

## PL The Benefit of International Delta Cooperation - Launch of the Delta Alliance

<b>Master of Ceremony</b>	Tracy Metz, Editor at NRC Handelsblad and former member of the Delta Commission, the Netherlands
<b>Speakers</b>	<p>Towards international cooperation in adaptation to climate change</p> <p>Tineke Huizinga, Dutch Minister of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment, the Netherlands</p> <p>Delta Alliance: the creation of a global knowledge network</p> <p>Kees Slingerland, Chairman of the Delta Alliance, the Netherlands</p> <p>A shared mission: cooperating for resilient deltas worldwide</p> <p>Interactive session with high-level representatives a.o. Fauzi Bowo (Governor Jakarta, Indonesia), dr. Nguyen Thai Lai (Vice Minister, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment), Vietnam, dr. Wenwei Ren (WWF China)</p> <p>New inspiration for adapting deltas to climate change: presenting the winners of the DeltaCompetition 2010</p> <p>Prof.dr. Cees Veerman, former Chair of the Delta Commission and former Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality, the Netherlands</p>
<b>Signing of the Delta Alliance Declaration</b>	To be signed by representatives from Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, the Netherlands, USA, Vietnam and members of the audience

On September 30, 2010 Delta Alliance was officially launched during the conference 'Deltas in Times of Climate Change'. Ms. Tineke Huizinga, the Dutch Minister of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment kicked-off the launch. She talked about the importance of international cooperation in adaptation to climate change, stating that "international cooperation, sharing knowledge, and exchanging ideas about water management and policy are vital for peace, security, and prosperity in our deltas."

Subsequently Mr. Kees Slingerland, chairman of Delta Alliance, introduced Delta Alliance to the conference participants by explaining its mission, objectives and activities. He illustrated his presentation from personal experiences with examples of challenges deltas are currently facing.

Then, Governor Fauzi Bowo of Jakarta, Deputy Minister Hussein El Atfy of Egypt, prof. Le Quang Minh of Vietnam National University, Dr. Wenwei Ren of WWF China, and Mr. Will Travis of the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission discussed in a panel session chaired by Ms. Tracy Metz, member of the former Dutch delta Committee, the challenges and opportunities for "their" deltas and how they may learn from one another. Mr. Fauzi Bowo talked for example about adaptive measures which have been taken and continue to be taken to anticipate climate change, specifically on the problem of urban flooding.

Subsequently, the three winning teams of the DeltaCompetition2010 'Delta City of the Future' were presented by prof.dr. Cees Veerman, former chair of the Delta Committee. Students from Indonesia and the USA won 3000 USD and a trip to Rotterdam to present their ideas on how urbanized deltas can respond to climate change.

Finally, the official launch of Delta Alliance took place by Ms. Huizinga and the five panel members signing the Delta Alliance Declaration, a statement on the value of the world's deltas and the importance of international cooperation for improving their resilience. Conference participants were invited to sign the declaration during the reception following the ceremony.