



was carried out by Roger Raat and Golfslag Consultancy, in collaboration with the Cultural Heritage Agency, Rijkswaterstaat and motorists' association ANWB.

**Comprehensive map of Dutch canals**

Roger Raat has produced a comprehensive map showing all canals in the Netherlands. It features not only existing canals, but also all lost canals. This breathtaking document shows all the branches of our canal system, both large and small, and the intriguing structures they form in the landscape, as well as illustrating their significance in providing



access to all parts of the country. The Canals Map brings a fascinating history to life. "The map shows no fewer than 1050 canals," says Roger Raat. "So it is a map with many lines. It was quite a challenge to realise the project, but here it is, an overview of all Dutch canals. It encompasses all navigable canals, canalised rivers and creeks, and lost canals. The map gives an excellent picture of the genesis of canals and their significance for the landscape."

**Declaration of Groningen**

The Declaration of Groningen has been drafted on the initiative of the WCC2011. During the

conference this declaration, which defines the need for sustainable management of canals as elements of an integrated water system and as features that help define both the landscape and our cultural identity, will be submitted to the participants for approval.

**Exhibition**

The Northern Maritime Museum in Groningen, ANWB and the WCC2011 project management have put together an exhibition entitled "Navigation, new use for old canals" which showcases the heritage of canals and their recreational use



up to the present day. Over the centuries an interconnected network of waterways developed in the Netherlands that enabled goods and passengers to criss-cross the country by water. Large numbers of motor boats use these canals for recreational purposes, and bikers and hikers are frequently seen cycling and walking along their banks. The exhibition shows how the network of canals developed, using maps and photographs. It focuses especially on three main themes: recreational navigation by motor yacht, with the most beautiful models from museum collections

on show; exceptional documentation and maps from the ANWB's collection; and unique cinematographic material on water-based recreation, a compilation of which will be shown continuously. The exhibition will be open from 18 September 2011 to 12 February 2012, Tuesday to Saturday from 10.00 to 17.00, and on Sundays from 13.00 to 17.00. A photography exhibition entitled: "Old and new waterways, the Zwette and the Princess Margriet Canal" in the Frisian Maritime Museum in Sneek will feature the waterway between Lemmer and Delfzijl.



Rijksdienst voor het Cultureel Erfgoed  
Ministerie van Onderwijs, Cultuur en  
Wetenschap

provincie groningen

provincie fryslân  
provincie fryslân

provincie Drenthe

Gemeente Emmen

Agenda voor de Veenkoloniën

GRONINGEN SEAPORTS

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Several parties have been so kind as to provide images for this publication. We should like to thank them for their generosity and assure them that the material has been used with due care



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

**24<sup>th</sup> World Canals Conference shows richness of Dutch waterways**

**Waterways-Ways of Value©**

Waterways-Ways of Value® is the title of the World Canals Conference (WCC2011) to be held in Groningen from 19 to 22 September 2011. This annual international forum (now in its 24th year), covering everything to do with canals both old and new, is to be held in the Netherlands for the

first time. The latest developments concerning waterways both in this country and abroad will be discussed. The conference will focus on the recreational use of waterways such as the Erica-Ter Apel canal, part of a recreational route connecting the Dutch and German waterway systems. The diversion and upgrading of the Zuid-Willemsvaart canal to class IV, as well as

the upgrading of the Lemmer-Delfzijl canal to class V-a, will also be discussed.

The conference is a unique opportunity for government agencies, scientific institutions, companies, tourism organisations, and representatives of NGOs lobbying for canal interests to share their knowledge. The World Canals Conference is organised every year by Inland Waterways International (IWI), a non-profit organisation which promotes the preservation, use, redevelopment and sustainable management of waterways all over the world. As well as a forum for sharing knowledge and expertise, the WCC also provides an opportunity to establish new networks to foster the sustainable development of shipping, water-based recreation, and hydraulic engineering. The 25th World Canals Conference will take place next year in Yangzhou, China, and the 26th conference will be in Toulouse, France in 2013.

The conference will aim to present a comprehensive overview of all the issues at stake.

**The main themes of the conference will be:**

- Economics: transport and tourism
- Ecology: water management and nature conservation
- Heritage: protection and redevelopment
- Spatial planning: revitalisation
- Technology: infrastructure and water quality

The conference will culminate in the signing of the Declaration of Groningen, which will call for attention to be focused on canals as part of our infrastructure, as a tool for regional redevelopment, and as a source of local pride and identity.

**Programme**

The main venue for the conference is the Martiniplaza congress centre in the city of Groningen. Working visits to the northern provinces by coach and boat will tie in with the conference themes and the presentations at Martiniplaza. The working language for the conference will be English, and there are no translation facilities.

- The programme consists of three parts:
- Lectures, workshops, and presentations at Martiniplaza in Groningen
  - 10 working visits in collaboration with our partners in the northern provinces and in Germany
  - The post-conference tour “Journey to the bottom of the sea”.

**Sponsors**

- This conference has been made possible thanks to the financial support of:
- Cultural Heritage Agency
  - Groningen, Friesland and Drenthe provincial authorities
  - The Leader programme
  - The *Agenda voor de Veenkoloniën* project to develop the former peat-cutting areas
  - *Hunze en Aa's*, *Noorderzijlvest*, *Wetterskip Fryslân* and *Velt en Vecht* water boards
  - The *Rijnland* and *Stichtse Rijnlanden* water boards have helped finance the post-conference tour

**Call for papers**

Papers may still be submitted for the conference. Your draft presentation should consist of no more than 400 words, and include the title, your name, address, e-mail address, and a short biography. Please send your proposal to the chair of the scientific committee, Dr. Michiel Gerding: [m.gerding@drentsplateau.nl](mailto:m.gerding@drentsplateau.nl)

**Register soon!**

The conference has attracted a great deal of interest from both the Netherlands and other

countries. You are therefore advised to register soon to secure a place. You may register for all or part of the programme. The conference fee is € 450 (daily fee € 150), excluding accommodation. Hotel bookings can be made through the Groningen Convention Bureau. Go to our website [www.worldcanalsconference2011.nl](http://www.worldcanalsconference2011.nl) to register and book accommodation. You will need to register separately for the two-day post-conference tour “Journey to the bottom of the sea”. The tour costs € 200 including lunches, supper and hotel.

**Why the northern Netherlands?**

The 24th World Canals Conference is the first to be held in the Netherlands. This is surprising, given this country’s leading position in land reclamation, water defences, and the commercial exploitation of water and waterways. We have amassed a huge body of knowledge on hydraulic engineering, which is one of our leading exports. The Netherlands has no fewer than 6600

vicinity of water”. He continues: “Nowadays you will often see various parties working together to further develop water-related values. My research focuses on the reasons for this cooperation and



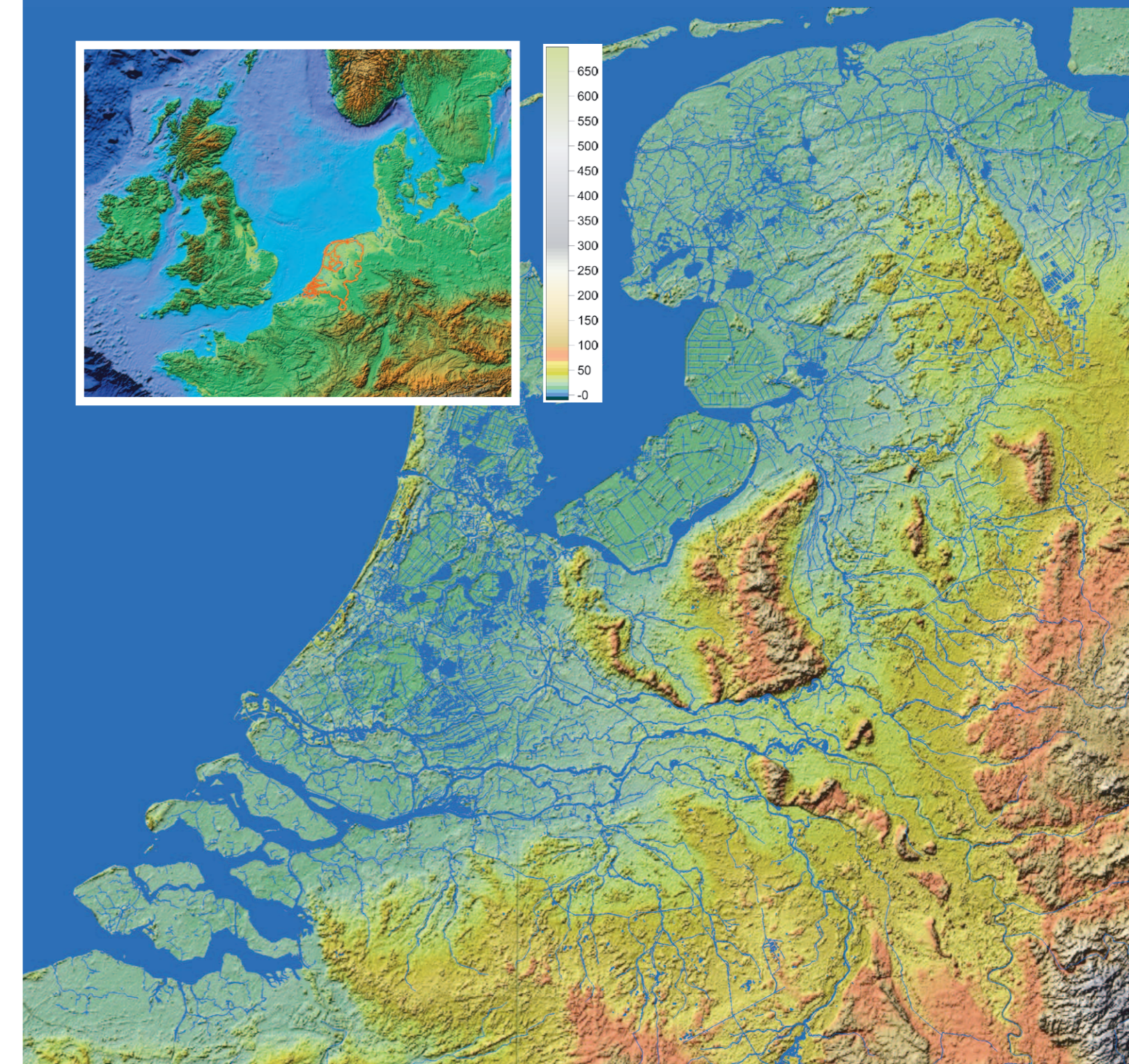
the barriers the parties encounter in the process. I hope to identify many interesting examples of clever developments on and around waterways”.



kilometres of canals. The north of the country is an ideal location for the conference because of the great significance of the canal network here for the exploitation of peat. Waterways and transport by water have long defined the infrastructure of the region, even after the era of large-scale peat-cutting. Farmers on the former peat moors have long benefited from the existing water infrastructure. And shipbuilding in Groningen is still world-class and highly innovative.

**Origins of the title**

The title WCC2011, Waterways –Ways of Value®, is taken from an ongoing research project by Arjan Hijdra M.Sc, who is working on a PhD thesis at the University of Groningen. “In a direct way waterways are useful for transport, but they also generate a multitude of values in a less direct way, hence ‘Ways of Value’”, he explains. “Take for instance the development of industry in the province of Groningen: both the chemical industry and the production of electricity depend on the direct availability of water. A property developer can charge up to 30% more for houses in the



**Day by day**

**Prelude, Sunday 18 September**  
**Location: Hoge der A, Groningen**  
**From 15.00: public event to welcome yachts and historic ships to the city centre, including performances by several choirs and a welcome address by Dr. P. Rehwinkel, Mayor of Groningen**

**The 24th World Canals Conference: Conference, Monday 19 September**

**Location: Martiniplaza, conference venue**  
 09.00 Welcome and opening ceremony, keynote speakers  
 12.00 Working visits to the province of Drenthe and Germany by coach, including lunch and supper  
 Approx. 22.00 Return to hotels by coach

**Conference, Tuesday 20 September**  
**Location: Martiniplaza, conference venue**

09.00 Lectures, poster sessions, corporate presentations  
 12.30 Lunch  
 13.30-16.30 Lectures and workshops  
 17.00 Activities in the city of Groningen  
 18.30 Excursion to historic city centre of Groningen followed by a reception hosted by the mayor

**Conference, Wednesday 21 September**  
**Locatie: Martiniplaza**

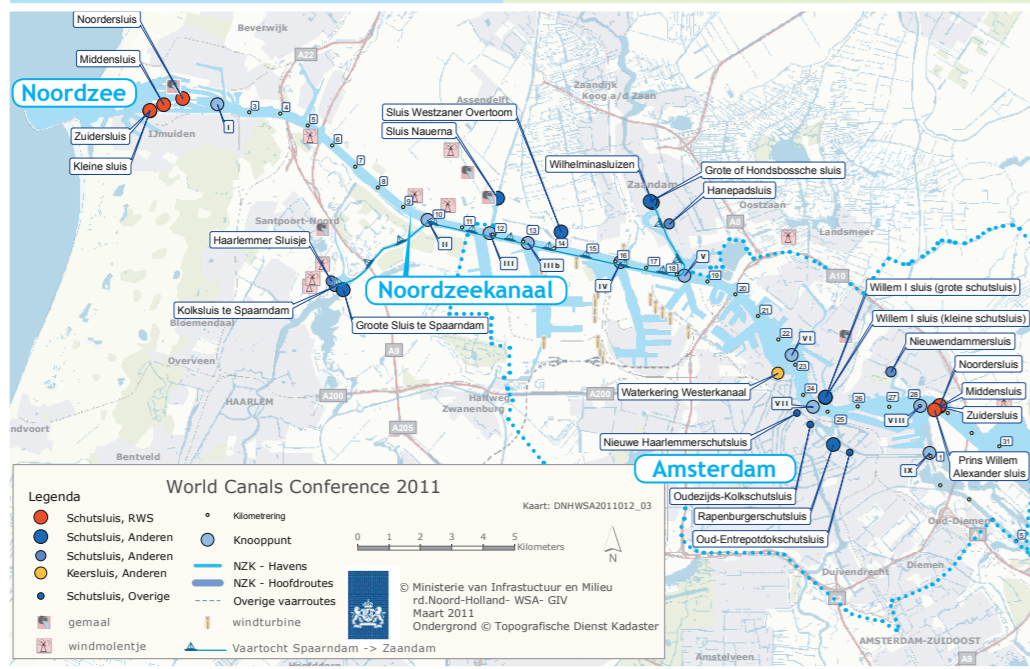
09.00 Lectures, poster sessions, corporate presentations  
 12.00 Working visits to the province of Friesland by coach and boat, including lunch and supper  
 Approx. 22.00 Return to hotels by coach

**Conference, Thursday 22 September**  
**Location: Martiniplaza, conference venue**

09.00 Lectures and presentations on WCC2012 in Yangzhou, China and WCC2013 in Toulouse, France  
 12.00 Working visits to the province of Groningen by coach, including lunch and supper  
 Approx. 22.00 Return to hotels by coach

**Post-conference tour, Friday 23 September**  
**“Journey to the bottom of the sea”**

08.30 **Departure from Groningen by coach**  
 Short visits to: inflatable weir at Kampen; Apeldoorn Canal, with talks in Hattem and Apeldoorn; Beatrix Locks in the Lek Canal at Vreeswijk; reception hosted by Rijkswaterstaat; dinner and overnight stay in Houten, on the Amsterdam-Rhine Canal.



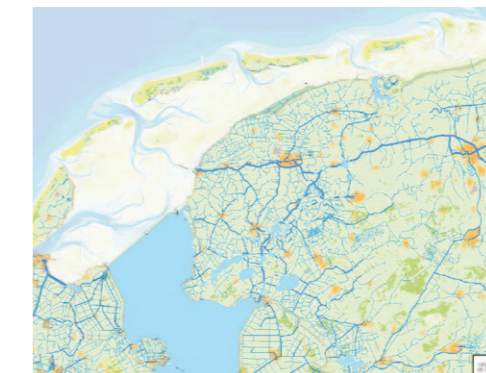
**Post-conference tour, Saturday 24 September**  
**“Journey to the bottom of the sea”**

09.00 **Departure for Haarlemmermeer Polder**, reception at Museum De Cruquius pumping station; visit to Spaarndam (home of Hansje Brinker); boat trip on North Sea Canal and through the early industrial landscape of the Zaan; visit to Zaanse Schans (optional).

Programme subject to alteration; for the latest information on the programme, go to [www.worldcanalsconference2011.nl](http://www.worldcanalsconference2011.nl)

**Canals, the watermark of the Netherlands**

For the Netherlands, with its many waterways, the conference is an excellent opportunity to highlight our rich history and our knowledge of water. Anyone who flies over the Netherlands or navigates through the country, or even just studies a map, will be struck by the abundance of waterways here. The map on the right gives a unique impression of the significance of water and waterways in the Dutch landscape. Our ancestors needed waterways to reclaim land, drain off excess water, and transport people and goods. Water and waterways define the landscape. However, due to the decline in transport by water, local authorities have closed down and filled in many canals. Much of our water-related heritage like bridges, locks and service buildings has disappeared in the process. There is also a trend towards centralised management of bridges and locks.



Rosmalen, towards the river Maas. It will include six bridges and two locks. In the Amsterdam-Rhine Canal –the busiest canal in Europe – the Prince Bernhard Locks have been renovated and a second lock is under development at the Beatrix Locks. The quality of the water in this canal is also vital for the supply of drinking water in the west of the country.

**Development of canals at international level**

There will be ample time at the WCC2011 to look into international cross-border development of canals, including the Seine-Nord in France and developments around the Mittellandkanal in Germany. There will be a presentation on the Augustov Canal in Belarus which connects seven natural lakes. It was built in the 19th century with the help of the Dutch for the transport of grain to

the Baltic ports. This unique historic monument to hydraulic engineering achievement is set in a breathtaking natural environment. We shall also look at Dutch canals in Sri Lanka and surveys for planned new canals in South Africa and Turkey, as well as the preservation of historic canals in several European countries, and new roles for canals and their impact on the hinterland.

**Top 12 canals in the Netherlands**

During the preparations for the WCC2011 we worked with our partners to produce a list of the top 12 Dutch canals. One canal was selected in each of the 12 provinces. The selection criteria were their value to the water system, their history, and their significance for spatial development, and also covered bridges, locks, and ships – everything that makes a canal a canal. The work