

Water – By Design – As Leverage for Transformative Impact

Henk Ovink, Special Envoy for International Water Affairs, Kingdom of The Netherlands

Global urbanization provides many opportunities for growth, prosperity, innovation, emancipation, equality and prosperity. At the same time, rapid population growth and the increasing disastrous impact of climate change threaten our cities and landscapes, ecology and citizens, our society. Our current use of raw materials is unsustainable, and its combined effect with climate change is disastrous. Water is at the heart of these crises, at the heart of that uncertain future. Floods and droughts, contamination and water conflicts are linked worldwide to rapid urbanization, the growing demand for energy and food, and the pressures of migration and climate change. The combination of all this is lethal and disruptive to people and the planet. But this also goes the other way: a better understanding of these complex risks and impact dependencies provides insight into pathways forward, real solutions with transformative capacity. Water is then the inspiration, the source and the lever for change, with key interventions, on every scale across all interests. From risk to reward, with real added value for all.

And it is on us, we are the ones that have the capacity, the understanding and capability. Never were we in a better place; we see the urgency and can identify the opportunities and potential solutions. And we have all means at our hands to act upon our knowledge and understanding. Wicked problems can only be met with inclusive approaches, by collaboration in strong coalitions. With partners on every scale and from every discipline, background and representation. We have no time to waste, let's work on this together. Now.

Session Title: The New Wave of Climate Resilience

Speaker Biography: Henk Ovink was appointed by the Dutch Cabinet as the first Special Envoy for International Water Affairs (2015). As the Ambassador for Water, he is responsible for advocating water awareness around the world, focusing on building institutional capacity and coalitions among governments, multilateral organizations, private sector and NGO's to address the world's stressing needs on water and help initiate transformative interventions. Ovink is also Sherpa to the High Level Panel on Water, installed by UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon and President of the World Bank Jim Kim with 10 Heads of State / Heads of Government to catalyze change in water awareness and implementation. Henk was the Principal for Rebuild by Design, the resilience innovation competition he developed and led for President Obama's Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force where he was Senior Advisor to the Chair. He has been Director General for Planning and Water Affairs and Director for National Spatial Planning in The Netherlands. Ovink teaches at the London School of Economics and at Harvard GSD and is a member of the International Advisory Board for the City of Rotterdam. He was Curator for the 5th International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam 2012 'Making City', and curated the debate series 'Design and Politics: the next phase' for Aedes network Campus Berlin. He initiated the research program and is chief editor of the series of publications with NAI010 Publishers on Design and Politics.

What Will the Next Wave of “Resiliency” Look Like?

Henk Ovink, Moderator, Special Envoy for International Water Affairs, Kingdom of the Netherlands

Josh Bradt, Environmental Planner, SFEP

Letitia Grenier, Resilient Landscapes Program Director, SFEI

Kiran Jain, Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel of Neighborly and former Chief Resiliency Officer, Oakland

Lindy Lowe, Planning Director, BCDC

Rachelle Reichert, Artist, San Francisco

What will the next wave of “resiliency” look like? We will explore this question during a moderated conversation among panelists from various sectors who are changing the way we think about resiliency planning and implementation in the Bay Area.

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Speaker Biographies:

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Josh Bradt: Josh Bradt is an Environmental Planner and Project Manager at the San Francisco Estuary Partnership. His work primarily focuses on the promotion of Green Infrastructure practices and policies at the local and regional levels. Josh’s current projects range from design & construction of site specific stormwater retrofits to developing planning tools and funding streams to ensure widespread implementation. Josh is brings watershed planning and urban stream restoration expertise to the Partnership from his previous career stops at the City of Berkeley, the Urban Creeks Council of California, and the Contra Costa Countywide Clean Water Program. He is enthused by place-making, community engagement, and opportunities to be in the field.

Letitia Grenier: Letitia Grenier is a Senior Scientist at the San Francisco Estuary Institute, where she co-directs the Resilient Landscapes Program. She was the science lead for the 2015 State of the Estuary Report (a SF Estuary Partnership project) and the 2015 climate change update to the Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals (a California Coastal Conservancy project), heading a team of over 200 environmental scientists, managers, and regulators to develop science-based recommendations for restoring and maintaining the health of the Bay's tidal wetlands in the face of rising sea levels and other stressors. She is a principal investigator for the Delta Landscapes project, which has completed in-depth analyses on the change in the Delta over time and is now offering science-based guidance on how ecosystem health can be recovered as part of this working landscape. Letitia holds a Ph.D. in Conservation Biology from the University of California at Berkeley and has previously worked on investigating bioaccumulation of contaminants in estuarine food webs, the condition of California's wetlands, and other ecological questions about San Francisco Bay. Her focus now is to work with partners to conserve California's living resources by developing landscape-scale, collaborative visions and solutions for ecological resilience.

Kiran Jain: Kiran Jain is the Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel of Neighborly, a venture-backed company delivering modern public finance to build the infrastructure people rely on to work, live, and play. She is the former Chief Resilience Officer for the City of Oakland, one of the inaugural cities in the 100 Resilient Cities network pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation. Kiran also served as a senior deputy city attorney focusing on land use, urban redevelopment and municipal governance. She is also the founder of the Civic Design Lab, a firm focused on building community resilience. From 2010 through 2013, Kiran served on the board of Asian Law Caucus, the nation's first legal and civil rights organization serving low-income Asian Pacific American communities. Kiran also served as the founding attorney for Kiva, a nonprofit microfinance platform with a mission to connect people through lending to alleviate poverty. She also pioneered the partnership between Kiva and the City of Oakland to crowdfund local economic development, which has raised over 400 zero-percent loans totaling over \$2 million. Prior to law school, Kiran worked at the United Nations Climate Change Secretariat in Bonn, Germany. Kiran has an A.B. in economics and minor in environmental science from Barnard College, a Master's Degree in international affairs from Columbia University, and a Juris Doctorate from Georgetown University.

Lindy Lowe: Lindy Lowe was most recently the Director of Planning Programs at the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, where she developed and led the Adapting to Rising Tides (ART) Program, a nationally recognized climate adaptation planning program. At BCDC, she headed the planning team and focused on complex planning and policy issues and improving public and stakeholder processes. Prior to joining BCDC she worked for the City of San Diego as a community planner focusing on the urban-wildlands interface, wildfire reduction, habitat conservation planning, community engagement and affordable housing. Lindy studied Urban and Regional Planning with an emphasis on Public Health and Environmental Law from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Rachelle Reichert: Rachelle Reichert is an artist and educator in San Francisco. Rachelle creates drawings and sculptures with mined or harvested substances, such as graphite and salt, as foundation in exploring social and ecological concerns. Select exhibitions include the German

Consulate in New York City, SFMOMA Artist Gallery, Southern Exposure, and Mills College Art Museum. Rachelle was awarded residencies at Planet Labs, Can Serrat in Spain, and grants from the Susan Pilner Money for Women Artist Fund and the Russek Foundation. Her work has been reviewed and published in the San Francisco Chronicle, Make Magazine, and New American Paintings. This year Rachelle presented her artwork at the California Climate Change Symposium, Stanford University's Urban Resilience Initiative and has been granted a Research Ambassadorship from Planet's Labs to create climate-related artwork with satellite imagery. She earned her MFA from Mills College in Oakland, CA and a BFA from Boston University. To see her artwork visit www.rachellereichert.com.