

International Advisory Committee

The conference is being organised in response to requests from a number of leading international institutions who see the need for an event such as Aquaterra. An Advisory Committee has been formed to actively assist the organisers. This will be chaired by Dr Gaele Rodenhuis who has worked as a science and technology expert for delta and coastal development in an international career spanning over 30 years.

The members of the International Advisory Committee are:

Ir. L. Bijlsma	Waterdienst, Verkeer en Waterstaat
MD. E.H. Dykstra	International Emergency Management Institute for Crisis, Disaster and Risk Management (ICDRM) Washington University
Ir. P.T.M. Dircke	Arcadis
Prof. R.A. Falconer	Cardiff School of Engineering
Dr. C.D. George	IAHR
Prof. P. Goodwin	Center for Ecohydraulics Research, Idaho Water Center
Mr. H. Hasselaar	Habiforum
Drs. (MSc) DJ. Kevelam	DHV Water BV
P.H. van der Kolk	Fugro Ingenieursbureau
MSc (C.E.) M. Lindo	Van Oord NV
MSc (C.E.) H. Postma	Royal Bos Kalis NV
Dr. Ir. I. Van der Putte	RPS groep
Dr. Ir. G. Rodenhuis (chair)	GSR Consult
Ir. H.M.C. Satijn	Leven met Water
Ir. H.P.J. van Schaik	Co-operative programme on Water and Climate
Drs. J.J. van der Sommen	NWP
R.I.F. Thiemann	Deltares
Dr. C.J. Vorosmarty	Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space at the University of New Hampshire
Prof. drs. Ir. J.K. Vrijling	TU Delft
M. Arch. J.D. Waggoner	Waggoner and Ball Architects
Prof. Dr. Ir. C. Zevenbergen	Dura Vermeer
Ir. R.O.T. Zijlstra	Royal Haskoning

Themes

As an international platform for current issues, Aquaterra 2009 has five main themes:

- Urban development
- Managing natural systems
- Climate change proofing
- Risk management
- Innovative delta projects

Cases

A crucial part of the forum is to highlight the practises. Which delta issues are most prominent where? How are they approached? Which innovative techniques and methods have proven successful? At Aquaterra 2009, the focus will be on the following deltas:

Asia

- Yellow River Delta, Tainjin Shi (China)
- Yangtze River Delta, Shanghai (China)
- Ciliwung Delta, Djakarta (Indonesia)
- Mekong Delta, Ho Chi Minh (Vietnam)
- Kanto Bay Delta, Tokyo (Japan)
- Red River Delta, Hanoi (Vietnam)
- Ganges Delta, Calcutta (India)

USA

- Mississippi, New Orleans (USA)
- California Bay Delta, Sacramento (USA)
- Hudson Bay Delta, New York (USA)
- National Parc Everglades, Miami (USA)

Europe

- Danube Delta, Sulina (Romania)
- Rhine Delta, Rotterdam (Netherlands)
- Thames River Delta, London (UK)
- Elbe River Delta, Hamburg (Germany)
- Volga Delta, Moscow (Russia)

Africa

- Nile Delta, Alexandria (Egypt)
- Niger Delta, Lagos (Nigeria)

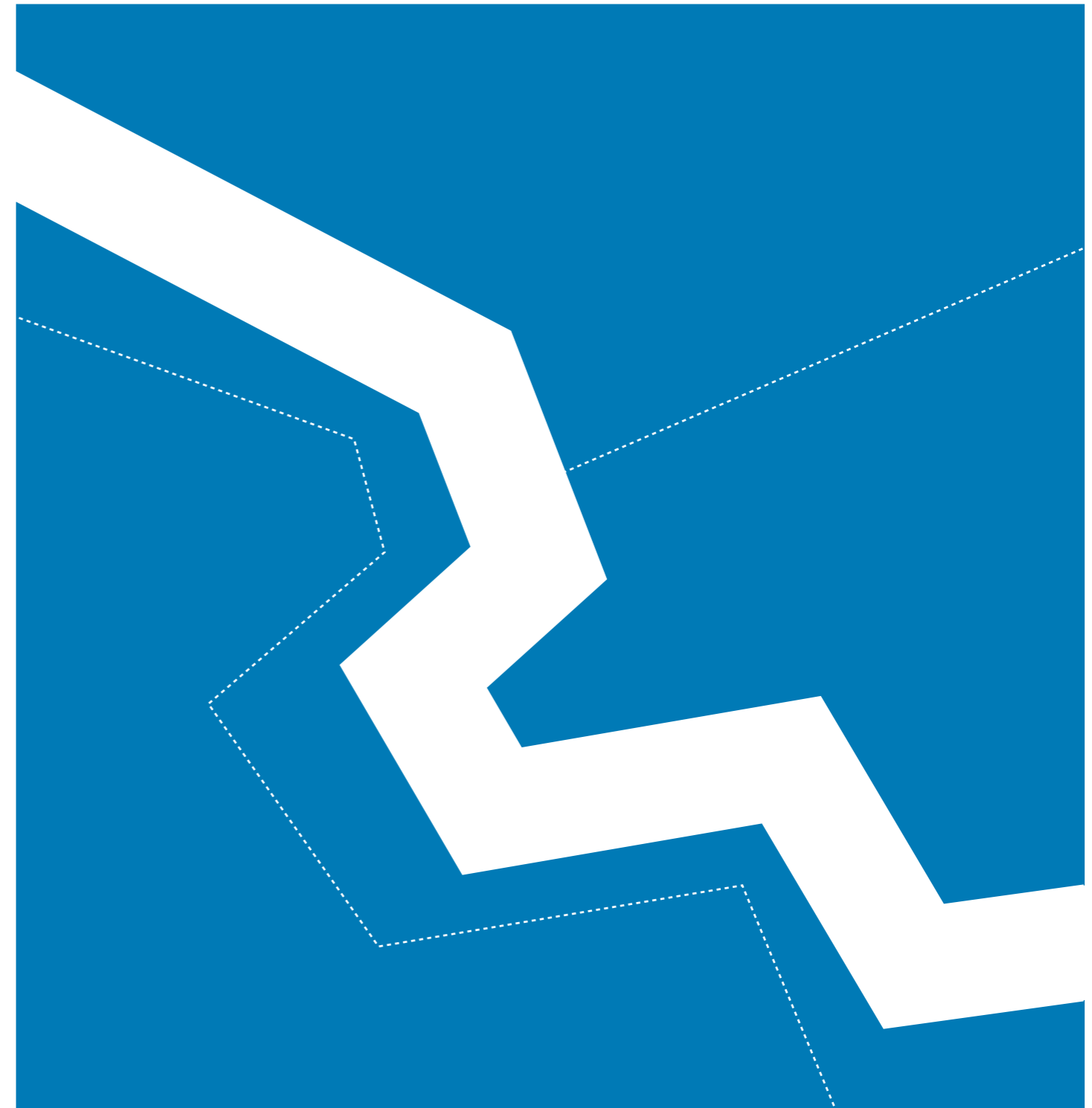
Topics

By combining high-quality knowledge exchange with attractive examples of applications from within the international profession, Aquaterra provides a forum that includes all aspects of current management and development of deltas and coasts

- hydraulic engineering
- land reclamation
- water quantity management
- water quality management
- soil management
- ground water management
- delta technology
- financing
- risk management
- public-private cooperation

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10-12 | 02 | 2009
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Second World Forum on Delta & Coastal Development



aquaterra

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Finding the right balance

Fertile landscapes develop where water and land meet. From time immemorial, delta and coastal areas have been hugely attractive to people. The synergy between rivers, seas and productive land offers the best conditions for large-scale food production, booming trade and cultural cross-fertilisation. In other words: Water and land – aqua plus terra – generate wealth and well-being. This means that the global population prefers to settle on a relatively small part of the earth's surface. As a result, there is a lot of pressure on living space and a life close to water often carries risks. As the equilibrium between environmental resilience and human activity threatens to spill over, the question is: How do we maintain the balance?

Delta living

With the trend to move to delta and coastal areas remaining as strong as ever, over half of the world's people currently work and live in these regions. With a staggering 80 percent of humanity expected to reside in urbanised areas by and around seas and large rivers within the next few decades, the pressure on living space and environment can only increase. To ensure that delta life is productive, safe and sustainable requires finding a balance between (economic) development and conservation, while providing good living conditions for people and preserving the environment. All of this has to be achieved within the parameters of a changing climate.

Balancing people, planet and profit

People

There is precious little room in densely populated areas. All available space is used for housing, business, agriculture, traffic and transport, industry, recreation, fishing, extracting raw materials and minerals, energy production, and so on. Each of these activities takes its toll on the everyday surroundings and in due course the ecosystem becomes disrupted. A balance needs to be found in the sustainable use of raw materials and water supplies, while the greatest demand is for inexpensive, directly applicable solutions.

Planet

Time and again we see how vulnerable life in delta and coastal areas can be. In addition to floods, these areas are susceptible to droughts, shortages of ground water, soil subsidence, salinisation and pollution. Safety for humans and the preservation of their activities has priority. This safety

should be sought in a combination of stringent and mild measures. Innovative delta technology provides a range of applications that ensure protection while giving concrete form to the concept of sustainable development.

Profit

The pursuit of wealth and well-being makes utilising the economic potential of delta and coastal areas necessary. From harbour development to water-bound recreation, business activities in all their myriad forms demand space, infrastructure and support facilities and services. Transport plays a crucial part in deltas as the economic function depends on being able to move people and goods to and from the hinterland via road, water and air. Various projects show the economic results of land reclamation, coastal expansion and the potential of providing space for new applications in delta and coastal areas.

Showcasing, matchmaking, facilitating

Aquaterra 2009 provides the following opportunities for delta professionals:

- Presenting and sharing knowledge and experience (technologies, alliances, projects)
- Meeting and developing collaborations with potential partners
- Bridging the gap between sectors and finding mutual interests

Deltavision: Integrated approach

Humankind has traditionally shaped its surroundings to meet its requirements. Taking these needs as the starting point, the inclination has been to react to problems by using short-term solutions based on a one-sided perspective. Today, people are recognising that such solutions are rarely sustainable. Combined with our knowledge of climate change and the possibilities and limitations of advanced technology, this has resulted in a changing viewpoint on how to deal with delta areas. There is an increased focus on the vulnerability of the environment and people are slowly realising that the management and development of densely populated, dynamic delta and coastal areas will only benefit from an integrated approach: One that takes into account physical, social and economic factors.

Sustainable developments

As our approach shifts from short-term solutions to sustainability, from reacting to anticipating, the question arises as to how we balance or keep balancing the quality of delta life with the risks that accompany living in these areas. Although there is no blueprint for a sustainable delta, it is possible to provide a clear overview of the challenges, opportunities and threats faced by densely populated coastal and delta areas worldwide. By analysing and considering these mutually related aspects, we will gain an idea of the measures required for sustainable development.

Only through sustainable development can the long term economic value of the delta be maintained or increased. This is why so much emphasis is placed on the synergy between economic interests and environmental resilience. Stakeholders the world over are working together to design related measures. Experiences with specific issues and successful applications in one area can be highly educational when tackling similar issues in other areas. By sharing best practices and expertise, delta dilemmas are dealt with in a result-oriented way.

AQUATERRA

The 'delta issue' and related issues and subjects are the focus of Aquaterra 2009, the World Forum on Delta and Coastal Development. From February 10 to 12, 2009, Aquaterra will be the meeting place of choice for everyone involved with the management and development of delta and coastal areas around the world. Governments, businesses, scientists and NGOs will come together to create solutions, ideas and visions for the future. Aquaterra will provide many opportunities for policymakers, scientists, water management professionals, ecologists, technologists, engineering consultants, investment bankers, ICT professionals and other delta professionals to:

- Present and share knowledge and experience (technologies, alliances, projects)
- Meet and develop collaborations with potential partners
- Bridge the gap between sectors and find mutual interests
- Exhibit products and services
- Develop visions on the integrated development of delta and coastal areas.

Starting points

Delta issues come in all shapes and sizes. Each area has unique characteristics and features and is part of a complex environmental and social environment. Nevertheless, the world's densely populated delta and coastal areas are subject to similar problems and trends. Customising applications in situ is crucial, but these can be founded on more general issues and starting points. The Aquaterra programme will focus on a number of current topics.

Programme

Aquaterra is a three-day forum including a conference and an exhibition. The exhibition offers space for suppliers of relevant products and services. The conference includes stimulating presentations by keynote speakers and substantive workshops covering various aspects of the delta issue.

