

Session DP UP 2.2b: Sustainable coastal protection

Date and Time of Session: Wednesday, 29 September 2010, 16.15 – 18.00

Short description of the session topic and the objective of the session

Topic: Examples of coastal management plans, focusing on short-term actions and long-term perspectives

Objective: To obtain new insights in the impacts of climate change on deltas and guidelines on how to move forward.

Session Agenda and Main Speakers

Session chair: Prof. dr. Marcel Stive, Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands

Main speakers:

- Proven & Innovative Concepts for Flood Protection - Piet Dircke – Arcadis - The Netherlands
- Integrated Masterplan of Coastal Safety - Nathalie Balcaen - Maritieme Dienstverlening en Kust - Belgium
- The “Flanders’ Bays 2100” - Denis Vandenbossche - THV Vlaamse Baaien - Belgium
- Sustaining Coastal Louisiana - Tom Podany - Protection and Restoration office - US Army Corps of Engineers, USA

Most exciting insight, moment or outcome

There are many types of measure available to protect deltas against potential floods. These measures vary from hard, concrete constructions to soft measures such as sand refill. Innovation in techniques and materials broaden the range of potential measures.

Also, attention must be paid to ecosystems, such as the wetlands around New Orleans, as these are the most vulnerable systems that cannot be protected with hard measures. By building with nature, it is possible to protect ecosystems and at the same time protect the delta against flooding.

Main conclusions, themes, insights or messages

Katrina woke up the world and showed what can happen if we ignore the risks of flooding. Because of the events, many countries are now developing a flood risk program to protect their coastlines. The speakers show with their examples that there are various new and innovative ways of improving coastal protection. However, each coastline requires a custom approach, based on the specific characteristics of the area. The presentations show that combining coastal protection with local opportunities and functions is very promising to improve the spatial quality.

Key phrases or quotes

- Various new and innovative ways to improve flood protection
- An integrated approach can improve spatial quality
- Characteristics of the area are the most important in choosing what type of measure to use