

PRESS RELEASE

Young Water Professionals start with the BrainHurricane during Wetskills Challenge South Africa 2014

Mbombela, Almost 20 students from the Netherlands, Mozambique and South Africa started their Wetskills Challenge South Africa 2014 last Monday. Together with several experts from South Africa they did a brain hurricane on four specific water issues in South Africa. One of the students during the hurricane: *"The BrainHurricane session was too daunting to say the least. It felt more like a brain tsunami than anything else. Our minds were congested with thoughts and bubbling with ideas. As young people in the profession it was exciting to come up with concepts while being helped to organize our thoughts."*

Wetskills South Africa 2014

The total group for this Wetskills Water Challenge consists of ten South African, two Mozambican and six young professionals with a passion for water. There are four teams and each team addresses one specific water Case. The cases are formulated by South African and Dutch organizations in the water sector. The participants work on their concept in collaboration within their team during an extensive two-week program in Nelspruit from 16 May to 29 May 2014.

Four water cases

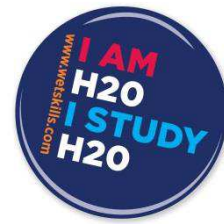
All the participants are divided into four teams and are challenged to come up with out-of-the-box solutions. Their young minds are tapped into to come up with innovative ideas concerning:

- 1. Efficient and cost effective solutions to address water and sanitation challenges in the rural areas of Mpumalanga**
- 2. Turning waste from a wastewater treatment plant into a profitable business**
- 3. Businesswise training development and delivery**
- 4. Designing a Smart Water App for farmers, citizens, water managers and perhaps even Kruger National Park**

Final presentation at WISA

On 27 May from 10.30 to 12.00 the teams will present their ideas at WISA by means of a Pitch and Poster session. The Wetskills programme is part of the Dutch delegation that is also attending WISA and has its own pavilion in Mbombela Stadium. A jury of water experts from the Netherlands, Mozambique and South Africa will judge their ideas and decide on the final winner of Wetskills Water Challenge South Africa 2014.

The blog of one of the students read at the end of the day: *"The day was well spend and well utilized. Working on our case studies with the different groups of people helps us to tap more into each other's cultures, minds and personalities. To get to know each other better and build friendships. Thank you to everyone for the co-operation team work; craziness and knowledge. This is truly in the truest sense of South Africa's "Spirit of UBUNTU". Where we see no differences but young people coming together to achieve one common goal: AMANDLA!"*



Wetskills Water Challenge is a program, is organised under the umbrella of Human Capital Water & Delta program, organised by Netherlands Water Partnership (NWP), in cooperation with the Royal Netherlands Water Network and other partners within the water sector. The Wetskills Water Challenge in South Africa (2014) is supported by Rand Water Board, NWP, WISA, SA Young Water Professionals, Waterschap Groot Salland & Hydrologic, H₂Oost, the Centre of Expertise in Durban (a cooperation of Vitens-Evides and eThekweni Water & Sanitation) and the World Water Academy.

We kindly invite to attend the pitches on 27 May 10.30-12.00 at the WISA conference, Mbombela Stadium, Nelspruit. More information can be found on Facebook, www.wetskills.com, <http://wetskillssouthafrica2014.blogspot.com>, or phone +27 76 078 4912

For more detailed information on the four case studies:

Case 1: Efficient and cost effective solutions to address water and sanitation challenges in the rural areas of Mpumalanga

In response to service delivery backlog in rural areas , Rand Water Board as case study owner, is looking for an efficient and cost effective solution to address water and sanitation challenges in Mpumalanga with specific focus on rural areas. The Young Water Professionals are expected to come up with a solution that will be cost effective and efficient and a strategy to implement the solution without compromising the current services Rand Water is providing for its customers.

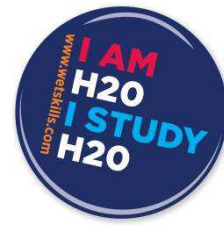
Case 2: Turning water waste into a profitable business

Wastewater treatment plants are developing into energy factories. Waste is approached as a source instead of a waste product. eThekweni Water & Sanitation is responsible for the water production and the wastewater treatment in the greater Durban metropolis in KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa. eThekweni Water & Sanitation together with the Centre of Expertise would like the Young Water Professionals to make a business case, based on the data of the Northern Treatment Works wastewater treatment plant in Durban.

Case 3: Businesswise training development and delivery

Vocational training can bridge the gap between academic training and the responsibilities 'on-the-job'. Several Dutch initiatives in South Africa focus on capacity development. However, these projects are mainly based on Dutch funding resources. If training is important in South Africa, it has an added value. This value can be translated into money. World Water Academy in the Netherlands would like the Young Water Professionals to make a business model for development and delivery of practical training. Key element should be the self-supportiveness of the model.

Case 4: Designing a Smart Water App for farmers, citizens, water managers and perhaps even Kruger National Park



In order to make the right decisions at the right time concerning water related issues there is a clear need to combine available data information in a central environment. That is why HydroNET is developed. HydroNET provides water institutes easy and online access to all information, applications and dashboards. Waterboard Groot Salland and Hydrologic (the developer of HydroNET) would like the Young Water Professionals to “describe and design an App that can support stakeholders from the Inkomati Catchment to make better informed – smart- decisions in relation to water issues as mentioned in the Catchment Management Plan”.