

# OKP Newsletter

September 2020



# Contents

The new normal	3
Covid-19 travel update	4
OKP Vietnam & Myanmar: News and (planned) activities	5
Leapfrogging Delta Management in Myanmar Reflecting on project year 1	6
Meet the Young Experts of TU Delft & HUNRE	7
Get to know us	9
Opportunities	10

# The new normal

September 2020, Delft

Dear partners,

The coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic has shown little respect for manmade borders and it took just three months to bring the world to a standstill, proving how intimately 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 instructions 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. Finally, there must 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, enrollment 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 of course 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 YEP programme!



# Covid-19 travel update\*

\*This is the latest information publicly available. Due to the ever-changing nature of the regulations, we strongly advise that you check the statistics and regulations before you travel

## The Netherlands



No. total cases: 83399

### Travel restrictions to NL:

- Passengers are not allowed to enter the Netherlands with exceptions for:
  - Netherlands nationals
  - Travellers from EU countries, Schengen area countries and the UK
  - Other exceptions can be found [here](#)
- A health declaration must be completed before boarding a flight from a high risk Covid-19 country
- Passengers are subject to a 10-day self quarantine

## Vietnam



No. total cases: 1063

### Travel restrictions to VN:

- Passengers are not allowed to enter Vietnam with exceptions for:
  - Vietnam nationals
  - Passengers with diplomatic or official passport
  - Experts or high-tech workers (with special permission)
- Suspension on all visa exemptions and visa on arrival facilities
- A health declaration must be completed before arrival
- Passengers are subject to medical screening and a 14-day government-approved quarantine
- Passengers travelling for business must have an international medical insurance that covers all Covid-19 related costs
- Passengers must have proof of a Covid-19 test taken by Real-time-PCR technique, 3-7 days before arrival by a lab approved by the VN government

## Myanmar



No. total cases: 3015

### Travel restrictions to MMR:

- Flights to MMR are suspended until 30 September 2020
  - This does not apply for Medevac flights
- Suspension on all visa exemptions and visa on arrival facilities
- Passengers are subject to a 14-day quarantine
- Passengers must have a medical certificate with a negative Covid-19 test result
  - This does not apply to MMR nationals

# OKP Vietnam & Myanmar: News and (planned) activities



## Online training Integrated Coastal Zone Management

[Dr. Erik de Ruijter van Steveninck](#), an aquatic and marine ecologist at IHE Delft, will organize an online training on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) for Vietnam and Myanmar partners that are interested. ICZM is a resource management system following an integrative, holistic approach to addressing the complex management issues in the coastal area. More information on logistics and content for this course will follow soon. Stay tuned!

## Stockholm World Water Week @Home

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of August, research initiatives of OKP Vietnam and Myanmar were featured in a session at the online [SIWI World Water Week](#). Juliette, the Resident Project manager Vietnam of TU Delft, contributed to the session *Solving the Water-Climate-Puzzle by connecting youth stories and decision-makers*. She explained how student research initiatives contributes to solving this Water-Climate-Puzzle. You can still watch the session [here](#).



Discussing developing lab standards for isotopic analyses at HUNRE



Guest lecture Aung Thura for students and staff of MMU and YTU about his work and projects 5

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/>

# Leapfrogging delta management in Myanmar: Reflecting on project year 1

## An acoustic rain meter with rhythm

Disdro is a smart rain meter: it measures rain acoustically. It can even tell the difference between the size of rain drops and measures both rain intensity as well as distribution. During the 'Internet of things workshop, participants built a similar sensor and then programmed it to deliver information. At the end of the workshop, each duo demonstrated their sensor and how the data can be used to learn more about the water system.



## Wavedroid

The Wavedroid was used by MMU, Royal Haskoning DHV and the Myanmar Port Authority (MPA) to obtain wave data for the construction of the Yangon port and an analysis of illegal sand mining at Ngapali Beach. Wave data is very relevant for projects around harbors and at sea in order to explore the boundary conditions of hydraulic structures and analyze when the conditions are suitable for different building phases

## Vandersat soil moisture sensors

Soil moisture sensors and loggers have been installed at 4 locations in and around Bago in different types of landscapes to properly validate the operation of the sensors and the reliability of the data. This involved close cooperation with the staff of ITC Bago. The data that is measured in-situ is also used to validate soil moisture estimates made by satellite data, enabling more and larger-scale research into and water management of soil moisture and irrigation needs of agriculture.



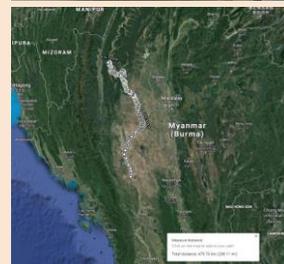
## Water Drones by Indymo

Indymo has developed a water drone (also called aquabot) that can measure all kinds of water quality parameters quickly and accurately across depth and the span of a waterbody. The monitoring strategy furthermore includes data collection by staff and students of YTU. They will set up a long-term database and integrate fieldwork into the existing curriculum. The drone has therefore remained at YTU.



## Chindwin River expedition

A TU Delft student walked down the Chindwin River together with Myanmar staff and students to take water quality measurements using the AKVO app. Due to the rapidly expanding industry along the river it has been identified as a potential major source of pollution. They furthermore took sediment samples for geochemical analysis (heavy metal contamination). The total journey was 500km by foot!



# Meet the Young Experts of TU Delft & HUNRE



**Thi Van Le Khoa**  
*Young Expert Water Batch 18*  
*TU Delft & HUNRE*

YEP

## What made you decide to join the YEP programme?

I visited the official website of YEP, and discovered this is a very interesting programme for young people. I watched videos of former YEPers and witnessed the confidence-building, fun activities they have done together. All these facts convinced me to join this program. At the same time I also enjoyed the idea of working together with a Dutch YEPer in Vietnam on the Orange Knowledge Programme for 2 years. I expected new sharing about work, about culture, about people. I was very excited about this.

## What is your favorite part about the YEP programme?

It's about becoming part of a growing community, ready to share, and constantly updated. Alumni also have the opportunities to participate in Master online courses which is also a great part of YEP.

## How were the trainings you attended?

The trainings were a great experience in November last year. I have never experienced similar activities before, designed to be purely for personal development. The activities organized have quite realistic topics, issues that were discussed included working plan development, video making skills, conflict handling skills. They are completely suitable for the personal development of young people in current social circumstances and job requirements. At the same time, the stories shared between participants from many different countries are truly amazing. I understand more about many African countries, more about the religious issues and culinary cultures of many countries.

## How do you think YEP benefits the OKP programme in Vietnam?

The common point of YEP and the OKP project in Vietnam is capacity building. While YEP's strategies are more specific after years of operational experience, the OKP project is more flexible by listening to beneficiaries first, and then designing appropriate programs. The great thing is that by training staff in charge of managing and coordinating project activities, YEP has created a good foundation for these staff and met the request for flexibility in the OKP implementation.

## How will the YEP network benefit you in the future?

The experience and opportunities generated by the YEP network will be very helpful in my future. The world is entering a new phase, in which the development of artificial intelligence will break the characteristics within any borders. Anyone who wants to create development will have to approach the problem from a global perspective and expand the scope of finding opportunities. I hope that the experiences in Africa and the Dutch influence of discovering the World from the previous century will help me obtain something.

# Meet the Young Experts of TU Delft & HUNRE



**Juliette Eulderink**  
*Young Expert Water Batch 18*  
*TU Delft*

YEP

I choose to become a YEPer because it seemed like an amazing opportunity to go abroad at an early stage in my career, while being offered great support throughout my time there. It feels very inspiring to be part of a community of international people working on the sustainable development goals. To me, the YEP community was really the main motivator. I've always been oriented towards the international water and climate world, but it's so great to be able to get a job abroad so early on in my career, and amongst people in similar fields. Furthermore, as a career 'starter', it is very nice to be launched from such a platform which offers great guidance. The program offers many trainings, tools and coaching throughout, making it a lot easier to jump into 'the unknown'. I hope to gain a network and friends for life, and some applicable tools that will be useful for the rest of my career.

By combining YEP and OKP, coordination of project tasks for OKP can be done from the ground. It allows for quick communication between partners and the facilitation of many inclusive activities. I love being able to supervise both Dutch and Vietnamese students on the ground and joining various field activities, as well as co-hosting our mission experts in Hanoi.

The trainings and coaching are very useful for multiple reasons. First of all, you get taught very applicable skills during these trainings. For me specifically, the intercultural communication, project management, entrepreneurship and leadership trainings were very useful. Furthermore, sharing experiences with my fellow YEPers (both Dutch and 'local') was very valuable. For example, speaking to other Dutch YEPers about how they dealt with situations abroad, or asking 'local' YEPers on their opinion on particular issues was very eye-opening for me. There was lots of time for bonding, and I cannot wait to see them all again.

<https://www.yepprogrammes.com/>

The main goal of the **Young Expert Programmes (YEP)** is to offer young Dutch and local professionals the opportunity to take their first steps in an international environment. The programme aims to rejuvenate the water, agrofood and renewable energy sectors and ensure the continued availability of expertise for these sectors. This is a joint initiative by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Netherlands Water Partnership (NWP), the Food & Business Knowledge Platform and the Netherlands Enterprise Agency.

## YEP training programme



# Get to know us!

In each newsletter, we introduce three of the Dutch OKP partners. In September we introduce Marga, Marjan and Maurits.



**Name:** Marga Koelen  
**Current position:** Research Support Coordinator, ITC Twente  
**Main expertise:** Academic Skills: How and where to publish, How to read a scientific paper, Ethics of Research, Data Management, Open Science  
**Passionate about:** Open science  
**Contact:** [m.t.koelen@utwente.nl](mailto:m.t.koelen@utwente.nl)

**Role in OKP projects:**  
Strengthening scientific capacity by supporting research staff in getting their scientific results published in international journals ; make researchers part, and aware, of the worldwide research environment

**Favourite thing about South-East Asia:**  
Working with researchers and learning from each other, and the food



**Name:** Marjan Kreijns  
**Current position:** Director The Green Village, TU Delft  
**Main expertise:** Institutional Strengthening & Capacity Building, Sustainable Innovation, Entrepreneurship & Startups  
**Passionate about:** Asia (after 10 years living in Asia), Hiking & Cycling  
**Contact:** [M.S.Kreijns@tudelft.nl](mailto:M.S.Kreijns@tudelft.nl)

**Role in OKP projects:**  
Project director

**Favourite thing about South-East Asia:**  
The enthusiasm of the counterparts, the kindness of the Asian people and of course the delicious food.



**Name:** Maurits Ertsen  
**Current position:** Associate professor Water Resources, TU Delft  
**Main expertise:** Relations between humans and water systems, agent-based reasoning, history and archaeology of irrigation, didactics of university education  
**Passionate about:** Our four cats  
**Contact:** [m.w.ertsen@tudelft.nl](mailto:m.w.ertsen@tudelft.nl)

**Role in OKP projects:**  
Didactic advise, student supervision, integrated water management approaches  
**Favourite thing about South-East Asia:**  
Landscapes, histories and people



# Opportunities

## What is EdX?

[EdX](#) is a **platform for education** and learning. Founded by Harvard and MIT, EdX contains courses by the majority of top-ranked universities in the world and industry-leading companies.

## What are MOOCs?

MOOC stands for **Massive Open Online Course**. They are online courses aimed at unlimited participation and open access via the web.

## Selected EdX MOOCs:

Free online courses on a range of topics, available at any time:

IBM  
Analyzing data with  
Python  
Click [here](#)

Queen's University  
Watershed Systems and  
Their Influence on Water  
Movement and Quality  
Click [here](#)

Wageningen University &  
Research  
Drainage in Agriculture:  
controlling water and salt  
levels in the soil  
Click [here](#)

Harvard University  
Data Science: R Basics  
Click [here](#)

ETH Zürich  
Landscape Ecology  
Click [here](#)

SDGacademy  
Water: Addressing the  
Global Crisis  
Click [here](#)