

# OKP Newsletter

November 2020



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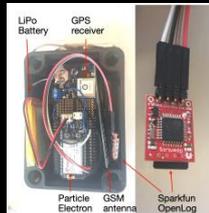
# Without research there is nothing to teach

November 2020, Delft

Dear partners,

During this pandemic, many academics are spending a lot of time on research and getting research published. In fact, the Covid-19 crisis has underlined just how fast and open science publishing can be — when scientists want it that way! The main purpose of research is of course not to get it published. Academics carry out research to stimulate actions, to prove a theory, and contribute to developing knowledge and policymaking in a field or study. But how do you know your research is new and interesting? When are you ready to publish? And then when trying to target the right journal for publication of your manuscript, how do you avoid getting overwhelmed by the diversity of journals? This newsletter focuses on all these aspects. The November issue is on research - because without research, there is nothing to teach.

In this newsletter, we share with you the PhD research proposals of lecturers of HUNRE, Chi and Khoa. We feature articles on how to choose an appropriate journal for your publication and on how to avoid predatory publishers. The 'Get to know us' section contains a very special feature interview on Dr. Pham Quy Nhan from HUNRE. Furthermore, we have the usual news and upcoming activities updates for both our OKP projects and of course many opportunities for professional development.



# OKP Vietnam & Myanmar: News and (planned) activities

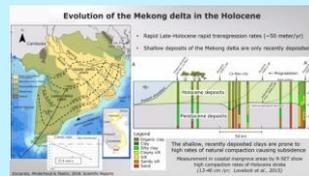
## Celebrating 10 years of HUNRE

In November, HUNRE will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a university. They have organized all kinds of activities for students and teachers.



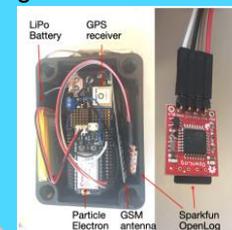
## Webinar Mekong Delta subsidence

On November 6<sup>th</sup>, Delta Futures Lab organized a webinar on the Rise and Fall project. Philip Minderhoud (Utrecht University) talked about the sinking Mekong delta in Vietnam and how accelerating land subsidence poses an existential threat to this delta. The webinar had attendees from different countries, including Vietnam and Myanmar. You can watch this [short YouTube video](#) on the research and results.



## Publication on GPS drifters in Myanmar

Rolf Hut, together with Ms.Thanda Thatoe Nwe Win, and Thom Bogaard have published a paper in the *Journal Geoscientific Instrumentation, Methods and Data Systems*. The paper is about easy to build low-power GPS drifters with local storage and a cellular modem made from off-the-shelf components. The authors provide instructions on how to build a such a drifter. They tested this device during fieldwork on the confluence of the Chindwin and Ayeyarwady rivers in Myanmar. They also address the question: has the open-hardware revolution progressed to the point that a low-power GPS drifter that wirelessly transmits its position can be made from open-hardware components by most geoscientists? You can find the article [here!](#)



## Dr. Aye Myint Khaing completes IHE online short course

Dr. Aye Myint Khaing, demonstrator at YTU, followed the online IHE short course on Data Acquisition, Preprocessing and Modelling using HEC-RAS. She really enjoyed improving her modelling skills. “I will re-apply the newly acquired knowledge and the skill obtained from this short course. I also share this knowledge to my colleges and my students. I am enthusiastic in research and this course would be greatly useful for my research activities,” she wrote.

You can find more information about collaboration on the TU Delft-Vietnam website: <https://www.tudelft.nl/citg/vietnam/> and on the TU Delft-Myanmar website: <https://www.tudelft.nl/myanmar/>

# In the spotlight: PhD scholars of HUNRE

## Tran Thuy Chi

**PhD topic:** Improvement of drainage system under changing climate: Urban flood mitigation in Vinh City, Vietnam

**Institution:** Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China



Chi's study is on the assessment of Vinh city's present drainage system performance and reliability in dealing with (future) urban floods. She will consider the impact of anthropogenic effects and climate change on urban hydrological processes. Her steps are:

1. Simulate future rainfall patterns in the study area.
2. Evaluate the effectiveness of present and future drainage system performance under different climate scenarios.
3. Make recommendations for improving the urban drainage system.



## Thi Van Le Khoa

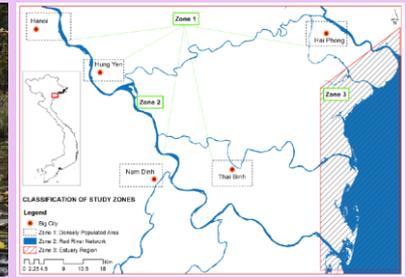
**PhD topic:** Integrated Monitoring of Plastic in Rivers, Estuaries and Seas in Vietnam

**Institution:** Department of Environmental Sciences Wageningen University & Research, the Netherlands



The objective of Khoa's research is to develop the first integrated approach for plastic monitoring in Vietnam. Using the Red River as a case study, he aims to answer the questions:

1. How to quantify urban plastic leakage hotspots?
2. What processes drive riverine plastic transport?
3. How much plastic is emitted from the Red River into the ocean?
4. How can the Red River plastic transport be decreased most effectively?



# Research & publishing – tips & tricks

## Introducing JournalFinder

This tool helps you find the right journal for your research. You simply enter the title and abstract of your paper to find journals that could be best suited for publishing. JournalFinder uses smart search technology to match your paper to scientific journals.

[Check out the tool](#)

## Research methods course

Engineering is no longer limited to working in a single domain; nowadays engineers often work in multidisciplinary fields. Do you want to learn about using appropriate research methods for multidisciplinary research? Check out this TU Delft EdX course:

[Multidisciplinary Research  
Methods for Engineers](#)

## Why conduct a literature review?

1. To establish its originality: prove that the proposed work has not been done before
2. To place the proposed research in context (related work);
3. To compare and justify the choice of research methods

## Where to find literature?

- [Unpaywall](#) is a browser plugin that enables you to easily (i.e., instantly) find Open Access versions of otherwise paywalled research papers.
- As search engines you can use [Google Scholar](#) or the [Directory of Open Access Journals](#)
- You can always try to request a copy directly from the author. Many researchers have joined the social network for scientists; [ResearchGate](#). You can use this to connect with other researchers.

Source: Presentations on information skills and open science, Marga Koelen, ITC Twente

## Literature review tool : Mendeley

Mendeley is a free reference manager with an easy user interface. You can add papers directly from your browser or import any documents from your desktop. You can add your thoughts on documents in your own library, and highlight important parts. You can generate citations and bibliographies with just a few clicks. The Mendeley's Citation Plugin is compatible with Word and LibreOffice. They also support BibTeX export for use with LaTeX. Best of all: You can also access your library from anywhere.

[Go to Mendeley!](#)



# Journals – how to choose the best fit?

Getting a research paper published can be a challenge! It's even more challenging when considering the risk of rejection that comes from submitting a paper to a journal that's not the right fit. So how do you choose where to submit your paper?

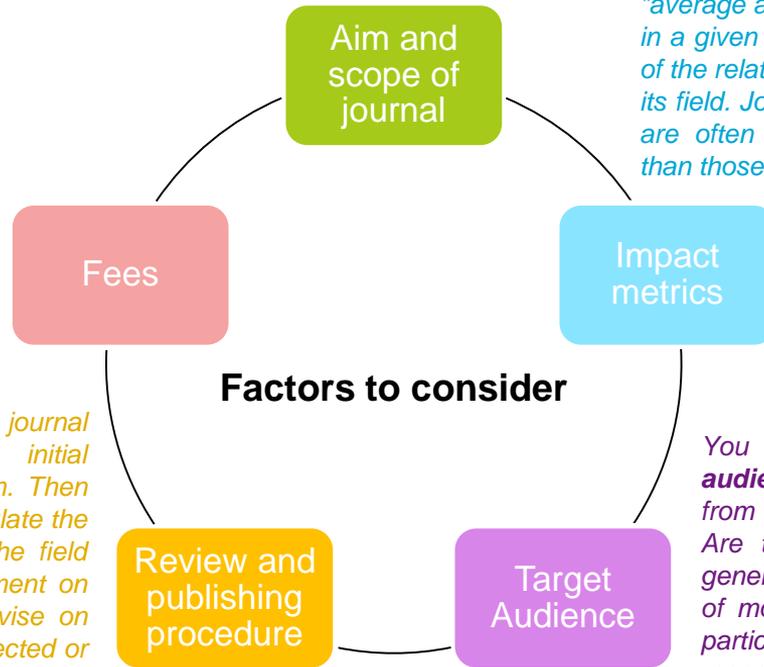
**Pro tip:** Look at your references – where are they published?

*A journal's aim is the objective or purpose of what the journal is trying to accomplish. The scope is how the journal will accomplish this. The aim and scope are the most important factor to take into account. You can find that information on the website of the journal in question.*

*What are the various Impact metrics for the journal? Commonly used is the **impact factor (IF)**. The IF of a journal is a measure of the frequency with which the "average article" in a journal has been cited in a given period of time. It is an indication of the relative importance of a journal within its field. Journals with higher impact factors are often deemed to be more important than those with lower ones.*

*Journals can have different types of fees, of varying amounts. Some journals charge pre-publication fees, such as a submission fee or membership fee. Most journals work with post-publications fees, such as an article processing charge or page fee.*

*Manuscripts submitted to a journal usually first go through an initial **screening** by the editorial team. Then there is the **peer review**: to regulate the quality of content, experts in the field are invited to review and comment on manuscripts received. They advise on whether an article should be rejected or accepted (with or without revisions). The procedure can differ per journal - be sure to check it out beforehand!*



# Predatory publishers – a warning

With the start of open-access publishing also the predatory publishers came into existence. **Predatory publishing** is an exploitive academic publishing business model. Authors are charged with publication fees without their work getting checked for quality and legitimacy (and other editorial and publishing services). They are labeled as 'predatory' because scholars are tricked into publishing with them. You can read more about this in his [article](#) in the Nature Journal.

*"Journals that exploit the author-pays model damage scholarly publishing and promote unethical behaviour by scientists"*

– Jeffrey Beall –

Go to [Beall's list of predatory journals and publishers](#)

Jeffrey Beall is a library scientist at the University of Colorado in Denver. He first coined the term "predatory open access publishing". He furthermore created a list of such journals and publishers, named Beall's list.



The screenshot shows the homepage of Beall's List. At the top, it reads "BEALL'S LIST OF POTENTIAL PREDATORY JOURNALS AND PUBLISHERS". Below this is a navigation bar with links for "PUBLISHERS", "STANDALONE JOURNALS", "VANITY PRESS", "CONTACT", and "OTHER". A search bar is present with the placeholder text "Search for publishers (name or URL)". Underneath the search bar, there are two columns: "Potential predatory scholarly open-access publishers" and "Useful pages". The "Useful pages" column includes links for "List of journals falsely claiming to be indexed by DOAJ" and "DOAJ: Journals added and removed". At the bottom of the page, there is a disclaimer: "All journals published by a predatory publisher are potentially predatory unless stated otherwise".

Questions?  
Contact Marga Koelen at  
[m.t.koelen@utwente.nl](mailto:m.t.koelen@utwente.nl)

# Get to know Associate Professor Dr. Pham Quy Nhan!



Associate Professor  
Dr. Pham Quy Nhan

Vice Rector HUNRE  
and Project Director  
OKP Climate Proof  
Vietnam

## How did you get into the field of water resources?

My hometown is a poor village in Thanh Hoa province, right next to the gentle Ma River, where I used to see the daily water intake and bathing during my childhood. While I grew up I witnessed American and Vietnamese air forces in the sky during the Vietnam War. Ever since I was a teenager, I asked myself questions like where does the river originate from? Why is river water better to brew tea than well water?

(Later I learned that TDS in dug wells' water of my hometown was close to the threshold 1g/L, leading to lower quality drinking water). The Ma River flowing through my hometown left me with all kinds of serenity, it was poetic in the early spring, and in the rainy season of August it fiercely swept away all the trees. Perhaps those were the reasons that made me choose this research field.

In our day, mathematics and allied fields created a special attraction. When I entered university and majored in hydrogeology, geological knowledge opened up for me to understand the formation of the earth and the path of water molecules, and once again I was blown away. The knowledge of earth science combined with problems about the movement of underground water fascinated me at that time.

## What subjects do you enjoy teaching the most?

I was in charge of teaching many subjects in my teaching life, but perhaps the subject that I love the most is "Groundwater Modelling" because it has the theoretical basis of mathematics, computer science, architectural knowledge and art, as well as

the sensitivity of parameters in validating and the possible simplification. This is probably the subject where the "Art of Teaching" principle needs to be most applied in order to best convey the content of this subject.



## What do you enjoy most about collaborating with International researchers?

It can be said that international international cooperation, we have cooperation is the key to gained different aspects promoting development including facilities and in teaching and scientific specific research results, research and playing and the most important great significance to thing is to learn developing countries like professionalism, problem Vietnam. International approach, solving experience and resources methodolgy, and to have shortened the expand our collaborative development process and research network. The this is more evident with partnership with TU Delft is the most the open policy of sustainable we have ever innovation in Vietnam in had up to now. recent years. Through

## What, up until now, has been one of the best memories of your career?

I have been lucky to collaborate, study, and work with some famous scientists in the world such as Dieke Postma or Cliff Voss. Dieke Postma is a Dutch man and together with Appelo who published a very famous and worldwide used textbook: "Geochemistry, Groundwater, and Pollution". In 2004, I met him for the first time in Hanoi and sat next to him at dinner. I discussed the book's content with him. I asked him if he knew the author named Postma because I only knew that he was Dieke from the conversation. He slowly said "I am Postma" and that confused me the whole dinner that night. He was quiet, serious, and confident in the process of researching with us during the next 15 years and we have learned a lot about his wisdom.

### Dr. Nhan's Research philosophy

"Explain research problems as simply as possible"

### What advice would you give to young researchers and academics?

Always keep your knowledge. Studying passion and in school is extremely dedication; the results important, but self-study and foreign will come to you. languages are the keys to reaching endless However, to do this to reaching endless you need to be equipped with certain human knowledge. background

Read the full interview on [our website](#)

Find Dr. Pham Quy Nhan on [Research Gate](#)

# Opportunities: Online courses

## Introducing Open Courseware IHE Delft

IHE Delft aims to contribute to solving the world's water crisis by educating the water leaders of the future. The demand for water education is much higher than the number of professionals that the Institute can train. IHE Delft bridges this gap by making education available for free on its OCW Platform!



### IHE OCW platform

The IHE OCW offers many free courses on a range of water related topics. The course offer for example contains:

Biological Wastewater Treatment: Principles, Modelling and Design

[View course](#)

Water Productivity and Water Accounting using WaPOR

[View course](#)

Introduction to Modflow and Model Use

[View course](#)

[View full course offer on OCW platform](#)

### GIS OpenCourseWare

This page offers full online courses, trainings, (advanced) tutorials, instruction videos, and many other resources on GIS.



[Check it out!](#)

# Opportunities: scholarships and events

## International Climate Protection Fellowship

Application deadline: March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

Are you a prospective leader working academically or practically in climate protection or climate-relevant resource conservation in your home country? Then you are eligible to apply for an International Climate Protection Fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

[Apply here](#)



Questions, comments, or need help applying?  
Please contact: [J.L.F.Eulderink@tudelft.nl](mailto:J.L.F.Eulderink@tudelft.nl)

## Belgian Earth Observation Day

Event date: November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020

[Sign up here](#)

A virtual Border-crossing Earth Observation Day 2020 – an event not to be missed. The day will start with two keynote speeches, including one by our partner, Chris Mannaerts of ITC Twente. He will talk about the FAO WaPOR database: remote sensing for water productivity.

## International Water Colloquium

Event date: November 4<sup>th</sup> – December 16<sup>th</sup> 2020 (7 sessions)

This event was initiated by TU Dresden, University of Bonn and UNU-FLORES on the topic “Cooperation in Water Management – Tackling a Global Challenge”. Multiple sessions will be organized. On November 18<sup>th</sup>, our partners Dr. Thom Bogaard and Dr. John Connalin will present ‘**Leapfrogging Water Management in Myanmar by long-lasting and multidisciplinary cooperation**’. They will present examples from our long-term collaboration with partners in Myanmar!

[Sign up for Myanmar session](#)

[View other sessions](#)