

PRESS RELEASE
Amsterdam, 25th October 2017



Amsterdam International Water Week 30 October-3 November

Water solutions for nine billion people

In 2050, nine billion people will inhabit our planet. This population growth, and the fact that our climate is changing, puts great strength on our economy, societies and ecology. We will be facing more water challenges every day. New coalitions and solutions are necessary to create a resilient and circular water environment in high-density living areas. The Amsterdam International Water Week (AIWW) is the platform for new alliances and fresh ideas: connecting industry, science, business, policy and technology.

AIWW: PM Mark Rutte, Laura Tuck from World Bank, 20 mayors and many more

The AIWW will present an unmissable array of speakers. Mr Mark Rutte, prime minister of the Netherlands, Ms Laura Tuck, vice president World Bank Group, Ms Soili Hietanen, vice president sustainability & energy of Metsä Group and Mr Daniel Calleja Crespo, director-general Environment of the European Commission are keynote speakers during the AIWW Opening Ceremony on 30 October. During the week, high level representatives from cities, utilities, industries, research institutes, financial institutes and governments will be present to share their expertise.

AIWW Conference - Water... and nine billion people

The AIWW Conference, 31 October and 1 November, offers a wide range of topics, conducive to finding water solutions for a world with 9 billion people. From 'Water, Peace & Security' to 'Financing the big water actors and their projects', and from 'New ICT & data: cyber security' to 'Water (operator) partnerships and water cycle recovery and reuse implementation.

Unique at the conference is the AIWW Leadership Programme where shared knowledge is translated into action. Approximately 300 international leaders from cities, industries and utilities will bring their water issues to the table. These are real water cases which will be matched with innovative solutions, relevant stakeholders and experts.

Amsterdam Agreements

Changing the way we look at our water-related risks, finding new approaches, is something that cannot be achieved overnight. The 'Amsterdam Agreements', an AIWW initiative, emphasizes the importance of new coalitions between cities, industries and utilities with a long-term commitment. During the AIWW Conference, several Amsterdam Agreements will be signed to accelerate real breakthroughs. Case owners, experts, suppliers and investors signing an Amsterdam Agreement will pledge to continue their work in the coming years until they have reached their goals.

Aquatech trade exhibition

With over 21,000 visitors from over 140 different nationalities, and with 928 exhibitors, the Aquatech Amsterdam is the world's leading trade exhibition for process, drinking and waste water. During four action-packed days participants will discover the latest trends, make profitable business relationships, exchange ideas and enhance know-how. The 2017 edition of the show will include an even greater focus on innovation, and the expanded programme will highlight the latest developments in key segments such as desalination and smart technologies. The Aquatech takes place from 31 October until 3 November.

Sarphati Sanitation Awards

The Sarphati Sanitation Awards will be handed out for the third time during the AIWW 2017. These biennial prizes were inspired by Dr. Samuel Sarphati, a doctor who contributed to the cholera free status of the City of Amsterdam in the nineteenth century. The jury awarded Dr Sasha Kramer, founder of SOIL, the Lifetime Achievement Award. The selected nominees for the Young Entrepreneur Award are:

1. Sidian Bank Kenya, Ms Catherine Kisamwa
2. FINISH Society India, Mr Ahijit Banergy
3. Sanivation Kenya, Mr Andrew Foote

The awards will be handed out during the AIWW Opening Ceremony on 30 October by Mr Udo Kock, deputy mayor of Amsterdam.

Young Water Professionals programme

The Amsterdam International Water Week searches for connection with the water leaders of the future. That is why the AIWW has included an extensive program for students and young professionals, organized by young water professionals. During the Young AIWW Opening, young AIWW Ambassador Ms Andrea Kralikova will hand over her responsibilities to the new ambassador Dr Chrysoula Papacharalampou. The event takes place in the Young AIWW pavilion on the Aquatech trade floor from 29 October to 3 November.

AIWW Public Event

Not only young professionals, even children are involved in water innovation. In cooperation with Designation Works, artist Mr Pavèl van Houten and www.hetschonewaterexperiment.nl, children have been asked to design an innovative solution or concept that could improve water quality. Their ideas are transformed into a huge object that aims to raise awareness among Dutch citizens and inspire international water professionals to think creatively and to involve young people in the solutions to our growing water problems. The artwork will be unveiled on Sunday 29 October in ARCAM, Architecture Centre Amsterdam and will be exposed during AIWW.

NOTE TO THE PRESS

The Amsterdam International Water Week 2017 is organized by International Water Conferences (IWC), Netherlands Water Partnership (NWP) and RAI Amsterdam. For more information see www.internationalwaterweek.com

High res images and video material can be downloaded on <https://www.rai.nl/en/newsroom/>

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