

FloodAdaptVN

Joining Hands for Resilience: Options for Inter-provincial Cooperation and Mutual Learning in Flood and Disaster Risk Reduction in Central Vietnam

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Participants of the 1st Regional Networking Forum
(photo credit: HUIS Media Team).

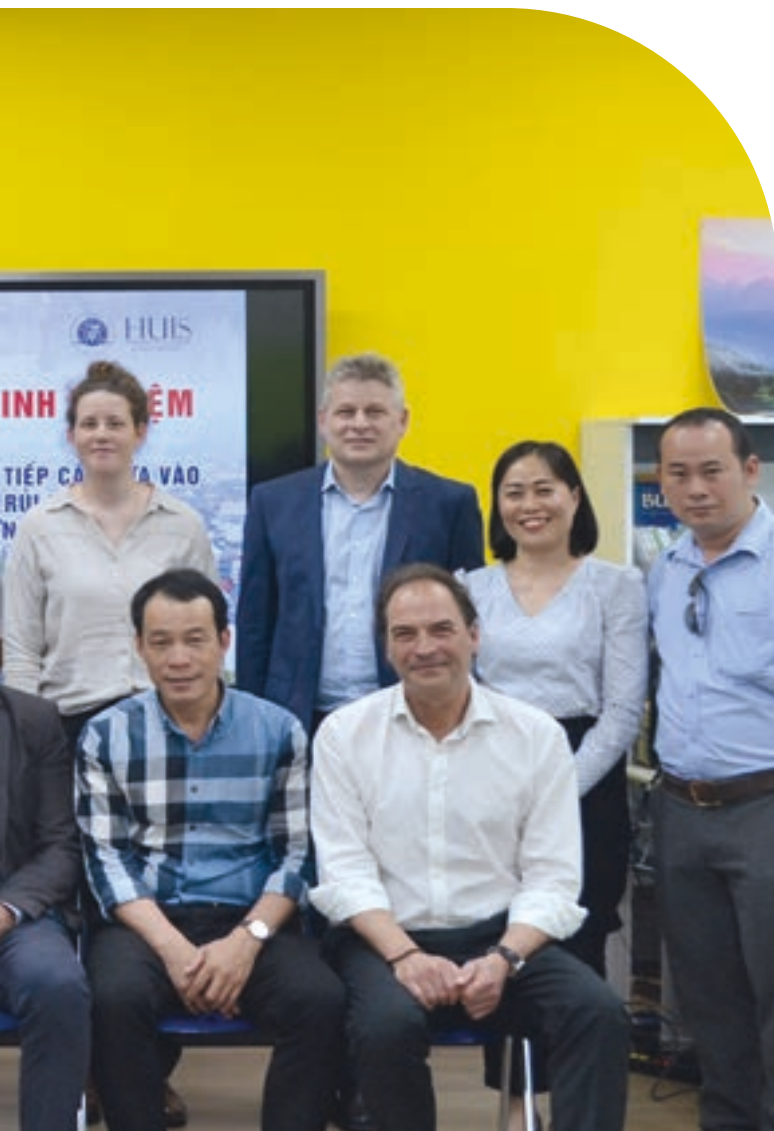




The FloodAdaptVN project is dedicated to promoting forward-looking, risk-informed planning and flood risk management in the Thừa Thiên Huế province and Central Vietnam. The primary goal of the project is to strengthen cooperation among stakeholders in these domains, both within the province and with counterparts in neighbouring provinces. Serving as an initial networking event extending beyond provincial borders, the 1st Regional Networking Forum on Climate Change Adaptation, Flood and Disaster Risk Reduction took place in April 2023. The forum aimed to facilitate the exchange of experiences of past flooding events and to explore potential collaborative initiatives for the future. The activity report provides a comprehensive overview of the key outcomes of the discussion and an outlook on potential interprovincial collaborations for climate change adaptation, flood and disaster risk reduction.

Deutsch

Das Projekt FloodAdaptVN widmet sich der Förderung einer vorausschauenden, risikobewussten Planung und eines Hochwasserrisikomanagements in der Provinz Thừa Thiên Huế und in Zentralvietnam. Ein vorrangiges Ziel des Projekts ist die Stärkung der Zusammenarbeit zwischen den Akteuren in diesen Bereichen, sowohl innerhalb der Provinz als auch mit den Partnern in den benachbarten Provinzen. Als erste Netzwerkveranstaltung über die Provinzgrenzen hinaus fand im April 2023 das 1. Regionale Netzwerkforum zu Klimawandelanpassung, Hochwasser- und Katastrophenvorsorge statt. Ziel des Forums war es, den Erfahrungsaustausch über vergangene Hochwasserereignisse zu erleichtern und mögliche Kooperationsinitiativen für die Zukunft zu erkunden. Der Tätigkeitsbericht bietet einen umfassenden Überblick über die wichtigsten Ergebnisse der Diskussion und einen Ausblick auf mögliche interprovinzielle Kooperationen zur Anpassung an den Klimawandel sowie zur Hochwasser- und Katastrophenvorsorge.



Thừa Thiên Huế Province, Central Vietnam

Tiếng Việt

Dự án FloodAdaptVN được thực hiện để thúc đẩy việc lập kế hoạch hướng tới tương lai, lường trước rủi ro và quản lý rủi ro lũ lụt ở tỉnh Thừa Thiên Huế và miền Trung Việt Nam. Mục tiêu chính của dự án là tăng cường hợp tác giữa các bên liên quan trong các lĩnh vực này, cả trong tỉnh và với các đối tác ở các tỉnh lân cận. Với vai trò là sự kiện kết nối ban đầu vượt ra ngoài ranh giới tỉnh, Diễn đàn kết nối khu vực lần thứ nhất về thích ứng với biến đổi khí hậu, giảm thiểu rủi ro lũ lụt và thiên tai đã diễn ra vào tháng 4 năm 2023. Diễn đàn nhằm tạo điều kiện trao đổi kinh nghiệm về các sự kiện lũ lụt trong quá khứ và khám phá tiềm năng hợp tác sáng kiến cho tương lai. Báo cáo hoạt động cung cấp cái nhìn tổng quan toàn diện về các kết quả chính của cuộc thảo luận và triển vọng về khả năng hợp tác liên tỉnh nhằm thích ứng với biến đổi khí hậu, giảm nhẹ rủi ro lũ lụt và thiên tai.

(Automated translation)

Introduction

Central Vietnam is currently undergoing rapid urbanisation, particularly in small and medium-sized coastal cities. The rapidly growing settlements have to deal with flooding events as a result of increasing precipitation, which are exacerbated by changes in land use and growing soil sealing. These factors pose additional challenges for residents, their assets and income generating activities as well as for the environment, for businesses, for the building stock and for infrastructures.

The research project “FloodAdaptVN – Integrating ecosystem-based approaches into flood risk management for adaptive and sustainable urban development in Central Viet Nam”, funded by the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR) as one of the projects under the funding priority “Sustainable Development of Urban Regions” (SURE), supports risk-informed urban planning and development. Furthermore, the project promotes the application of ecosystem-based adaptation measures as an approach for flood risk management.

While FloodAdaptVN’s research activities focus on the Thừa Thiên Huế province and on the city of Huế, the outscaling of the results to other provinces and



Fig.1. Presentation of the representative of Thừa Thiên Huế Province (Photo credit: HUIS Media Team).

the fostering of inter-provincial cooperation related to flood and disaster risk management is one of the main objectives of the project. Therefore, in order to facilitate the exchange between the stakeholders from neighbouring provinces, two Regional Networking Forums are an integral part of the research and networking activities of the FloodAdaptVN project.

This Activity Report outlines the methodology and the structure of the 1st Regional Networking Forum on Climate Change Adaptation, Flood and Disaster Risk Reduction. It summarises the results of the discussion and gives an outlook on future networking activities and potential interprovincial collaborations.



Methodology and Structure of the 1st Regional Networking Forum

The 1st Regional Networking Forum on Climate Change Adaptation, Flood and Disaster Risk Reduction was held on April 25, 2023 with relevant stakeholders from Thừa Thiên Huế Province and the neighbouring provinces of Quảng Bình, Quảng Trị and Đà Nẵng City.

The event, organised at the International School of Huế University (HUIS), had two main objectives: firstly, to facilitate the exchange and sharing of experiences on past flood events and lessons learnt, and secondly, to identify topics for joint action and mutual learning in the region beyond current activities as well as for the future cooperation with research projects and institutions. The event was enriched by the active participation of a representative of the water management associations Emschergerossenschaft and Lippeverband and members of the FloodAdaptVN consortium.

The event consisted of two parts. In the first part, the representatives of the various provinces spoke about their experiences from past flooding events and about their lessons learned (see Figure 1). The second part focused on the direct interaction of the participants and on the discussion about potential further interprovincial cooperation and exchange activities.



Fig. 2: Presentation of the representative of Thừa Thiên Huế Province (Photo credit: HUIS Media Team).

The World Café method guided and supported the discussion. At three themed tables, the participants discussed which challenges and fields of action in relation to climate adaptation, flood and disaster risk reduction require direct cooperation between neighbouring provinces (see Figures 2). They also explored areas where stakeholders can learn from their peers in the other provinces and what contribution practical partners, universities and research institutions could make. The results of the World Café Tables were then presented in a plenary session. The event concluded with a joint excursion to current adaptation and flood protection projects in the Thừa Thiên Huế Province.

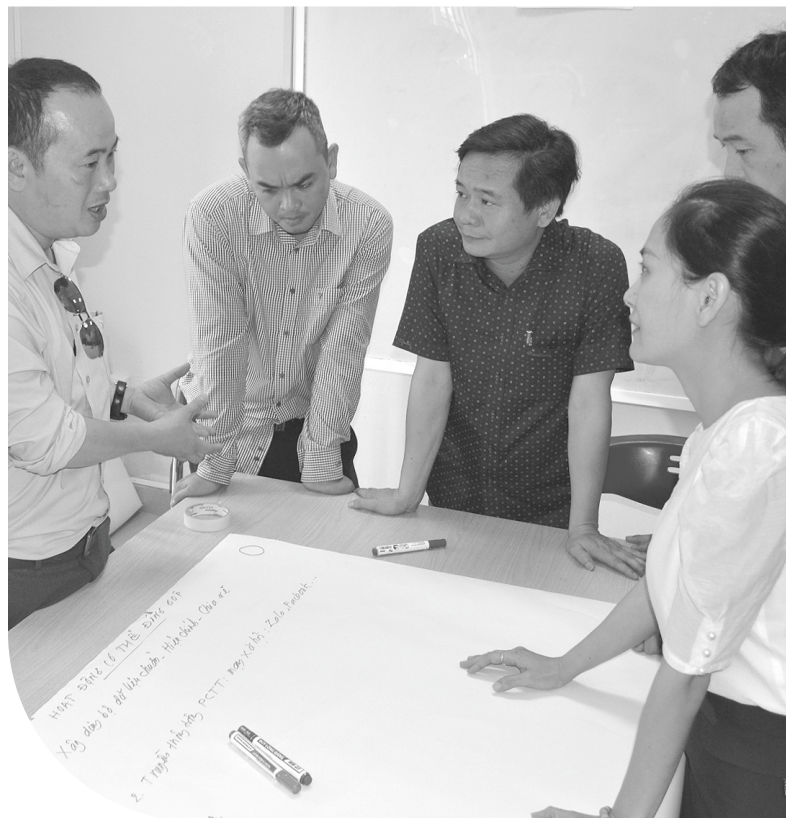
Results of the 1st Regional Networking Forum

The 1st Regional Networking Forum on Climate Change Adaptation, Flood and Disaster Risk Reduction strengthened the ties between stakeholders of the different provinces. Discussions within the frameworks of the World Café session have generated clear ideas for further interprovincial and research activities.

At the World Café Table 1, the brainstorming discussions focused on fields of activity that would benefit from direct cooperation among neighbouring provinces. Besides the increased interprovincial cooperation at the political level, the participants emphasised that, in particular, the joint management of interprovincial rivers, forests and ecosystems as well as the joint management of reservoirs could make a positive contribution to flood and disaster risk reduction in the region. Furthermore, the participants highlighted the need for the improvement of data sharing and warning dissemination and for the establishment of a consultation system involving experts, consultants and municipalities in planning and management processes.

World Café Table 2 aimed to identify topics for exchange between the provinces and for mutual learning. The participants expressed interest in intensified exchanges related to successful strategies and approaches for flood prevention and management, for information transmission, for urban and infrastructure development including the adaptation of the drainage system as well as for the operation of reservoirs and for the management of river basins.

World Café Table 3 focussed on potential contributions of practitioners, universities and think tanks to climate change adaptation, flood and disaster risk management in the provinces. In the course of the discussion, three key topics were identified, namely the development of a standard set of data which can be used as a basis for planning by all departments and authorities, the improvement of communication on flood and disaster risk management through the expansion of



World Café Table 3 (Photo credit: IZES gGmbH).

the network and in particular, capacity building for authorities of all levels and for students as a part of their university education.

The results of the discussions will be taken up in the further course of the FloodAdaptVN project in order to support their implementation. The participants will be involved in further exchange formats in order to ensure and intensify the continuation of activities.



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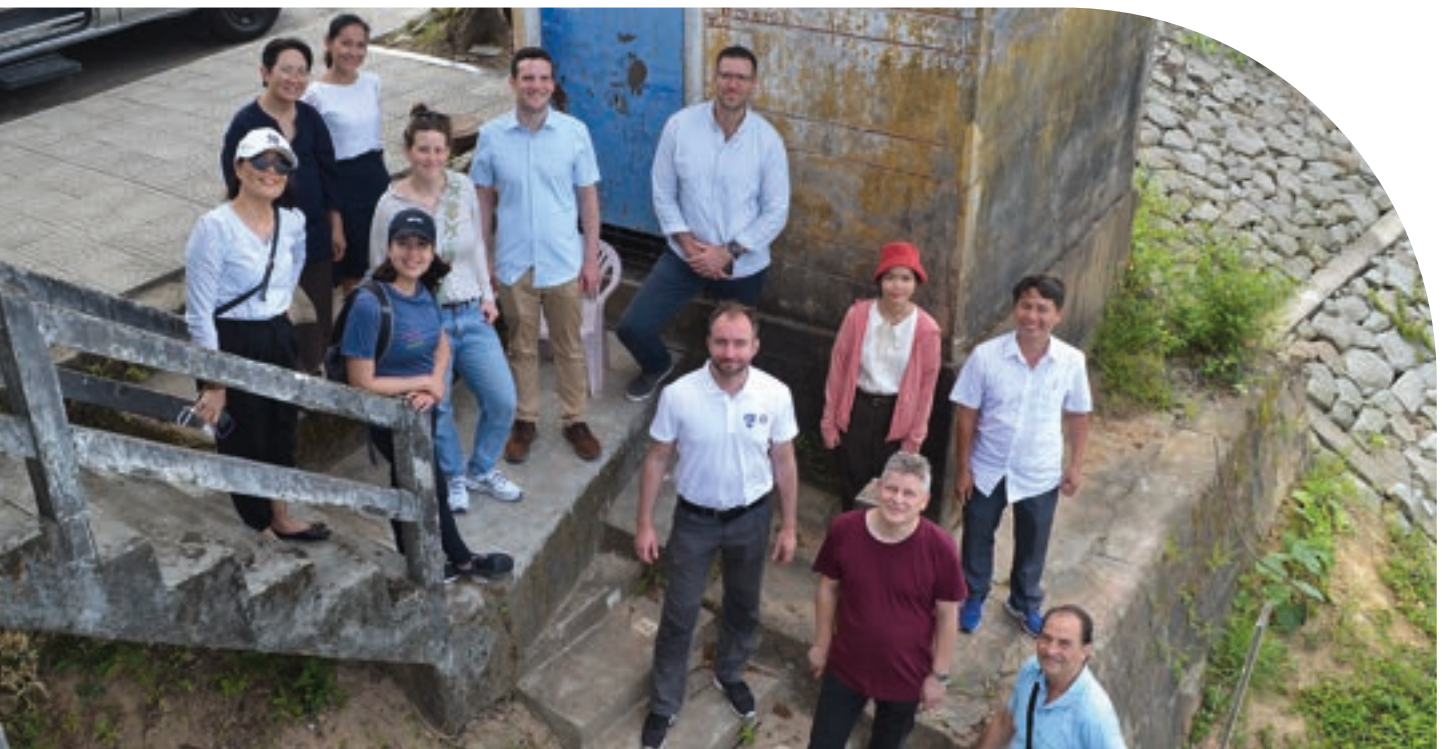


Conclusion

The 1st Regional Networking Forum on Climate Change Adaptation, Flood and Disaster Risk Reduction facilitated informal discussions among stakeholders responsible for flood and disaster risk management in the provinces Thừa Thiên Huế, Quảng Bình, Quảng Trị and in Đà Nẵng City. The forum allowed them to share personal experiences related to past flooding events. In the discussions, numerous topics for future direct interprovincial cooperation, for the mutual exchange of experiences and for the involvement of research and practice partners in activities for flood and disaster risk reduction were identified. The Regional Networking Forum has thus achieved its goal and supported the joining of hands for resilience in Central Vietnam.

The results will be taken up for further work by the FloodAdaptVN project in several ways. Firstly, the results and outcomes of the research project will be

structured in such a way that they can be used in other provinces in Central Vietnam. Secondly, the exchange between stakeholders on themes related to flood and disaster risk reduction will continue in further workshop formats, including the 2nd Regional Networking Forum in early 2025. Thirdly, the project will offer capacity development activities and further training courses for authorities, practitioners and students.



Impressions from the excursion (Photo credit: IZES gGmbH).