



# PRESS RELEASE

## Winner Young Water Professionals Wetskills at WISA: Businesswise training development and delivery

At the gala dinner at WISA the winner was announced of the Wetskills Challenge South Africa 2014. The winning team was team no. 4: *businesswise training and development and delivery*. Four young water professionals climbed the stage to collect their award: Erin Parenzee who delivered the pitch, Nthabiseng Masehla, Mashudu Tharanga all from South Africa and Maarten van der Meer from the Netherlands

Earlier on Tuesday 27 May the young water professionals presented their innovative concepts and plans at the WISA conference in Mbombela Stadium. Nearly 20 students from the Netherlands, Mozambique and South Africa had been working on different case studies since 19 May when they started their Wetskills Challenge South Africa with a brain hurricane on four specific water issues in Southern Africa.

### Four water cases

All the participants had been 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 on:

Team	Sponsor	Case name / field	Study area in South Africa
1	Rand Water	Efficient and cost effective solutions to address water and sanitation challenges	Rural areas of Mpumalanga Province
2	Centre of Expertise	Transforming waste from a waste water treatment plant into business	Durban metropolis
<b>winner</b>	<b>World Water Academy</b>	<b>Businesswise training development and delivery</b>	<b>South Africa</b>
4	Water Board Groot Salland	Designing a Smart Water App for farmers, citizens, water managers and perhaps even Kruger National Park	All over the world

### Winning Case no. 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.



### **Wetskills South Africa 2014**

Waterskills Water Challenge is a program under the umbrella of Human Capital Water & Delta Program and is organised by Netherlands Water Partnership (NWP), in cooperation with Royal Netherlands Water Network and other partners within the water sector. This Wetskills Water Challenge 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.

### **Wetskills world wide**

More than 250 students and young professionals have participated in twelve Wetskills Water Challenges since 2010:

1. World Expo 2010 Shanghai in China
2. 400-year economic relations in Morocco (2010)
3. International Water Week in The Netherlands (2011)
4. Delta Summit in Indonesia (2011)
5. Royal visit of the Dutch Queen in Oman (2012)
6. WISA conference in South Africa (2012)
7. Bilateral meeting of Egyptian and Dutch experts in Egypt (2012)
8. ExpoApa water exhibition and conferences in Romania (2013)
9. Launch of PLAMA - water platform in Mozambique (2013)
10. International Water Week / Industrial Leader Forum in The Netherlands (2013)
11. Water Seminar Wittenberg Council - official Dutch government delegation to Israel, headed by Dutch Prime Minister Rutte (2013)
12. WISA conference in South Africa (2014)
13. Canadian Water Summit in Toronto (June 2014)

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**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.

***Winning case 3: Businesswise training development and delivery***

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***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".