

OKP Newsletter

December 2020



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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 to daily life have forced us to quickly adopt different ways of working, learning and connecting with each other. And 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 partnerdays 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 Win Win Zin from YTU and the 'Get to know us' section contains an overview of the Thuyloi staff. Additionally, we of course 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!



OKP Vietnam & Myanmar: News and (planned) activities

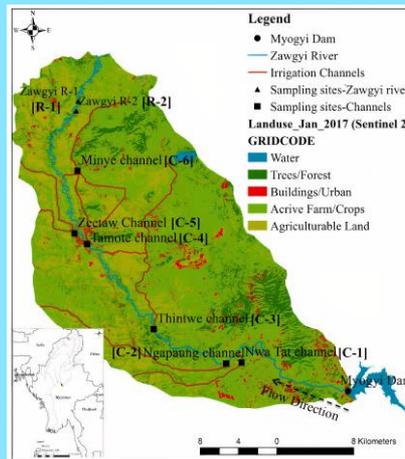
Delta alliance funds for the continuation of West Lake WQ monitoring



Lecturer Tran Thuy Chi from HUNRE has received funds from the [Delta Alliance](#) to continue monitoring the water quality of West Lake in Hanoi. Together with her students she will sample the lake at different locations to contribute to the existing dataset and monitor longer-term trends in lake water quality.

Publication Nyein Thandar Ko in *Sustainability*

Nyein Thandar Ko and her co-authors Phil Suter, John Connalin, Martine Rutten and Thom Bogaard got their research published in *Sustainability*. The paper is on aquatic macroinvertebrate indicators in the Zawgyi River and the associated irrigation channels in central Myanmar. You can find the full article (open access) [here](#). After her years at TU Delft, Ko has now returned to Yangon and will become a lecturer for YU. Good luck Ko!



Vietnamese teacher day

Each year on November 20th, Vietnam celebrates teacher day. Students and parents from all around the country, as well as the government, show their gratitude to those in the education sector. It was a big celebration at both Thuyloi University and HUNRE!



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

Chris Mannaerts' keynote speech at BEODay

On November 24th, the STEREO team organized its annual Belgian Earth Observation Day (BEODay). As this was a virtual event, over 100 participants were able to join from all over the world. Our partner Chris Mannaerts from ITC Twente gave one of the keynote speeches on the FAO WaPOR database: remote sensing for water productivity. You can find his presentation [here](#).



Tung Dao's (HUNRE) article becomes Editor's Choice

Tung Dao's paper entitled 'Experimental Assessment of the Flow Resistance of Coastal Wooden Fences' has become the Editor's choice article in Volume 12, Issue 7 of Water. Congratulations Tung! You can find the article (open access) [here](#).

Webinar Thom Bogaard and Nora van Cauwenbergh on Myanmar cooperation

Our colleagues Thom Bogaard (TU Delft) and Nora van Cauwenbergh (IHE Delft) gave a presentation during the International Water Colloquium initiated by TU Dresden, University of Bonn and UNU-FLORES. The title of their presentation was: 'Leapfrogging Water Management in Myanmar by Long-lasting and Multidisciplinary Cooperation'. They presented their capacity building activities in Myanmar, drawing examples from the current 'OKP Higher Education in Full Flow Myanmar' project and previous Niche project as well as other tailor-made trainings and long-term collaborations. They highlighted how they were able to leapfrog innovative technologies in Myanmar's water sector, focusing on water (quality) monitoring and measuring.



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/>

Nuffic OKP Partner Days 2020

Over 400 people from over 35 countries joined the Nuffic Orange Knowledge Programme (OKP) Partner Days. The overarching theme of the conference 'Shared challenges and opportunities, present and future' guided the discussions. On Monday the 23rd of November our project partners Juliette Eulderink (TU Delft) and Thi Van Le Khoa (HUNRE) contributed to the thematic OKP Partner Day session on 'COVID-19: A Force for Change'. This session explored the shared challenges and opportunities the current COVID-19 situation has brought forth for those involved in Nuffic-funded projects.

Juliette and Khoa gave a presentation on managing Institutional Collaboration Projects in times of COVID-19, drawing examples from OKP 'Climate Proof Vietnam' and OKP 'Higher Education in Full Flow Myanmar'. They talked about how activities have shifted to online or hybrid due to the pandemic, such as online workshops and webinars and distance research support. They also presented the many valuable lessons learned in the past months, for example that the creation of good digital (educational) products allows for long-term and widespread re-use. They concluded their presentation with their future vision for institutional collaboration, in which they hope there will be a lower threshold to quick communication with partners abroad, as well as an easier exchange between all institutions within and outside of the Netherlands.

Missed it? Watch the full recording [here](#)

"Knowledge is power. Knowledge that is shared is power multiplied"

- Dr. Joannie Marlene Bewa, researcher and global advocate for women's health and education. She gave the keynote speech at the OKP Partner Days.

TU Delft track record in SEA

- Over 30 years of collaboration in Vietnam
- Almost 10 years of collaboration in Myanmar
- Also other collaborations with Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia
- Currently OKP 'Climate Proof Vietnam' and OKP 'Higher Education in Full Flow Myanmar'



A word from our partner in Vietna

- Online research support
- Transitioning to open source software
 - Python course
- Attending online webinars and trainings
 - Focus on skills for the future



Thi Van Le Khoa
Lecturer Hanoi University of Education, Vietnam



The Power of Open Access

Our November newsletter contained a feature on the topic of Open Access (OA), which triggered a response by our partner Marcel Stive, emeritus professor of coastal engineering at TU Delft. Therefore, regarding the concept of OA, we decided to present some additional thoughts and reflections. In the very useful tips on publishing, OA was mentioned as a way to find “not paywalled” literature. It should be noted that the movement towards OA is more fundamental. Dutch universities are amongst the many academic institutions worldwide that promote OA for research results, which is strongly supported by national and international funding institutions. An important argument behind this is that research is commonly carried out through public funding so this should be available publicly.



The main strategy of the OA movement is to give readers free access to peer reviewed research and related academic literature, such as lecture notes and monographs. Conventional non-OA journals cover publishing costs through a pay-wall. OA journals use funding models that do not require the reader to pay. However, the publication efforts need to be finance. This has resulted in a number of variants of OA publishing, commonly described using a color system. The most commonly recognized colors are “gold”, “green” and “hybrid” OA. In the gold model, the publisher makes all articles freely available, usually by requiring the author rather than the reader to bear the costs of publication. These costs are known as Article Processing Charge (APC), which typically vary between 1,000 and 2,000 Euro. In the green model, publishers permit self-archiving by the author or its institution of the near-final version of the manuscript. In the hybrid model, commercial publishers provide open access for those individual articles for which the authors (or their research institution) pay a publication fee, which is in the range of 3,500 to 4,000 Euro. The general trend is that the publication fees to be paid by authors are more and more carried by their institutions and funding agencies.

The Power of Open Access (cont.)

In the November newsletter a warning in the context of OA was given by referring to Beall's list of "predatory" publishers. This list has been removed from the web a couple of years ago due to controversial issues. We encourage that researchers check the credentials of OA publishers and their indexing organizations and related scores. For instance, Google Scholar indexes about nearly everything, but ISI Web of Science is one of the most reliable indexing institutions. So when choosing a suitable publisher, it is vital to do your homework. Finally, we wish to note that the idea behind OA publication also extends to Open Sources (e.g. Deltares Software) and Open Data (e.g. Open Earth). This issue is far from developed and this will take many more years and effort from scholars and their academic institutions across the globe. However, it is the progressive way forward.



CC-BY Danny Kingsley & Sarah Brown

An interview with Professor Win Win Zin (YTU)!

How did you get into the field of water resources?

Myanmar has abundant water resources. Although the overall availability of water is plenty, there are distinct regional water issues differences such as water scarcity in the central dry zone, flooding in the Ayeyarwady delta, flash floods in the mountainous areas and dry zone, cyclones and storm surges along the coast, seawater intrusion in Ayeyarwady delta, improper drainage in urban areas, water quality deterioration, and ground water overexploitation in the Yangon region. Therefore the field of integrated water

resources management is really important in Myanmar, and caught my attention.

I became interested in water related subjects as an undergraduate student. When I became teaching staff at YTU, I chose to specialize in the water resources engineering field further. At that time, there were more structural engineering teachers than water resources engineering teachers at Civil Engineering Department.

Dr. Win Win Zin

Professor/Head of Water Resources department at YTU and Project Director OKP Higher education in full flow Myanmar



What do you enjoy most about collaborating with International researchers?

During my career as a professor and researcher, I have established a trusting partnership and extensive research network and through fostering relationships with other prominent academic institutions from the Netherlands, Germany and Japan. Such partnerships have contributed endlessly to my academic career and scientific research.

What is your research philosophy?

I believe researchers should have an analytic and systematic mind because research is a type of work that requires both strategic thinking and attention to detail. They should adopt a critical thinking mindset. I believe conducting scientific research is not only important to the academic field but also imperative to support the stakeholders in other projects.

In my pursuits of high quality research, I emphasize intellectual skills and life-long learning. Critical thinking, problem solving and creativity are important when doing research. I always seek opportunities to get new research insights (ideas, literature, new methodology, research activities, etc.) by attending conferences, workshops and seminars as well as reading new journal articles.

What, up until now, have been the best memories of your career?

I have enjoyed seeing institutional capacity and facilities at YTU being strengthened.

More specifically, the knowledge and skills of academic staff of YTU has improved, the facilities and equipment for teaching have been upgraded. This has been made possible through linking with other universities and knowledge institutes such as TU Delft, IHE Delft and ITC

Twente. The academic network of YTU has grown a lot over the past years.

Furthermore, I am greatly satisfied with the achievements of our students. They have gotten recognition such as obtaining best paper awards, getting opportunities to study further abroad and getting jobs at important water related agencies.



Get to know Thuyloi project staff

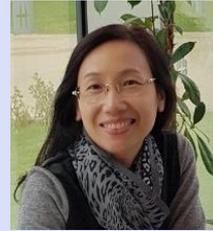


Management



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Get to know Thuyloi project staff



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Introducing the online education & E-learning resources pages

This month we've launched new pages on our Myanmar and Vietnam websites on online education and e-learning. It includes many links to open course ware and other useful tips. Check it out!

Home News Capacity building Education and research Universities

Online education and E-learning resources

Vietnam > Education and research > Online education and E-learning resources

Home
News
Capacity building
Education and research
Ongoing research
MSc/BSc student projects
VINWATER
Online education and E-learning resources

Online education and E-learning resources

TU Delft resources

- Online education in the Global South: Tips and tools
Download our manual
- TU Delft OpenCourseWare
Check out the online courses
- DelftX
Free online courses from Delft University of Technology on the EdX platform

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Myanmar Water Links

Online education & E-learning resources

TU Delft resources

- Online education in the Global South: Tips and tools
Download our manual
- TU Delft OpenCourseWare
Check out the online courses
- DelftX
Free online courses from Delft University of Technology on the EdX platform

Check out the Vietnam page [here](#)

Check out the Myanmar page [here](#)

Opportunities: Improve your English

Cải thiện tiếng Anh của bạn

အင်္ဂလိပ်စာတိုးတက်အောင်လုပ်ပါ



General
Academic
English

English
Grammar and
Style

Speak
English
Professionally

IELTS
Academic Test
Preparation

Quick tips on learning English

1. Watch English movies with English subtitles

The quickest way to learn English is by watching videos. These can be movies, series or just short videos on YouTube. Put on English subtitles and read along!



2. Listen to English songs

When listening to English songs, try to rewrite the lyrics you are hearing!

3. Read in English

The fastest way to improve your vocabulary is to read more in English. Depending on your level, this can be children books or entire scientific articles!



4. Join an English online chatroom

Chat with real people! Check out the chatrooms [here](#)

5. Use free applications to learn English on your phone

Try 'DuoLingo', 'Quiz your English', 'Beelingu', or 'HelloTalk'



From all of us here at TU Delft
**Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year!**

