



Kingdom of the Netherlands

COMMUNIQUÉ OF COOPERATION

DELTA2013VIETNAM: World Delta Dialogues II 19-23 May 2013 Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Representatives from deltas worldwide convened 19-23 May 2013 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam at DELTA2013VIETNAM: World Delta Dialogues II, organized by The America's WETLAND Foundation, Vietnam Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam National University – Ho Chi Minh City, and The Kingdom of Netherlands.

Leaders and experts attending the conference affirmed their dedication to cooperation among the earth's deltas by issuing this "World Deltas Communiqué of Cooperation."

Preamble

*Deltas are links between continents, coasts, seas, and cultures and are dynamic, highly productive areas in terms of marine life, wildlife, and human development. Their very character also makes deltas vulnerable to sea level rise, subsidence and the effects of climate change, challenges that threaten their ultimate survival. The world's major river deltas are of paramount importance to human society, hosting hundreds of millions of people and providing essential food resources and critical portals for global trade. Yet, they are increasingly vulnerable to flooding and conversions of their land to oceans as a result of trapping of sediment in upstream reservoirs, floodplain engineering, and compaction from removal of oil, gas and water, in combination with rising global sea level. Increased demands for hydropower and flood protection and highly probable acceleration of sea-level rise, changes in river flows and intensification of storms as a result of climate change will create an emergency of planetary proportions during the 21st century. Elevated international recognition and much more robust governance, research, action and the scientific and technical capacity to support it, are required to ensure social and environmental resilience. **

The Mississippi and Mekong Rivers are also faced with above-mentioned challenges, particularly the impact of the climate change, sea level rise, upstream development and the development within the deltas, seriously affecting food and water security, as well as sustainable development of the deltas.

At this week's meeting, participants exchanged views, shared experience and best practices to deal with these challenges. We agreed on the need for cooperation and developing public and private networks to highlight six key areas on which progress is needed to achieve global deltaic sustainability.

ARTICLES OF COOPERATION

I. Decision-Making

Support processes that utilize adaptive management to help formulate action plans and establish goals. This process relies on continued use of science and data monitoring to permit informed choices to guide future action.

II. Building Consensus

Strengthen cooperation across borders and boundaries through local, regional, national and international information and data sharing.

III. Community Participation

Support an ongoing dialogue that ensures transparency and integration of community in decision-making and public action.

IV. Global Value

Cooperate on a communications strategy that conveys the importance of deltas to the public and decision-makers, including the value of the ecosystem goods and services they provide.

V. Compatible Land Use

Promote land use policies, including those for agriculture and aquaculture, that are consistent with the extreme variation of natural hydrologic processes and follow the principle of integrated water resources planning.

VI. Financing

Develop public and private resources and mechanisms to address delta sustainability.

The participants of DELTAS2013VIETNAM, meeting in Ho Chi Minh City, 19-23 May 2013, offer the "World Deltas Communiqué of Cooperation" in hopes that, working in cooperation, critical natural resources, societal and economic assets will be sustained for future generations.

* <http://www.nature.com/ngeo/journal/vaop/ncurrent/abs/ngeo629.html>