



Programme

Challenges in flood risk management in urban areas of river deltas in South and South East Asia

Wednesday 6 – Thursday 7 November 2013 | WP1257

In Bangkok, Thailand

Organised jointly by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC) and Wilton Park and with support from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Aim:

To share challenges, knowledge, good practices and experiences on building the resilience of Delta regions to floods and other hydro- meteorological disaster events, particularly the urbanised areas. The aim is to provide a platform to discuss the current challenges associated with flood and other hydro-meteorological disaster risk management and find solutions/strategies for risk minimisation by looking at sound practices available in the region and beyond. This conference will also explore the need for greater regional collaboration and how this might be achieved for instance to discuss priority actions in risk management, sharing experience and sound practices and identifying strategies for minimising the adverse impacts of disaster risks in the Asian river deltas, in particular in the urban built up areas at a regional level.

The geographic focus of the conference will include a number of river delta regions in South and South East Asia including but not exclusively: the Mekong; the Chao Phraya; the Irrawaddy; and the Ganges–Brahmaputra-Meghna (GBM).

Objectives of the conference:

This conference is organised to engage a wider range of stakeholder groups working on urban development, physical and economic policy planning, agriculture, disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate risk management etc at sub-regional, national and sub-national level of deltaic regions in South and South East Asia. Experts from other deltaic regions including outside Asia will be invited to discuss and share their good practices and identify strategies for risk minimisation.

It is also expected to;

- understand the factors which trigger an increase in social, economic and environmental impacts due to floods and other hydro- meteorological disaster events in urban areas within river delta areas.
- identify vulnerabilities and risks to the urban built environment, infrastructure, food security and livelihoods due to future adverse disaster events; including the potential increase in external factors such as severe weather events as an expected result of changing variability and climate over the deltaic regions and

identify appropriate measures for risk minimisation.

- discuss existing strategies, sound practices and new opportunities for disaster risk management practice in urban built up within river delta areas and how these can be applied, for instance through disaster risk reduction programs, climate change adaptation programmes, mainstreaming DRR programmes, urban risk financing mechanisms, socio-economic development and welfare initiatives etc.
- explore whether greater collaboration about river deltas at a regional level would be beneficial, and if so in what format that might work best.
- encourage networking among stakeholders so that the challenges are discussed subsequently and sound practices, solutions and experiences are shared.

Tuesday 5 November

1900-2030

Welcome reception for conference participants

In Ballroom B (Ground Floor)

Hosted by

Katja Nordgaard

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, The Royal Norwegian Embassy, Bangkok

Wednesday 6 November

0830-0900

Registration in front of Ballroom A (Ground Floor)

All plenary sessions will be in Ballroom A (Ground Floor)

0900-1000

Opening ceremony

Introduction

Bhichit Rattakul

Special Adviser, Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC), Bangkok

Welcome remarks

Krasae Chanawongse

Executive Director, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), Bangkok

Opening remarks

Katja Nordgaard

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, The Royal Norwegian Embassy, Bangkok

Keynote address

Yukol Limlamthong

Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Royal Thai Government, Bangkok

1000-1030

Tea/coffee

1030-1035

Welcome and introduction

N M S I Arambepola

Deputy Executive Director, Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC), Bangkok

Robin Hart

Director of Programmes, Wilton Park, Steyning

1035-1115

1. Challenges in flood risk management: the Thai context

How has Thailand approached the management of flooding particularly affecting urban areas such as Bangkok? What are the challenges? How have these been faced?

Apichart Anukularmphai

Adviser to the Deputy Prime Minister, Bangkok

Dao Xuan Hoc

Former Vice Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; Chairman, Vietnam-Netherlands Friendship Association, Hanoi

1115-1200

2. Managing river deltas in south and south east Asia: lessons from Asia

What is making deltaic regions vulnerable to flood and other hydro-meteorological disaster impacts? How are the challenges of flood risk being managed in deltaic regions in Asia? How effective are the existing policies, institutional arrangements and sub-regional cooperation mechanisms in supporting integrated flood risk management? What would improve regional collaboration in managing the risks?

Lessons from Myanmar and Vietnam representing delta regions

U Nyan Tun Aung

Minister, Ministry of Transport, Naypyidaw

Hans Guttman

Chief Executive Officer, Mekong River Commission (MRC), Vientiane

1200-1300

Lunch in The Conservatory Room (Ground Floor)

1300-1430

3. Integrating management of a river delta: lessons from the Mekong

What are the achievements, setbacks and limitations in implementing an integrated flood Disaster Risk management strategy? What are the best practices from the Mekong Delta region? How are the different sectoral development policies of land management, land use and urban planning integrated?

Session Chair: Robin Hart

Director of Programmes, Wilton Park, Steyning

Lessons from the Mekong from 'ridge to reef'

Thanh Bao

Director, Southern Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology and Environment (SIHYMETE), Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ho Chi Minh City

Dao Xuan Hoc

Former Vice Minister, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development; Chairman, Vietnam-Netherlands Friendship Association, Hanoi

Harrie Laboyrie

Director Global, Rivers, Deltas and Coasts, Royal Haskoning DHV, Nijmegen

1430-1530

4. Managing water: lessons from Europe and North America

How has the water management of the river Rhine and the Mississippi been achieved? What lessons might be applicable for rivers in Asia? How has Rotterdam been approaching water management from river and sea?

Lessons from Rotterdam and the Rhine

Tjitte Nauta

Strategic Adviser for Integrated Water Management and Regional Manager South and East Asia, Deltares, Delft

Lessons from the Mississippi

Joe landoli

Planning Branch Chief, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), US Department of Homeland Security, Denton

1530-1600

Group photograph followed by tea/coffee

1600-1700

5. Assessing existing and future risk scenarios in river delta areas

What are the key risks and triggers that exist within deltaic regions which need attention? What other interventions, including human, contribute to the increase in the severity of flooding events. What about the vulnerability of urban areas to adverse flood and other hydro- meteorological disaster events? What are the likely trends in occurrence and magnitude? How is climate change likely to affect these trends? How should countries assess the current and likely future risk of hydro-meteorological disasters on urbanised areas? What impact on sectors such as agriculture and industry? What impact on food security and livelihoods?

Peeranan Towashiraporn

Department Head, Disaster Risk Assessment and Monitoring (DRAM), Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), Bangkok

M Monowar Hossain

Executive Director, Institute of Water Modelling (IWM), Dhaka

Chau Nguyen Xuan Quang

Vice Director, The Center for Water Management and Climate Change (WACC), Vietnam National University-Ho Chi Minh City (VNU-HCM), Ho Chi Minh City

1700-1800

6. Managing river basins upstream to reduce flooding of urban areas downstream: what works?

How can the water-carrying capacities of the local eco-systems be best managed upstream? How to improve land management and land use planning interventions both upstream and in delta regions? How to make these more effective in the process of integrated flood risk management? How can these best be enshrined in urban and rural development planning and processes to ensure flood risk is reduced? What are the challenges and limitations in implementing an integrated flood disaster risk management strategy? How are the different sectoral development policies integrated?

Watershed management and the relationship between the built and natural environment

Jason Rainey

Executive Director, International Rivers, Berkeley

Flood management: lessons from the United Kingdom

Jonathan Day

Head, Investment and Programmes, Environment Agency, London

Lessons from the Indus river and Pakistan floods

Daanish Mustafa

Reader in Politics and Environment, Department of Geography, King's College, London

Free evening

Thursday 7 November

All plenary sessions will be in Gallery A

0900-0915

Reflections

Participant discussion about emerging themes from previous sessions.

0915-1030

7. Opportunities for reducing the urban flood risk in river delta areas: physical and structural solutions

What physical and structural solutions can help minimise the flood risk? What good practices exist within Asia and outside Asia? How to translate lessons from elsewhere?

Lessons from Malaysia

Wan Mohd Sulaiman Wan Ismail

Deputy Director, Flood Management Division, Drainage and Irrigation Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Kuala Lumpur

Lessons from the 2011 Bangkok floods

Ladawan Kumpa

Deputy Secretary General, National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB), Bangkok

Lessons from Bangladesh

AKM Luthfur Rahman

Project Director, Coastal Climate Resilient Infrastructure Project, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperative, Dhaka

1030-1100

Tea/coffee

1100-1230

8. Improving the preparedness and response capacities to reduce the risk of urban flooding in river delta areas

What preparedness measures and response mechanism work? How to improve the community level preparedness and city level response mechanisms? What sound practices of end-to-end early-warning systems on floods (coastal & riverine), storm surges etc? How to prepare communities to face extreme weather events in future and strengthen community preparedness and local coping mechanisms to cope with flooding? How to ensure impact through training and capacity building, early warning, and other interventions? How to support livelihood recovery and the recovery of local economy and markets? What regional and global experiences on utilisation of first responder capacity building, community level risk reduction planning, capacity enhancement of DRR practitioners?

Panel discussion: chair to lead a discussion with the panellists (rather than formal presentations)

Panel Chair: Bhichit Rattakul

Special Adviser, Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC), Bangkok

Panellists

Mohammad Abdul Wazed

Director General, Department of Disaster Management (DDM), Dhaka

Mark Ryan

Emergency Response Practitioner, Brisbane

Helder Sueia

Northern Regional Director, National Institute for Disaster Management (INGC), Nacala-Porto

1230-1330

Lunch in The Conservatory Room (Ground Floor)

1330-1430

9. Risk financing options for reducing the flood risk in river delta areas

What financing options might be appropriate to reduce risk if structural and non-structural solutions are not going to be enough? What lessons from insurance and other financing models being developed? What regional and global experiences on using risk financing mechanisms?

Bingunath Ingirige

Senior Lecturer, Centre for Disaster Resilience, School of the Built Environment, University of Salford, Manchester

Champa Mellawa

Executive Vice President, Asian Reinsurance Corporation, Bangkok

Iwan Gunawan

Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist for Indonesia, East Asia and Pacific, World Bank, Jakarta

1430-1600

10. Managing cross-border issues: what works? What would work better?

How are the countries within delta regions best able to share the challenges in managing flood risk and risk due to other hydro-meteorological events on urban areas, infrastructure, agriculture systems, industries, investment climate etc? How to share the sound practices in managing risk as well as challenges in reducing the risk? Can the existing regional or sub-regional forums can be used for discussing the challenges? How to develop a common forum for discussion?

Introduction in plenary followed by discussion in smaller groups

Each group to recommend priorities for future collaboration across borders (minimum of 3, maximum 5 recommendation).

1600

Tea/coffee

1615-1700

11. Next steps: how to turn lessons into action?

Feedback from discussions

Concluding discussions: (2-3 speakers from conference to lead)

What are the common challenges? What risk minimisation options works well and what does not? How best to share experience within and outside deltas? What are the next priorities in setting up a regional forum for experience sharing in the future?

1830

Reception at the British Embassy, 14 Wireless Road, Bangkok