

# A critical review of 25 years of land reclamation in East Asia

## PANEL DISCUSSION





# Proposal: A Reclamation Watch Program

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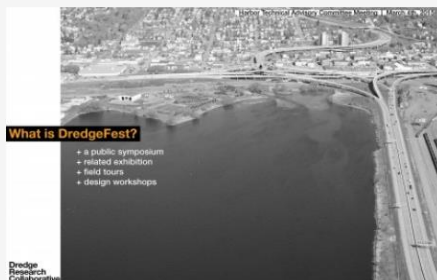
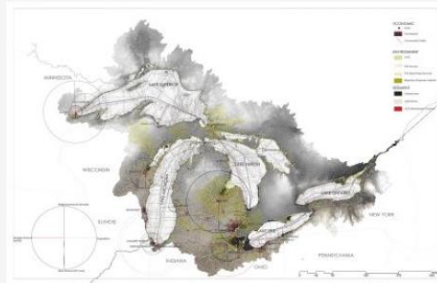
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# Guiding questions for discussion

- *How can we reduce the impacts of land reclamation?*
- *How can marine spatial planning (MSP) help control unsustainable reclamation practices?*
- *How can we better monitor the status and trends of land reclamation in East Asia and promote regional cooperation?*

# Conclusions and Recommendations

- Land reclamation has been widely implemented in many East Asian countries over the past decades. While provisioning new land through reclamation increases the countries' development potentials, land reclamation has brought irreversibly detrimental impacts to the livelihoods of local fishing communities, the marine ecosystem, and globally migrating shorebird populations.
- In order to reduce the pressure of coastal land reclamation, we need to closely monitor and document ecological, social, and cultural impacts of reclamation practices in the region. In terms that the knowledge on the trends and the current status of reclamation in East Asia has so far been scattered and not understood in a comprehensive manner, we suggest create a regional 'reclamation watch' program.
- The impacts of reclamation last long and affect nearby areas, not just the reclamation site alone. We suggest that a cumulative impact assessment system needs to be adopted to evaluate the long-term and regional impacts of reclamation.
- As an integrative marine and coastal governance mechanism, marine spatial planning (MSP) has capacity to consider the various dimensions of land reclamation hitherto overlooked (e.g., sea-level rise). An MSP framework should aim for strengthening long-term resilience of coasts.