



**Delta Alliance Scoping Workshop
Vietnam Wing
Vietnam National University in Ho Chi Minh City
20 July 2010**

Introduction

A scoping workshop for the Vietnam Wing of the International Delta Alliance was organized by the national coordinator Prof. dr. Le Quang Minh at Vietnam National University on 20 July 2010.

After a warm welcome word by Prof. Le Quang Minh, Wim van Driel, Program Manager of the International Delta Alliance, gave a presentation on the mission, vision and activities of Delta Alliance. Subsequently Prof. Le Quang Minh presented the Resilience Strategy and the objectives of the workshop:

- To inform representatives from all stakeholder groups about Delta Alliance;
- To determine if there is interest in developing an international network on adaptation in delta regions;
- To identify adaptation issues that are most relevant, based on the framework to approach the adaptation needs and the identified user demands;
- To identify champion institutions that will help build the network;
- To identify initiatives that local parties are already involved with, and are willing and planning to undertake in the framework of international delta cooperation;
- To generate ideas for collaborative projects between Delta Alliance focus regions.

The workshop was concluded with an animated discussion of which the results are presented below.

Participants

Twenty five participants attended this half-day workshop. They represent a number of national institutions, local governments and universities, namely: *Universities and research institutions:*

- Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City
 - Centre for Water and Climate Change
 - University of Technology
 - University of Science

- Institute for Environment and Resources
- University of Social Sciences and Humanities
- Can Tho University
- Tra Vinh University

Provincial level authorities

A local network of 5 provinces is envisioned representing a Northwest – Southeast cross section through the Mekong delta:

- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Ben Tre Province
- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Can Tho Province
- Department of Environment and Natural resources Ho Chi Minh City
- Centre for Environmental and Resources Monitoring, Can Tho Prov.
- Representatives from Soc Trang and An Giang Provinces



Network building

The participants proposed:

- Vietnam National University (VNU) representing Vietnam, especially the Mekong Delta, in Delta Alliance will act as a *hub* of a local network. Members of the local network are other institutions in Vietnam. Cantho University, An Giang University, Tra Vinh University and some provincial departments of Environment and Resources, departments of Agriculture, expressed the wish to join the network.
- Vietnam Wing and others, need to involve more institutions: local authorities, research institutes, associations (like Youth Organization, Farmer Association) and the media.

Research and study

- Research on the Mekong Delta has to take into consideration the changes, including impacts of climate change, and development of the **whole Mekong river catchment**. Immediate impacts of man-made structures and up-stream development can overweight the long-term effects of climate change.

- **Farmers** in the Mekong Delta already introduced a number of cases of climate change adaptation; for example
 - new cropping system
 - new type of crops
 - farming fresh water shrimp in the flood season (using flood water as a resource)

The adapted cropping systems are mostly introduced by trial-and-error practice. Research from scientists will help to secure and expand the results. This type of research can be in the top priority of research topics.

- **Other research topics** that were proposed:
 - Identify vulnerable communities
 - Scenario analysis of climate change impacts
 - Tools to assess damages to natural resources, mangrove, wetland, rice crop, aquaculture, ...
 - Tools to predict social-economical changes:
 - landless farmers,
 - damage by human activities to open resources: mangrove, for example.
 - immigration to the cities
 - rich-poor gap
 - Adaptation:
 - new crops, which can tolerate droughts or saturated conditions caused by extreme climate
 - new cropping systems
 - new type of housing,...
 -
 - Green technology of which *bio-fuel* can be the priority for Vietnam wing

In general, there can be 2 types of research:

- Common research for all wings
- Specific research for each wing to focus

Training

- Several focus groups were proposed:
 - University teachers
 - Mid-careered/mid-level officials
 - Reporters
- Training topics: Vietnam wing workshop agreed with the topics proposed in the document. However, it recommends to Delta Alliance to pay attention to
 - Data collection and handling
 - Powerful statistics package for long-term data analysis

- Delta Alliance should produce: Manuals, handbooks, guidelines, posters, reference books, etcetera.

