

**International conference**

# **Deltas** in Times of **Climate Change**

**29 September to 2 October 2010**  
**Rotterdam, The Netherlands**



**Deltas offer abundance. They link rivers and inland waters to the oceans and provide fertile soils and waters. They are the focus of economic and cultural activity. They are home to more than half the world's population.**

**However, as the sea level rises, the land is subsiding and populations grow, deltas and their cities are becoming more vulnerable. Increased incidences of floods, more heat waves and salt water intrusion threaten the economic vitality and attractiveness of deltas worldwide. Dealing with subsidence and adapting to climate change have become an imperative. The need to address these challenges calls for cooperation of deltas worldwide.**



The two Dutch research programmes on climate change and spatial planning (Climate changes Spatial Planning and Knowledge for Climate), the City of Rotterdam and the C40 (a group of the world's largest cities committed to tackling climate change) invite scientists, politicians, policymakers and practitioners to share their knowledge and experience in a major international conference on climate adaptation.

# Deltas in Times of Climate Change

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The conference will be held in Rotterdam, since Rotterdam is at the forefront of climate adaptation: it turns challenges into opportunities and takes integrated measures to create a safer city and region. This strategy will result in a more attractive city to live, recreate, work and invest in.

We expect internationally leading scientists, ministers, governors and mayors of major deltas and delta cities around the world to attend the conference and provide their insights. The conference will be a unique opportunity for scientists, policy-makers and practitioners to present and share their views, innovations and practices in the field of adaptation to climate change. Moreover, it will be the start of new international cooperative arrangements to help meet delta challenges.

## The conference pursues three main goals:

- 1 exchange of up-to-date top science on climate change and delta planning.**
- 2 strengthening international cooperation between deltas and delta cities.**
- 3 exploring and strengthening the links between science, policy and practitioners.**

Themes to be discussed include: climate change and spatial planning, subsidence, flood risk management, salt water intrusion and fresh water supply, brackish agriculture, urban heat island effect, governance and innovative policy instruments for planning and decision-making. The overall scope is on planning and investments in times of climate change.



On September 29 and 30 the conference will focus on the most recent scientific information about climate change and adaptation. On October 1 the focus is on policy issues and international cooperation. Excursions are planned for October 2.

During the conference the Delta Alliance, Connecting Delta Cities and the C40 will play an important role in the development of a worldwide cooperation between deltas and delta cities. The Delta Alliance is an international alliance promoting effective cooperation among deltas in their efforts to manage existing and new challenges. Connecting Delta Cities is an international network that unites delta cities that strive to make their cities climate proof.

**We hope to see you in Rotterdam at the end of September 2010, so please mark the dates in your calendar.**

More information is available at  
[www.climatedeltaconference.org](http://www.climatedeltaconference.org)



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climate changes spatial planning



Knowledge  
for Climate