation, lessons learned for Vietnam, as well as for other deltas. This resulted in interesting insights in and comparisons between the Dutch, Bangladesh and Vietnam delta planning contexts and processes. Shahnoor participated in another session on adaptive delta management. In addition, 4 posters were presented - about MOTA (Quan and Dorien), political agenda setting in the Mekong (Hoang), tidal river management BGD (Chris, Dillip, Fida), and transdisciplinary research (Chris, Wim). The posters can be found on <http://strategic-delta-planning.un-ihe.org/project-results>.



Update from PhDs and postdocs in addition to all writing efforts for the special issue, our researchers work on their next research steps.

Shahnoor is currently in Dhaka, working on her case analysis of policy transfer and uptake in the Bangladesh Delta Plan. Hoang is working on a paper that discusses Floating Rice as a Room for the River innovation in the Mekong Delta. Dorien is preparing for the MOTA workshop in Vietnam and will start a new case study on actor coalitions in Dutch strategic delta planning. Chris will disseminate findings on tidal river management in July with Fida Khan (CEGIS) and Dilip Datta from Khulna University, and he will start the synthesis article for the special issue.

Master students At present we have found 3 master students who like to explore aspects of strategic delta planning in their master thesis. We like to introduce them here, wish them good luck and look forward to their research findings!

- Gurvinder Arora, TU Delft, Use and difference between MOTA and Robust Decision-Making as analytical tool for implementation phase of strategic delta planning. A case study in Ben Tre, Mekong Delta.
- Aditya Saptadjaja, Wageningen University. Further development of an integrated tools assessment framework. The tool training workshop as case study.
- Juan David Patino Guerra, TU Delft, Policy transfer: problem and solution driven approaches. A study into policy transfer in delta planning, focus on Netherlands ↔ Dhaka ↔ Khulna area.



Juan in Khulna with Prof. Dilip Data



Tidal river management canal, Pakhimara Beel. Photo by Juan.

Tool workshop Khulna is scheduled for 8-12 July. After a successful workshop last year in the Mekong Delta, the participants will now learn to apply a suit of planning tools on the south-west of Bangladesh. The main objectives are to 1) Make participants aware and enhance their capacities on participatory planning tools, including MOTA, reflect on use and role tools, applicability, cultural differences; 2) Trigger amongst participants a wider discussion on strategic delta planning (topic of our project), and experiences, lessons learned; 3) Provide input to tool developers / appliers for better tailoring these tools in practise, also in learning situations, including a further development of an integrated assessment framework; 4) For part of the participants, a training-of-trainers course, for delivering these types of workshops on participatory planning tools and delta planning in the future. In addition to the Khulna sessions, a

Dhaka reporting event will be organised to brief those interested on outcomes and possibilities for future training and projects. The workshop is a close collaboration between CEGIS, Khulna University, Bosch+Slabbers, PBL, Deltares, WACC, and IHE Delft, and is organised together with the Delta Cap project on strengthening capacities for implementation of BDP.

Extension of our project We currently discuss the opportunities with NWO to extend the project so that we have extra time to organise events related to dissemination and knowledge uptake. Bearing in mind the budgeting rules of NWO, we most likely have opportunities for extra activities in Bangladesh and Vietnam with our local project partners (IUCN, WACC, CEGIS, Khulna University) until end of 2019. A final project meeting/workshop is scheduled for end of 2018 or start of 2019

Special Issue Many of you have submitted, or participated in the creation of, an article for the strategic delta planning issue. We look forward to a good and constructive review process, and keep all our fingers crossed that everything gets accepted for publication. The manuscripts provide planning insights on deltas as diverse as the California Delta, the Po Delta in Italy, “our three deltas” and the city of Jakarta. Theoretical lenses range from participatory planning tools, policy transfer, agenda setting, to MOTA and Hourglass framework. For those of you who experienced a challenging writing process, we would like to cheer you up! You are in good company, as even **Ernest Hemingway**, one of the great writers of the 20th century, was daily in the troublesome business of writing “**There is nothing to writing. All you do is sit down at a typewriter and bleed**”. Good luck to all co-authors in the review process!



MOTA Workshop On 21-22 May 2018, a training workshop will be held on MOTA in the context of strategic delta planning for the Mekong Delta. The workshop addresses different applications of MOTA for project and strategic level, future applications, and the participants will apply the MOTA framework themselves to a local case study. Invited participants are active in strategic planning and policy for agriculture, rural development, environment and water resources. The workshop is organised by WACC (Quan, Ho Long Phi) IUCN (Andrew Wyatt) and TU Delft (Dorien Korbee).

How is Bosch+Slabbers using insights from our project?

Bosch+Slabbers, a Dutch Landscape Architect firm is with us from the project start, and is especially concerned with the application and adjustments of design tools in strategic delta planning. **Clim Sorée, B+S Landscape architect**, shares the lessons he has learned. "Working in a **charrette** as a strategic delta planning tool **in Vietnam has shown us some interesting insights**. When you use strategic delta planning as a top-down approach it works on a more larger scale. Therefore, you also need a vision on the area. **This vision can be created in a charrette or can already be active and used as input for a charrette.**"

"While working in a participatory way, you work from large scale to small scale, from vision, to strategy to implementation to awareness. The input in the process is also downscaled from top-down to middle-down/middle-up to bottom-up. In the workshop, participatory strategic delta planning has shown its value when discussing issues between several different governmental actors, engineers and professionals. The real challenge is **how to get the plans and visions**, developed on the high scale levels can be **implemented in the actual situation**. **For this you need enforcement, local knowledge, public awareness and the plan needs to be kept alive and working**. It is really interesting how this step can become part of these planning tools."

"We **learned that when creating awareness, success stories are very important**. Through success stories you can show the people that there are solutions that work. You need to create the right attitude and make sure that the plan is kept in use. You need to create awareness on all levels of the people involved, this is needed to get the output of the charrette implemented. Use of local knowledge and active ambassadors of the plan can ensure that the plan is being implemented. Not only at the start of the project, but also during the whole time of the project and afterwards."



Clim Sorée in action during the training workshop "Participatory Planning Tools for Strategic Delta Planning & Management" 17-21 October, Ho Chi Minh City.