



Wetskills-Iran 2016

Media Advisory

Wetskills for the first time to Iran

Teheran, Iran – After 21 successful editions worldwide in the last six years, the next Wetskills Water Challenge will be organized in Iran for the first time. Young water professionals and students in the Iranian and Dutch water industry will develop innovative concepts for water related cases, posed by Iranian and Dutch case owners. The transdisciplinary Dutch-Iranian teams will work with local professionals and water experts. This event is aligned to the trade mission of Minister of Infrastructure & Environment of The Netherlands, Ms. Schultz van Haegen to Iran. The Sharif University of Technology and Shahid Beheshti University in Teheran are jointly hosting the event.

Program

The program starts with a Brain Hurricane at the Shahid Beheshti University in Tehran on Sunday 16 October. A week later on Sunday 23 October, the teams will present their out-of-box concepts at a special workshop within the programme of the trade mission of Minister of Infrastructure & Environment of The Netherlands, Ms. Schultz van Haegen to Iran. The Dutch and Iranian delegates will attend this final session and a jury will decide the winning team. Minister Schultz van Haegen will announce the winning team at the official Trade Dinner on Monday 24 October.

Case topics

During the Wetskills program, participants, water experts and companies will share views on global water innovations, share best practices, and find new solutions on several topics, playing in Iran, including:

- The scarcity of surface water and ground water in Iran.
- Water resiliency for food (pistachio) production
- The substantial increase of industrialization, agricultural activities and urbanization in Hashtgerd Plain, and the dramatic increase of water consumption as a result of that.
- Saline soil challenges for the agriculture
- Large scale dredging structures

About Wetskills: international and out of the box

The Wetskills Water Challenge is a two-weeks pressure-cooker program for students and young professionals with a passion for water from all over the world. In transdisciplinary and transcultural teams they work at water-related topics. Their challenge: *develop innovative and*



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out-of-the-box solution for water challenges in a fast changing world. The challenges that participants work on are real life cases from companies and (governmental) organisations.

Wetskills was first organised in 2010 and became an independent Foundation in 2015. Since 2010 21 Wetskills events have been organised worldwide, in 16 different countries. In total more than 400 students and 100 universities and organisations were involved. The Challenges take place worldwide, usually during international water related events.

More information: www.wetskills.com or johan.oost@wetskills.com

Partners

The following organizations are working together to produce the Wetskills Water Challenge:

- Wetskills Foundation (The Hague, The Netherlands)
- Sharif University of Technology (Iran)
- Shahid Beheshti University (Iran)

Case owners

- Berson UV
- ITC / University of Twente
- Urmia Lake Restoration Programme
- Dutch Water Authorities / Water Authority De Dommel
- Van Oord

Suppliers

- TopSector Water (The Netherlands)
- Ministry of Infrastructure & Environment of The Netherlands
- Nationale Water Traineeship (The Netherlands)
- Embassy of Iran in The Hague
- Embassy of Kingdom of The Netherlands in Tehran
- University of Tehran
- Netherlands Water Partnership
- Royal Netherlands Water Network
- Ap Verheggen
- H₂Oost (Amsterdam)



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Invitation for press

Invitation for press to the main parts of the Wetskills program in Iran 2016

Members of the media are invited to all the events. Of particular interest are the following parts of the program:

- Wetskills kick-off event: on Sunday 16 October 2016 8.00-12.30 (in Tehran:). This is the official opening, called *The BrainHurricane*. This is an interactive brainstorming event where participants will learn more about the case studies, contact the case owners. A special speed date session with 8 Iranian and Dutch experts from the water industry.
- Team presentations to the jury during the final Workshop on Sunday 23 October 2016 15.00-18.00 (Location: Sharif University of Technology):
 - Pitch competition: 16.00-17.00
 - Poster Market: 17.00-18.00
- Announcement of the winner of the Wetskills Water Challenge during the Trade Dinner: Monday 24 October (only invitees)
- Wrap-up presentation: 25 October Sharif University of Technology, 9.00-12.00; with contributions of Mr. George van Dam (teambuilding expert), Ms. Sara Mehryar (PhD at ITC-University of Twente)
- Presentations with climate art artist Ap Verheggen about SunGlacier project: Mo-We 17-19 October at various universities in Tehran. This is with contribution of Mr. Jaap Feil (Wetskills Foundation) and Ms. Yasmin Faraji (Dutch Water Authorities)

Information about previous Wetskills editions: www.wetskills.com/publications/

Website: www.wetskills.com

Twitter: @Wetskills, #Wetskills

Facebook: Wetskills

For More information contact:

**Sharif University of
Technology (Tehran)**

Mr. Ali Maleki

Deputy director of RISTIP

a.maleki@sharif.edu

**Wetskills Foundation (in
The Netherlands)**

Mr. Johan Oost

Managing Director

johan.oost@wetskills.com

Wetskills Foundation (in Iran)

Mr. Tim van der Staaij

Programme officer

Tim.van.der.staaaj@wetskills.com



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Overview of the cases

Case 1: How to optimize the re-use of water?

Case owner: *BersonUV*

How can Berson UV technologies be used to increase the amount of water in Iran that is re-used safely and disinfected? In several areas there is a scarcity of ground water. This means that high-level re-use application is preferred and discharge of water should be minimal. Re-use of nutrients and energy would create more value. How to deal with infrastructural challenges on small and bigger scales?

Case 2: Resilient water management in pistachio growing area's?

Case owner: *ITC-University of Twente*

Rafsanjan Township is the main producer of pistachio in Iran. This township is an example of human settlements coping with severe water scarcity and its associated socio-economic problems. What is needed is not just engineering solutions, it's also important to make the socio-ecological systems more resilient in water scarce situation. The assessment of different policy options in this hazardous situation is a new challenge.

Case 3: Lake Uremia; shrinking of salt water

Case owner: *Lake Urmia Restoration Project*

Lake Uremia is a lake with salt water. The shrinking of the lake results in soil challenges for the agriculture. The Wetskills Team that will work on this project might find solutions related to cloud seeding, preventing salt dispersion or changing the economic ratio and thus finding another way of life for the region.

Case 4: Improving the irrigation water-efficiency in Hashtgerd Plain

Case owner: *Dutch Water Authorities / De Dommel*

A substantial increase in the rate of industrialization, agricultural activities and urbanization in Hashtgerd Plain, results in a dramatic increase of water consumption. Consequently, appropriate water resources management is essential. It will be important to identify existing bottlenecks and to start thinking in solutions.

Case 5: Information will follow

Case owner: *Van Oord*