

Session DP UP 2.2a: Urban Levees, Integration of water safety and spatial planning

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

Topic: Delta cities are threatened by water from the sea and from the river. In most delta cities, conflicts can arise between safety measures against flooding (increased elevation and size of levees) and space constraints for city development. In this session strategies and experiences of combining safety to flooding and spatial development will be presented. Stakeholder involvement will be discussed as well.

Objective: Sharing knowledge about the way urban levees can be integrated on an attractive and sustainable way in the urban structure, even when the levees have to be reinforced related to climate change.

Session Agenda and Main Speakers

- Secure and integrated urban levees in Rotterdam, MSc. Peter van Veelen, Department of Urban Planning Rotterdam, the Netherlands.
- Elevator Pitch: Examples of multifunctional urban levees, MSc. Joep van Leeuwen, Public Works, City of Rotterdam, the Netherlands.
- Hamburg's flood coastal defence in an international context, Jan-Moritz Müller, Agency of Roads, Bridges and Water Hamburg, Germany.
- Elevator Pitch: Urban Levee in Streefkerk, Jan de Goei, Movares, the Netherlands.

Session chair: prof.dr.msc. Han Meyer, Delft University of Technology Faculty of Architecture, the Netherlands.

Main speakers: Keynote of MSc. Peter van Veelen, Department of Urban Planning Rotterdam, the Netherlands about Secure and integrated urban levees in Rotterdam.

Most exciting insight, moment or outcome

Huge variety of measures can be taken to protect area's against flooding and the spatial quality that can be reached not despite but thanks to reinforcement of levees and other types of element that have to provide against flooding.

Main conclusions, themes, insights or messages

Hamburg is very inspiring, but also not comparable with many other areas that are vulnerable for flooding because of the huge tide level differences. Every area has to invent their own solutions!

Urban planners has to be worked early in the process together with the water boards

Thinking about levees is not alone about physical infrastructure and creating of spatial innovative solutions, but has a lot to do with responsibilities, money, dealing with uncertainties. etc. Also on this topics innovations are needed to achieve new types of levees integrated in the urban structure.