

DRAGON Asia Summit 2009

First Announcement

June 22 - 25, 2009

Siem Reap, Cambodia

Pre- and Post-Summit Activities To Be Announced

Connecting Great Deltas, Great Lakes, and Great Rivers

The DRAGON (DELTA RESEARCH AND GLOBAL OBSERVATION NETWORK) Partnership was created in December 2007 following Hurricane Katrina and its impact on the vulnerable Mississippi River Delta. This devastating storm brought new urgency to the critical need to share information and data from major deltas around the world. Comparative studies with other large deltas are essential to understanding and predicting the effects of climate change, engineering projects, land use, hydrological change, and other anthropogenic impacts in these sensitive ecosystems. The ultimate goal of the DRAGON Partnership is to provide science to *harmonize the human activities and natural ecological processes in the Mississippi Delta and other major deltas around the world.*

The purpose of the DRAGON Asia Summit is to forge new global partnerships to develop the science needed to inform decision making in the Mekong, Mississippi, and other large river and delta systems around the globe. The complexities and challenges to sustainability in large Asian deltas, such as the Mekong, Huang He, and the Ganges-Brahmaputra make these systems ideal for the development of new tools and technologies to integrate local data to produce large scale ecological forecasts for the future. The DRAGON Asia Summit will feature sessions and special symposia related to the Mekong and Mississippi Deltas and will integrate ecological, agricultural, and hydrological sciences with social systems, education, poverty alleviation, and other societal dimensions.

Topics being considered for sessions and symposia:

- Data Integration: Integrating Scientific Information for the Mekong Delta
- Integrating Data for Forecasting Models for the Mekong Delta
- Great Lakes of the World
- Delta-building Processes and Hydrology
- Human Impacts: Demographics and Engineering
- Deltaic Systems: Landscape and Ecosystem Change
- Education: Creating Sustainability Through Local Communities
- Education: Closing the Gender Gap
- Global Climate Change and Deltas
- Delta Wildlife and Aquatic Habitats
- Delta-specific Sessions, such as Chao Phraya, Yangtze, etc.
- Future Mississippi River Ecosystem Science
- Poverty Alleviation and Restoration
- Mangrove Restoration
- Interjurisdictional Resource Management
- Qualitative Research Approaches
- Regional Wetland Research

Suggested topics welcomed!

Sponsors and the organizing committee include the International Crane Foundation, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, the Caddo Lake Institute, and the U.S. Geological Survey.

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