

Short Report on the Delta Alliance (DA) mission to Egypt, 29-30 November 2010

Objective of the visit

Following-up on the Egyptian interest to join the Delta Alliance.

This interest was expressed at various occasions earlier and confirmed by the signing of the DA Declaration by Dr. Hussein El Atfy, Deputy Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, during the DA launching session on 30 Sep 2010 in Rotterdam.

Executive Summary

- The Delta Alliance is perceived as a very good idea by all persons and institutions met in Egypt. Egypt has shown good interest in the Delta Alliance, its status, developments up to now, and future aims
- Egypt has taken note of the fact that DA is in the process of establishing sustainable working mechanisms (for the foundation itself and for the “wings” to be developed in partner Deltas)
- Egypt, through leadership of the NWRC (National Water Research Centre) will develop the set-up of the Egyptian wing of the DA
- Egypt has presented, from all visited institutions, a wide variety of issues that it deems suitable for dealing with in the context of DA

Programme of the visit

The programme of the visit is in the appendix.

This report

This short report only mentions the meetings and bulleted lists of issues discussed, not full minutes.

Meeting at NWRC

Participants:

- Dr. Shaden Abdel Gawad, President NWRC
- Ir. Wim van Driel, Delta Alliance program manager
- Dr. Moh Fawzy, Deputy Chair of NWRC
- Dr. Samia El Guindy, Director APP Central Office
- Dr. Magdy Salah El Deen, Ass. Director APP Central Office
- Dr. Wouter Wolters, APP Supporting Office
- Dr. Ahmed Khater, NWRC Advisor
- Dr. Nahla Abdel Fotouh, Director Water Management Research Centre
- Dr. Medhat Aziz, Director Nile Research Institute
- Dr. Ala'a Abdin, Director Strategic Research Unit
- Dr. Ala'a Abdel Motaleb, Director Drainage Research Institute
- Dr. Akram El Ganzouri, Director Environment and Climate Research Institute
- Dr. Nahed El Arabawy, Director Groundwater Research Institute
- Dr. Ibrahi El Shinnawy, Director Coastal Research Institute

Items and issues dealt with:

- A presentations was given by Dr. Shaden about NWRC
- A presentations was given by Wim van Driel about the DA

- DA is about knowledge for impact, science for impact
- DA originates from the NL “knowledge for climate” programme (running into 2014)
- First activity is the current preparation of a “Comparative Overview of Deltas”, in which about 10 deltas participate, including Egypt
- The DA is perceived as a very good idea by all Institutes present in the meeting.
- The difference between Water Mondiaal (WM) and DA was explained:
 - Water Mondiaal is an NL government programme, with cooperation foreseen in 5 deltas, on basically three levels: G2G, K2K, and B2B.
 - DA originates from the NL knowledge institutions, dealing mostly with “knowledge for impact” and is not limited to 5 deltas. Currently about 11 deltas are member or are almost member and more deltas are expected to join...
 - DA may be asked by WM to be closely associated with the K2K agenda’s in the 5 “WM deltas”.
 - DA is a network and should run as an independent foundation, to be sustainable after the completion of the NL “Knowledge for Climate” programme (2014).
- The Coastal Research Institute organised the 1st International Workshop on Coastal Zone Management in March 2010 and plans to have another Conference in 2013. This could be made an event in cooperation with the DA, to increase impact and outreach.
- DA is exploring the possibility to make 2011/ 2012 an “International Year of the Delta”.
- The Egypt programme will not only include challenges, it will also include experiences. Egypt has a tremendous width of knowledge and experiences, and likewise, Indonesia is known for its industrial pollution management programme.
- Institutions to join the Egypt DA wing focus institution NWRC include possibly the Agricultural Research Institute (ARC, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation, MALR) and the Egyptian Environment Affairs Agency (EEAA, the executive wing of the Egyptian Ministry of State for Environmental Affairs). Possibly Universities and NGO’s could also be included (in a later stage?).
- DA organised “scoping workshops” in Vietnam and Indonesia.
- All participants of the meeting were requested to submit “project ideas” that will be inserted in the “project ideas matrix” to establish the most prominent issues in all the participating deltas.
- Issues:
 - Sea currents and sea wave patterns cause problems of erosion and accretion
 - The Eastern part of the Delta suffers from land subsidence
 - Salt water intrusion and soil salinity cause problems, also with a socio-economic dimension
 - There is no Coastal Zone Management Plan/ Shore Line Protection Plan
 - Biodiversity in the coastal lakes and lagoons is under heavy pressure
 - The current and fragmented institutional and legal framework for coastal management and protection (who is responsible and accountable for what and why?) is not capable of dealing with the contemporary situation
 - There should be an assessment of the risk for people and the environment in the deltas and coast regarding climate change
 - A “safe shoreline” concept might guide investments in the coastal areas (“what is left to the sea and what is kept for the people”).

- There is a need for a new water planning study based on the scenarios developed for water availability in the future (expected cropping patterns and (changing!) crop water requirements vs. expected (changing!) water availability)
- Developments in the entire delta are important and should be viewed in an integrated way, taking into account water pollution, possibilities for re-use of water, developments in irrigation improvement (IIIMP), developments in treatment (ISSIP), developments in On-farm water management (OFIDO), etc. etc.
- Monitoring of salt intrusion, salt/ fresh groundwater interface, groundwater pollution is very important. Drinking water from groundwater?
- The Egypt DA wing might look into the
 - State of the Art
 - Its mandate
 - Priority problems
 - Main issues/ challenges
 - Experiences with solutions
 - Productivity of the Delta
 - Improving quality of life,
 - ...
 - A vulnerability analysis might show how all issues interrelate, taking into account the socio-economic conditions (Deltas is people)
- Delta resilience is interdisciplinary and has two sides: mitigation & adaptation.

Meeting at EKN

The meeting at the Embassy of the Kingdom of The Netherlands (EKN) was in two parts:

1. General, about DA
2. Possible EU support for NWRC/ Egypt DA wing to create possibilities for implementation of priority issues.

Participants:

- Dr. Tarek Morad, Dep. Head Economic and Development Cooperation Section, EKN
- Ir. Wim van Driel, DA program manager
- Dr. Wouter Wolters, APP supporting Office
- Dr. Ahmed Badr (part 2), EC delegation to Egypt, Utilities and Economic Development Specialist

Items and issues dealt with:

- Part 1.
- DA is developing in a dynamic environment in Egypt:
 - Political changes are ongoing for quite some time already in the E-NL relationship; issue of “broadening” the relationship; “public diplomacy hub”; Egypt facility installed (including e.g. a WUR-CDI scoping exercise); short visits of NUFFIC-NICHE; WM; Logo South project; etc. etc.

- NL is raising expectations and is phasing out at the same time, while Germany e.g. is suddenly stepping in with additional funding on top of what was agreed earlier. NL involvement certainly has “value for money”, but it is competing with “soft circumstances”.
- NL currently not yet so much recognised as “technical agency”, but as “donor”. A permanent “face” in Egypt may be required for WM to succeed.
- There are major programmes under implementation in Egypt now and e.g. the MALR has programmes to improve orchards, land consolidation, credit programmes for poor farmers, etc.).
- The Delta is urbanising in a huge rate (about 40-50.000 feddan is “lost” every year. After decades, there may not be much “Delta” left.
- Part 2.
- Following all correspondence, Dr. Badr may have found a possibility to enable Egypt to tackle its priority issues and challenges in water supported by EU funding (possibly with assistance of the DA, that includes Deltares, IHE-UNESCO, Alterra, etc.).
- Details will be worked out independently between EU and NWRC, keeping EKN in the loop.

Meeting at Piramisa

Participants:

- Dr. Mohamed Bayoumi, Environment Specialist, Assistant Resident Representative, UNDP
- Ir. Wim van Driel, DA program manager
- Dr. Wouter Wolters, APP supporting Office

Items and issues dealt with:

- The UNDP has assisted Egypt with the First and Second National Communications to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- One of the issues is the UNDP question to the Coastal Research Institute: what is the present sea-defenses fail?
- The link of DA with WM was explained.
- The Global Adaptation Fund (through GEF) can only fund concrete ideas to be implemented. Studies do not fit.
- UNDP has done a lot on Lake Manzala, Lake Burullus. In their original state, these lakes were part of the sea defense. At present, there is no real owner of the lakes.
- There is a GEF project that might be able to help in the legal issues. Is it Shore Protection Authority (SPA) mandate?
- MWRI can also pay towards Shore Line Protection
- There is a UNDP/ EU cooperation on the Rashid Wall, a joint assessment for remedial measures.
- DA will send the report on the “Socio-economic cost of climate change adaptation” to Dr. Bayoumi. It was a WB study in a number of countries (Egypt included?) that was presented in Copenhagen during the COP 15.

Meeting at MWRI

Participants:

- Dr. Tarek Kotb, Director Project Management Unit (PMU) of the Integrated Irrigation Improvement and Management Project (IIIMP).
- Ir. Wim van Driel, DA program manager
- Dr. Wouter Wolters, APP supporting Office

Items and issues dealt with:

- DA is knowledge driven, but not knowledge only
- The implementing agencies in Egypt (like the Irrigation Improvement Sector (IIS) of MWRI, which now has 72 engineers) are getting stronger and it seems that the research institutes have isolated themselves somewhat, restricting themselves to pilots, studies, etc.
- There are major programmes under implementation in Egypt now and coordination between those is not fully developed yet. Just to name a few (under different Ministries):
 - Integrated Irrigation Improvement and Management Project (IIIMP), of US\$ 300 M, working in about 10% of the Delta. It is under MWRI and improves e.g. 78 + 63 km of canals, but also works in land-levelling, improvements at farm level, etc. It converts e.g. the Irrigation Districts into Integrated Water Management Districts, with one window for all services. The PMU works with the IIS, the Egyptian Public Authority for Drainage Projects (EPADP), Irrigation Advisory Services (IAS), Horizontal Expansion Sector (HES), Planning Sector (PS), and MALR, for the on-farm improvements (OFIDO)
 - Integrated Sanitation and Sewerage Infrastructure Project (ISSIP), of US\$ 201.5 M. The ISSIP (under the Holding Company for Water and Wastewater (HCWW)) is the “un-official brother” of IIIMP
 - On-Farm Irrigation Development Project in the Oldlands (OFIDO, of US\$ 69.4 M, as part of a much larger package). Under MALR.
- The IIIMP joins forces with OFIDO to assess e.g. the required improvements in Upper Egypt, while taking care of the sometimes very “local ways” of water distribution.
- Initially 5 canals were selected (3 Delta, 1 Middle Egypt, 1 Upper Egypt, but finally two were chosen, in the Delta, because the problems were suffering most from water shortage, etc. Problems faced (apart from water shortage) are pollution, solid waste, etc. The water delivery system needs rehabilitation, but there is not enough money available to deal with this at present.
- IIIMP is also switching from diesel fuel for pumping to electricity.
- IIIMP sees a link with DA objectives, it has an M&E unit working on
 - Productivity of water
 - Productivity of land
 - Conflicts between users
 - Additional income due to improvements,
 - Etc.
- DA sees a link with IIIMP in 2 ways:
 - The NL wing of DA can provide cooperation in the form of consultants and possibly private sector inputs

- There could be comparative studies with countries working on similar programmes, as e.g. Vietnam and Bangladesh.
- IIIMP has a demonstration area (“W10”). There is also experience with initial resistance of farmers, etc.
- Bangladesh is struggling for the last 10 years with farmer’s participation. There is recognition now that farmers need to do some work, but also the government institutions should improve, to give farmer’s participation a chance.

Meeting at APP

Participants:

- Ir. Wim van Driel, Delta Alliance program manager
- Dr. Samia El Guindy, Director APP Central Office
- Dr. Magdy Salah El Deen, Ass. Director APP Central Office
- Dr. Wouter Wolters, APP Supporting Office

Items and issues dealt with:

- General matters concerning DA, APP, and the long-term cooperation between the institutions making up the Netherlands DA wing and Egypt.
- The achievements and impacts of this cooperation, the library of reports, Workshop Proceedings, Panel Meeting Minutes, and experiences of the long-term cooperation, including e.g. the biological weed cleaning introduced by the Netherlands in the late 1970s and early 1980s of the last century
- Visit to the delta breeding station for biological weed cleaning at the Delta barrages. The station is running sustainably and independently for the last decades, producing grass carp for channel maintenance and providing information to many Nile riparian countries, etc.

Meeting at AERI

Participants:

- Dr. Abdel Ghani El Gindy, On-Farm irrigation Advisor to MALR.
- Dr. Hassan El Banna Osman, Director Agricultural Engineering Research Institute (AERI)
- DACOM agent in Egypt
- Ir. Wim van Driel, DA program manager
- Dr. Wouter Wolters, APP supporting Office

Items and issues dealt with:

- The Agricultural Research Centre (ARC) of the MALR counts 16 research institutes (as AERI) and 11 laboratories (including one on climate change)
- Wim van Driel explained about DA
- The MALR has a multitude of (big) projects to solve the on-farm irrigation problems of Egypt. Climate change will have impacts on the crops, the water requirements, etc.
- Climate change also plays a big role in the Agricultural Development Strategy of Egypt for the period 2010-2030.

- In the Nile research project 200 climate stations are implemented, for weather forecasting and water management.
- The National On-Farm Project, “OFIDO”, the On-Farm Irrigation Development Project in the Oldlands, will introduce good management, new varieties, and offer a complete package.
- There is also a new project: the Integrated Cotton Management project (sponsored by DACOM and John Deere) and an Integrated Maize project is in the making.
- The expected saving of 13.5 BCM of water is calculated from the expected increase in field application efficiency from 50% to 80%, from reducing the area of rice and sugarcane, etc. The Action Plan for 2010-2017 has all details of the 25 national programmes (of which OFIDO is only one). These 25 programmes also have sub-programmes. By law, field application of water should be with pressurised systems in the new lands.
- DA sees a link with MALR in 2 ways:
 - The NL wing of DA can provide cooperation in the form of consultants and possibly private sector inputs
 - There could be comparative studies with countries working on similar programmes, as e.g. Vietnam and Indonesia.

Meeting at MWRI

Participants:

- Dr. Hussein El Atfy, Deputy Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, Head of the Irrigation Department
- Ir. Wim van Driel, DA program manager
- Dr. Wouter Wolters, APP supporting Office

Items and issues dealt with:

- “Debriefing and wrap-up” of the DA mission, which had proceeded very satisfactorily, meeting all relevant main parties.
- Wim van Driel expressed appreciation for the kind efforts of APP in the smooth organisation of the (short) visit. As well, all institutions that were visited have cooperated to the full.
- The NWRC will take the initiative to act as focal point for the Egypt DA wing.
- Dr. Hussein repeated his request for the Panel to continue

Appendix. Programme of the DA mission to Egypt

Monday November 29	
10:00-13:00	<p>at NWRC, Delta Alliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:00 Opening by Dr. Shaden • 10:10 Agreement on meeting programme. • 10:15 Presentation of Ir. Wim van Driel: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Delta Alliance general (incl launch in Rotterdam) ○ desired future status ○ present status and possible issues for joint activities, both bi-lateral and multi-lateral (i.e. with other DA member countries) ○ how to undertake joint projects within Delta Alliance funding possibilities as well as other possibilities ○ etc. • 10:40 Question and answer session with all participants ("joint brainstorming"), both on content and the Egyptian Delta wing establishment • 12:45 Closure of the meeting; agreement on activities to be undertaken by the partners
15:00-16:00	at EKN (Embassy of the Kingdom of The Netherlands). Dr. Tarek Morad
16:00-17:00	at EKN, Dr. Tarek Morad and Dr. Ahmed Badr (EU)
19:00-20:00	at Piramisa Hotel, Dr. Moh Bayoumi, UNDP
Tuesday 30 November	
09:00-10:00	at MWRI, with Dr. Tarek Kotb, Director of the IIIMP (Integrated Irrigation Improvement and management project (see attached outline for an idea of the project)
11:00-12:30	At APP Central Office, with APP, on visit outcome so far and possible follow-up actions. Visit of the premises of the NWRC/ MWRI Delta Breeding station for biological weed control, Qanater.
13:30-14:30	at AERI (Agricultural Engineering Research Institute) of MALR, with Dr. Abdel Ghany El Guindy (advisor) and Dr. Hassan El Banna Osman (Director AERI). (Nadi El -Said St. Dokki – Giza)
15:30-15:45	Debriefing with Dr. Hussein El Atfy, Deputy Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation