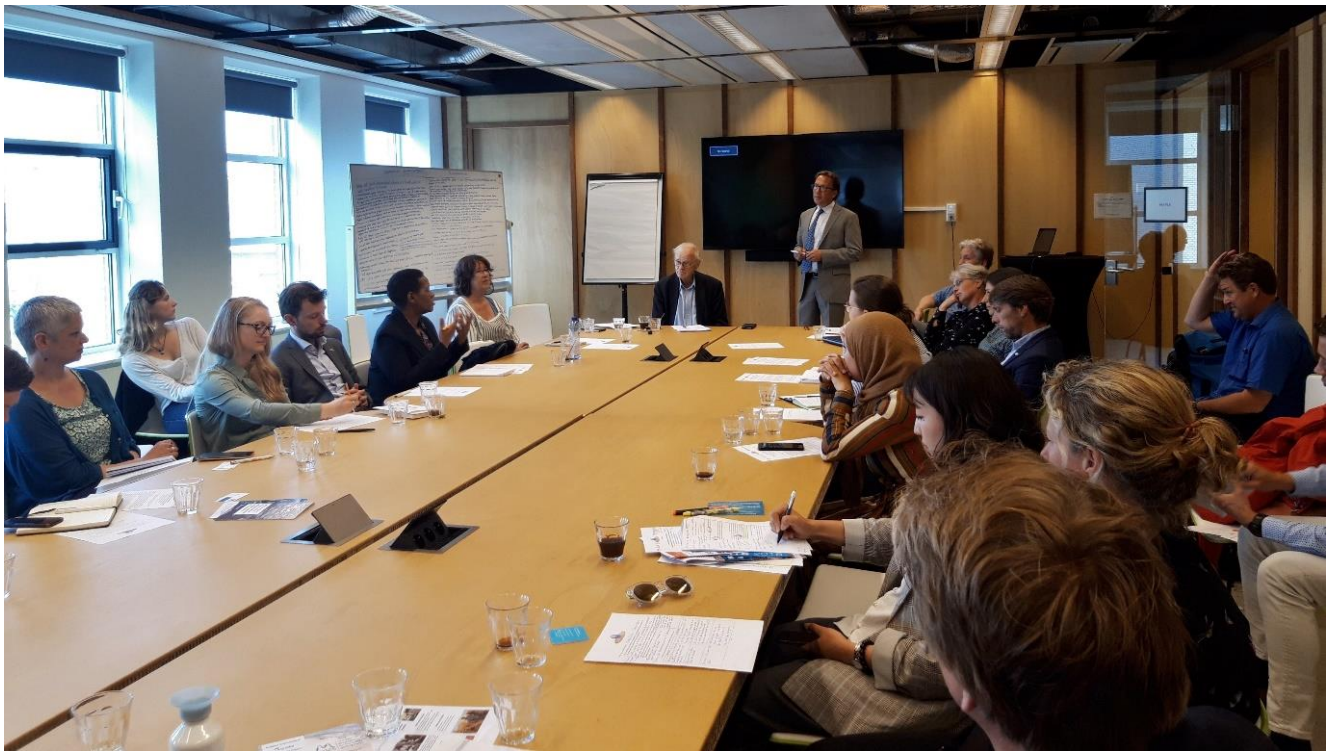
REPORT: The Hague Roundtable on Climate & Security
Innovative Adaptation in Africa and Asia: Water, Agriculture and SDGs

9th Meeting, co-hosted by PHB Development at the Humanity Hub in The Hague on Friday 5 July 2019
Web: hagueroundtable.com Twitter: @hagueroundtable

The 9th Hague Roundtable was held on Friday 5 July 2019 at the Humanity Hub in The Hague. Co-hosted by PHB Development, around 40 participants explored innovation in water resources in Africa and Asia, including of mobile technology in data applications for agriculture. "Who owns the data?" was a recurring consideration with impacts on resources, land and human rights in developing countries – as all participants voiced their expertise and questions in the forum session of the meeting.



Organizations and Governments represented

Acacia Water
Embassy of Chile
Embassy of France
Global Center on Adaptation (GCA)
Embassy of Germany
Humanity Hub
IHE Delft Institute for Water Education
Embassy of Indonesia
International Development Law Organization (IDLO)
Institute for Environmental Security
International Organization for Migration (IOM)
International Water Association (IWA)
Embassy of Kenya
Embassy of Korea
Embassy of Kuwait
Mercy Corps
The MIDES project
Ministry of Defence of the Netherlands
Nedworc
Oikocredit
PHB Development
Public Sonar
SNV Netherlands
Sanitation Fund
SCOPEinsight
T.M.C. Asser Institute
Embassy of Tanzania
Embassy of the United Kingdom
Embassy of Vietnam
World Resources Institute (WRI)

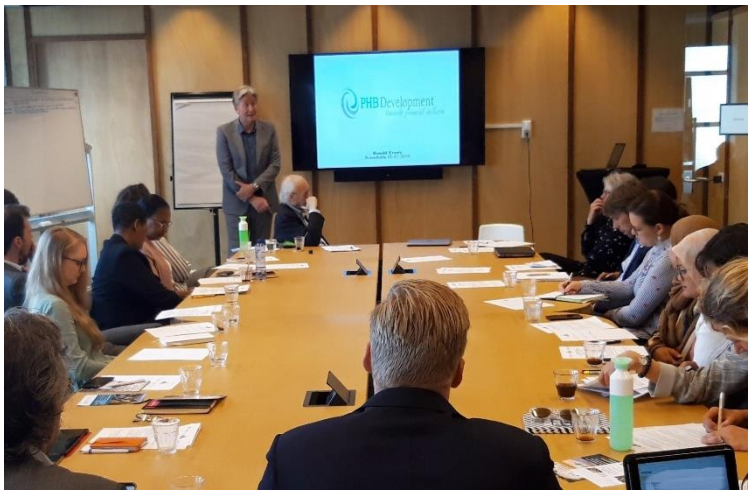
Agenda of the meeting

- Welcome to the Humanity Hub community: Jill Wilkinson, Managing Director of the Humanity Hub
- Kickoff with Matt Luna, Roundtable Organizer, and Wouter Veening, Chairman, Inst. for Environmental Security
- Innovation in managing water resources, water-for-food, water accounting and productivity: Charlotte de Fraiture, Vice Rector of IHE Delft Inst. for Water Education
- Enabling new tools for smallholder farmers and pastoralists – mobile digital technology applications in managing local resources for "last mile" delivery: Ronald Everts of PHB Development
- Water innovation spotlight: Solar-powered water from air at Dubai Expo 2020 Dutch pavilion, and MIDES project *(microbial desalination for low-energy drinking water)* first full-scale demonstration in Fall 2019 at Denia, Spain.
- Topics forum: Climate impacts on developing economies and SDGs – tech solutions in sustainable resources; capacity development projects; refugee initiatives; nature-based solutions and more
- Activate! Roll call: Brainstorming with participants on their indicated 1) actionable interests and expertise 2) challenges encountered & potential solutions 3) ways of generating target action and cooperation
- Preview of September 2019 Roundtable with Embassy of Germany on extreme weather disasters
- Networking lunch

Links to Presentations

Enabling new business driven approaches for smallholder farmers and pastoralists; mobile digital technology applications in managing local resources for "last mile" delivery: **Ronald Everts** of PHB Development *(standing in left photo)*
https://hagueroundtable.files.wordpress.com/2019/07/ronald-phb-presentation.pdf

Innovation in managing water resources, water-for-food, water accounting and productivity: presentation and discussion with **Charlotte de Fraiture**, Vice Rector of IHE Delft Institute for Water Education *(standing in right photo)*
https://hagueroundtable.files.wordpress.com/2019/07/charlotte-ihe-presentation.pdf



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About PHB

PHB Development is a consulting company that enables Digital Financial Services (DFS) for low income people as its core business. PHB's vision is a world in which business-driven approaches and the use of technology provide access to financial services to all. PHB is re-focusing its strategy and rapidly expanding beyond DFS to a range of Mobile Information Services to support climate adaptation – especially Good Agricultural Practices and water management for agriculture, health care for rural residents in developing countries, and related services for the displaced.

About IHE Delft

IHE Delft Institute for Water Education is the largest international graduate water education facility in the world. Based in Delft, the Netherlands, IHE confers MSc degrees, and PhD degrees in collaboration with partner universities. Numerous research and institutional strengthening projects are carried out in partnership to strengthen capacities in the water sector worldwide. Through overarching work on capacity development, IHE Delft aims to make a tangible contribution to achieving all Sustainable Development Goals in which water is key.

Selected points from 5 July 2019 Roundtable discussions

Observations

On Business

- Success factors on the ground are often driven by developing markets.
- Mobile network service is cheaper in the Netherlands than in Tanzania.

Inclusive approach

- A key question in data management is: Who owns the (client) data?
- Farmers need to feel safe and secure in order to be more productive. Farmers can pay for data, but again, who owns this data? The data can be essentially free, and users are paying for interpretation of this data.
- Ownerships of land and land rights are complex – and call for new ways of thinking.
- Considering possible disruption of ethnic relations when introducing innovative initiatives is key.

Policy & SDG's

- Climate adaptation will be perpetual if we do not mitigate the climate conditions.
- Even if we reach the Paris agreement, we still need to adapt to the effects of climate change.
- Migration is the most basic form of climate adaptation. There is transformation of waste land to reuse.
- Underground water storage is less prone to evaporation than above-ground storage.
- The NL Ministry of Defense aims to cooperate with global stakeholders to reach common environmental goals.
- Climate and conflict work in East Africa is an increased focus of Mercy Corps.

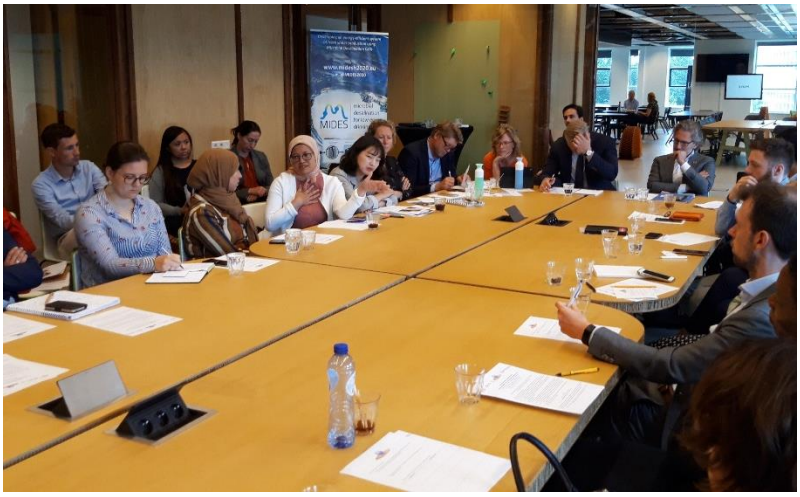
Multidisciplinary cooperation

- Public and private partnerships are best suited to deliver (information) services to low income people.
- Recognizing that the value of information in climate adaptation depends on how accessible it is.
- We have not yet talked about financial risk sharing facilities. We have not yet talked about the role of agricultural insurance and its solutions against natural hazards and climate adaptation.
- Farmers in Indonesia are asking questions to government intermediaries, so interventions should identify them and take them into scope.
- The role of local communities and local media are important in preserving ecosystems.
- There is increased value in joint international education and field work on water resources and climate.
- The effective use of innovative solutions often depends on the stability of society and government structures.
- Kuwait reaches 55C in summer, and half of population flees. Special exemption is given on use of CFKs in air conditioning there. What can be gauged from this for other parts of the world?
- There are many duplicated initiatives in development – research and synergies help avoid wasted resources.

Technology

- Bridging last mile of resource delivery can be assisted with mobile technology and mobile network operators.
- Technology does not change the world; People change the world. Cooperation goes beyond monitoring.
- Technology can be used to avoid conflicts over water and biomass resources between farmers and pastoralists.
- Remote sensing can be used to help in dealing with salt intrusion in crops.

- Digital Financial Services can facilitate work in crises situations – e.g. for payments of emergency workers.
- Mobile apps are helping people in rural area to access information; and can contribute to health of young and elderly.
- Mobile internet connection is an issue in rural areas in developing countries.

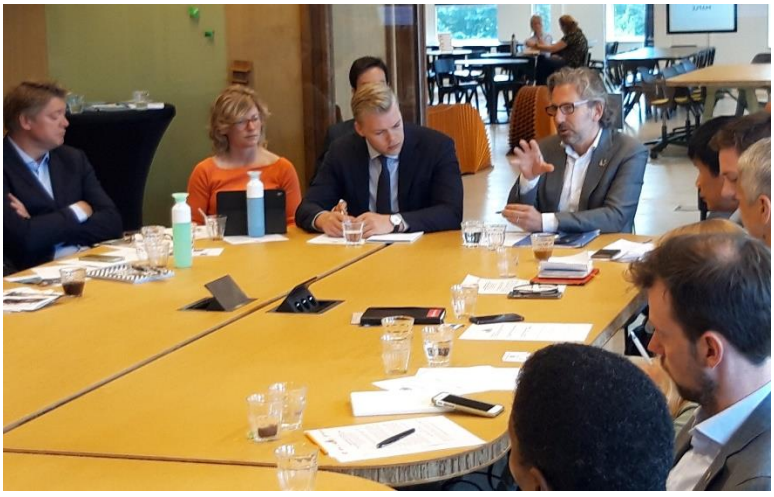


Recommendations

On Business

- Adapt business models in regions for sustainability – taking into account cultural and economic factors.
- Make goods/services affordable to more people in general, to decrease divisions especially in developing areas.
- The technologies are relevant to the current developments, however it is of most importance to make a clear connection in relation to the value for money in response to the duration of the project. The costs of using such tech should be kept low to enable more users. Keep the costs as low as possible, especially when the services are given to poor communities. Give information to curb climate change in assessing & providing services.
- Increase mechanisms for climate finance in order to do more – so solutions can be funded.
- Take note of costs of transactions of Digital Financial Services, to increase uptake in developing countries.
- Buy fair trade so farmers get a fair price and do not lose their land.
- Professional farmer organizations might be better able to access financial services, and are better aware of how to meet requirements for agricultural insurances as part of their services to farmers.
- Put thoughts in context: Would these innovation projects discussed be implemented without climate change? Is climate change the real and only driver of these project solutions?

Inclusive approach



- See how to complement data and fill the missing gaps: why things are happening and the "life picture" from the people in all aspects. See how to translate power of mobile for distribution of information and create the right.
- On who owns the data: Start a dialogue on how to create a path using data "for good" and beware of bad potential, and be ready to mitigate the negative aspects.
- Co-design solutions with local communities to increase sense of ownership and prospect of sustainability.
- Current western approaches to agriculture and maximizing production should stop – be revised, as they do not take the interests of locals into account.
- Look at how local projects can be designed to be more mobile, and to better address migration.

Policy & SDG's

- Explore greater assessment of water uses (agriculture/wastewater) beyond traditional constituency. More cross-disciplinary collaboration is needed – or else the SDGs will be missed.
- Create more storage for water in wet and dry seasons – beyond dams and in seasonal river beds.
- We need more focus on SDG 17 to work together. Collect knowledge on how to more effectively work together.
- Co-owning and co-earning: take into account rule of law based on looking at SDG16.
- Balance interests when cooperating on SDG 17, in order to be more successful in broader impact.
- Evaluate impact of innovative initiatives on ecosystems. Are short-term benefits over long-term outcomes?
- Untangle rule-of-law issues to bridge knowledge and community gaps.
- Focus more on how modernization, including new technology, contributes to climate change.

Multidisciplinary cooperation

- More exchange of practical projects: Abstract talking about climate security is easy – toward concrete action is necessary. Exchange more information. Knowledge is needed about organizations. Coordinate what and which.
- Build channels for benefit local populations through more public-private partnerships.
- Coordinate sharing of resources, and be careful not to duplicate efforts on adaptation.
- Strategize on scaling up local adaptation devices for greater benefit to regional and broader areas.
- Communicate what others are doing: government-to-government and organization-to-organization.

Technology

- Plant the right kind of trees – meaning take time for an intelligent approach to climate/development efforts so that time, energy and funds are not wasted.
- Implement technology to aid indigenous interests. Example: citizen science to combat Amazon logging.
- Develop assessment tools that also work offline: standardized and available.
- Remove the "noise" from information in order to better use it in a range of situations.
- Look at simple tech solutions over complex tech innovations. Involve people and institutions; invest in networks.
- Social media monitoring analysis can be increasingly used to evaluate human elements of a crisis situation.
- Initiate efforts to transform land to become green again. It can be done!
- Use agri-tech to help facilitate growth in the sector.

Related publications on climate, water and security

World faces 'climate apartheid' risk, 120 more million in poverty: UN expert – UN News https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/06/1041261 "We risk a "climate apartheid" scenario in which the wealthy pay to escape overheating, hunger and conflict while the rest of the world is left to suffer."

Climate Change and Degradation of Natural Resources: Implications for the Military**,** Maartje van Reedt Dortland, Dominique Noome, Fred Kruidbos, Sander Agterhuis https://www.planetarysecurityinitiative.org/sites/default/files/2019-09/PB_Climate_Change_and_Degradation_of_Natural_Resources.pdf Examples of ways in which climate change and natural resources are related to security, with a brief overview of measures to address climate change by ministries of defence from various countries.

How financial sector strategies are addressing inclusive green finance – Alliance for Financial Inclusion https://www.afi-global.org/blog/2019/06/how-financial-sector-strategies-are-addressing-inclusive-green-finance Central banks are increasingly considering inclusive green finance at the national strategic level, recognizing that addressing climate change is linked to financial sector stability and promote economic development.

The World Food Programme's Contribution to Improving the Prospects for Peace *(with sipri)* **–** Caroline Delgado, Suyoun Jang, Gary Milante, Dan Smith https://www.sipri.org/sites/default/files/2019-06/wfp_global_report.pdf Climate impacts in case study countries and throughout WFP's work in coming years – as climate change has been a cause of increase in world hunger.

The climate crisis, migration, and refugees – John Podesta via Brookings Blum Roundtable https://www.brookings.edu/research/the-climate-crisis-migration-and-refugees/ "The world is looking towards a future where 'unprecedented' storms are commonplace, creating critical issues that the international community must confront."

Climate Change and the Rise of Poverty – United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/blog/2018/Climate_Change_and_the_Rise_of_Poverty.html Social protection systems play a key role in combating poverty and can also help build climate resilience of the poor.

Lessons from Developing a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework to Measure Local Adaptation Grants Impact in 14 Developing Countries – World Resources Institute https://www.wri.org/blog/2019/06/insider-lessons-developing-monitoring-and-evaluation-framework-measure-local-adaptation?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=worldresources&utm_campaign=socialmedia "...Climate finance comes in short supply, and ensuring that these limited funds catalyze effective action is critical."

Special thanks to PHB for its hosting and support for this 9th Roundtable meeting, to the Humanity Hub for ready engagement in providing an excellent meeting venue, to the MIDES (EU Horizon 2020) project for additional support, to Wouter Veening for his seasoned expertise on these subjects, and of course to all participants for their enthusiasm in exploring solutions to growing climate impacts.

The next Hague Roundtable will address ***Extreme Weather Disasters: Resilience, Forecasting, and Cooperation*** – with focus on the Caribbean region, global expertise and the Security Context, on the morning of 12 September 2019, hosted by the Embassy of Germany to the Netherlands.

The Hague Roundtable on Climate & Security is an independent forum to promote international cooperation in adapting to climate risks to human well-being, sustainable development, peace and political stability. Focus includes water resources, natural disasters, sea level rise, migration, potential conflict and stability of fragile states. Observations and recommendations listed in Roundtable reporting are taken from discussions, and do not necessarily reflect the position of Roundtable organizers and host organizations.

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