



Wetskills-The Netherlands 2017

Media Advisory

Wetskills makes a delta tour in fourth edition in The Netherlands

Wetskills-The Netherlands kicks off

From 19 October to 2 November 2017, during the Amsterdam International Water Week (AIWW), 23 young water professionals from around the world will participate in a Wetskills Challenge in the Netherlands. For two weeks, the participants will work in mixed teams on cases of governments, companies, knowledge institutes and water authorities from home and abroad. Their goal: finding innovative solutions for current water-related challenges.

The participating students and young professionals come from all over the world, such as Oman, Egypt, India, Kyrgyzstan, Honduras, Israel, South Africa, and Indonesia. They will be guided by water professionals from the Netherlands.

Delta tour through the Netherlands

The Challenge will start on October 19th with a road trip through the Dutch delta. The tour will start in Amsterdam and will go through, among others, Heerhugowaard, Leeuwarden, Zwolle and Utrecht to Rotterdam. On the way there are field visits to various universities and water-related organizations such as Waternet, Water Authority Hollands Noorderkwartier, Wetsus, WaterAlliance, the Water Application Center, Water Authority Drents-Overijsselse Delta, World Water Academy (Waterhouse Nieuwegein), Water Authority of Delfland, TU Delft, IHE Delft and CIC Rotterdam. In Rotterdam, the teams will develop their solutions.

The finals will take place during the kick-off meeting of Young-AIWW on October 30th, starting at 13.30. Interested people are welcome (please sign in).



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Cases

The submitted cases are diverse (see descriptions attached to this document).

- Water authority Hollands Noorderkwartier, wants to improve the aquatic awareness of farmers, residents and industry.
- CEE India, an environmental education center from Ahmedabad (India), wants to prevent contamination of urban lakes with wastewater.
- Waternet is looking for better fishing passages for polders.
- Water Authority Drents Overijsselse Delta is looking for a decision-making model regarding climate change measures.
- The Province of Flevoland and Water Authority Zuiderzeeland are looking for a way to monitor the water quality of the new Oosterwold district, together with the area's residents.
- VP Delta asks their group to develop a business strategy for small-scale hydroelectric power plants.

Success formula

Floor van der Heijden, former participant of Wetskills Taiwan and one of the organizers of this Wetskills edition, looks forward to the event: *"We have worked for a long time. I'm looking forward to welcome the participants and to see them working on the cases. Already before we started they showed so much enthusiasm! I am convinced that these people with great passion and enthusiasm will come up with great solutions. Come and see!"*

The organizers from the Wetskills Team are: Floor van der Heijden (Program Officer), Frank Tibben (Program Officer) and Johan Oost (Managing Director). In addition, several members from the Wetskills team and the Dutch water sector will contribute to the event.



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Wetskills: international & out of the box

Wetskills (www.wetskills.com) is an independent Dutch foundation that organizes Water Challenges around the world. Overall goal: finding innovative solutions for current water issues. While doing this, students and young professionals are learning in a unique way about international water issues and intercultural cooperation.

Since 2010, more than 25 events have been held in nearly twenty countries, such as China, Taiwan, India, United States, Canada, Israel, Iran, Egypt, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and thus the Netherlands. In the meantime, various Wetskills solutions have been applied, or further developed in larger WetsNext projects.



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Partners of this Wetskills event

The following organizations are making this event possible:

- **Wetskills Foundation**
- **Amsterdam International Water Week**
- **Chasing Water Dreams Challenges**
- **Young-AIWW**
- **Royal Netherlands Water Network**

Case owners

- **Hoogheemraadschap Hollands Noorderkwartier**
- **VP Delta**
- **Chasing Water Dreams**
- **Waternet**
- **Waterschap Drents-Overijsselse Delta**
- **Provincie Flevoland & Waterschap Zuiderzeeland**

Suppliers/Donors

- **WaterAlliance & Watercampus Leeuwarden**
- **Wateropleidingen / World Water Academy**
- **Hoogheemraadschap Delfland**
- **Nationaal Water Traineeship**
- **TopSector Water**
- **Netherlands Water Partnership**
- **RAI Amsterdam**



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Press invitation

The media (TV, newspaper, magazines, Social Media) are invited to report parts of this event. On request, the Wetskills organization can provide specific pieces or interviews. Especially the following parts (in different places in the Netherlands) are interesting (parts will be in English):

- **Wetskills kick-off event in Amsterdam: 19 October 09.30-11.00.**
This is the *official opening* of Wetskills The Netherlands.
Location: Waternet, Korte Ouderkerkerdijk 7 Amsterdam.
- **Cases presentation in Heerhugowaard: 19 October 13.00-15.00.**
In this session the *cases* will be announced by the case owners, followed by a first meeting and discussions between teams and case owners.
Location: Water authority Hollands Noorderkwartier, Stationsplein 136 Heerhugowaard
- **BrainHurricane event in Leeuwarden: 20 October 2017 10.00-12.30.**
This is an interactive brainstorming event where participants will learn more about water and institutions in the specific region and special speed date session with various 8 experts from the water industry in the region.
Location: Watercampus (Johannes de Doperkerk) Oostergoweg 7 Leeuwarden
- **BrainHurricane event in Zwolle: 20 October 2017 14.45-16.50**
Location: Water authority Drents Overijsselse Delta, Dokter van Deenweg 186 Zwolle
- **BrainHurricane event in Nieuwegein: 23 October 09.00-11.45**
Location: Wateropleidingen (Waterhuis), Groningenhaven 7 Nieuwegein
- **BrainHurricane event in Delft: 25 October 09.00-11.45**
Location: Water Authority Delfland, Phoenixstraat 32 Delft
- **Wetskills Presentation and practice in Rotterdam: 26 October 17.00-18.00.**
This is a dedicated session to present Wetskills and each team will present their ideas for the first time.
Location: Venture Café, CIC Rotterdam, Stationsplein 45 Rotterdam



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- **Team presentations (Finals) to the jury in Amsterdam** during the final workshop on Monday 30 October 2017 14.30-15.30 as part of the Kick-off of the Young Water Professionals programme of the Amsterdam International Water Week:
 - Pitch competition: 14.30-15.30
 - Poster Market: 15.30-16.00Location: RAI Amsterdam, Europaplein 22 Amsterdam
- **Announcement of the winner of the Wetskills Water Challenge** during the Plenary Concluding Session of Amsterdam International Water Week: Wednesday 1 November 2017 16.00-17.30 (only open for invitees and registered participants for the Amsterdam International Water Week Conference)
Location: RAI Amsterdam, Europaplein 22 Amsterdam

More information?

For more information about previous Wetskills Challenges worldwide:
www.wetskills.com/publications/

Website: www.wetskills.com

Twitter: @Wetskills, #Wetskills

Facebook: Wetskills

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Case 1: Stimulating a sustainable positive 'green' behavior for stakeholders

Case owner: Water Authority Hollands Noorderkwartier (HHNK)

For almost 50 years HHNK has been working on improving the water quality in the Northern part of the province North-Holland. At first surface water was black, then became green and is now becoming even clearer. However there is still room for improvement. A large part of this improvement is the mentality of North-Hollands citizens, farmers and industries. For that reason HHNK is looking for a tool by which we can stimulate or facilitate positive sustainable 'green' behaviour.

Case 2: Will you unleash the energetic potential of small streams?

Case owner: VP Delta

The flat Netherlands is a small delta country, shaped by lowland rivers flowing into the sea. This country, full of innovation power in water management, has several companies developing hydropower stations requiring minimal hydraulic head, ideally for the Dutch context. Globally, hydropower stations have almost exclusively been placed in large dams or rivers with high discharges. Can you come up with international business strategies for these small hydropower stations and help these stations create a large impact in the world?

Case 3: Saving the city lake from Ahmedabad for polluted water (India)

Case owner: Centre for Environment Education and Chasing Water Dreams

The City of Ahmedabad is the third fastest growing cities in the world with almost 400,000 new inhabitants each year. Good water quality is inevitable to provide its citizens good drinking water and safe environments. Main threats for the water system are the seawater intrusion, depletion of ground water, industrial effluents and sewage wastewater. Especially the effluents pollute the river causing health hazards to the people residing near the outlets and destroying the ecosystem. During monsoon the 26 city lakes are filled with floodwater mixed with polluted river water. Solutions are requested for safeguarding the city lakes from contamination of wastewater and to know how they socio-politically can be conserved. (Note: This case is the winner of the Chasing Water Dreams Competition.)



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Case 4: Increasing fish migration to comply with the EU directives

Case owner: Waternet

To achieve the goals for the EU Water framework and EU Eel directive, measures have to be taken to improve the possibilities for fish migration. In Dutch poldersystems the watersystem is very fragmented. Many dams and weirs form barriers for fish. Waternet challenges their team of young water professionals to design a new or improved way to create fish passages at weirs in polder systems. Existing techniques are not used often, because of unwanted effects on waterlevel, waterquality and relatively high costs.

Case 5: Taking climate adaptation measures: A public or private matter?

Case owner: Water Authority Drents-Overijsselse Delta

Climate change leads to heat stress caused by higher temperatures and flooding because of extreme showers beyond the capacity of the drainage infrastructure. Climate adaptation measures are necessary to deal with these effects of climate change. However, both the government and the private landowners could take adaptation measures. WDOD would like an advice to support decision making on when to take stimulate climate adaptation measures in the public and when in private areas.

Case 6: Decentralized water solutions for neighborhood participation

Case owner: Province of Flevoland & Water Authority Zuiderzeeland

The (future) inhabitants in Almere Oosterwold (4300 hectares, 15.000 households) are in charge of to create their own livelihood without support of the municipality, including wastewater services. Most inhabitants install a decentralized wastewater treatment system. This might cause pollution of the surface water. Current monitoring is expensive, so only 5 locations are yearly tested 12 times. The new 'Living lab Oosterwold' programme aims on real-life testing of innovative sanitation systems in coming years. How can we better and simpler monitor the water quality and invite the inhabitants to monitor their sanitation system.



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