

CCC Statement

Getting the most out of coastal cooperation : sharing knowledge



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The world's coastal population is at risk. Expanding economies, urbanisation and climate change force us to act. This CCC publication on coastal cooperation stresses the complexity of coastal zones. At the same time, it underlines the opportunities change may offer.

In the Netherlands, we know all about living by the sea, which has always been a source of life and prosperity. Our two thousand years of habitation in a delta area close to mean sea level have produced an ambivalent relationship: we both love the sea and fear it. Living in a delta comes at a price. Such heavily populated areas are often favoured places for building industrial infrastructure and housing putting a great deal of pressure on the environment. More recently, climate change has created new challenges. Our permanent battle to control the sea and rivers has made us experts in water management. The experience has taught us two fundamental truths: that water management is a process of continuous innovation and that water management has to be a team effort.

That is why the Netherlands possesses both technological expertise and a deep-rooted willingness to cooperate. We have well-known research institutes in the field of water innovation, earth surveying, and dredging firms that operate world-wide, front-ranking hydraulic engineering companies and market leaders in the field of water purification technology. However, that is not all. We also have government bodies that deal specifically with water management, a relevant knowledge infrastructure and, last but not least, a strong public awareness of the issue. By combining expertise and experience at all levels, we are equipped to devise appropriate solutions to complex problems. Challenges in the field of water policy development include hydraulic engineering and design; construction, implementation and maintenance; water supply and sanitation; flood control; environmental protection, and integrated water and coastal management.

Illustrative of our willingness to cooperate is the number of Dutch that have contributed to "Climate of Coastal Cooperation" together with their colleagues from all over Asia and Europe. Together, these 100 contributors to this book – and those who did not make it to the list of authors – form a network of experts. Added to them are the future readers of the CCC book and its internet production. This results in a large number of experts cooperating and learning from each other, helping to change our approach to the management of vulnerable coastal areas. The key lies in networking.

The Netherlands Water Partnership (NWP) is itself a comprehensive network that unites Dutch water expertise. The partnership consists of private companies, government, knowledge institutes and NGOs, acts as a centre of information and cooperation on water expertise, policy developments and opportunities. The knowledge available in the Netherlands is broad as well as deep and covers a great many areas, including drinking water, floating construction techniques, wastewater purification, mobile dams, storm surge barriers and water-related spatial planning and development. In the Netherlands as well as abroad, the NWP is the gateway to what you need to know about the Dutch Water Sector and its solutions to global water related challenges.

Now more than ever, sharing and exchanging knowledge has become vital for us all. Join the network! Only by working closely together, can we ensure a safe and sustainable future for the deltas of the world. The Netherlands Water Partnership therefore warmly endorses and supports this CCC publication.

We are happy to exchange and make accessible our knowledge and experiences with others elsewhere in the world. Do not hesitate to contact us: www.nwp.nl, www.dutchwatersector.com and info@nwp.nl.