World Canals Conference 2011
Groningen, The Netherlands
September 19-24

24th World Canals Conference

Postconference tour

1. Groningen

Day 1: Friday
23 September

Departure from Martini Plaza Groningen for a trip by luxury coach through the open polder landscape of Friesland to the Noordoost Polder, with commentary on the picturesque landscape en route.

Groningen

2. Balgstuw at Kampen

Visit to the Netherlands' latest innovative water defences: the inflatable weir at Kampen. Groot-Salland water board will give a talk about the weir.

3. Hattem / Apeldoorn

The tour will proceed to Hattem, where the Apeldoorn Canal, which runs parallel to the river IJssel, joins the Gelderse IJssel. Reception in Hattem. After a visit to the basalt and brick locks, participants will attend a reception hosted by Apeldoorn council, Veluwe water board and Stichting Apeldoorns Kanaal.

4. Hagestein

The tour will continue to the southwest, with a visit to the locks with adjacent weirs at Hagestein which, along with other weirs in the Rhine, play a key role in water management in the Netherlands. The weir consists of two large arcs that can be opened and closed to control the drainage of the water. This stop will include an opportunity to take photographs.

5. Vreeswijk

Visit to the Beatrix Lock in the Lek Canal, which has vertical lift gates. Reception and talk by Rijkswaterstaat.

6. Utrecht

Reception by Rijkswaterstaat at the Westraven office complex in Utrecht, where several speakers will explore the significance of canals for professional and recreational navigation and for water management at national level. The talks will be followed by drinks.

7. Houten

The first day will be rounded off with dinner at the luxury Van der Valk hotel at Houten, where participants will spend the night, just a stone's throw from the Amsterdam-Rhine Canal, the most important in the Netherlands.

8. Haarlemmermeer

Day 2: Saturday
24 September

Early departure by coach for a scenic trip to the 'bottom of the sea' (the Haarlemmermeer Polder) in the Stichtse Rijnlanden water board region.

9. Cruquius

11.00: visit to De Cruquius pumping station, with reception hosted by the oldest water board in the Netherlands, the Hoogheemraadschap van Rijnland. The former steam pumping station, a piece of industrial heritage of international importance, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a symbol of the Netherlands' battles against the water.

10. Spaarndam

Departure for Spaarndam to attend a reception at the Gemeenlandhuis hosted by the Hoogheemraadschap van Rijnlanden water board, including several talks. Visit to the picturesque historic lock at Spaarndam, the oldest restored working lock in the Netherlands, and to the town's newest lock.

11. North Sea Canal

Boat trip by electrically driven ship along the North Sea Canal, with talks by Rijkswaterstaat staff on this important route for shipping and fish, known as the 'ship and fish highway'.

12. Zaandam

Stop at the locks in the river Zaan at Zaandam, where participants may 'sign off' or continue the trip on the canalised Zaan river, with talks on the industrial landscape and a visit to De Zaanse Schans open air museum.

13. Zaanse Schans

The tour will end at the Zaanse Schans heritage site. Participants will be transported by coach to Schiphol Airport or Amsterdam city centre.

Amsterdam