

## **Session DP GV 3.1: Dealing with uncertainties in planning. From concepts to tools and the needs for capacity building**

**Date and Time of Session: Wednesday, 29 September 2010, 14.00-15.45**

### **Short description of the session topic and the objective of the session:**

Climate change adds on top of population growth and economic development another driver of change onto water and land and energy management and operations. Each of these drivers carries a measure of uncertainty. Dealing with these uncertainties in a robust and responsible manner requires open and transparent planning and decision making process, both top down (information driven) and bottom up (socio-economically acceptable)

### **Session Agenda and Main Speakers**

#### Session chairs

- Karin Roelofs, Directorate General International Corporation.
- Joost Buntsma, Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Watermanagement.

#### Main speakers

- Dr. Jeroen van der Sluijs, Copernicus Institute, University of Utrecht, the Netherlands.
- Aalt Leusink, Loasys, Wageningen UR, the Netherlands.
- Dr. Janette Bessembinder, Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute, the Netherlands.
- Rob Verheem, MER Commission, the Netherlands.
- Francesca Bernardini, UN ECE Switzerland.
- Pieter van Eijk, Wetlands International, the Netherlands.

### **Most exciting insight, moment or outcome**

Dealing with uncertainty is something we can not avoid. And there are different tools to deal with this uncertainty.

This session presented a different kind of tools to cope with uncertainty. In this methods both information, methods, measurement tools for decision-making are being involved. The good news is: it has already been tested and we are working with it.

Crucial in dealing with uncertainties is knowing and sharing the different futures. Dealing with uncertainties is also a possibility of bring different stake-holders together

### **Key phrases or quotes**

Jeroen van der Sluijs

3 kinds of framing uncertainty:

- 1) deficit view
- 2) evidence and evaluation
- 3) complex system view

- “We have to go from ‘speaking truth to power towards working deliberately within imperfection”
- “Scenarios can be wrong”
- “Never climb to high on the ladder of quantification”

Janette Besembinder

“Hydrological knowledge is maybe not so far as the meteorological knowledge” . In the discussion raised the question if we need an international debate for the opportunity to combine and integrate knowledge.

Rob Verheem:

Everyone should install safeguards on:

- 1) information
- 2) dialogue
- 3) enforcement
  - a. transparency
  - b. accountability
  - c. law !!!

“Information by itself will not change anything”