

OKP Newsletter

December 2021



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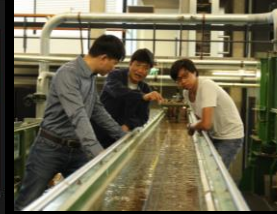
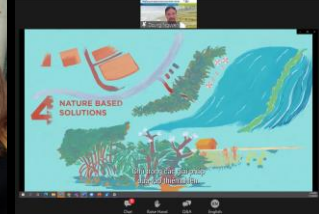
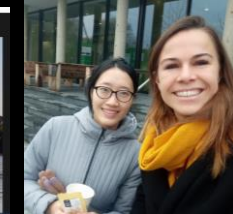
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Looking back & looking forward

December 2021, Delft

Another year is coming to an end, and again unfortunately the pandemic played a central role. This year pushed us to think outside the box and continue to work on institutional collaboration from a distance. We discovered together that although education worldwide may be based on the same principles, you need to adapt it to the local way. This brings along some restrictions but there are also many opportunities. We will continue this journey together in the new year, in which we can hopefully meet each other again in real-life!

As the year comes to an end, it is time to reflect. This newsletter contains a feature interview with Truong Hong Son, TU Delft PhD alumnus who is currently working at Thuyloi University as lecturer. We also reflect on the journey of HUNRE alumni Dung and Kiều Anh, who have obtained MSc scholarships abroad. We also share with you lot of exciting OKP news from the past two months, including the PIE webinar, the arrival of Dr. Mai Van Cong in Delft and the Asia Pacific meeting on Near Surface Geoscience & Engineering. The opportunities section includes the Citizen Science online training, weekly Delta Futures Lab Webinars and the publication of the TU Delft open textbook on Nature-Based Solutions.



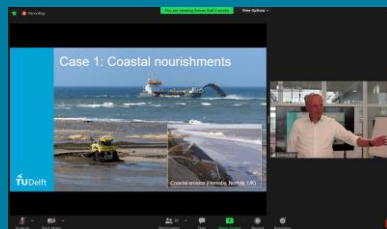
OKP Vietnam & Myanmar: News and (planned) activities

Dr. Mai Van Cong arrived in Delft

In November 2021 Dr. Mai Van Cong arrived in Delft. As associate professor at Thuyloi university and managing Director of Vietnam- Netherlands Center for Water and Environment (VINWATER), he has always been closely involved in the TU Delft – Thuyloi collaboration. He has now obtained a position as associate professor of Hydraulic and Coastal Engineering at TU Delft. Good luck Cong!

Delta Futures Lab on Nature-Based Solutions

On October 22nd, Prof. Stefan Aarninkhof presented a webinar on nature-based solutions along shorelines. Nature-based solutions continue to form an important asset in our portfolio of measures for climate adaptation. The webinar was joined by many of our partners from both Myanmar and Vietnam!



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/>



PIE webinar on partnerships

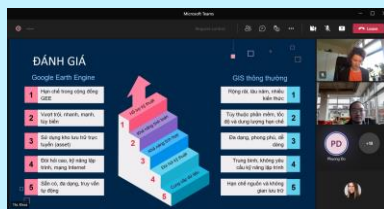
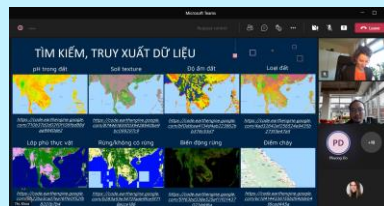
The Platform for International Education (PIE) hosted an online dialogue on partnerships with almost 70 participants from over 30 countries. The purpose was to have an open dialogue on how to achieve equitable and inspirational partnerships between international partners and Dutch institutes for higher education and professional development in the field of knowledge exchange. Representatives from both TU Delft and HUNRE were on the organisation team of the event. After multiple interactive sessions and inspirational stories, some of the key take-aways were that equality, trust, respect and ownership are crucial for partnerships. The keynote speech was given by Dr. Pham Hong Nga from Thuyloi and Marjan Kreijns on behalf of TU Delft: 30 years of educating together. What started with research exchange and engineer residencies blossomed into a long-term partnership of knowledge exchange in the field of water resources and a joint venture named [VINWATER](#).



OKP Vietnam & Myanmar: News and (planned) activities

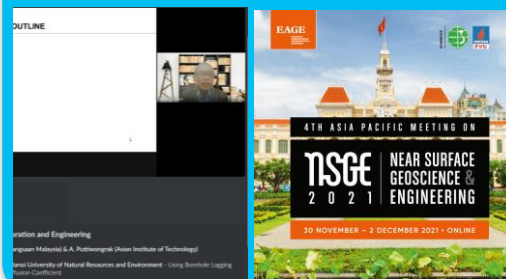
TMT+ HKV enters next phase: self-assignments

The start of December marked the end of the first phase of the TMT+ on River Morphology and Flood Risk using state-of-the-art open satellite data and processing tools by HKV and TU Delft. The final session was an inspiring closing lecture by Anh Phương Do, who works for the Center for Informatics and Statistics at the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD). The participants will now proceed with their own case studies. They will use the tools and skills learned to analyze their own water management issue with the guidance from an HKV mentor.



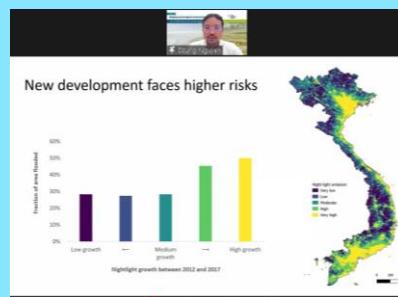
Asia Pacific meeting on Near Surface Geosciences

In December the 4th Asia Pacific meeting on Near Surface Geoscience & Engineering took place. Our partner Ass. Prof. Pham Quy Nhan (HUNRE) was part of the technical programme committee of this online event. Contributions were made by other HUNRE lecturers and partners in the form of workshops and presentations.



Royal HaskoningDHV on overcoming coastal erosion in Vietnam

In November, our Vietnam CoP member Royal HaskoningDHV organized a webinar on sustainable approaches to overcoming coastal erosion in Vietnam. Guest speakers from the World Bank, Royal HaskoningDHV, Water Research Laboratory (Australia), and Khang Duc Construction presented their ideas during this informative webinar! Missed it? Watch the full recording [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/>

Catching up with Truong Hong Son

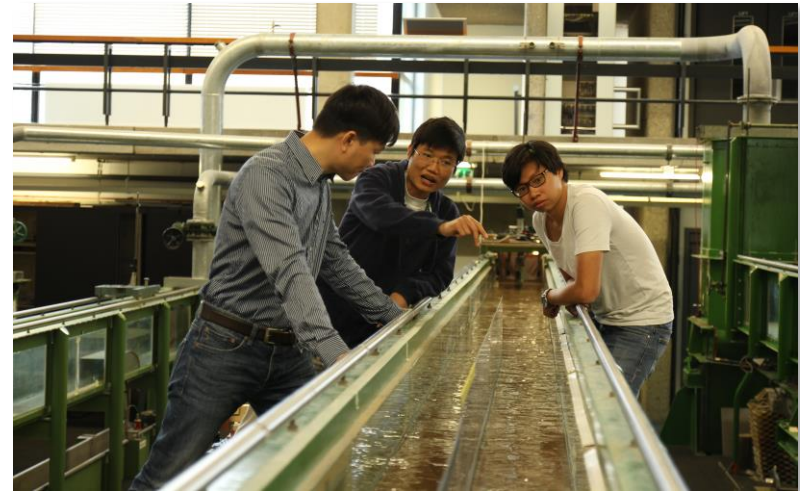


About Son

Truong Hong Son is an environmental scientist specializing in coastal hydrodynamics and morphodynamics. He undertakes research and provides advice to government and industry on a range of topics including eco-hydraulics, wetlands, estuaries, rivers and coastal environments in Vietnam. He holds a BSc degree in Hydraulic structures (Thuyloi University), an MSc in Coastal and Marine Engineering and Management (TU Delft, University of Southampton, NTNU) and a PhD in Environmental Fluid Mechanics (TU Delft). He left Delft in 2018. Currently, he is a lecturer and researcher at Thuyloi University, teaching and researching hydraulic structures and fluid mechanics.

What did you enjoy most about your PhD at TU Delft?

I enjoyed every single moment in all meetings & discussions with my promoters, Prof Marcel and Prof Wim Uijtewaal. They taught me how to research and research independently. I spent almost two years of my life in the shallow flume at the TU Delft Water Lab, and I received a ton of support from technicians and colleagues there. I think that was the most crucial time in my Ph.D., where I could freely create and run and investigate hundreds of experimental scenarios without worrying anything about the real outside world. I think that is the dream time of any scientist!



Catching up with Truong Hong Son

How have you used your TU Delft knowledge in Vietnam?

When I returned, I used my 'TU Delft knowledge' in all projects and research activities in Vietnam. Not just the scientific computational technology, the scientific description, but also the research methodology, i.e., the way of asking the right research questions and the way of critical thinking in all research activities.

What did you like most about TU Delft?

I liked the freedom that TU Delft provided me during my Ph.D. study. I liked my office, of course. But what I remember most is the TU Delft campus. When I got stuck during my studies, I could receive tons of positive thinking by just wandering around the beautiful campus.



What are some of the water challenges in Vietnam you want to tackle?

I want to solve the water security for the Mekong Delta, prevent this region from salt intrusion, inundation, and flooding in the near future in the context of sea-level rise and change of upstream water regime. I want to study, develop and apply new technical solutions to environmentally friendly tackle the water issues in low-land delta regions such as Mekong Delta. I also want to restore and protect wetland regions in Vietnam from future urbanization planning. I think "water" should be in the center of the connection between nature-society and economy.

Catching up with Truong Hong Son

Read Son's full PhD dissertation [here](#)



Read Son's story of science 'Mangroves caught in the middle' [here](#)



What projects are you working on that excite you?

I proposed and participated in proposing several research projects that prove the necessity of defending the Mekong Delta by applying new innovative technologies and protecting the coastal region from erosion and flooding in the context of climate change and accelerated human intervention.

What is your ultimate career goal?

I want to become a famous professor in the field of coastal engineering and hydraulic engineering in Vietnam, where I can apply all knowledge that I learned, learning and will learn to solve real urgent water issues (flooding, inundation, salt intrusion) in the coastal and estuarine region Vietnam. In other words, I really want to translate knowledge regarding physical processes to real-world projects that ensure the balance between water, nature, and human activities. I think I can not complete this goal alone, so I need to build a really strong international and local research network!



Do Thi Thuy Dung 23 years old

Completed her BSc in Water Resources Management at HUNRE in 2020.

Received an OKP-funded MSc scholarship to study Water Science Engineering (specializing in Hydrology and Water Resources) at IHE Delft in 2021



The OKP effect: The story of Dung

How is your experience studying abroad so far?

I'm doing pretty good so far! People at IHE Delft are so supportive and helpful. My colleagues are so nice and are always willing to give me a hand whenever I need their help. The thing I like most about this journey is that I have a chance to get exposed to diverse cultures. Because IHE students come from every part of the world, I got a lot of opportunities to get to know new people, cultures, and perspectives. We actually had some cultural meeting up in which we share traditional food, games, and even political issues of our home countries.

How did the OKP programme at HUNRE help you?

Thanks to the OKP programme at HUNRE that I got some insights into the Dutch education system and Dutch people. That is how I learned the Netherlands is a great place to live and pursue my MSc degree as it not only provides international students with generous scholarships such as OKP, but people there are so open-minded in sharing knowledge. The project partners also supported me in the scholarship application and continue to include me while I am studying here, and I always feel so thankful for that.

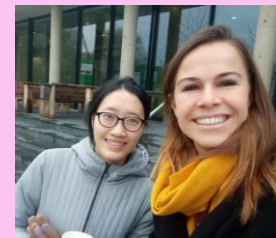


How was your BSc programme experience at HUNRE?

Even though the study programme was never easy, we always had our teachers making doing their very best to allow us to get many interesting experiences. As part of the OKP Climate Proof Vietnam project, exchange students often came to HUNRE and made a good impression on me. Having talked and conducted the practical with them was such an exciting and useful experience for me.



“My future career goal is to become a water expert and this OKP scholarship allowed me to take the next important step to fulfil this dream!”





Ninh Thi Kieu Anh 23 years old

Completed her BSc in Water Resources Management at HUNRE in 2020.

Received an MSc scholarship to study Water Engineering and Management at the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand in 2021



The OKP effect: the story of Kiều Anh

How is your experience studying abroad so far?

I am now on my first semester and studying intensively about Water Engineering. I went through my first courses: watershed hydrology and hydrodynamics. I now have to work harder than I used to be because I'm going more deeply into "Engineering" topics, which is quite different to the water management topics I had

in my BSc. However, with the enthusiasm and professionalism of AIT's professors, I will learn a lot and be able to develop myself further and figure out my future career goals!



How did the OKP programme at HUNRE help you?

The opportunity of taking part in the OKP project motivated me to take action in searching for study opportunities abroad. Being a part of different OKP activities and having connections with Dutch friends helped me to improve my English, my communication skills as well as widen my water knowledge. Last but not least, I received a lot of useful recommendations from Dutch experts on future career steps.

How do you fill your day studying in Thailand?

I spend most of my time attending the classes and studying. Usually, each class takes only 2 hours, but we receive a lot of information. It is necessary to spend time revising and studying the knowledge after class, that's why I don't have much free time during the day. However, I sometimes take the time to visit places and travel around. I really appreciate that I'm in a different country and I should treasure every moment by carrying out different activities.

"I hope I can gain more experiences in doing research and take part in different international water projects in the future!"



Citizen Science for Environmental Studies: an Introduction

Course description

Citizen science landscape is characterized by a remarkable diversity of projects. Whether local or global, online or “offline”, short blitz campaigns or long-term collaborations — citizen science projects empower researchers and local communities, build societal trust in science, and help us jointly address environmental challenges of today. Indeed, citizen science offers multiple opportunities, but if you have never done citizen science before, you might think “Where do I even start?”

The aim of this course is to help you make the first step in this exciting field. In the first block, we will explore the history of citizen science, its theoretical foundations, and existing frameworks. We will look at various levels of citizens’ participation, and will analyze the design and set-up of a number of existing projects, ranging from crowdsourcing to collaborative science. In the second block, we will focus on the practical aspects of initiating and running a citizen science project. You will get a systematic overview of available resources — such as tools and platforms — and, importantly, will get a hands-on experience of designing a citizen science project of your own.

Who is the course for?

The course will be of interest to any Vietnamese lecturers and researchers generally curious about citizen science as well as to those who are considering developing a citizen science project, or have an idea they would like to work on. There are no pre-requisites for this course, except a decent command of the English language.



Sign-up: <https://forms.gle/3kbnJnrflUv5hxMn7>

Course Schedule

VN Time & Date	Week 1			Week 2	
	Tuesday January 11 th	Thursday January 13 th	Friday January 14 th	Tuesday January 18 th	Thursday January 20 th
Morning	Self-study*	Self-study*	Self-study*	Self-study*	Self-study*
15.00-17.00	Online lecture 1	Online lecture 2	Online lecture 3	Online lecture 4	Online lecture 5

*recorded lectures or other materials (approx. 2 hours), to be completed independently before the afternoon session

Opportunities

Delta Futures Lab Webinars

TU Delft organizes **Delta Futures Lab webinars** every week on future challenges of Delta regions around the globe. Join us for inspirational sessions!

Every Friday 12:30-13:30 CEST]
18.30-19.30 VN time
18:00-19:00 MMR time

Find the upcoming lectures and links in the agenda at <https://deltafutureslab.org/agenda/>



NBS open textbook

Associate professor Jill Slinger (TU Delft) as main author and editor published the open textbook: **Building with Nature & Beyond: Principles for designing nature based engineering solutions**. Join us in exploring the interface between hydraulic engineering, nature and society!



[Download
it here](#)

We wish all our
partners a very
Merry Christmas

& a Happy New Year!

