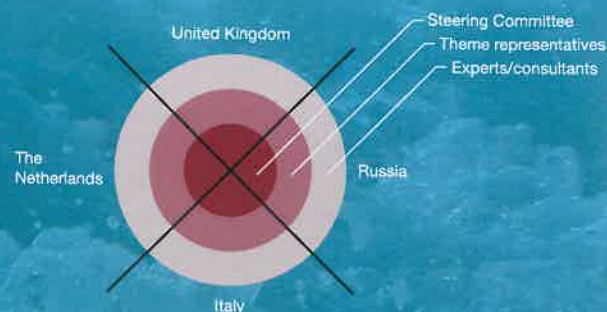




ORGANISATION

The network is a joint initiative of the U.K, the Netherlands, Italy and Russia. The network is organised by means of a steering committee, theme representatives and experts, as shown in the organisation diagram below:



The steering committee takes all strategic decisions (ambition, strategy, aim). Their main agreements are summarised in so-called gentleman agreements. The steering committee consists of representatives of all different organisations involved in the network and the coordinator for the international network. The coordinator for the international network also joins the steering committee and has a facilitating, initiating and intermediating role between the different organisations involved.

The participating organisations and storm surge barriers in the network are:

- Environment Agency, The United Kingdom: Thames Barrier and associated barriers
- Rijkswaterstaat, The Netherlands: Maeslant Barrier, Eastern Scheldt Barrier and associated barriers
- Groot Salland Water Board, the Netherlands: Ramspol Barrier
- Magistrato alle Acque di Venezia, Italy: Venice Barrier/Mose project
- Consorzio Venezia Nuova, Italy: Venice Barrier/Mose project
- Rosstroy, Russian Federation: Flood protection Barrier of St. Petersburg
- Saint Petersburg City Administration, Russian Federation: Flood protection Barrier of St. Petersburg.

Theme representatives are employees of the involved organisations that have knowledge and information on a certain theme. They are involved in network on a continual basis and are strategically connected to the network. They play an important role to determine the agenda for the network.

Sometimes, experts and consultants are involved to fill the gaps of knowledge and information. These experts are not strategically connected but will be invited when needed for specific issues.

CONTACT

Whenever you have a question related to a specific storm surge barrier you can contact:

- **Thames Barrier:**
Andrew Batchelor, the Environment Agency
E-mail: andrew.batchelor@environment-agency.gov.uk
- **Maeslant Barrier:**
Marc Walraven, Rijkswaterstaat Zuid-Holland
E-mail: marc.walraven@rws.nl
- **Eastern Scheldt Barrier:**
Soer van Herk, Rijkswaterstaat Zeeland
E-mail: soer.van.herk@rws.nl
- **Ramspol Barrier:**
Evelien van der Kuil, Waterschap Groot Salland
E-mail: ekuil@wgs.nl
- **Venice Barrier:**
Maria Teresa Brotto, Consorzio Venezia Nuova
E-mail: mariateresa.brotto@consorziovenezianuova.com
- **St. Petersburg Barrier:**
Rosa Mikhailenko, Rosstroy
E-mail: rosaecol@mail.ru

COLOFON

This leaflet is produced by the international network for storm surge barrier managers.

If you would like to receive more general information about the international network for storm surge barrier managers you can contact: Bianca Peters. E-mail: bpt@tg.nl

THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK FOR STORM SURGE BARRIER MANAGERS



Rijkswaterstaat





For centuries the sea has shown itself to be a destructive force, which mankind must always take into account. To protect people against floods static structures like dams and dikes have been built. In the 20th century society demanded that defences should not have a major effect on their surroundings. The movable storm flood surge barrier was the result. At present, there are only a handful of European countries, which manage or construct large sea-resistant storm flood surge barriers. These are the United Kingdom, The Netherlands, Italy and Russia. So, knowledge of these unique objects is scarce and demands very specific knowledge and experience. Therefore, exchanging knowledge is important to learn from each other. Especially now when climate change and sea level rise are recognised facts that should be taken into account. The public administrations of these four countries recognise the usefulness of sharing knowledge and experience and decided to create an international network of storm surge barrier managers.

ABOUT THE NETWORK

Aim of the international network is sharing experiences and the transfer of knowledge on operational and functional management of large movable storm surge barriers in order to optimize the management of barriers by innovative management. This aim is being realised by organising a network which functions as a meeting place for storm surge barrier managers.

In the network knowledge and experience is shared on many themes, and four main areas can be distinguished:

- general management
- asset management
- operational management and maintenance
- policy issues

Both the Netherlands and the United Kingdom already manage existing barriers (built in the 50s, 80s and 90s). Therefore, main focus will be on asset and operational management and maintenance. The barriers in Venice and St. Petersburg are still in the construction phase, and in this phase many policy related decisions have to be taken which influence the design. So their focus will be on the policy issues. By participation in the network the managers and experts that manage the barriers can learn from each other and exchange ideas on common issues.

The experience of the English and Dutch of course could be helpful for the Russians and Italians. On the other hand new innovative techniques of today applied in the new generation barriers could be interesting for the Dutch and English barriers whenever a decision on replacement of elements of the barrier should be taken.

ACTIVITIES, PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

Since the network was formed in 2006, several activities have been taking place. These activities vary from simple phone calls to annual conferences, fieldtrips, traineeships, joint projects and setting up information facilities which enables barrier managers to easily contact each other and find information on other barriers. To give an impression, an overview of activities and products of the network is given below.

Annual conferences

Each year a conference takes place:

- October 2006 in Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- June 2007 in Venice, Italy
- September 2008 in London, UK
- September 2009, Zwolle, The Netherlands
- October 2010, St Petersburg, Russia

These conferences function like a meeting place for barrier managers and employees of the public administrations involved. Different topics of similar interest are discussed here.

Bilateral activities

Since the network is formed, several visits took place between the countries involved to share information and knowledge. For example, there have been bilateral exchanges between the Environment Agency and Rijkswaterstaat and the Waterboard (2007). And Russia visited the Netherlands several times (2007, 2008, 2009).

Workshops

During the annual conference workshops are taking place on different topics, such as probabilistic assessment management and the role of private and public parties in barrier management. Next to workshops at the annual conference also special workshops on a certain topic are being organised on request.

Fieldtrips

Also field trips are being organised. Field trips are important to learn about the functioning of barriers. For instance: in 2008 the waterboard of Groot Salland organised the possibility to join maintenance works on the Ramspol Barrier and in the same year a field trip took place to see the St. Petersburg barrier.

Joint studies

Now the network exists for a few years new initiatives come into existence, like joint studies. In 2008 and 2009 the UK and the Netherlands work(ed) together on joint reliability studies. The main objective was to establish a more common standard in reliability analyses of the storm-surge barriers and to obtain more effective exchange of expertise. Furthermore, in 2008/2009 a comparison study was carried out on the purchasing strategy for storm surge barriers.

Exchanges

In 2006 two employees from the City Administration of St. Petersburg came to the Netherlands for a coastal zone management course at IHE, and a traineeship at Rijkswaterstaat. The Environment Agency and Rijkswaterstaat are now working on an exchange program between employees between different organisations.

Exchange during daily activities

Now the network members got to know each other better, also exchange of knowledge takes place during daily activities, by phone or email. Also members offer each other practical help.

Website

The network started a website, <http://www.networkbarriermanagers.com>, which gives access to a lot of information concerning surge barrier management.

CHALLENGES

The challenge of this network is to enable storm surge barrier managers to easily get in touch with each other on whatever subject related to the management of the storm surge barriers. This network also enables barrier managers to work together on common issues like the response to climate change, sea level rise and flood warning systems.