

## Participants

**Hoori Ajami**, Professor and Hydrologist, University of California, Riverside, USA

**Delia Andries**, PhD Candidate, Complutense University of Madrid, Spain

**Latsamy Banmanivong**, Technical Officer, Mekong River Commission, Laos

**Dung Duc Tran**, Senior Research Fellow, Viet Nam National University, Viet Nam

**Gina Gilson**, Post Doctoral Researcher, University of Nevada, Reno, USA

**Walid Hakiki**, Head, Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation, Egypt

**Wendy Jepson**, Professor, College of Arts & Sciences, Texas A&M, USA

**Nikahang Kowsar**, Journalist and Water Policy Analyst, Abangan, USA

**Jay Lund**, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, University of California, Davis, USA

**Phu Nguyen**, Associate Adjunct Professor, University of California, Irvine, USA

**Tan Loi Nguyen**, Researcher, Can Tho University, Viet Nam

**Quang Minh Nguyen**, Senior Lecturer, Can Tho University, Vietnam

**Monica Palta**, CE Specialist, University of California, Irvine, USA

**Edward Park**, Associate Professor, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

**Kim Hang Pham Do**, Professor, Massey University, New Zealand

**Kurt Schwabe**, Professor, University of California Riverside, USA

**Vrinda Sharma**, PhD Candidate, Paris School of Economics, France

**Rachel Shellabarger**, Academic Coordinator, Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of California, USA

**Annisa Triyanti**, Assistant Professor, Utrecht University, The Netherlands

**Pilar Carolina Villar**, Professor, Federal University of São Paulo, Brazil

**Hope Zabronsky**, Lead, Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of California, USA

## Speakers

**Matthew E. Andersen**, International Science Advisor - Biology, US Geological Service, USA

**Eduardo S. Brondizio**, Distinguished Professor, Indiana University-Bloomington, USA

**Van Ni Duong**, Lecturer, Can Tho University, Viet Nam

**Sepehr Eslami**, Senior Adviser, Deltares, Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands

**Marc Goichot**, Asia Pacific Freshwater Lead, WWF, Viet Nam

**Brent Hales**, Associate Vice President of Research and Extension, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources, USA

**Laurel Larsen**, Professor, Uppsala University, Sweden

**Daniel P. Loucks**, Professor Emeritus, Cornell University, USA

**Natalia Morandeira**, Professor, University of San Martin, Argentina

**Busadee Santipitaks**, Chief Executive Officer, Mekong River Commission Secretariat, Laos

**Jennifer Sara**, Global Director, Climate Change Group, The World Bank, USA

**Susanne Schmeier**, Professor, Water Law and Diplomacy, IHE Delft, The Netherlands

**Fuqiang Tian**, Professor, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China

**Dang Tri Van Pham**, Professor and Director, Can Tho University, Viet Nam

**Andrew Wyatt**, Deputy Head, IUCN, Viet Nam

**Yan Zheng**, Chair Professor, Southern University of Science and Technology, China

## Regional Fellows

**Rasmey Luy**, Executive Director, Culture and Environmental Preservation Association, Cambodia

**Duc Viet Nguyen**, Deputy Head/Scientist, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, Viet Nam

**Socheata Sim**, Program Manager, Mekong Regional Water Governance Program, OXFAM, Cambodia

**Saengrawee Suweerakarn**, Vice President, Romphothi Foundation, Thailand

## Tour Leader

**Van Loi Ly**, Researcher, Can Tho University, Viet Nam

## Advisory Committee

**Soroosh Sorooshian**, Forum Chair and Distinguished Professor, University of California, Irvine, USA

**Christina Babbitt**, Water Stewardship Manager, Meta, USA

**Lucia De Stefano**, Associate Professor, Complutense University of Madrid, Spain

**Ariel Dinar**, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, University of California, Riverside, USA

**Guillermo Donoso Harris**, Professor, Catholic University of Chile

**Qingyun Duan**, Professor and Chief Scientist, Hohai University, China

**Alberto Garrido**, Professor, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain

**Andrea Gerlak**, Professor, University of Arizona, USA

**Glenda Humiston**, Vice President, Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of California, USA

**Erik Porse**, Director, Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of California, USA

**Ayman Rabi**, Executive Director, Palestinian Hydrology Group, Palestine

27-30 OCTOBER, 2025  
CAN THO, VIET NAM



**Rosenberg  
International Forum**  
on Water Policy

# MANAGING RIVER DELTAS: GLOBAL AND LOCAL PERSPECTIVES



## TWELFTH BIENNIAL ROSENBERG INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON WATER POLICY



WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE SUPPORTERS OF THE 12TH BIENNIAL ROSENBERG FORUM



**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**  
Agriculture and Natural Resources



**HAGLER INSTITUTE**  
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Dear Participants:

On behalf of the Rosenberg Forum Advisory Committee, I welcome you to Can Tho, Viet Nam, for the 12th Rosenberg International Forum on Water Policy. The theme of this year’s Forum is appropriately, “Managing River Deltas: Global and Local Perspectives.” Given the various stresses on the availability of water resources (population growth, urbanization, migration and the hydro-climatic extremes among others), the theme of our forum and focus on issues of the Mekong Delta is most timely.

The specific purpose of the first two days of the 12th Forum, as the title of the four sessions conveys, is intended to review 1) Diversified Perspectives from Around the Globe; 2) Socio-Economic Impacts on Deltas; 3) Confronting the Impact of Climate Change and Human Activities on Deltas; and 4) an Open Community Session. As is the Rosenberg Forum tradition, we will start the 12th Forum with a one-day field trip on Tuesday, 28th of October, which has been arranged by our colleague and local co-organizer, Associate Professor Dr. Van Pham Dang Tri and the tour leader Van Loi Ly, Researcher, both with Can Tho University.

I extend my special thanks to the members of the Rosenberg Advisory Committee, Associate Professor Dr. Van Pham Dang Tri, Can Tho University, and Phu Nguyen, UC Irvine, for the planning of the Forum and selecting a distinguished group of speakers and participants. I extend my gratitude to Ms. Nguyen Thi Phuong Thao and Ms. Sherry Cooper and her team for their remarkable efforts in the overall organization and logistical arrangements for the participants of the Forum. I welcome each of you to the 12th Forum.

I thank Mr. Richard Rosenberg who was an iconic figure in the global financial and banking industry. As an article in the New York Times on 15 March 2023 states about his influence in the banking sector, “He was named Chief Executive and Chairman in 1990 and soon turned Bank of America into the nation’s second-largest bank.” At his retirement from Bank of America’s presidency in 1996, the bank honored him through a generous gift to the University of California by creating the Rosenberg International Forum on Water Policy, which was one of Mr. Rosenberg’s areas of interest.

I trust that you find the entire program rewarding and your stay in Viet Nam pleasant.



Soroosh Sorooshian, Chair

Visit the 12th Forum website:  
<https://na.eventscloud.com/website/75871/>



Sunday, 26 October

18:00- 22:00 Buffet Dinner, Sheraton Saigon Grand Opera Hotel, Saigon Cafe, Level 1

Monday, 27 October

11:30 Pick up Bento Box lunch and load bus at front of hotel to travel to Can Tho. *Depart at 12 noon*

18:00 Welcome Reception, Sheraton Can Tho, Orchid Ballroom B, 5th Floor

*Presentation:* Introduction to the Mekong Delta by Van Ni Duong, Lecturer, Can Tho University

Pre-Forum Tour

Tuesday, 28 October

06:00 Breakfast buffet, Mekong Breeze Restaurant

06:45 **Load bus for Tràm Chim National Park Tour**  
*Meet the bus in front of the hotel no later than 06:45 for 07:00 departure*

18:00 Buffet dinner, Orchid Ballroom A, 5th Floor

Forum

Wednesday, 29 October

06:00 **Breakfast buffet**, Mekong Breeze Restaurant

07:00 **Breakfast Meeting:** Rosenberg Advisory Committee Members and Regional Fellows

07:15 Meet in hotel lobby to depart by bus for Hall 2, 6th floor of the Administration Building, Can Tho University *Depart at 07:30*

Opening Session

08:15 **Welcome and Introductions**  
Soroosh Sorooshian, Chair

Representative of Rector Board, Can Tho University

Glenda Humiston, Vice President, University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources

Alberto Garrido, Director, Water Observatory, The Botin Foundation

08:35 **Introductions of Participants**

Photos provided by Can Tho University



09:15 **Rosenberg Regional Fellows Initiative**—Andrea Gerlak

Keynote

09:25 **Mekong Delta’s History, Geography and Socio-Economics**—Matthew E. Andersen

Session 1: Diversified Perspectives from Around the Globe

10:05 Introduction by Co-Chairs: Dang Tri Van Pham and Guillermo Donoso Harris

10:10 **Overview of Global Deltas and Delta Plan Implementation: Lessons from a Practitioner**—Jennifer Sara

10:40 Break

11:10 **Case Study: Global Solution for A Silent Poison - Human Health Risks of Arsenic in the Mekong River Delta**—Yan Zheng

11:40 **Case Study: Multi-Benefit and Science-Informed Management of California’s Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in a Changing Climate**—Laurel Larsen

12:10 **Case Study: Wetland Landscapes, Eco-Hydroclimatic Dynamics, and Governance Challenges in the Paraná Delta, Argentina**—Natalia Morandeira

12:40 **Depart by bus to Sheraton**

13:10 **Lunch, Sheraton Can Tho, Meeting Room 12 and foyer, 5th floor**

*Forum resumes at Sheraton Can Tho, Orchid Ballroom B, 5th Floor*

14:10 **Session 1 Roundtable Discussion**

Session 2: Socio-Economic Impacts on Deltas

15:00 Introduction by Session Co-Chairs Ariel Dinar and Erik Porse

15:05 **Overview Presentation on Different Considerations and the People Who Rely on Deltas**—Busadee Santipitaks

15:35 **The Amazon Delta at a Crossroads: Preserving Resilience in a Transforming Basin and Changing Climate**—Eduardo S. Brondizio

16:05 **Integrated Water Management Approaches for Enhanced Socio-Ecological Resilience in River Deltas**—Daniel P. Loucks

16:35 Break

17:05 **Session 2 Roundtable Discussion**

18:00 **Adjourn to dinner on own**

Thursday, 30 October

06:00 **Breakfast buffet**, Mekong Breeze Restaurant

Session 3: Confronting the Impact of Climate Change and Human Activities on Deltas

*Sheraton Can Tho, Orchid Ballroom A, 5th Floor*

08:00 Refreshments

08:30 Introduction by Co-Chairs: Qingyun Duan and Alberto Garrido

08:35 **Impacts of Water Resources Development on Hydrological Regimes of Mekong River**—Fuqiang Tian

09:05 **Saline Water Intrusion in the Mekong and a Systems Perspective for Climate Adaptation in Deltas**—Sepehr Eslami

09:35 **Linking Local Realities to Regional Agendas: Pathways to a Resilient Mekong**—Dang Tri Van Pham

10:05 **Session 3 Roundtable Discussion**  
10:35 Break

Session 4: Organizations that Facilitate/Contribute to Management of Deltas

11:05 Introduction by Co-Chairs: Lucia De Stefano and Ayman Rabi

11:10 **Funding and Financing Basin Cooperation: Lessons Learned from Around the World**—Susanne Schmeier

11:40 **Testing and Scaling Nature-Based Solutions to the Threats Facing River Deltas with a Focus on the Mekong Delta**—Marc Goichot

12:10 **Addressing the Coastal Squeeze with Hybrid Nature-Based Solutions in the Mekong Delta**—Andrew Wyatt

12:40 **Session 4 Roundtable Discussion**

13:10 **Lunch, Sheraton Can Tho Orchid Ballroom B, 5th floor**

14:40 **Closing Remarks and Roundtable Reflection**  
Alberto Garrido and Ayman Rabi

15:20 Break

Session 5: Open Community Discussion

15:35 **Introduction by Session Co-Chair Erik Porse**

15:40 **Integrating New Knowledge into the Community: Community and Economic Development**—Brent Hales

15:55 **Panel: Forum Highlights and Key Takeaways From the Session Co-Chair**—Christina Babbitt

16:20 **Questions and Comments from the Audience**

16:35 **Reflections from the Rosenberg Regional Fellows**—Andrea Gerlak

Panel Discussion to learn about work of the Fellows and how they engage with communities to build, share and transfer knowledge

Moderated by Andrea Gerlak

Duc Viet Nguyen  
Reaksmey Luy  
Socheata Sim  
Saengrawee Suweerakarn

17:10 Q&A

17:30 Adjourn

18:45 Meet in the hotel lobby to travel to dinner by bus

19:00 **Closing Dinner at Victoria Can Tho Resort**

Friday, 31 October

Return to Ho Chi Minh City or Can Tho Airport

Help us improve by completing a short evaluation at [link.ucanr.edu/forumeval](https://link.ucanr.edu/forumeval)

