

OKP Newsletter

June 2021



Contents

Water connects	3
OKP Newsletters: a year in the making	4
OKP Vietnam & Myanmar: News and (planned) activities	5
Highlights: Multi-Hazard Risk Assessment online course	7
Opportunities	8
OKP Vietnam Partner Days (Nuffic)	8
Use of ESA Sentinels data for Monitoring Land & Water Resources	9
Events and self-paced courses	10

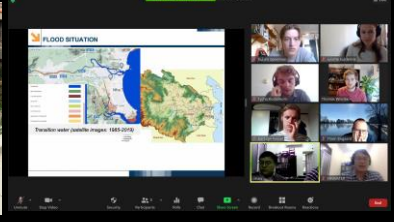
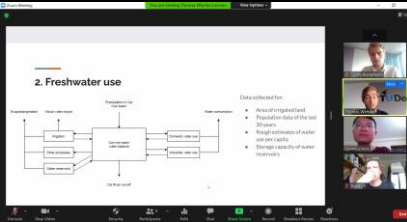
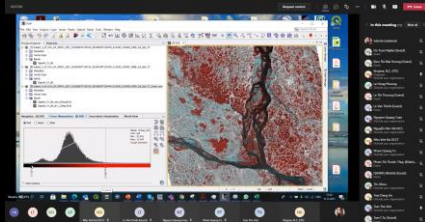
Water connects

June 2021, Delft

Dear partners,

Water is a connecting factor in many ways. It is the communal thread that unites all life, but can also be a threat to our livelihoods. Mountain tops are connected to river beds which lead to the ocean. Our health and well-being depends on water, just like almost all other life forms. Water also connects people in other ways. You can seek connections with other water and environmental professionals, exploring synergies within this important sector. In this newsletter, we explore ways in which water connects us through ongoing research initiatives, online events and other learning opportunities.

This newsletter includes news items on ongoing activities, including updates on various research efforts and outputs. We also update you on our tailor-made (online) course on Multi-Hazard Risk Assessment on page 7. Be sure to check out the opportunities at the end of this newsletter. This week the OKP partner days will take place for which all OKP Climate Proof Vietnam partners are welcome! In August we will organize a tailor-made training on the use of ESA Sentinels data for Monitoring Land & Water Resources in Vietnam for which registrations are still open. Furthermore, OPERANDUM will resume their webinar series on nature-based solutions! Enjoy the read!



OKP newsletters: a year in the making

OKP Newsletter

June 2020

Dear partners,
 Covid-19 has changed the entire world, and that includes the OKP collaboration projects. Partnerships with international research institutes and universities have been important for Delft University of Technology for years, allowing for new insights and exchange in knowledge. However, now that we are in the midst of a global pandemic, how can intercountry collaboration continue, where borders are closed and most people are working from home? Moreover, as a result of the pandemic, Delft partners have not been possible the past months, and may not be possible for the next few months. That is why we must continue to collaborate. If you have ideas about new initiatives during this time, do not hesitate to contact us.
 Within this first newsletter, which will now be sent monthly, you will find some quick news items on the OKP projects, the planned events, the introductions of some Dutch project partners and opportunities for professional development. Enjoy!



Online education: just do it?

October 2020, Delft

Dear partners,
 The COVID-19 pandemic has created the largest disruption of education systems in history, affecting nearly 1.8 billion learners in more than 190 countries and all continents. Closures of schools and other learning spaces have impacted 64% of the world's student population, up to 99% in low and lower-middle income countries (UN, 2020). The evolution of online learning has been widely discussed in the context of COVID-19. In fact, online learning has been proposed for years across the world, but received very little enthusiasm from universities, academics or students. In the outbreak of COVID-19 the governments and universities had no choice but to work out online plans. It has not been very successful. In this issue we hope to inspire you with experiences, tips, and tools.

In this October issue, we share with you the online education experiences of several staff members across different institutions. What have they done? What has been successful (and what has not)? How can transitioning to (some form of) online education have long-term benefits? First out more in the article. Furthermore, we have the usual news and upcoming activities updates for both our OKP projects, the 'Get to know us' section and a very special opportunity for professional development including the MDOC 'Beyond Engineering: Building with Nature'.



We support our partners in Myanmar

February 2021, Delft

Dear partners,
 The 2021 Myanmar coup d'état began on the morning of 1 February 2021 when democratically elected members of Myanmar's ruling party, the National League for Democracy, were ousted by the military of Myanmar. Since then, countless civil resistance efforts have emerged within the country, in opposition to the current military government. We have supported these efforts through various initiatives, including a joint branding movement, a red ribbon campaign, public protests, and formal recognition of the election results by elected representatives. As partners, we are devastated by the news and can only hope the people of Myanmar can remain strong and that we continue to stay connected through education.

While the situation in Myanmar brings us much sorrow, we also have some positive news to share with you, such as the HUNRE water resources career day and the first ever Climate Adaptation Summit (CA2021), hosted by the Netherlands. Other than that, February 12th marked the launch new year, bringing us into the year of the Ox. The 'Get to know us' section contains an overview of the HUNRE project staff. Finally, be sure to check out the opportunities for webinars as well as the European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly (online) and OKP scholarships for MSc programmes at IHE Delft. The deadlines are extended.



Turning challenges into opportunities

July 2020, Delft

Dear partners,
 This is the second edition of our monthly OKP newsletter. As the end of the academic year has arrived, we are still in the midst of a pandemic. However, university staff have more time to focus on professional development and capacity building activities during these summer months. In Vietnam, student recruitment is a crucial summer objective. In Myanmar, staff are brainstorming about how to continue education during the Covid-19 partial lockdown. In any case, OKP partners want to assist you as best as possible. As always, do not hesitate to contact us for support. Let's turn challenges into opportunities, together!

In this issue, besides the news, upcoming activities, 'Get to know us' section and the possibilities for professional development, we feature some special interviews. For OKP Vietnam we interviewed Laurent 'Lolo' First, Faculty Water and Wastewater Engineering at the University of Engineering and Technology. We also interviewed Thuy Huynh, senior project leader at Arcadis, and her Myanmar colleague Phuu Thi Kyue, Junior Engineer Water & Environment at Arcadis, about the impact of the OKP program on careers in the international and Myanmar water sector. Enjoy the read!



Without research there is nothing to teach

December 2020, Delft

Dear partners,
 During this pandemic, many academics are spending a lot of time on research and getting research publications. In fact, the Covid-19 crisis has underlined just how fast and open science publishing can be – when scientists want it that way! The main purpose of research is of course not to get it published. Academics carry out research to stimulate actions, to prove a theory, and contribute to developing knowledge and policymaking in a field or sector. But how do you know your research is new and interesting? When are you ready to publish? And when should you target the right journal for publication of your manuscript, how do you avoid getting overwhelmed by the diversity of journals? This newsletter focuses on all these aspects. The November issue is on research – because without research, there is nothing to teach. In this newsletter, we share with you the PhD research proposals of students of HUNRE, Ox and Kiox. We feature articles on how to choose an appropriate journal for your publication and on how to avoid predatory publishers. The 'Get to know us' section contains a very special feature interview to Dr. Phuu Thi Huynh from HUNRE. Furthermore, we have the usual news and upcoming activities updates for both our OKP projects and of course many opportunities for professional development.



Valuing water

March 2021, Delft

Dear partners,
 As many of you may already know, on March 22nd we celebrate World Water Day. The theme of this year is 'Valuing Water'. Water means different things to different people. What does water mean to you? How is water important to your home and family life, your livelihood, your cultural practices, your wellbeing, your local environment? By recording – and celebrating – all the different ways water benefits our lives, we can value water properly and safeguard it effectively for everyone.

In this newsletter we update you on the ongoing activities, and present some inspiration and events for World Water Day 2021. The 'Get to know us' section contains an overview of the YTU project staff. We also have a special feature on data, different resources of (spatial) data that is open, and hence free to use for research and education. Finally, be sure to check out the opportunities! YTU is hosting a special Climate Change Adaptation student research contest, and the EGU General Assembly will be hosted online in April of this year.



Back on track

August 2020, Delft

Dear partners,
 This is already the third edition of our monthly OKP newsletter. Summer vacation is ending, which marks the start of a new academic year. A year that starts with a lot of challenges in education and research. Using online tools has become the new 'normal' around the world and we've organized to see the facilitation of research, trainings and workshop and many other activities being planned on-site in both Vietnam and Myanmar.

In this issue, besides the news, upcoming activities, 'Get to know us' section and the opportunities for professional development, we feature some feedback from the HEDF courses, which was attended by 10 of our partners from both Myanmar and Vietnam. We furthermore interviewed Chit Yan To, MMU lecturer, about his experience at an IHE short course in Delft. Finally, we introduce the SWW World Water Week, organized for the first time online! The online version of this event allows you to join it from the comfort of your home, for free. Be sure to take advantage of that opportunity.



The year coming to an end

December 2020, Delft

Dear partners,
 Over one year ago the first case of Covid-19 was first identified, which has since then impacted the entire world. And while we know the end of this crisis will happen some time next year, we do not yet know when exactly that will be. Whilst the year 2020 has brought unprecedented challenges both for people and society, there has been a wave of inspiring new ideas developed in response. The imposed restrictions daily life have forced us to quickly adopt different ways of working, learning and connecting with each other. While we've learned many lessons and the future of institutional collaboration has become more digital, we cannot wait to meet each other again in person. On to a healthy and happy 2021!

In this newsletter, we share with you some reflections of the Nuffic OKP partnerships 2020. Furthermore we have a special feature on the power of open access, as a response to our previous article on publishing. We feature an extended interview with Professor Winn Yin Zin from YTU and the 'Get to know us' section contains an overview of the Thuy Huynh. Additionally, we continue to have the usual news and upcoming activities updates for both our OKP projects. Finally, be sure to check out the opportunities on improving your English skills!



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 Thuy Huynh, the Myanmar Water Festival which unites all the Myanmar New Year.

This newsletter includes our 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 Lu Kioa will be giving an (online) lecture together with his supervisor on monitoring plastic in rivers (this 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 Global South' on April 22nd.



The new normal

September 2020, Delft

Dear partners,
 The coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic has shown little respect for maritime borders and it took just three months to bring the world to a standstill, proving how intricately connected we are. The new academic year in the Netherlands kicked off this month with more on-site educational activities taking place. This is only possible if the government institutions are followed closely. Furthermore, educational institutions have to stagger their teaching activities, so that students do not place a burden on public transport at peak times. This means that we will always be 1.5 meter between students as well as between students and staff. That is the Dutch new normal in education. In Myanmar, the government is keeping universities closed for now, and closed high schools two weeks ago due to soaring infections, just over a month after reopening them. In Vietnam, the new school year began on September 5 as usual. However, enrolment of first year students has some delay due to delayed examinations.

In this September issue, we start with a quick Covid-19 travel update for the Netherlands, Vietnam and Myanmar. Furthermore, we have the usual news and upcoming activities updates for both our OKP projects, the 'Get to know us' section and the opportunities for professional development. We provide you with a condensed report of the first year of Leapfrogging Delta Management in Myanmar, and an extended interview on being a 'Young Expert' in the VEG programme.



New beginnings

January 2020, Delft

Dear partners,
 Happy new year 2021 brings us a new beginning with new opportunities for collaboration! While the Corona virus continues to spread at a slow but and intermittent lockdowns are the new normal, the approved vaccines offer us some hope and perspective for meeting each other again in person. We are so happy we see many partners in both Vietnam and Myanmar remaining motivated to follow develop themselves through attending online seminars and trainings, carrying out research, and educating their students to the best possible given the local circumstances. We urge you to remain positive, motivated and stay in contact. Please also continue to think about how OKP can support you best in this new year.

There is always room for new ideas in collaboration so do not hesitate to contact us with your plans! Furthermore, we have quite some news to share with you, such as the start-up event hosted by Thuy Huynh and the online PhD and MSc seminar hosted by YTU. We furthermore have a feature on the launch of the new Geosciences environment. The 'Get to know us' section contains an overview of the MMU project staff. Finally, be sure to check out the opportunities including the European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly (online) and OKP scholarships for MSc programmes at IHE Delft.



'We're part of the solution'

May 2021, Delft

Dear partners,
 May 22nd marks International Day for Biological Diversity (or World Biodiversity Day). This is a United Nations-sanctioned international day for the promotion of biodiversity issues. It highlights why having a rich variety of species (and conserving the habitats where they are found) is vitally important for our health and prosperity. The theme of this year is: 'We're part of the solution'. Find more information on how you can be part of the solution on page 7 of this newsletter.

The recent Covid-19 outbreak in Vietnam has caused universities and schools to close in an effort to slow the spread of the virus. Hopefully they will open up again soon, but until then Vietnam requires a shift to online learning and innovative teaching methods. We will support our partners in this in the coming months.

This newsletter includes many exciting news items on ongoing activities. Also be sure to check out the many opportunities in the final pages. These include a call to abstracts for a workshop on subsidence in the Mekong delta, a new EdX course on sustainable Port cities. Furthermore we have an upcoming telepresence training by TU Delft and ITC. Finally, be sure to check out the opportunities for professional development.

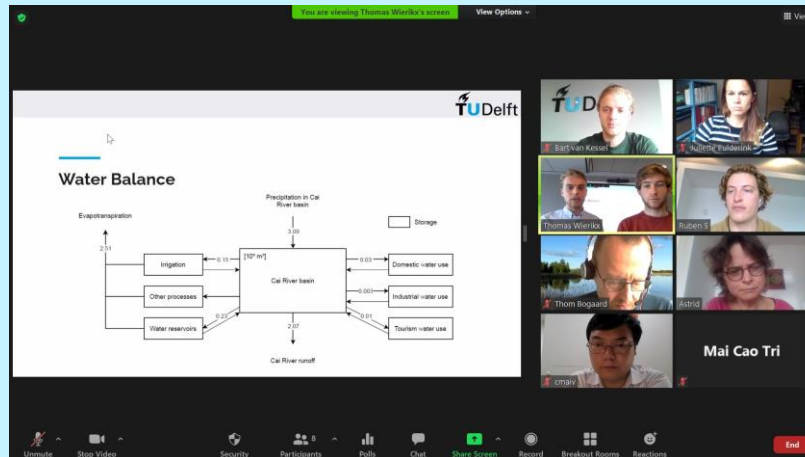


This newsletter marks the 13th edition of the OKP newsletter. We started this initiative exactly one year ago, on June 2020. You can find all the previous editions [here](#).

OKP Vietnam & Myanmar: News and (planned) activities

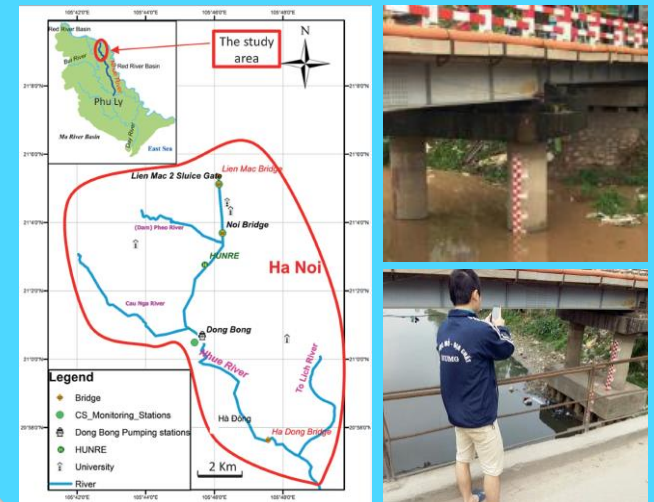
Multi-disciplinary research in the Cai River Basin

Four TU Delft Master students following different tracks of Civil Engineering have spent the past weeks on a multi-disciplinary project in Vietnam at a distance. Their topic is: Assessment of the Current and Future Saltwater Intrusion into the Cai River in Nha Trang, Vietnam. Through remote sensing methods and modelling, they are trying to reach their research objectives. The group is supervised by our partners Dr. Astrid Blom, Dr. Thom Bogaard and Juliette Eulderink from TU Delft as well as Thuyloi staff members Dr. Mai Van Cong, Dr. Dinh Nhat Quang and Dr. Mai Cao Tri. Their final results will be presented to the public on Friday July 2nd.



Citizen Science on Water Resources Monitoring in the Nhue River, Vietnam

HUNRE lecturer Ngoc Huan Tran has published his research in *Water Security in Asia* (Springer Water). One of his co-authors is our partner and associate professor at TU Delft, Martine Rutten. The research is on Citizen Science on Water Resources Monitoring in the Nhue River, Vietnam. Huan created pilot citizen science projects at two sluices at Lien Mac, Noi Bridge, and one pumping station at Dong Bong on the Nhue River, Vietnam. You can find the full article [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/>

OKP Vietnam & Myanmar: News and (planned) activities

Kick-off meeting for Nuffic-funded TMT+ on Google Earth Engine (HKV and TU Delft)

At the beginning of June, HKV and TU Delft had the kick-off meeting with HUNRE representatives for the Nuffic-funded TMT+ on Google Earth Engine. The name of the project is: *Tailor-made capacity building on river morphology and flood risk using state-of-the-art open satellite data and processing tools*. In the coming months, HKV and TU Delft will prepare the training, which will run from October 2021 - March 2022.

Google Earth Engine



Integrated River Sub-catchment Management project in Quang Nam

The consortium of our Community of Practice member Arcadis has won the tender for the RVO-funded project: 'Strategic Framework for Integrated River Sub-catchment Management, Quang Nam'. VINWATER and our partner Prof. Dr. Marcel Stive are also part of the consortium. Congratulations and good luck to the whole project team!



More online courses to be organized

Besides the ongoing training on Multi-Hazard Risk Assessment, the course on Research Set-Up and Literature Review will kick-off at the end of June. We have also opened the sign-up for the course on using ESA Sentinels data for Monitoring Land & Water Resources.

More courses will follow starting next academic year, including a second run of the Research Set-Up and Literature Review (due to the large interest in this course from our Vietnamese partners).



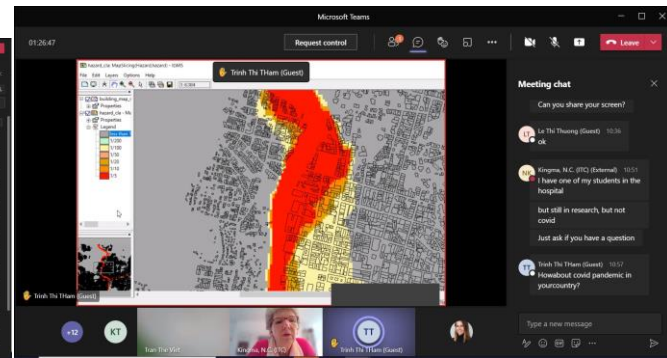
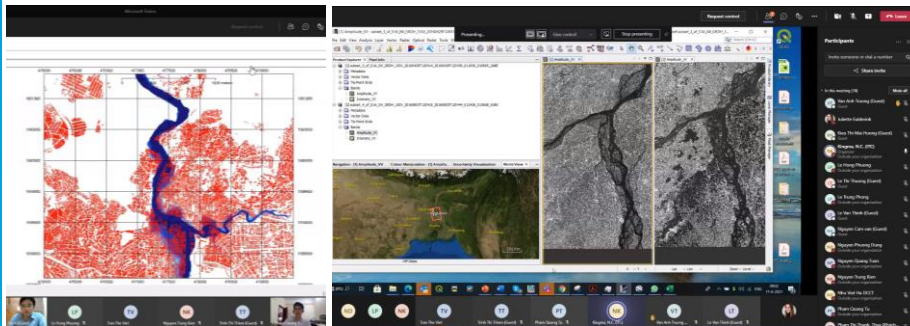
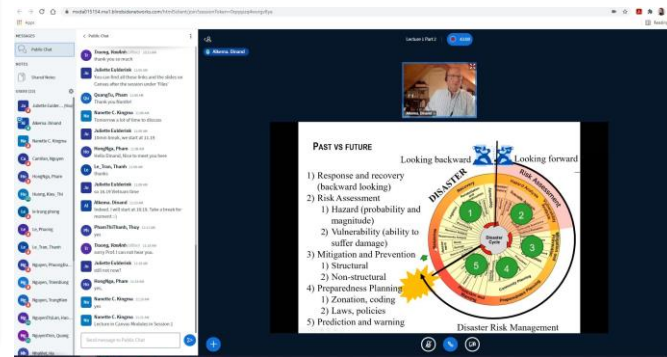
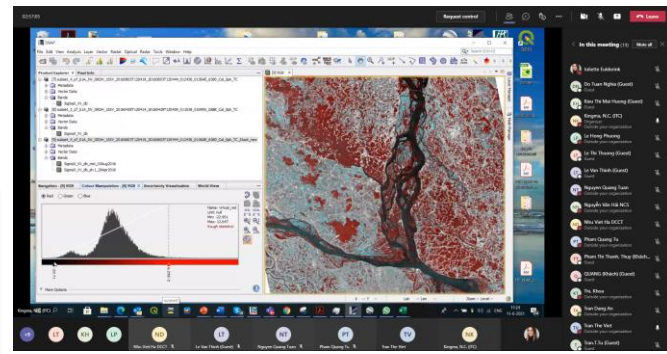
HUNRE graduate Dung obtains OKP Master Programme Scholarship

Do Thi Thuy Dung, one of the top students of the HUNRE Integrated Water Resources Management graduating class of 2020, has obtained an OKP Master Programme Scholarship. In October of this year, she will travel to Delft to study Hydrology and Water Resources at IHE Delft Institute for Water Education. Congratulations and good luck to you Dung!

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/>

Highlights: Multi-Hazard Risk Assessment Online Course

On June 3rd, we kicked off the online course on Multi-Hazard Risk Assessment for our partners from HUNRE and Thuyloi University. Over 25 participants will learn all about how to conduct a risk assessment using spatial information on hazards, elements at risk and vulnerability. They will do so with the aid of GIS and remote sensing. They will also learn how this information can be used in risk management, with a focus on urban areas and delta regions. The course is organized by ITC Twente, with Nanette Kingma as course coordinator and main trainer.



During this event, TU Delft will present about OKP Climate Proof Vietnam together with Prof. Pham Quy Nhan from HUNRE and Le Thanh Hue from Thuyloi

OKP Vietnam Partner Days

nuffic
meet the world

Orange Knowledge

On Friday June 18th Nuffic will organize the **OKP Vietnam Partner Days** and all our partners are invited to join! The goals of the meetings are:

- To meet each other in a virtual way
- To learn from each other and to foster collaboration between projects and people
- Gather input and ideas for future programming
- To enhance knowledge on thematic areas and sustainability of the project results

Friday, June 18th ; 9.00-12.30 NL time = 14.00-17.30 VN time

Interested in joining? Sign-up by sending an email to J.L.F.Eulderink@tudelft.nl or mnieuwendijk@nuffic.nl

OKP invests in skills and knowledge exchange of (future) professionals in the water and agricultural sectors to support Vietnam in climate adaptation strategies in the deltas. The two sectors operate in isolation while the challenges and opportunities are interwoven. In Vietnam this translates into capacity building with a focus on integrated water management interlinked with agricultural restructuring, innovation and human capital development. The big challenge ahead for both sectors is how to achieve systematic change by translating theory into practice and policy into sustainable solutions at national and local level. How do we as partners contribute concretely in the coming year(s) to those systemic changes?

Use of ESA Sentinels (S1, S2, S3..) data for Monitoring Land & Water Resources in Vietnam

Tailor-made training

Training objectives:



- You will learn to use the European Space Agency Sentinels data for monitoring land and water resources in different Vietnamese regions
- Using different tools for pre- and post-processing, you will be able to apply the skills to local case studies in Vietnam

Training information:



Trainer: Dr. Ben Maathuis
Associate Professor, ITC Twente

Logistics: Online (using both Teams/ Zoom and Canvas) in English

Max participants: 25

Sign-up: <https://forms.gle/tfnR1Cd8YTR3Xzey5>

Dates: 4th – 13th August 2021 (see schedule)

Planning and schedule:



VN Time/ Date	Week 1			Week 2	
	Wednesday August 4 th	Thursday August 5 th	Friday August 6 th	Thursday August 12 th	Friday August 13 th
8.30-12.30		Self-study*	Self-study*	Self-study*	Self-study*
13.30-17.30	Lecture 1	Lecture 2	Lecture 3	Lecture 4	Lecture 5

*Please note: self-study is flexible – you can complete this whenever suits you best

Opportunities: events and self-paced courses

The OPERANDUM Open-Air Labs webinar series continues on **Wed, June 23 at 13.30 CET!** The webinar on June 23rd is entitled:

Nature-based Solutions for flood and drought mitigation

It will provide insights from the OPERANDUM partners from OAL Greece, Ireland, Germany and Italy. You can sign-up and find more information [here](#).



(Re)Imagining Port Cities: Understanding Space, Society and Culture

TU Delft has launched a new EdX course on Port Cities! In the course you will analyze examples of port cities from a multi-disciplinary, cross-cultural perspective. You will develop the skills to identify and address the challenges port cities face now and into the future. The course starts May 26th and will end July 7th with a study load of 4-5 hours per week. Find more information and sign up for the course [here](#).

