

**Session II – Envisioning New Approaches to Managing Great Deltas, Great Rivers,
and Great Lakes**
2:30 PM

**Development of a Geographic Information System for Sustainable Natural Resource
Management of the Mekong Delta**

Nguyen Hieu Trung

DRAGON Institute – Mekong, Can Tho University, Can Tho City, Vietnam, Email:
nhtrung@ctu.edu.vn

Abstract

Current inadequate natural resource management together with the impacts of climate change is threatening the traditional livelihoods of the people in the Mekong Delta. The process of decision making on natural resource management requires an integration of bio-physical, environmental and socio-economic information at different levels of detail and across administrative borders. This paper discusses an approach to developing a Geographical Information System (GIS) for natural resource management of the Mekong Delta. In this approach, the participation of local stakeholders, the type of decision making (from empirical and qualitative to mechanistic and quantitative), and the level of decision (from household level to regional level), should be considered in order to distinguish the required data and analysis tools for the system. Furthermore, upgrading the capacity of local stakeholders to exploit the system is also important to ensure its usefulness. To sustain the GIS, a knowledge network on natural resource management of the Mekong Basin countries should be established. DRAGON Institute – Mekong will be a knowledge hub in this network.