

and their upgrading to class IV. The ambitious Frisian lakes project to link Zuidlaardermeer lake with the Stadskanaal canal (from peat to tourism) and the restoration of the waterway between Erica in Drenthe and Ter Apel in Groningen, which will include the digging of an entirely new section of canal, will also be explored.

Of course we shall also focus on international developments such as those in France (Seine-Nord), Germany (Mittellandkanal), Italy (the canals in Milan) and the 100-kilometre Augustov Canal in Belarus. There will also be sessions on the historic canals of the UK and attempts to preserve them by developing new functions and increasing their significance for neighbouring regions.



The results of research will also be presented, illustrating the versatility of canals. **The Groningen Declaration** will be adopted, calling for a sustained focus on canals as elementary features of the water system, drivers of regional development and repositories of cultural identity. The ultimate aim is to have the European Union adopt the Declaration.

The results of a study of the Top 12 Canals and their value to the historic water system will also be presented. This encompasses not only canals but also bridges, locks, vessels and everything else that makes a canal a canal. The definitive Canal Map of the Netherlands will also be launched. The map

will show all the canals in the Netherlands (no fewer than 1050!), including those that have now disappeared. This will be the first time that such a comprehensive overview has been presented, the result of years of research by Roger Raat.

Finally, from 18 September 2011 to 12 February 2012 an exhibition highlighting the canal network will be staged to accompany the WCC2011 at the Noordelijk Scheepvaartmuseum and at the Groningen branch of motorists' organisation ANWB. Details can be found on the website.



Preparations for the conference began in 2009. The Project Office is located at the Cultural Heritage Agency in Amersfoort. The project manager is JanPieter Janse, director of consultancy Golfslagadvies, and the project secretary is Marika W. Schnitker of the Cultural Heritage Agency.

Contact details:

JanPieter Janse, project manager, tel. +31 (0)652 473 360
Marika Schnitker, project secretary, tel. +31 (0)33 421 7556/ +31 (0)615 879 396 Project office: Smallepad 5, Postbus 1600, 3800 BP Amersfoort, the Netherlands
Email: info@wcc2011.nl
Website: www.worldcanalsconference2011.nl

Several parties made photographic material available for this publication. We should like to express our gratitude to them, and to assure them that the utmost care has been taken to ensure proper use of the material.



International Canals Conference in the Netherlands for the first time

Waterways-ways of value©



The World Canals Conference 2011 (WCC2011), entitled *Waterways – Ways of Value*®, will take place in Groningen from 19 to 24 September 2011. This annual international forum on all aspects of canals, both today and in the past, is to be held in the Netherlands for the first time. The latest developments associated with waterways and navigation both at home and abroad will be discussed by delegates from the public sector, centres of excellence, companies, the tourism industry and representatives of civil society groups with an interest in canals.

The World Canals Conference is facilitated/supported each year by Inland Waterways International. For the Netherlands, with its many waterways that have shaped its landscape, the conference is an ideal opportunity to showcase our rich history and knowledge in this field. Canals are the watermark of the Netherlands. Our ancestors needed a lot of waterways, to reclaim the land, drain off excess water and transport people and goods. That is why, in so many ways, water defines the look of our country.



It was high time that the World Canals Conference was held here, given our leading international position in reclaiming land, protecting it from flooding and exploiting water and waterways for commercial purposes. We specialise in hydraulic engineering, which is one of our main export products.

The northern Netherlands is a highly appropriate setting for the conference, given its dense canal network, which played such a major role in the early development of the region, including the advent of the large-scale peat-cutting industry.



World Canals Conference 2011

Developments in this region deserve more international attention, in view of the cross-border routes being created, including the Zuidlaardermeer lake – East Groningen connection, as well as the Erica-Ter Apel link via the Haren Rütenbrock Canal, which is due for completion in 2013.

But the WCC2011 will not only serve as a platform for the sharing of knowledge at national and international level. It will also strengthen cooperation between the many organisations that manage pumping stations and locks, historic shipyards, historic charter boat associations, recreational navigation groups, water boards and other similar organisations. The conference has attracted a great deal of interest from both the Netherlands and other countries, and the conference language will be English. You are therefore advised to register early to secure a place. You may register for all or part of the programme.

To register, visit www.worldcanalsconference2011.nl/registratie

Papers may still be submitted for the conference. Your proposal should include a summary of no more than 400 words, as well as details of your name, postal address, email address, the title of your paper and a brief biography. Submit your contribution to the chair of the academic committee, Dr Michiel Gerding, at m.gerding@drentsplateau.nl.

The main conference location will be Martini Plaza in the city of Groningen, but there will also be plenty of visits to allow delegates to experience things at first hand. Ten visits have been planned in the northern provinces.



Immediately after the conference there will be a post-conference tour, known as Journey to the Bottom of the Sea. If you wish to join the tour, you will need to register separately. The tour will take in the Northeast Polder, the Balgstuw barrier at Kampen, the Apeldoorn Canal, Beatrix Locks in the Amsterdam-Rhine canal and the industrial landscape along the river Zaan.

For full details of the programme, visit the World Canals Conference 2011 website

The title of the conference **Waterways – Ways of Value**® is taken from a Dutch PhD thesis

by Arjan Hijdra. It reflects the fact that waterways are highly valuable in several ways. The conference will showcase many examples of interesting developments directly and indirectly associated with waterways. They include the rerouting of the Zuid-Willemsvaart canal, the Ghent Terneuzen Canal, the Lemmer Delfzijl Canal, the Amsterdam-Rhine Canal, the North Sea Canal, and the Meppeler Diep-Coevoerden canal