



## National Delta Conference 2018

### Invitation

Are you a student, trainee or young professional active in the water sector?

If so, I am pleased to invite you to the National Delta Conference on Thursday, 1 November 2018, at the IJsselhallen in Zwolle. The doors open at 9.15 a.m. and the plenary opening is at 10.30 a.m. The ninth Delta Conference is a very special affair and has a lot to offer young people. For example, trainees will be giving pitches about current climate-change-related challenges, such as subsidence and waterlogging. You can also take part in Meet & Greet sessions with water-sector professionals, and a lot of information will be available on education programmes and internships. Finally, a group of young professionals have asked me to be a guest in the College Tour interview they have organised.

This year, the central theme of the Delta Conference is: Adapting the Netherlands to Climate Change in Time. How can we use the Delta Programme to prepare ourselves for a future in which severe storms such as those early this year, the torrential rain we saw in spring and summer droughts may all occur more frequently? How do we respond adaptively to new developments, while at the same time continuing to make progress in finding solutions to problems involving flood risk management, water availability and spatial adaptation? What should we do in the near and distant future if we see signs of an accelerated rise in sea level?

Speakers at the conference include the Minister of Infrastructure and Water Management Cora van Nieuwenhuizen, architect Reinier de Graaf, a partner at the Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA), and journalist and author Tracy Metz.

In the afternoon, you can take part in sessions that focus on the rise in sea level, the future of the river system, regional environmental visions and the Delta Programme, fresh water and spatial adaptation, and the transition from stress test to risk dialogue. You can read more about the programme and parallel sessions on the website <http://deltacongres.deltacommissaris.nl>.

The Delta Parade is open for the entire day and serves as a central meeting place. There will be stands presenting information on the fields and themes of the Delta Programme and related projects and programmes. The Young Professionals Zone is something new this year. Here you will find up-to-date information and innovations submitted by your fellow young professionals, including students and trainees active in the water sector. There will be short presentations, workshops and discussions

in no fewer than four theatres. In one of the theatres, the winners of the Trainee Trophy will present their views on subsidence. In another theatre, trainees of the Waterstraat Challenge will present their solution for waterlogging. Another part of the Delta Parade is the College Tour with Wim Kuijken. For the complete theatres programme visit the website:

<http://deltacongres.deltacommissaris.nl/deltaparade>

This year's conference will be something special. It has been ten years since the Second Delta Committee headed by Cees Veerman presented its recommendations and this Delta Conference will be my last as the Delta Programme Commissioner. At the conference, I will bid farewell to the delta community because I will be retiring in November. I am glad that someone will be taking my place.

I hope to meet many of you on Thursday 1 November.

### **Registration**

You can register **until Tuesday 23 October** on <http://deltacongres.deltacommissaris.nl>

Needless to say, your fellow students, and fellow trainees and young professionals are also very welcome to attend. They can register on the website given above.

*Wim Kuijken*

*Government Commissioner for the Delta Programme*