

# ICOMOS

Netherlands

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ICOMOS-Conference

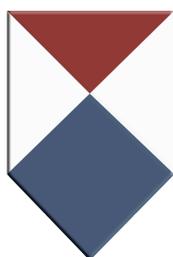
Protecting deltas: heritage helps!

The Netherlands, 23-28 September 2013

Draft Version

Subject to change

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'Land of Water' is the most important world heritage theme in The Netherlands. ICOMOS–Netherlands recently adopted this theme as its main focus for the coming years. An important reason for this adoption is the increasing threat that water poses to (world) heritage sites worldwide, due to climate change. Raising awareness is an important step in protecting deltas and their historic values. The role and position of heritage can be an inspiring point of departure in this process. ICOMOS–Netherlands therefore committed herself to the organization of the conference 'Protecting deltas, heritage helps!' from 23–27 September 2013 in Amsterdam, the year in which the Amsterdam World Heritage Site celebrates its 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

## **Introduction**

In the coming decennia, the impact of climate change threatens low-lying delta cities. Historically established as trade centers at river mouths, delta cities could experience severe flooding as a result of rising sea levels, heavy rainfall and land subsidence. The origin of cities creates different problems and, more important, different opportunities. Heritage can inspire urban planners in defining protection strategies. Heritage can also be a driver for delta protection because of its economic value, for example due to the UNESCO world heritage status. The physical position of heritage in delta cities can also change because of new measures that need to be taken to protect a city against the effects of climate change. A new position for heritage in the urban context could be created. An integrated approach is necessary as climate change has consequences for heritage, the economy, infrastructure, as well as social and living conditions.

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee subscribed the importance of anticipating on the impacts of climate change related to world heritage sites already in 2005, which resulted in a report, a strategy and a policy document. The 1972 UNESCO World Heritage Convention is developed as an instrument to protect natural and cultural heritage of outstanding universal value. It also aims at encouraging cooperation for the conservation of heritage on a global scale. Cooperation will be of great importance in protecting deltas and their outstanding historic values against the impending water threat. Water managers and urban planners will have to work together with heritage professionals to inspire each other in the process towards the selection of effective adaptation measures that respect the unique quality of specific delta areas.

Cooperation also includes the exchange of knowledge on delta protection strategies, which are often based on historical methods. Each delta area has its own tradition in strategies to reduce vulnerability to water hazard. The Netherlands focuses traditionally on prevention, which resulted in the development of dikes and dams. Other countries focus more on damage reduction, damage reaction or damage anticipation. This makes knowledge exchange and the exchange of the origin of protection strategies an interesting topic. What can we learn from the history of places, what can we learn from the spirit of places, what can we learn from patterns that resulted in places of outstanding universal value: all relevant questions to be answered while selecting appropriate adaptation measures.

## **Aim**

The conference aims at raising awareness of the importance of heritage in protecting the urbanizing deltas of the world. Water management and heritage professionals will be connected to discuss the water challenges and the contribution of heritage in meeting this challenge.

## **Programme**

The conference programme focuses on interaction between local planners and representatives and heritage and water management professionals. Inspirational lectures will ignite the creative mind for round table sessions on 3 themes:

- Water policies and monuments and sites
- Cities: integrating heritage into protecting delta cities
- Coastal areas: coastal area planning and heritage as a source of inspiration
- Capacity building: knowledge gaps and research agenda on water and heritage

Within the themes the discussion during the conference will focus on:

- Heritage as a source of inspiration for climate adaptation
- Changing position of heritage in urbanizing deltas facing water threat
- Economic value of heritage: a driver for delta protection

## **Conference output and follow up**

The conference output will be collected in a final statement, which will be presented at the end of the conference. During the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Marseille in 2012 the organizational committee showed their interest of adopting the heritage and water theme for the 7<sup>th</sup> World water Forum in Korea in 2015. The output of the conference will also be linked to the International Water Week which will be held from the 4<sup>th</sup> till the 8<sup>th</sup> of November 2013 in Amsterdam.



**First Draft Programme**  
**All speakers to be confirmed**

**Monday 23 September**

Location: *Sewage pumping station Waternet/Stadsherstel, Borneokade, Amsterdam*

Chairman: *Diederik Six, president ICOMOS–Netherlands*

19.00 Welcoming ceremony

Welcome by Diederik Six, Chairman ICOMOS Netherlands

20.30 Drinks and snacks

Introducing water management in Amsterdam

Roelof Kruize, CEO Waternet

**Tuesday 24 September**

Location: *Kinderdijk and Delta Works*

Chairman: *Henk van Schaik*

10.00 Excursion

Kinderdijk UNESCO World Heritage Site and Delta Works in Zeeland

Reception Queen's Commissioner in the province of Zeeland, Karla Peijs

**Wednesday 25 September**

Location: *De Duif, Prinsengracht 756, Amsterdam*

Chairman: *Onno Meerstadt, Stadsherstel Amsterdam NV*

09.00 Official opening

Gustavo Araoz, president ICOMOS

09.15 Addressing the conference theme in the historic and economic context

Valuing heritage: water related impacts in times of change

Anthony G. Bigio, The World Bank

09.45 International vision on water and heritage: water perspectives

Professor András Szöllösi-Nagy, rector UNESCO-IHE

10.15 International vision on water and heritage: heritage perspectives

Giovanni Boccardi, UNESCO World Heritage Centre

10.45 Coffee break

11.15 Introducing the themes: pitches and panel discussion

**Theme A (main theme)**

Water policies and monuments and sites

Frans Vlieg, Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment / Leonard de Wit, Cultural Heritage Agency, The Netherlands

## **Theme B**

Cities: integrating heritage into protecting delta cities

Arnoud Molenaar, C40, Rotterdam

## **Theme C**

Coastal areas: coastal area planning and heritage as a source of inspiration

Delta Alliance

## **Theme D**

Capacity building: knowledge gaps and research agenda on water and heritage

Laszlo Hayde, UNESCO-IHE / IHA / Rohit Jigyasu, ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Risk Preparedness / Hans Renes, Utrecht University / RMIT

12.30 Lunch

14.00 Round table session (in plenary)

*Coordination: Leonard de Wit / András Szöllösi-Nagy*

## **Theme A**

Water policies and monuments and sites: the value and process recognition

### City presentations

- Flood risk management and the historic urban context, Hamburg
- Rivers and heritage: the Niger-Loire project, Niger delta
- Korea

15.00 Short break

- Flood risk and land subsidence, Jakarta, Indonesia
- Flood risk management and innovation, Venice,
- Sustainable development and the Amsterdam canals, Professor Wubbo Ockels, Delft University of Technology

16.00 Round table discussion

Moderator: TBA

17.30 Drinks & snacks

*Location: World Heritage Centre, the Netherlands De Bazel, Vijzelstraat 32, Amsterdam*

Word of welcome by Harry Brinkman, chairman UNESCO World Heritage Cities

Esther Agricola, managing director Monuments & Archeology Department City of Amsterdam

## **Thursday 26 September**

10.00 Round table sessions (in three locations)

### **Theme B – Cities: integrating heritage into protecting delta cities**

*Location: De Duif, Prinsengracht 756, Amsterdam*

*coordination: Arnoud Molenaar*

Introductory lecture: Heritage, flood risk and sustainability by Professor Jan Rotmans, Erasmus University Rotterdam

Round table session themes:

*Heritage as a source of inspiration for climate adaptation*

*Changing position of heritage in urbanizing deltas facing water threat*

*Economic value of heritage: a driver for delta protection*

Participating cities: Recife (Brazil), Hamburg (Germany), Jakarta (Indonesia), Amsterdam & Rotterdam (The Netherlands), Korea, New York (United States)

### **Theme C – Coastal areas: coastal area planning and heritage as a source of inspiration**

Location: *Amstelkerk, Amstelveld 10, Amsterdam*

Coordination: *Delta Alliance member*

Introductory lecture: Heritage and water management: a tradition by Ronald Waterman

Round table session themes:

*Heritage as a source of inspiration for climate adaptation*

*Changing position of heritage in urbanizing deltas facing water threat*

*Economic value of heritage: a driver for delta protection*

Participating deltas: Nile (Egypt), Niger (Africa), Wadden Sea (The Netherlands)

### **Theme D – Capacity building: knowledge gaps and research agenda on water and heritage**

Location: *De Duif, Prinsengracht 756, Amsterdam*

Coordination: *Andras Szöllösi-Nagy/Laszlo Hayde*

Introductory lecture: professor Rohit Jigyasu, ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Risk Preparedness

Round table session, themes:

*Heritage as a source of inspiration for climate adaptation*

*Changing position of heritage in urbanizing deltas facing water threat*

*Economic value of heritage: a driver for delta protection*

Participating organisations: UNESCO-IHE, Utrecht University, VU University of Amsterdam, IWA, RMIT

#### 12.00 Lunch

Location: TBA

#### 16.00 Canal tour of Amsterdam UNESCO World Heritage Site

Location: TBA

Organised by the Monuments and Archaeology Department city of Amsterdam

#### 18.00 Dinner

Location: *Rijksmuseum, Jan Luijkenstraat 1, Amsterdam*

With the kind support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of The Netherlands

### **Friday 27 September 2013**

Location: *Felix Meritis, Keizersgracht 324, Amsterdam*

#### 13.00 Closing speech

Sustainability and global change: reflection, political economy

Professor Herman Wijffels, Utrecht University

14.00 Presentation of Statement of Amsterdam

Cees van 't Veen, Cultural Heritage Agency, The Netherlands,  
Rohit Jigyasu, president ICOMOS International Scientific Committee on Risk Preparedness  
Robert Quarles van Ufford, secretary-general Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO

15.00 Closing ceremony

Carolien Gehrels, deputy mayor of Amsterdam

**Saturday 28 September 2013**

Location: *Beemster polder and Defense line of Amsterdam, UNESCO World Heritage Sites*

Chairman: *Harry Brinkman, Mayor of Beemster, president OWHC*

10.00 Excursion

**Participating organisations:**

ICOMOS Netherlands  
Cultural Heritage Agency  
Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Netherlands National Commission for UNESCO  
UNESCO  
Stadsherstel Amsterdam NV  
Waternet  
Stichting Elise Mathilde Fonds  
Stichting Thurkow Fonds  
Stichting Ludovika Manuel Fonds  
UNESCO-IHE  
Gemeente Beemster

ICOMOS-international  
UNESCO-international

