



Wetskills Water Challenges

Introduction and track record

Wetskills Water Challenges - An innovative approach of real-life learning and networking

The Wetskills Water Challenge is a two-weeks pressure-cooker programme for students and young professionals with a passion for water from all over the world. They meet in a country and work in transdisciplinary and transcultural teams at water-related topics.

The main challenge: develop as a team your own innovative and out-of-the-box solution for water challenges in a changing world.

The study cases are provided and formed by study case owners, companies and organisation with a dedicated challenge in a local situation. These concepts are presented during the formal event through an ice-breaking and energizing session, when the cooperation between the Dutch water sector and the partner-country is showed and positioned. It provides a floor to integrate generations, water challenges, disciplines and cultures.

Wetskills focus at real-life challenges, strongly linked to the sector. The so-called case owners are smaller and larger companies, governments, knowledge institutes and NGOs or a consortium of more than one organisation from the water sector of The Netherlands and/or partner-country. The organisation formulates the study case for one of the Wetskills teams. The study cases describe a water-related challenge, based on the regional challenges of the country where the Wetskills is held. The team is challenged to find an out-of-the-box and applicable solution for the case owner and present it at the formal water-related event.

This networking and knowledge exchange event has been organised in more than ten countries all over the world. Since 2010, Wetskills attracted 500 participants from more than 100 international universities and organisations in one of the 25 events: Asia (China, Taiwan, Indonesia and India), North Africa & Middle East (Iran, Oman, Morocco, Egypt and Israel), Sub-Saharan Africa (South Africa & Mozambique), Europe (Romania, United Kingdom & the Netherlands) and North America (United States & Canada).

In short

- + **Transdisciplinary and transcultural cooperation in practice**
- + **Integration of students and Young Water Professionals**
- + **Real-life challenges provided and supported by the sector partners**
- + **Informal and energizing ice-breaker during a larger formal event**
- + **Positive PR for the organising partners and involved organisations**
- + **Link between universities and working field**
- + **Follow-up activities and business (under the name WetsNext)**
- + **Proven concept in more than ten different countries worldwide**

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The Wetskills Foundation organized the following Wetskills Water Challenges since 2010, listed by country & month & the water-related event for the Wetskills finals:

1. China (June 2010) - World Expo in Shanghai
2. Morocco (October 2010) - Celebration of 400-year Economic Relations
3. The Netherlands (November 2011) - Amsterdam International Water Week
4. Indonesia (November 2011) - Delta Summit in Jakarta
5. Oman (January 2012) - Visit of the Dutch Royal Family to Oman
6. South Africa (May 2012) - WISA Conference in Cape Town
7. Egypt (November 2012) - Bilateral Meeting of Egyptian and Dutch Experts
8. Romania (June 2013) - ExpoApa Water Exhibition and Conferences in Bucharest
9. Mozambique (September 2013) - Launch of PLAMA, national Water Platform
10. The Netherlands (November 2013) - Industrial Leader Forum at the AIWW
11. Israel (December 2013) - Water Seminar during visit Dutch Prime Minister Rutte
12. South Africa (May 2014) - WISA Conference in Nelspruit
13. Canada (June 2014) - Canadian Water Summit in Toronto
14. Romania (June 2015) - ExpoApa Water Exhibition and Conferences in Bucharest
15. United States (June 2015) - Milwaukee Water Summit
16. The Netherlands (November 2015) - Amsterdam International Water Week
17. India (December 2015) - Envirotech Asia in Ahmedabad & Gandhinagar
18. The Philippines (April 2016) - IWASTI: Flood Free Manilla Seminar
19. South Africa (May 2016) - WISA Conference in Durban
20. United States (June 2016) - Workshop Boston's metabolism
21. Taiwan (July 2016) - Water exhibition conference in Taipei
22. Iran (October 2016) - Trade mission Dutch Minister of I&M to Iran, Ms. Schultz van Haegen
23. India (January 2017) - Vibrant Gujarat in Ahmedabad & Gandhinagar
24. United Kingdom (April 2017) - YWP-UK conference in Bath
25. Romania (May 2017) - ExpoApa Water Exhibition and Conferences in Bucharest
26. Israel (September 2017) - WATEC Conference and Exhibition in Tel Aviv

Wetskills Water Challenges in preparation:

27. The Netherlands (19 Oct-2 Nov 2017) - Amsterdam International Water Week
28. South Korea (27 Jan - 13 Feb 2018) - Olympic Winter Games
29. Colombia (May-June 2018) - ACODAL Water conference and exhibition
30. South Africa (15-28 June 2018) - WISA Conference in Cape Town
31. India (January 2019) - Vibrant Gujarat in Ahmedabad & Gandhinagar

Wetskills Water Challenges in-the-pipeline (feasibility study phase):

China, USA, Argentina, Spain, Bangladesh and Indonesia (for 2018)

More than 500 young professionals and students with a passion for water participated in one of the Wetskills Water Challenges. Wetskills built up a network of active and enthusiastic universities and organisations worldwide.

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