



12th NETHCID SYMPOSIUM
At the occasion for World Water Day 2008

INVITATION

On behalf of NETHCID, the Netherlands National ICID Committee, you are cordially invited to attend a symposium on the theme

The Water Professional of Tomorrow

Date : 20 March 2008

Time : 09.30 – 17.00 hrs

Location : Wageningen University, Lumen building, Droevendaalsesteeg 3a, Wageningen

With a group of 10 inspiring national and international speakers from diverse backgrounds (academia, NGO's, water user associations, government) and disciplines (technical, public administration, social, communication), we will discuss the needs and challenges of the water professional of tomorrow. What new challenges will these professionals face in their careers and what are the implications for the required knowledge and skills?

During the event you can listen to what this eminent group of speakers have to say, but you can also involve yourself in discussion with them and the audience in order to inspire each other with new ideas.

The programme is attached.

We hope to meet you at this World Water Day event,

on behalf of the organising unit,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Linden Vincent".

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gerrit van Vuren".

Prof. Linden Vincent and Ir. Gerrit van Vuren
Irrigation and Engineering Group, Wageningen University

For reasons of logistics please register via e-mail to gerda.defauw@wur.nl mention name, address and institute (if any) and transfer €50,00 (students €10,00) to the bank account of DOW-WU no. 53.95.09.396, ref. IWE430-WWDfee.

*Organisation of 12th NETHCID symposium has been commissioned to:
Wageningen University, chair group Irrigation and Water Engineering
The executive committee of NETHCID consists of members representing universities (TUD, WU, UNESCO-IHE),
research institutes (Alterra, DHL), water boards (UvW), consultant companies (HASKONING, DHV, Euroconsult-
MMT) and departments of ministries (DLG, RWS).*

**Netherlands National ICID Committee
International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage**

World Water Day 2008

The Water Professional of Tomorrow

Today's water problems seem both more urgent as well as more complex than those of the past. Meeting tomorrow's food (and bio-fuel) demands with less water, conserving natural environments and bio-diversity while also adapting to the effects of climate change provide the larger framework in which today's water managers have to operate. New challenges and complexities call for new modes of operation, new approaches and new types of knowledge and skills. Centralistic and technocratic approaches to solve water problems are making place for approaches that acknowledge the inherently political character of water management and the plurality of its actors, institutions, discourses and knowledge systems. Indeed, the *very nature* of the water profession of which irrigation and drainage are part, is changing. The Wageningen World Water Day 2008 invites you to take part in a day of reflections and debate about the changing requirements of water managers, engineers, policymakers and researchers in the broad field of water management. What should be the profile of Tomorrow's Water Professional and equally important, who should be Tomorrow's Water Professional?

1. Water knowledge

How can water problems be known and understood? How to define, delimit and conceptualize complex water realities? And, who defines and conceptualizes water problems and solutions: men, women, local water users, experts, policy makers, politicians? Do solutions to water problems always have an engineering component, or are tomorrow's water problems especially questions of cultural recognition, gender, water rights, ecology, and the art to communicate? And if water management problems are indeed complex, cultural and gendered realities, and require interdisciplinary and gender sensitive approaches, why does the water profession remain to be dominated by the engineering profession and mainly male water experts? Presentations in this section fall under the overarching question: In what way does the construction of water knowledge, currently dominated by the water engineering profession and mainly male water experts, contribute to, instead of solving, tomorrow's water problems? And how is this changing?

2. Skills for Water Management

What will be the skills for tomorrow's water management in engineering, communication, negotiation? Based on what skills are today's young professionals hired and what skills have to be educated at universities and research centers and in capacity building programs? Do water skills for water management remain primarily the domain of water experts? Presentations in this section fall under the overarching question: What skills are required for tomorrow's water management, and who will need to master those skills: men, women, local water users or experts?

3. Public Action and Water Professionals

Today's water solutions en reforms prescribe democracy and negotiation as important ingredients of public action (e.g. IWRM, WUA and Multi-Stakeholder Platforms). Public administration is both a question of public delivery and State initiatives, and also a matter of participation in the process of social change. What does this mean for tomorrow's water professional? To what extent do water experts need to be 'reformed'? Should water experts become advocates of democracy and can engineering and planning be democratized further? What challenges and/or tensions are there between those who 'know' and users who should be 'involved'? How to divide the tasks and responsibilities between them? Presentations in this section fall under the overarching question: What are the new roles of tomorrow's water professional in public action?

International Commission For Irrigation and Drainage – the Netherlands

World Water Day 2008

Program: 20 March 2008

9:30 – 10:00	Morning Tea and Coffee (Lumen 1 & 2)		
10:00 - 10:10	Welcome at Wageningen University Campus: Word of Welcome: Opening:	Ir. Kees Slingerland Prof. Dr. Nick van de Giesen Prof. Dr. Linden Vincent	(Director Environmental Science Group) (Chairman ICID-Netherlands) (Irrigation and Water Engineering Group –WU)
10:10 – 10:40	Keynote speaker: Dr. Douglas Merrey (Food, Agriculture, Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network – Southern Africa)		
10:40-12:15	1. Water knowledge		
Chair: Prof. Dr. Tony Allan Water Research Group, KCL and SOAS, London	Dr. Sybe Schaap Unie van Waterschappen	Prof. Dr. Pieter van der Zaag Institute for Water Education UNESCO- IHE	Dr. Margreet Zwarteveen IWE Wageningen University
30 minutes discussion			
12:15-13:30	Lunch (Lumen 1 & 2)		
13:30-15:00	2. Skills for Water Management		
Chair: Prof. Dr. Nick van de Giesen Chairgroup Waterbeheer TU Delft	Drs. Renée Vergouwe Netherlands Water Partnership - Delft	Dr. Peter Mollinga Zentrum für Entwicklungsforschung - Bonn	Dr. François Molle Institut de Recherche pour le Développement - Montpellier
30 minutes discussion			
15:00-15:30	Tea & Coffee (Lumen 1 & 2)		
15:30-17:00	3. Public Action and Water Professionals		
Chair: Ir. Peter de Vries Ministry Foreign Affairs DGIS - DMW The Hague	Prof. Dr. Katrien Termeer Public Adm. and Policy, WU	Ir. Neeltje Kielen Senior Advisor Rijkswaterstaat	Prof. Dr. Niels Röling Emeritus professor, WU
30 minutes discussion			
17:00 <	Snacks and drinks (Lumen 1 & 2)		