

OKP Newsletter

April 2021



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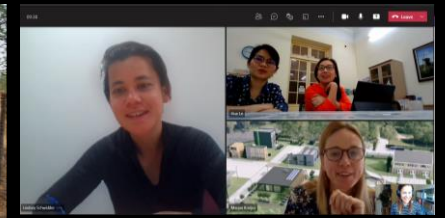
Spring is in the air

April 2021, Delft

Dear partners,

Spring is in the air, and people across the globe are getting more optimistic about the end of the pandemic being near. It has now been a full year since we have been able to travel and visit each other. While many activities have been realized successfully this past year, either online or at a distance, we truly miss the face-to-face contact. We are proud of the resilience all our partners have shown amidst this pandemic situation, which is why we have included a photo reflection of the second project year in Vietnam in this newsletter. Check it out on pages 6-8. April furthermore marks Thingyan, the Myanmar Water Festival which ushers in the Myanmar New Year.

This newsletter includes the usual news and ongoing activities, mostly in Vietnam due to the current situation in Myanmar. We also have a special feature on case studies: why use them, how to use them (in education) and where to find them. Finally, be sure to check out the opportunities! Amongst other events, our partner Thi Van Le Khoa will be giving an (online) lecture together with his supervisor on monitoring plastic in rivers (his PhD topic) in late April. Furthermore the Platform for International Education (PIE) will be hosting a seminar on: “Crucial elements for future proof education & research partnerships with the Global South” on April 22nd.



OKP Vietnam & Myanmar: News and (planned) activities

Internship presentations and defences HUNRE

As part of the Water Resources curriculum, final year students spend two months at a private company or public organization to get practical experience (i.e. carry out an internship). At the beginning of April, the students had to defend their internship research in front of staff, supervisors and other students. Congratulations on successfully completing the internship!



Strategy and action plan Mekong Delta

The Mekong River Commission (MRC) has published a new ten-year Basin Development Strategy (BDS) for the Mekong River Basin and a five-year Strategic Plan (MRC SP) to enable Mekong countries to address emerging challenges and improve the overall state of the basin. You can find more information [here](#).



You can find more information about collaboration on the TU Delft-Vietnam website: <https://www.tudelft.nl/citg/vietnam/> and on the TU Delft-Myanmar website: <https://www.tudelft.nl/myanmar/>

MSc thesis defence Ileen: Satellite Soil Moisture Retrieval in Myanmar

On March 22nd, student Ileen de Kat (TU Delft) successfully presented and defended her Master thesis. Ileen researched the validation and analysis of satellite retrieved soil moisture in the tropics by looking at a case study in Bago, Myanmar. She compared the downscaled soil moisture products of VanderSat (using the Land Parameter Retrieval Model) to an in-situ soil moisture network. This network was partially installed by Ileen herself during her fieldwork in Bago in early 2020. Congratulations Ileen! You can download her thesis [here](#).



OKP Vietnam & Myanmar: News and (planned) activities

HUNRE Water Resources student recruitment

The faculty of Water Resources of HUNRE took part in the annual career and study orientation day at the University of Technology in Hanoi. Students and staff were present to promote the study programme at HUNRE. The event was visited by many high school students and their parents.



YEP Duo interview: Khoa and Juliette

The 7th issue of the Young Experts Programme magazine 'YEP Effect' was published online in April. This issue contains a YEP Duo interview featuring our partners Khoa and Juliette working on the OKP 'Climate Proof Vietnam' project. You can find the interview and the magazine [here](#).



PhD Thuy at UNSW Canberra

Our project partner Nguyen Thi Thuy has secured a PhD scholarship at UNSW Canberra in Australia. Her topic is entitled 'Solar-powered seawater desalination by low-cost membrane distillation coupled to the bubble column evaporator process.' She will be supervised by Ass. Prof. Clifford Edwin Woodward and Prof. Richard Mark Pashley. She will be going there in the fall of 2021. Congratulations and good luck Thuy!

You can find more information about collaboration on the TU Delft-Vietnam website: <https://www.tudelft.nl/citg/vietnam/> and on the TU Delft-Myanmar website: <https://www.tudelft.nl/myanmar/>

Thingyan 2021

Thingyan is the Burmese New Year Festival, often referred to as the Myanmar Water Festival, as it takes place toward the end of the hot, dry season and ushers in the Myanmar New Year. This year it takes place from April 13th – April 18th. Thingyan is a time of rebirth and renewal. Despite the difficult situation, the OKP partners sincerely hope the new year will usher in peace for all the people of Myanmar.

It is traditional to cook mont lone yeibaw, glutinous rice balls with jaggery inside during Thingyan



'Thingyan' means 'Transit' (of the Sun from Pisces to Aries)



Thingyan flower, the padauk (Pterocarpus macrocarpus) only blooms one day each year during Thingyan



Reflecting on OKP Vietnam: Project year 2 highlights

Output 1: Educational development

Academic skills training



Resources for online education



Dutch and Vietnamese thesis exchange work



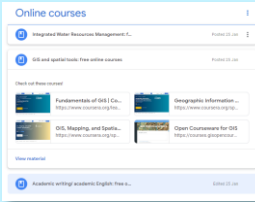
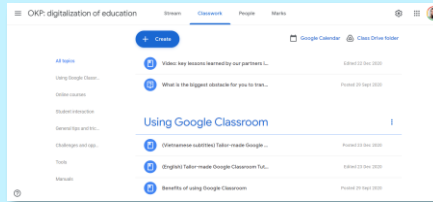
Tailor made Vietnamese Python course



West Lake Water Quality Field Campaign, Research support & Practical aspects in curriculum



Google Classroom pilot: Step towards digitalization through a free platform



Reflecting on OKP Vietnam: Project year 2 highlights

Output 2: Organisational development

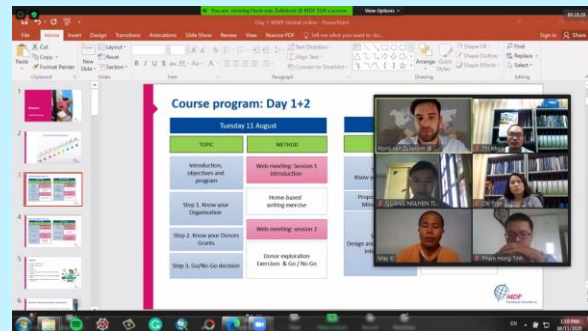
Marketing training and student recruitment campaign



Library support, lab improvements and equipment purchases



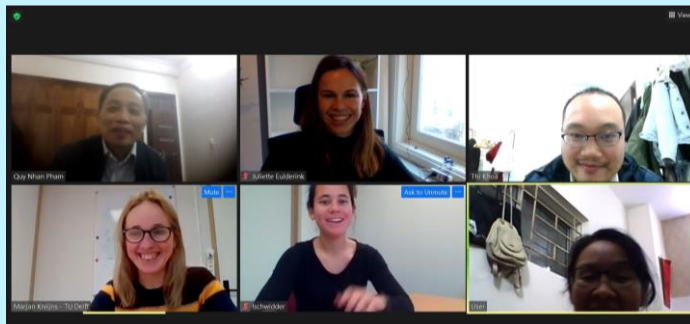
Training writing winning proposals



Facilitation of exchanges with other VN universities



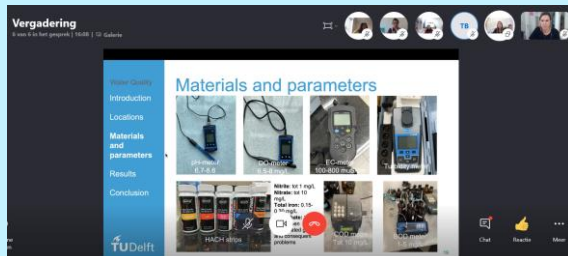
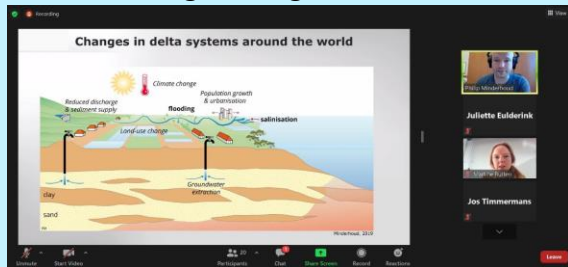
Management, planning and organisational discussions



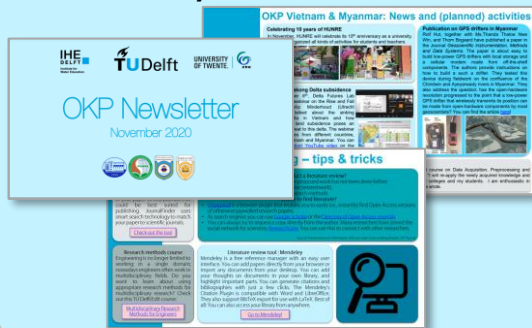
Reflecting on OKP Vietnam: Project year 2 highlights

Output 3: Community of Practice

Online webinars, seminars, short trainings and guest lectures



Monthly OKP Newsletter



Water sector collaboration (private and public) through research

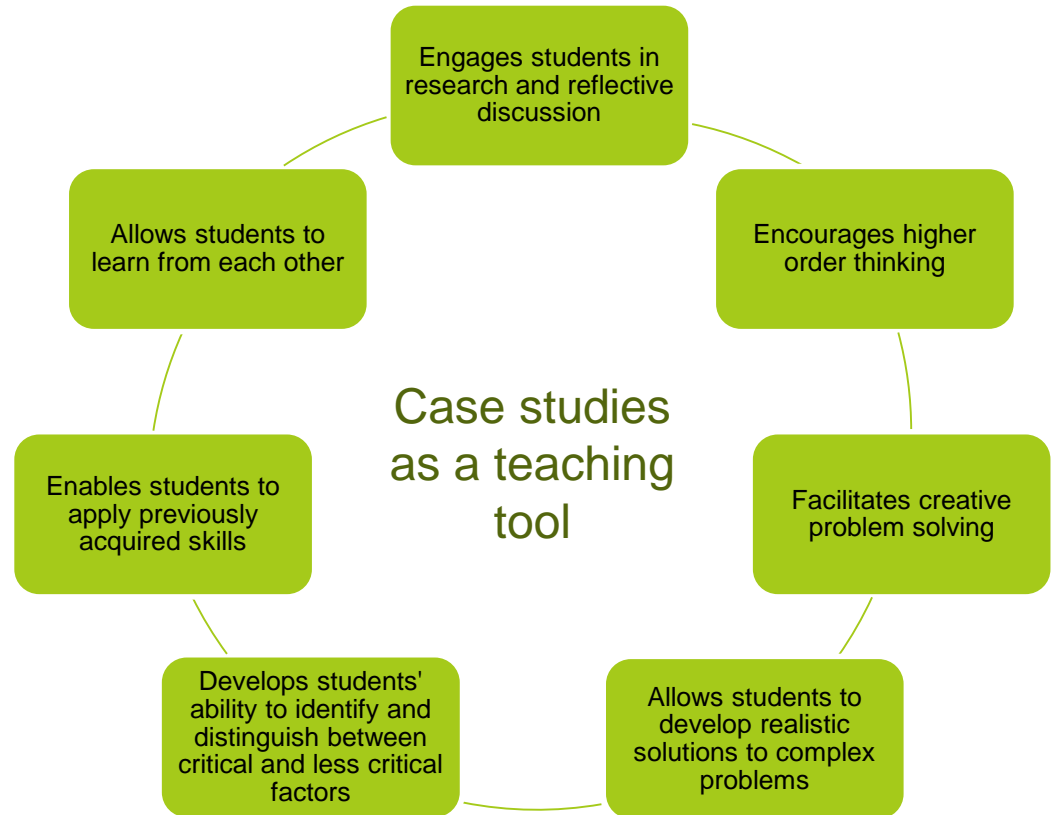


Events, such as the 2020 National Startup Day for Students (SV.Startup)



Case studies: why use them

Many students learn better from examples than from logical development starting with basic principles. The use of case studies can therefore be a very effective classroom technique. Case studies get students to practically apply their skills, and their understanding of learned facts, to a real-world situation. They are particularly useful where situations are complex and solutions are uncertain. This is often the case in the water and engineering sector.



Case studies: how to use them

Introduce the problem/
situation/ case



Let the students work on
the case study (in groups)



Let the students present
their results to the class



Reflect on student
process and results



Present the actual case
study results

Use complex cases requiring multiple perspectives

A good case requires research and stimulate analysis from a variety of viewpoints or perspectives. It places the learner in the position of problem solver. Students actively engage with the materials, discovering underlying issues, dilemmas and conflict issues.

Guide the students with a variety of questions in case analysis

This allows the class to move through the stages of analysis:

- clarification / information seeking (*what?*)
- analysis / diagnosis (*why?*)
- conclusion / recommendation (*what now?*)
- implementation (*how?*) and
- application / reflection (*so what? what does it mean to you?*)

Assess the process of analysis, not only the outcome

The resolution of a case is only the last stage of a process and cases can be resolved in many matters. As a educator you can observe, evaluate and discuss:

- The quality of research
- Organisation and validity of arguments and choices made
- The feasibility of solutions presented
- Intra-group dynamics/ teamwork
- Evidence of consideration of all case factors.

Case studies: where to find them

How do you find these case studies? One trick is to find **information on running or completed projects.**

You can do a Google search on particular companies, government departments or even donors. Or you can look for an existing database of case studies. Some inspiration is presented below:

If relevant, try to use projects you have been involved in yourself! The more you know about the project, the better you can prepare and assess the case study!

Via public institutions, government departments, or NGOs i.e.:

- [United Nations Office for Project Services](#)
- [European commission project databases](#)
- [NGOs in water sector](#)

Via engineering firms/ consultancies, i.e. some of our CoP members:

- [Deltares](#)
- [Royal HaskoningDHV](#)
- [Arcadis](#)
- [Witteveen+Bos](#)
- [VEi Dutch Water Operators](#)

Via donor organisations, i.e.:

- [The World Bank](#)
- [Asian Development Bank](#)
- [Unicef](#)
- [IFRC](#)

Via databases, i.e. on Nature-based Solutions:

- [Nature-based Solutions initiative \(University of Oxford\)](#)
- [Oppla \(EU Repository of Nature-Based Solutions\)](#)
- [Nature4Climate database](#)
- [ThinkNature Platform](#)



Do you have questions or require help with the use of case studies in education? Contact Juliette at J.L.F.Eulderink@tudelft.nl

Opportunities

What: Guest lectures on the Origin of the 'Plastic Soup' and Plastic Monitoring in the Red River by Tim van Emmerik and Thi Van Le Khoa.

Organiser: Delta Futures Lab

When: **April 30th 12:30 – 13:30 CET**
17:00-18:00 Yangon time
17.30-18.30 Hanoi time

No registration necessary, please join via <https://tudelft.zoom.us/j/93270551979>



What: Webinar **“Crucial elements for future proof education & research partnerships with the Global South”** with contributions by Lindsey Schwidder and Juliette Eulderink (TU Delft)

Organiser: Platform for International Education (PIE)

When: **April 22nd 9:00 – 12:00 CET**
13:30-15:30 Yangon time
14.00-16.00 Hanoi time

More information and registration via [this link](#)



Join the **Global Symposium on Soil Biodiversity (GSOBI21)**, 'Keep soil alive, protect soil biodiversity'. This event will fill some critical knowledge gaps and promote discussion among policy makers, food producers, scientists, practitioners and other stakeholders on solutions to live in harmony with nature, and ultimately, achieve the SDGs through the conservation and sustainable use of soil biodiversity.

When: **19-22 April 2021**

[More info](#)

[Register here](#)