

Interactive comment on “T-shaped competency profile for water professionals of the future” by S. Uhlenbrook and E. de Jong

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We thank the reviewer for all positive and encouraging comments and for the detailed review of the paper. In the following, we would like to respond to his/her main points; all specific comments and language corrections will be done during the revisions of the manuscript.

Comment: T-shape model not new, reviewer experienced it himself/herself in Geographical sciences.

Response: We agree that the T-shape model illustrates to some extent a structure of the competency profile that has been applied in some academic fields before. Ge-

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Interactive Discussion

Discussion Paper



ography is by definition an academic discipline that cuts across a range of disciplines (natural sciences, social sciences and humanities). Thus, the T-shape suggests itself as suitable concept for Geography and might well have been applied in some schools (though not using the same terminology). However, we do see that to the same extent in other water-related disciplines, such as (engineering) hydrology, hydraulic engineering, irrigation and drainage, aquatic ecology etc. Furthermore, the horizontal bar is not only characterized by multi- and inter-disciplinary knowledge, but also by personal, functional, ethical and meta-competencies (cf. section 2 and 3).

We will include more and in particular some older references in the revised paper to demonstrate that we are not 're-inventing the wheel'. In addition, we will discuss the case of Geographic Sciences in that respect.

Comment: Reviewer states that knowledge does not become outdated.

Response: We agree that it is mainly the problem that some professionals do not update their knowledge. This will be reformulated in the revised manuscript.

Comment: Reviewer is not convinced about our statement that global environmental change leads to problems of 'unprecedented complexity and magnitude'.

Response: Though we agree that the complexity of environmental systems has always been there and that we often do not understand it very well, we argue that global changes are characterized by additional drivers and pressures that are newly introduced. Therefore, the complexity (new sub-systems play now a role) and the magnitude of problems (positive feedback loops) can increase.

We will clarify this in the revised manuscript.

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