



**The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Research Institute for Land and Space (RILS)
RILS Public Lecture Series
Land from Water: Technology, Design and
Governance of Climate Resilient Floating Urban Development**

Date & time: Monday 5 December 2022
3:00pm – 4:00pm

Speaker: **Dr Rutger de Graaf-van Dinther**
Co-founder & Director
Blue21

Moderator: **Prof. Xiaoli Ding**
Director of RILS

Location: Online via Zoom

Registration link: https://polyu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_cvgZpbFmQqqS6Pew3a9xeg

All are welcome to attend.
An e-certificate of participation will be sent to participants upon request.

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Co-organisers:

RILS Public Lecture Series

Land from Water: Technology, Design and Governance of Climate Resilient Floating Urban Development



Dr Rutger de Graaf-van Dinther

Presentation Title

Land from Water: Technology, Design and Governance of Climate Resilient Floating Urban Development

Abstract

The concept of floating urban development as a potential response to the climate change impacts on coastal cities has gaining momentum in the past 10 to 15 years. In 2019, UN Deputy Secretary- General, Amina Mohammed stated that sustainable floating cities can offer solutions to climate change threats facing urban areas. This year, floating urban development was included as adaptation option in the IPCC report Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability. Reasons that are often mentioned for floating urban developments are sea level rise and land subsidence, although global land scarcity might be even more urgent. Similarly, by implementing local and circular solutions of water and energy in floating developments, and by surrounding floating developments with floating algae and seaweed systems, floating developments can also contribute to reduce the CO2 levels in the atmosphere.

In this lecture, Dr Rutger de Graaf-van Dinther will elaborate on the design, technology and governance of floating urban development and illustrate this with different projects examples from various countries.



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Biography of Dr Rutger de Graaf-van Dinther

Dr Rutger de Graaf-van Dinther is an entrepreneur and researcher with more than 15 years' experience in climate resilient floating urban development. His mission is to provide floating city technology to hundreds of millions of people who are impacted by climate change and sea-level rise. This needs to happen during this century while achieving positive ecological and social impacts.

With his companies DeltaSync and Blue21, the first stepping stones towards this mission already have been achieved with iconic floating construction projects including the Floating Pavilion Rotterdam and Floating Ecohomes, Harnaschpolder Delft, the Netherlands. More recently, Blue21 was design and technology partner in realizing the Innozowa floating solar project in collaboration with TU Delft. Currently, Blue21 is working on upscaling and mainstreaming floating city technology from 'proof of technology' to 'proof of scale'. This will establish an entirely new field of expertise called 'maritime urbanism' to enable the development of floating neighbourhoods and floating cities globally.

Trained as civil engineer with a MSc and PhD (both finished cum laude) of Delft University of Technology, he expanded his knowledge in various additional fields of expertise resulting in peer-reviewed scientific publications in the fields of technology, sustainability and social sciences. Rutger has been consultant to the Dutch Delta Programme, Topsector Water, City of Rotterdam and international clients including from the USA and various countries in Asia and Europe.



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Programme

Time	Title
3:00pm – 3:50pm	Land from Water: Technology, Design and Governance of Climate Resilient Floating Urban Development Dr Rutger de Graaf-van Dinther Co-founder & Director Blue21
3:50pm – 4:00pm	Q & A Session