



Kingdom of the Netherlands

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COASTAL EXPERTS TO MEET IN VIETNAM FOR WORLD DELTA DIALOGUES II

America's WETLAND Foundation joins Vietnam National University and The Netherlands in Building Communiqué of Cooperation to Address Coastal Land Loss

Two of planet earth's great river systems, the Mekong and the Mississippi, will be the focus of DELTA2013VIETNAM: World Delta Dialogues II, as global deltaic leaders gather in Ho Chi Minh City, May 19-23, 2013.

"We come to the Mekong Delta both in search of answers and to leverage what we have learned in attempting to restore one of the most productive U.S. assets, the Mississippi Delta," said R. King Milling, Chairman of the Louisiana based America's WETLAND Foundation.

The Foundation hosted the first World Delta Dialogues in New Orleans in October 2010, with fifteen world deltas represented. An action agenda to both help draw attention to coastal land loss issues and to create solutions was adopted by delegates who represented governments, NGOs, science, engineering and cultural groups. In the face of hastened sea level rise due to climate variations, along with subsidence and river system development, the Dialogues' second iteration will address some of the world's most challenging issues.

"World populations, agriculture and industry rely on coastal regions at a time when vulnerabilities are increasing in these very places," said Dr. Le Quang

Minh, Vice President of Vietnam National University – Ho Chi Minh City. “After the first event in Louisiana, we returned to the Mekong Delta with a better understanding of how much we have in common and offered to host the second world meeting in Ho Chi Minh City.”

The dialogues will organize around the theme of preventing “unintended consequences,” a term often used in discussing the management of great river systems and actions taken that have later created negative and costly consequences. Stephen Gambrell, who serves as Executive Director of the Mississippi River Commission, will discuss this theme at the event. He will illustrate the unintended consequences of river management decades ago that have left coastal areas known as America’s WETLAND losing land at one of the fastest rates on the planet.

“The Dutch have more than 800 years of water management expertise to share, and one of our most important observations might be the need for societies to make room for their rivers and build with nature,” said Martien Beek, First Secretary for Water and Climate at the Dutch Embassy Hanoi. “We know that these two great river systems – the Mekong and Mississippi – offer the world a snapshot of the future and a way toward sustainable resources.”

NOTE TO EDITORS: Attached is the advance program for DELTAS2013VIETNAM. Please arrange interviews or pose questions through the following contact:

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