

DeltaCompetition 2006

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In the summer of 2006, when I walked down the coastal path of the Italian 'Cinque Terre', my good friend and colleague phoned me that our paper for Royal Haskoning's DeltaCompetition 2006 was selected as one of the three best contributions. Two months later my colleague was spending her Honeymoon in Portugal, and I was in The Hague celebrating the fact that we were awarded with the third prize. We were so pleased with that result! Especially because during the time we were writing up our paper, there was this thought at the back of our minds that our paper would probably not be a winner, given our holistic non-engineering vision on deltas and the impacts of climate change on coastal areas.

For me personally, the DeltaCompetition 2006 sparked many unforeseen things: not only forms the paper in slight modified form part of my PhD-thesis, we have also been invited to present our work within the framework of a European Coastal Network in Valencia, Spain, and managed to get a peer-reviewed journal paper out of it. Last but not least, the DeltaCompetition 2006 has acted as a platform for an exciting career that I have recently embarked on. Since December 2007 I have joined Royal Haskoning in Peterborough, UK, as senior advisor in the Coastal & Rivers Division.

Now that I have joined Royal Haskoning, I can't believe that we were actually thinking that Royal Haskoning was only interested in technical solutions to problems threatening society. I find it a diverse organization which is illustrated by the projects being carried out by a wide variety of people coming from different backgrounds and cultures. For those of you contributing to the DeltaCompetition 2008, I wish you an exciting time in preparing your contributions, and I really hope you will enjoy participating as much as my colleague and I did.