

Dear friends of “Water is Life”,

After a very successful first conference in Singapore and a tremendous effort of the team of Raffles Institute with a perfect organisation of the first edition of this conference in Singapore, we are ready to announce the next edition of this conference in The Netherlands in 2016: “Water is Life, the local approach”.

Maurick College will host the next conference in The Netherlands from June 6 – 11, 2016 in, again, a co-organisation with Raffles Institute. We invite you to join us in 2016 (again)!

As it looks right now, participants from our last conference, but also new schools are very interested to join our conference activities. Just have a first look at our website: www.waterislife2016.nl which will be updated frequently from now on.

We’ll inform you furthermore about the conference preparation & proceedings with a maximum of four “Information Packs” between now and april 2016. This is “Information Pack 1”. The next Information Pack 2 is scheduled to be published end of May 2015.

This information Pack 1 contains:

- This introduction letter,
- Conference outline: General information,
- Short (concept) description of the conference program,
- Information about the website, and about our external partners at this moment,
- Information about communication with the conference management-team.

The themes of the conference are the same as during the first conference with a (progressive) research focus on “the local approach” in your own community, for new projects as well as existing projects from the last conference.

- Engineering and Technology
Water quality, treatment, monitoring, waste water management.
- Biodiversity
Bio-remediation, ecosystems, biodiversity
- Communities
Service learning, community involvement projects, water & recreation, integrated urban-water designs
- Education
Corporate social responsibility, awareness & advocacy
- Stewardship & Policy
Leadership, national strategies, historical and geopolitics of water, water conflicts

We’ll ask you for your project title, an “abstract-200 words” of your project and the status of your research-team in Information Pack 2. We’ll publish deadline-dates in Information Pack 2 as well.

It will be a privilege to host you all (again) in 2016, and we are looking forward to an exciting meeting in The Netherlands in 2016!

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Conference “Water is Life, the local approach”

Date: June 6-11, 2016
Location: The Netherlands: Vught
Excursion Locations: The Netherlands: Amsterdam and Zeeland.

Dear participants and invite's.

Holland, water-country. It is a famous ‘saying’ in our country and it is an important issue in our day to day life because we need protection against water due to the fact that most of our land is located below sea-level. And many of our rivers bring water from other countries to the sea after rainy and snowy seasons, with flooding danger in close to all parts of Holland. There is a history and there are many experiences to share with you from the Dutch point of view. And we are curious about the status of your research activities since our last meeting in Singapore, your water-issue, and your local approach!

The “Water is Life” conference 2016 will be organised in The Netherlands, main location Vught, and excursion locations Amsterdam and Zeeland. The students of your research-teams will be hosted by Dutch parents of Maurick students. Teachers will stay in Hotel Vught close to the school location of Maurick College.

The setting, objectives and guidelines for this conference are comparable with the framework of the first conference in Singapore.

Setting.

In a world characterized by climate change and increased global inter-connectedness, the local and global challenges on water management are increasingly complex. We need to prepare for the future by developing, in our youth, the knowledge and leadership necessary to manage and overcome these challenges. This conference aims to bring bright young students from different countries together in a meeting of hearts and minds. It seeks to plant the seeds of friendship and dialogue, instill awareness on the issue of water management and develop scientific, diplomatic and leadership skills in young participants.

Objectives.

1. To create deeper awareness and instill a sense of urgency regarding water security and sustainability issues through keynote addresses, dialogue sessions and student presentations on water management strategies and challenges in their countries;
2. To facilitate the development and sharing of scientific innovation in water technologies and water ecology through a scientific symposium;
3. To develop friendship and collaborative networks for future exchange and research projects on water technologies through cultural exchange, collaborative workshops;
4. To develop leadership and diplomatic skills in participants through facilitation sessions that incorporate dynamic workshops and activities aimed at developing their organisational skills, ability to lead and work as a team.

Guidelines.

1. We invite schools to set up two different research teams (2-4 students each) to start on water research according to one of the themes mentioned (see intro letter). For research items in the perspective of chemistry, physics or biology – research the INTEL-ISEF reference standard will be used as a framework,
2. Schools will also register students and teachers to attend this conference. Pre-register online to indicate pre-registration (May-Sep 2015). Full registration and confirmation September - Februari 2016,
3. Research activities should be completed by March 2016, and projects should be ready for submission by end March 2016,
4. Each research team will submit their final report in English language online in March 2016,
5. A committee of experts will review these reports and will award the best research results with attractive cash prizes. Other teams will be awarded with commendation awards accordingly,
6. The research results will be presented by the school delegation during the conference in June 2016. The official prize-ceremony will be held during the conference. Research activities will be exclusively published by World Scientific in a conference book and in journals.

The target age group will be students in the age of 16-19 years old. We invite European schools-teams to come in on June 5, 2016 and leave on either June 11 or June 12, and we invite schools from overseas to come in June 4, 2016 and leave also either on June 11 or June 12.

Conference finances-framework.

The basic conference fee is E 100,- for each participant in the conference.

Accommodation and food will be for free for all the guest-students based on home stays. (home-stay protocol will be available). Teachers will pay their hotel accommodation in Hotel Vught based on bed & breakfast, and Maurick College will take care of all further catering, program, transportation and excursion facilities for students and teachers during the conference program.

Maurick College will organise free airport pick-ups and drop-offs according to flight-schedules of different delegations, based on arrival in Amsterdam Schiphol Airport or Eindhoven Airport.

Agenda (concept)

Sa June 4, 2016	Arrival of overseas delegations
Sun June 5, 2016	Arrival European delegations
	19:00 Briefing at Maurick College
Mon June 6, 2016	09:30 Dialogue session, location Speeldoos Vught
	12:00 Ice breaking Activities. Location: Ijzeren Man Vught
Tue June 7, 2016	09:00 Presentations & keynote speakers
	16:30 Closing
	17:00 Preparations Poster
Wed June 8, 2016	09:00 Presentations & keynote speakers
	12:30 Closing Presentations
	13:00 Preparations for:
	Posters & poster-stands, Culture Evening and International Orchestra
Thu June 9, 2016	09:00 Excursions Amsterdam & Zeeland
	17:00 End of excursions
	19:00 Cultural Evening
Fri June 10, 2016	09:00 Poster presentations
	Workshops
	Jury, Prize Ceremony
	19:00 Closure with Dinner, Cultural Evening & Orchestra
Sat June 11, 2016	Departures
Sun June 12, 2016	Departures

Information about the website.

The website of the waterconference “Water is Life” in 2016 is:

www.waterislife2016.nl

A new edition/release of the website will be published end of Januari 2015. At the end of May 2016, the website will be extended in a new interactive release, where schools can add their “in between” results of their researchwork. There will be also a subscription facility available by way of the website in September 2015. The website will be portable for Microsoft & iOS systems and will be linked to www.waterislife2016.com later this year. Links like www.waterislife2018.com and www.waterislife2020.com have been registered as well for future editions of the conference.

The website for this conference will produced by Sascha de Jong with a team of Maurick students. If you have any comments about the website please refer to : sascha@atlastmedia.com

Information about our partners.

Our list with conference-partners will be updated in May 2015. World Scientific in Singapore will be our publishing partner. Furthermore :

- Unie van Waterschappen ,The Hague
- Brabant Water, Den Bosch
- Wetsus, Leeuwarden