

Report on Danish YPEP Seminar 11-13 September 2007

On 11-13 September 2007, DANCORE (the Danish Network for Coastal Research) hosted a 3-day YPEP seminar at the Skallingen Laboratory situated on the west coast of Denmark. An international group of young professionals with a background in coastal science was welcomed with participants from Russia and 3 different EU countries.



Figure 1. Seminar venue – the Skallingen Laboratory on the west coast of Denmark; view into the Skallingen salt marsh.

The seminar intended to provide updated information on climate change and its consequences in relation to Coastal Zone Management. Speakers with relevant backgrounds were invited to share their thoughts and experiences and discuss the issues with the seminar participants. Most of all, communication between young professionals was enhanced.

The seminar was kicked off by team presentations made by the 15 participants from Denmark, Germany, Italy and Russia, respectively. They represented a broad range of institutions in the public as well as the private sector and brought to the conference a valuable mix of experiences and perspectives. These institutions were the Technical University of Denmark, University of Copenhagen, Odsherred Municipality, COWI A/S, DHI - Water-Environment-Health, Hamburg University of Technology, St. Petersburg Hydro-meteorological University, P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology, Kaliningrad Coastal Authority and the Italian Marine and Coastal Environment Institution.



Figure 2. Geraldina Signa from Italy; and Torsten Albers from Germany.

After the group presentations, an ice breaker was held providing the participants with a good opportunity to get to know each other better in a more casual environment (Figure 3).



Figure 3. Evgeny, Torsten and Jan in a heated conversation; and Rikke, Georgy and Anni having a nice time during the ice breaker.

On the following morning, Per Sørensen from KDI (Danish Coastal Authority) was the first lecturer, who held a presentation on *Engineering Applications on Coastal Zone Management in Denmark*. Signe Marie Ingvarsdén from KDI followed with an input on *Sustainable Coastal Protection; the EU Project ComCoast*. Karen Edelvang from DHI contributed to the seminar with her talk on *Impact of Climate on Estuaries* and Torben Larsen from the University of Aalborg was the last lecturer of that day sharing his experience and knowledge on *Climate Change and Closure of Thyborøn Channel*.



Figure 4. Students and lecturers during two different presentations.

The lecturers had different backgrounds and presented the audience with different practical experiences, insights and views. It gave a good impression and understanding of the many perspectives.



Figure 5. Karen Edelvang and Torben Larsen.

The afternoon was dedicated to a field excursion led by Aart Kroon from the Institute of Geography and Geology, University of Copenhagen. A fascinating tour of the Danish West Coast and the Wadden Sea with examples of sediment transport and tidal process response in coastal lines.



Figure 6. Aart Kroon showing maps with information on coastline changes and participants taking a lot of pictures.

After the excursion with a number of field stops participants were more than ready for a tasty dinner and a relaxing evening.



Figure 7. Seminar dinner.

The last day of the seminar started with a lecture by Ulrik Lumborg, DHI on *Coastal Construction*. Martin Drews from DMI (Danish Meteorological Institute) gave a lecture on *Simulating future Climate Scenarios*. Afterwards, Morten Pejrup from the Institute of Geography and Geology, University of Copenhagen led a salt-marsh hike.



Figure 8. A nice walk on the Skallingen salt marsh.



Figure 9. Morten Pejrup showing an anthill in the middle of the salt marsh.

The seminar ended with a lecture given by Morten Pejrup, the Institute of Geography and Geology, University of Copenhagen, about *The future Development of the Wadden Sea*.

The feedback of the participants confirmed that the seminar was very much appreciated and that there is a pressing need for more practical approaches and for other opportunities to discuss the many issues.

DANCORE (the Danish Network for Coastal Research) aims at contributing to the interdisciplinary research and information exchange with seminars and workshops like the one recently held at Skallingen.

Finally, we would like to sincerely acknowledge and congratulate Anni Tindahl Madsen, Martin Dixen and Morten Lundkvist on their hard-working efforts in convening a very memorable and stimulating DANCORE YPEP seminar.



Figure 10. Group picture of the young researchers participating in the YPEP seminar.