

## Report about the attendance and involvement of EWATEC COAST working groups in the ICENR conference : Green Growth, Climate Change and Protection of Endangered Coastal Regions, in Ho-Chi-Minh City between 17th and 19th of June 2014

The 4<sup>th</sup> VNU - HCM International Conference for Environment and Natural Resources ICENR 2014 "Green growth, climate change and protection of the coastal environment", which was held in Ho-Chi-Minh City (HCMC), Viet Nam, in June 2014 was successful in various aspects and in particular for the partners of the joint BMBF-VNU German-Vietnamese research project EWATEC-COAST, who served as co-organizers. Main organizer was the Institute for Environment and Resources (IER), Vietnam National University of Ho-Chi-Minh City (VNU-HCMC).



The conference was opened by the Vice President of the VNU-HCMC, Prof. Dr. Nguyen Hoi Nghia, with warm wishes and good luck to all presenters and the audience of approx. 300 scientists, government officials, national and international experts. As a contribution to the engagement of the EWATEC COAST project, the Consul General, German Consulate General of Ho-Chi-Minh City, Dr. Hans-Dieter Stell, gave a welcome note. He pointed out the present and future opportunities of German-Vietnamese joint projects especially on the example of the current EWATEC – COAST project. Following that, the Deputy Minister of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), Assoc. Prof. Bui Cach Tuyen, took on the task and gave an orientation note with strong focus on research and application.

After keynotes from Prof. Günter Meon, University of Braunschweig (BMBF-VNU joint research project EWATEC-COAST: Environmental and Water Protection Technologies of Coastal Zones in Vietnam), Prof. Phan Van Tan, Ha Noi University of Sciences (Observed Climate Variations and Change in Vietnam) and Prof. Nguyen Van Phuoc, Institute for Environment and Resources (IER), VNU-HCMC (Advanced Technology for Water and Wastewater Treatment), the conference started on its 2-day course on the main topics climate change, modeling and management tools, process and environmental technologies, aquatic ecology, green growth and coastal protection.

In total, 70 papers (out of 193) were selected for oral presentation in the first two days. All sessions were well attended. Discussions during the presentations and in the breaks had been very lively, hence we expect a very good experience exchange and transfer of knowledge throughout the whole conference, which might affect scientific stimulation towards future tense. The conference was closed with a field trip to the experimental green-house (tests about mangrove growth under adverse environmental conditions) and the pilot plant (treatment of tannery waste water) both being located in the project area of the Thi Vai river basin.

In addition to the conference proceedings published on CD, a number of the conference papers had already been published in Vietnamese journals. Most of the presentations will go online later this year. The papers referring to the EWATEC-COAST project and relevant adjacent papers will be published in a book in autumn, 2014.

On the third day a post-conference training workshop took place at the IER, hosted by Prof. Nguyen Van Phuoc and held by members of the German-Vietnamese working groups of the EWATEC-COAST project. The topics were integrated water modelling with the hydrological model PANTA RHEI and the groundwater model FEFLOW, air pollution modelling with AERMOD and AUSTAL 2000 and waste water treatment technology for leather and dyeing industries and mangrove modeling.

[www.tu-braunschweig.de/ewatec](http://www.tu-braunschweig.de/ewatec)

Matthias Pätsch, Günter Meon (University of Braunschweig, Germany)  
Nguyen Hong Quan, Nguyen Van Phuoc (Institute for Environment and Resources  
(IER) - Vietnam National University of Ho Chi Minh city)