

THE NETHERLANDS AT COP28



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2023

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SUPPLEMENT



PROMOTING DIALOGUE, PIONEERING CHANGE

The Netherlands fronts a host of issues and topics to help mitigate the effects of climate change and promote sustainable concepts for economic growth at COP28



NL



In step towards a sustainable future

Gerard Steeghs, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UAE highlights points of collaboration between The Netherlands and the UAE during COP28 and the strong bilateral relations the two nations enjoy through cultural and trade exchanges

What are going to be the focal points for The Netherlands at COP28?

The focus points for the Netherlands at COP28 will be threefold:

- Maintain the 1.5 degree target set in Paris. In view of the Global Stocktake (5-yearly progress report), to be discussed this COP28, that will be an increasingly difficult challenge. To maintain that objective we will need to scale up our efforts; we therefore need to reach more ambitious agreements on mitigation, adaptation and commensurate financing.
- We need to come together on a Loss & Damage fund, that will be accessible to the countries that need it most.
- Finally, The Netherlands aims to form a coalition towards and during COP28 to reform international agreements on fossil subsidies.



The Netherlands is fronting a lot of initiatives on water scarcity, a key issue to be fronted at COP28. Could you elaborate on some of the initiatives being undertaken by the Netherlands and the UAE in this space?

The Netherlands is keen to improve safe and secure water for all, by setting firm targets in access to clean drinking water and sanitation and improve integrated water management worldwide.

In order to achieve this, water scarcity has been a persistent challenge to tackle, especially in the Middle East and North Africa region. Nowadays however, we see that water scarcity also affects many other parts of the world, accelerated by factors including climate change, population growth and continued economic development. We applaud the UAE's determination to raise global awareness on this issue and to help mobilize a decisive and coordinated international response to the threat that it poses to humanity.

During Expo2020 Dubai, the UAE, Jordan, and the Netherlands issued a trilateral declaration affirming their commitment to supporting a nexus approach that optimises resource use, and calling on other governments to join them in acknowledging the interdependent relationships between water, food, and energy. Although water is scarce in the UAE, the country has a high water consumption per capita. With the desire to

become increasingly self-sufficient in food production and nature conservation high on the national agenda, the UAE is ready for a change. Dutch expertise to make the most of the little available water is part of the solution. This was also showcased within the Netherlands Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, where we presented our country by means of fully circular biotope. Today, we see Dutch companies such as Hatenboer Water, Holland Water, LG Sonic, Desolanator, Hydraloop, Metito, Deltares and consortia of companies within the agritech sectors and hydrogen supply chains working closely with the UAE to find solutions together.

In this regard and introducing the COP28 connect, please shed some light on how the Netherlands will be serving as a Water Champion at COP28.

In follow up to the results of the UN 2023 Water Conference, the Netherlands is proud as former co-host to serve as water champion during COP28, together with the Republic of Tajikistan and UAE. COP28 will elevate water on the climate agenda and seek to drive forward progress and raise ambition.

As water champion, the Netherlands

will work also during COP28 through events and presentations on conserving and restoring freshwater ecosystems, enhancing urban water resilience, and bolstering water-resilient food systems. The Netherlands is committed to put water at the heart of climate action, as people experience the impacts of climate change through water. For this water transition, political leadership (from local to global), strong public institutions and massive investments are essential.

A few highlights of the ambitious water agenda are the Water Presidency Session during the World Climate Action Summit, Water and Nature event ("Water for Climate Action: Scaling finance and investment for people and the planet") during finance day, and unique UNFCCC high-level ministerial meetings on urban water resilience, freshwater ecosystems and water resilient food systems.

What are the major sustainability initiatives that the Netherlands has fronted since it launched its Sustainability Agenda in 2011? How much of this has had global impact?

International cooperation is a cornerstone of our climate policy. Working multilaterally, we strengthen alliances, educate communities and actively reach out to governments, institutions and organizations. Together we can create solutions, build sustainable value chains, forge climate resilient investments deals and empower societies worldwide to protect our

● Mark Rutte, Prime Minister of The Netherlands (centre) seen during his visit to the UAE in September this year, with Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade, and Gerard Steeghs, Ambassador of the Netherlands to the UAE



During COP28, we renew our commitment to a shared vision of a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable world, rooted in the Water-Energy-Food Nexus..."

planet and achieve economic prosperity today and in the future. The Netherlands focuses on the following climate change initiatives:

- Ensuring a sustainable supply of clean and renewable energy. Our advanced energy sector offers extensive knowledge and experience in wind, biomass, hydrogen, and solar energy. We are currently exploring cooperation opportunities in the hydrogen supply chain.
- Accelerating the transition to sustainable food production The Netherlands is involved in various partnerships to fast-track sustainable food production and fine-tune methods to grow and produce food with less water, energy and raw materials. For example, by using satellite technology and data to restore soil quality and improve irriga-



PICTURE COURTESY: SEEING THINGS PHOTOGRAPHY & FILM

tion. We have been working closely with UAE players to promote sustainable and commercially viable local food production by means of various trade missions and MoUs.

- Water management: this ranges from water efficiency for food production and climate adaptive construction projects in coastal, port and river engineering and maintenance.
- Circular economy, as 45% of the total global greenhouse gas emissions are related to the extraction and processing of materials, a circular economy has great potential to reduce our carbon footprint.

While the UAE is pioneering sustainability initiatives for the Middle East, the Netherlands

has been recognised as an early adopter. How are the 2 nations collaborating on sustainability and climate change and how much of this will see tangible results over the next decade?

During COP28, we renew our commitment to a shared vision of a more resilient, equitable, and sustainable world, rooted in the Water-Energy-Food Nexus, and strengthened by our deep and lasting partnership with the UAE. Our efforts during COP28, by means of Ministerial visits, the programming of our Blue Zone based European Investment Bank BeNeLux (a contraction of Belgium-Netherlands-Luxembourg) Pavilion, contributions to the COP28 Water for Climate Pavilion and the COP28 Food for Climate Pavilion as well as a series of events set up

by our teams locally highlight this commitment to our shared interests in water, energy and food.

The Netherlands and the UAE have enjoyed strong bilateral relations over the decades. How do you see this friendship growing through trade and cultural exchanges in the long term?

The UAE-NL Relationship dates back to 1972 and is a solid one. We have similar characteristics, and need each other. We have an intensive and long standing trade and economic relationship rooted in the important distribution and transport positions both countries enjoy. The UAE furthermore plays a crucial role in the Dutch energy strategy, both for existing demand

and for the energy transition (involving e.g. green hydrogen). The Netherlands offers the UAE top notch technology and expertise when it comes to food security, an area of strategic importance in the UAE. Apart from that, there are many other areas where the economic relationship is flourishing, expanding and already making history – think of Dutch dredgers creating the “Palm Tree” island in Dubai. But we also look forward to a widening and deepening relationship in diplomatic, educational and cultural directions, exemplified by frequent visits from both sides, including the visit of PM Mark Rutte in September 2023 and Dutch Foreign Minister Wopke Hoekstra to Abu Dhabi in February 2023 and the frequent consultations we have had in recent weeks on the latest regional developments. ■

Business ties that help reap rewards

In an exclusive interview, **Dr Carel Richter**, Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UAE, elaborates on the Consulate's role in helping Dutch businesses to collaborate and foster meaningful partnerships with UAE entities that lead to positive change

The Netherlands sees excellent representation in the UAE through the presence of Dutch expats in the country. What role does the Netherlands Consul General's office play in getting Dutch citizens to settle down here?

We count around 7,500 Dutch nationals as residents and over 350 Dutch companies in the UAE, quite a sizeable Dutch community and particularly in Dubai. As such, we have two organisations we direct Dutch nationals to in order to help them integrate into the Dutch community here: Club NL (the Dutch Club that was formed in 1984 for social purposes) and the Netherlands Business Council (the Dutch business club that was formed in 1997).

Thanks to these organisations, as well as the assistance of the staff at the Consulate General in Dubai and the Embassy in Abu Dhabi, Dutch nationals are able



to start off on the right foot and receive advice from individuals already familiar with the local landscape.

The UAE ranks high globally in terms of ease of set-up and

doing business. What are your views on the same and how is the Netherlands Consulate helping facilitate Dutch businesses set up shop in Dubai and the UAE?

Indeed, the UAE has become the hub for Dutch businesses in the region. I believe that there are several elements that may have contributed, such as the quality of life and the numerous opportunities for growth.

In my opinion, the open economy and the strong logistical base that is the UAE have especially contributed to this position. The recent changes in regulations only serve to underscore how the UAE is forward looking and business driven.

Our economic teams at the Consulate General in Dubai and the Embassy in Abu Dhabi, work on assisting Dutch businesses in setting up in the UAE by sharing information on set up and/or expansion, directing them to free zones

or other consultants, as well as linking them to potential partners. We also serve as a sounding board for companies in order for them to discuss their ideas and opportunities available in the UAE.

Throughout the numerous trade fairs and trade missions taking place in the Emirates, my teams see many Dutch businesses. We organise many events around these exhibitions and visits in order to bring companies together with local stakeholders.

We have an exciting role within the community. Our work was rewarded earlier this year when the UAE, represented by the Consulate General in Dubai and the Embassy in Abu Dhabi, was awarded the Embassy Prize by our Minister of Foreign Trade and the Dutch employers' organisation.

How has your tenure been so far, please elaborate on some of the high points of your stay in the UAE in your official capacity.

Thus far it has luckily been mostly high points. I started my position as Consul General in Dubai with an additional role, that of Commissioner General at Expo 2020 Dubai.

Our participation at Expo 2020, with a circular pavilion, a biotope, with the theme "Uniting water-energy-food", was certainly a highlight – particularly with the visit of the King and Queen on our National Day.

Other high points include: opening up a regional HQ of a Dutch company, organising an architectural talk on circularity and sustainability, and hosting a roundtable with Dutch-UAE businesses, and the visit of our PM Rutte.

Dubai is such a dynamic place that there is always another milestone on the horizon — the next one being COP28. ■



● Abdulla Bin Damithan, CEO and MD, DP World GCC, hosts Dr Carel Richter, Consul-General of the Netherlands, along with representatives of both teams during the Consul General's visit to the DP World headquarters in Dubai last year

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TenCate's fully circular value chain

From yarn to end-of-life and back again, TenCate is a global group of market leading companies that lead the way in creating innovative, high quality, sustainable synthetic grass surfaces for sports and outdoor living. TenCate is establishing partnerships in order to recycle and reuse all legacy artificial turf across Europe and the US. This action is part of its global sustainability initiative to propose innovative pathways for products' end-of-life phase



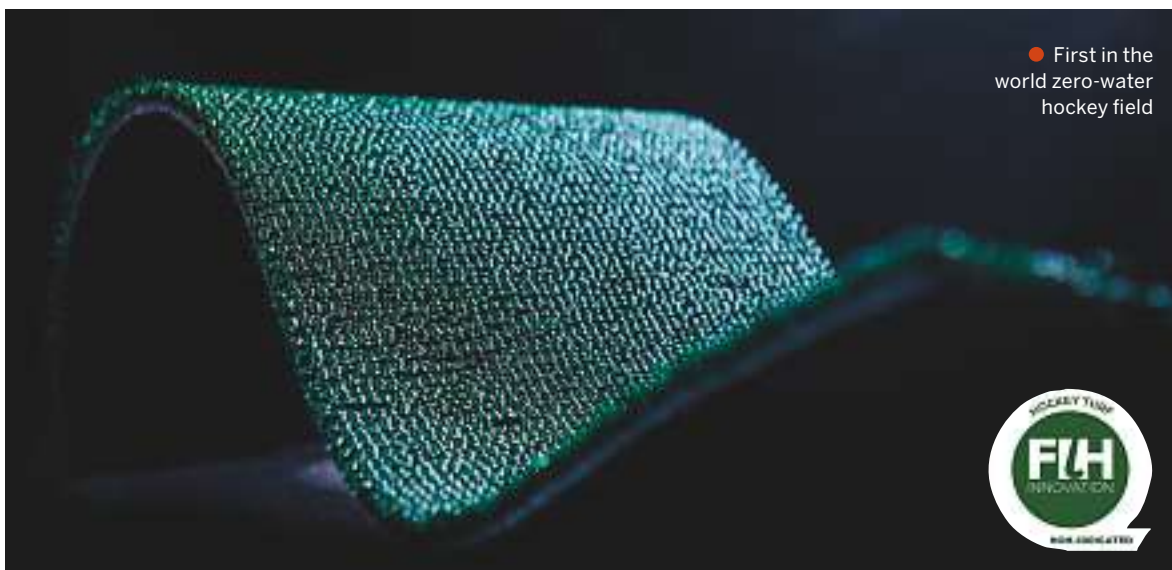
TenCate is moving towards a fully circular value chain, recycling all end-of-life products into new, high-quality artificial turf systems. From yarn to end-of-life and back again. The goal is to not only recycle TenCate's own products, but to ultimately recycle and reuse all legacy end-of-life artificial turf across Europe and the US.

A FULLY CIRCULAR ONE-DNA PRODUCT

Generally, artificial grass systems are made from various raw materials including yarns (PE), backing (PP) and coating (PU). This results in high-energy impact in production and difficulties in recycling. Our partner LimeGreen has launched a new product with our ONE-DNA formula: a circular artificial grass solution that consists of only one single polymer. LimeGreen generates a lower CO₂ footprint during production and maximises end-of-life recyclability.

Michael Vogel, CEO, TenCate, says, "As the global leader in sports and outdoor living solutions, we redefine the lifecycle of our products and materials, ensuring they are never wasted or landfilled but instead continuously reused, repurposed, or recycled. We are dedicated to integrating responsible manufacturing practices into our production processes, ensuring that we minimize resource consumption, waste generation, and emissions.

"Not only are our turf solutions circular, we have also integrated circularity into our operations. We believe that sustainability is a collaborative effort that requires the active participation and en-





to be Zero Waste to Landfill certified by the end of 2024. View TenCate's Zero Waste to Landfill certificate by visiting the UL Spot: <https://spot.ul.com/>

“Proud to be part of a truly exceptional team!”

JAMES MCFARLANE
MD, TenCate, Dubai

PRODUCT END-OF-LIFE: RECYCLING PARTNERSHIPS

In September 2022, TenCate announced a recycling partnership with ExxonMobil and Cyclyx in the US, offering the first truly circular solution for end-of-life turf in the US. With ExxonMobil's proprietary Exxtend technology, the end-of-life turf will be recycled into raw materials that have the same performance and quality as virgin raw materials. This means TenCate's end-of-life turf can be reused to produce new high-quality and high-performance products.

In 2020, TenCate set up a similar partnership in the Netherlands with GBN. In this partnership, end-of-life turf is recycled and processed into new products, such as Ecocept. To date, almost 25 million square feet of turf have been recycled in the Netherlands as part of this partnership. ■



gagement of all our business partners.”
Currently, elite field hockey is played on irrigated turf fields that use large quantities of water. The use of water on turf is considered excessive, but the playability and functionality of irrigated hockey fields is unrivalled and loved by players.

need for water. The technology is already approved by the International Hockey Federation (FIH), as it meets the requirements laid down in the new Innovation Standard for Dry (non-irrigated) Hockey Turfs. In 2023, the first dry (non-irrigated) full-sized hockey field in the world was introduced in the Netherlands under TenCate Company Greenfield's brand, Pure EP.

ing a 96 per cent diversion rate, raising the bar for all of TenCate's subsidiaries. Waste is a broadly based industrial problem, which may have significant environmental impact if not dealt with appropriately. TenCate aims for all its manufacturing operations

Visit our website to learn more about TenCate
tencategrass.com/

“As the global leader in sports and outdoor living solutions, we redefine the lifecycle of our products and materials, ensuring they are never wasted or landfilled, but instead continuously reused, repurposed, or recycled.”

MICHAEL VOGEL
CEO, TenCate

AWARD WINNING SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

TenCate's yarn manufacturing facility in Dubai has a diverse labour force, with more than 350 employees from multiple countries, cultures and religions. A unique aspect is that all manufacturing employees live at the dedicated TenCate accommodation. In December 2022, the team in Dubai received the 4-star Taqdeer Award for their clear vision on managing the people aspect of the organisation. The award is a recognition for the exceptional labour welfare programmes, working environments and employees who have made significant contributions in worker welfare and productivity.

In addition, the TenCate factory in Dubai received the Gold Zero Waste to Landfill validation label by UL Solutions for achiev-



To reduce water consumption, TenCate has developed an innovative, new zero-water solution, which retains many of the advantages of an irrigated field without the

Every drop counts

How water can be the engine for climate adaptation



PICTURE COURTESY: FRANS LEMMENS PHOTOGRAPHY

● Breukelen lakes

BY MEIKE VAN GINNEKEN
Netherlands' Special Envoy for
International Water Affairs



This special edition of *Gulf News* spotlights how Netherlands partners with the UAE on sustainable development. From renewable energy and environmental conservation to water management and food security, Dutch know-how is playing a major role in the UAE's drive towards a sustainable future. We look forward to expanding our collaboration.

This month, the UAE hosts COP28, the world's most important climate summit. After yet another year of climate extremes, the world is coming together in Dubai to discuss climate mitigation, climate adaptation and loss and damage.

Climate mitigation is CO₂, climate adaptation is H₂O. As water envoy of the Kingdom of The Netherlands, I will focus on how to make water the engine of climate adaptation.

WATER AN ENGINE OF CHANGE

Climate change manifests itself in water. For the first time in history, mankind has pushed the global water cycle out of balance. People experience the impacts of climate change through water. People living in vulnerable conditions and marginalised groups are the most acutely impacted.

Rainfall, the source of all freshwater, is becoming more erratic. Droughts create severe food insecurity and traps farmers in poverty as 80 per cent of cultivated land is rain-fed. Droughts also put the human right to clean water and sanitation at risk. Floods wreak havoc while melting glaciers, sea-level rise and saltwater intrusion jeopardise freshwater supplies.

To face these challenges, we have to make water the engine of climate adaptation.

Engineering and technology are critical in doing this. The Netherlands has a lot of experience on coastal protection, delta technology, irrigation and drainage technology, climate-resilient infrastructure and water technology.

We have also learned that climate adaptation requires new approaches. In The Netherlands, we battled against water for

We are learning together to work with nature to halt the depletion of groundwater and the degradation of wetlands and floodplains."

over 1000 years. We focused on draining water to the sea as quickly as possible through canalised rivers. We built dykes to protect our communities against floods. But with more intense rains, longer dry periods, and rising sea levels, we realized that we cannot continue to fight nature. We are embracing nature-based solutions, giving room to our rivers and restoring our floodplains.

We are sharing experience as we see many other countries that are restoring and protecting natural freshwater stocks to save water for dry periods and to reduce the impact of floods. We are learning together to work with nature to halt the depletion of groundwater and the

degradation of wetlands and floodplains. With over 70 per cent of water dedicated to agriculture, food production directly impacts water systems. New agricultural techniques are helping to maintain soil moisture. We are finding ways to produce more food with less.

We are also seeing a trend in which countries around the world are making water availability a central tenet of their spatial planning and economic development. Earlier this year, the Dutch parliament adopted a policy that embraces water and soil guiding principles in all our spatial planning decisions.

Knowledge and data of water and subsurface systems and understanding of future socio-ecological changes are indispensable for these complex planning processes. The Netherlands can contribute its world-class expertise in smart digital solutions for monitoring, detection and management of water systems and infrastructure.

The world is coming together in Dubai to accelerate climate solutions. I hope you will find inspiration in this in-depth look at Dutch climate solutions ranging from renewable energy and environmental conservation to water management and food security. The Netherlands is looking forward to a continued partnership with the UAE. We want to share our know-how. We want to learn from you. We want to work together on smart solutions for a net-zero and water secure world. ■



Helping drive transformational change

Unilever's sustainability initiatives for its regional operations positively impact the world due to the brand's global influence and reach



As a multinational packaged goods company, Unilever is not just in the business of getting its expansive brand portfolio to meet the home care, ice-cream, nutrition, beauty and personal care needs of its consumers and get them to feel good, look good and get more out of life. It is equally committed to making the world look and feel good as well, enabling a more sustainable ecosystem for future generations to enjoy and celebrate.

LEADERS IN SUSTAINABILITY

Unilever's global mandate on keeping its supply chains sustainable sees regional impact in the GCC and MENA in line with its commitment to achieving Net Zero across its value chain by 2039. Despite a substantial

growth in its manufacturing production volumes in the GCC, Unilever has since 2008 reduced the environmental impact of its operations across several levels, with their factories achieving a 90 per cent kg/ton reduction in CO2 emissions. Unilever was also the first in the UAE to have 100 per cent of renewable electricity through International Renewable Energy Certificates achieved in partnership with DEWA.

Unilever factories in Jeddah and Dubai have also reduced their energy consumption by 43 per cent (vs 2008) and 34 per cent (vs 2016) per ton of production through absolute energy efficiency improvements. Unilever's Dubai Personal Care factory (DPC) produces 20 per cent of its onsite energy between solar PV and solar thermal plants. At the time of set-up in 2016, DPC was the largest private sector solar PV plant in MENA. The manufacturing facility was also the first in the UAE and first FMCG factory in MENA to be recognised by the World Economic Forum as an Advanced 4th Industrial Lighthouse. It



● The Unilever Dubai Personal Care factory produces 20 per cent of its energy between solar PV and solar thermal plants

also received Leeds Gold Certification in 2016 and the Dubai Green Industrial award for 2019.

Pioneering unique regional waste management efforts, Unilever was among the first regional companies to send zero waste to landfill as early as 2014 and its DPC factory has reduced its waste generation by 14 per cent. With an eye on water conservation, DPC has also reduced its water use by 28 per cent (last 5 years) with 100 per cent of the water effluent from the factory treated, recycled and used in cooling towers and irrigation facilities.

Not one to rest on its laurels,

Unilever looks to set the bar on future achievements and push forward the sustainability story.

SETTING TARGETS

Unilever's ambition to reduce logistics carbon emissions has seen the brand launch several pioneering initiatives. In March this year, for instance Unilever launched the UAE's first electric city van. The small city van delivers goods to its customers (around 170+T), driving up to 300 kilometres on a full charge, allowing the reduction of around 250kgs of carbon dioxide equivalent or CO2e, per day, per truck. Later, in June it launched the first 25-ton payload electric heavy-duty truck in the UAE and MENA. Unilever has also introduced the use of alternate fuels into its logistics, such as the use of used cooking oil from UAE restaurants and hotels, given that 90 per cent of this oil is not utilised locally and is instead exported. This used oil is processed for use in trucks and helps reduce carbon footprint. Unilever has also initiated the use of biodiesel this year in two of its shuttling trucks, reducing primary transportation carbon emissions by 10-15 per cent.

Regionally, Unilever's sustainability footprint has been strong. In Saudi Arabia the company consolidated its warehouses from eight into one large warehouse with Maersk, resulting in route optimisation, reduction in the number of trucks and trips, accordingly reducing carbon emissions. In Egypt too it followed a similar transformation in network design while additionally implementing backhauling with suppliers, eliminating waste by

improving load fill across the chain. In Morocco the route-to-market transformation has allowed Unilever to move into 1 drop point against an earlier 50 with its Marjane customers. Unilever's control tower revamp in Arabia and Maghreb as well as its launch in Egypt turned around the results of its core logistic KPIs by maximising utilisation, improving route planning, reducing the number of trucks needed and accordingly reducing emissions.

ALTERNATE TRANSPORT OPTIONS

Unilever is also trialing new modes of transportation including the first multimodal cross-border product offering between the UAE and KSA, with potential expansion to other GCC regions.

For instance, Etihad rail trial shipments recently commenced between the UAE and KSA, with Unilever being one of the first companies to participate. Along with reducing lead times, the initiative is also expected to improve service and reduce carbon emissions by up to 80 per cent vs truck delivery options. Unilever also globally outsourced all import and export operations to virtual ocean control tower (Maersk), optimising operations E2E such as improving container utilisation, using alternate fuels as well as less carbon emitting vessels while improving lead times, reducing waste and carbon emissions by ~70 tons.

Besides its vision and ambition to contribute positively towards climate action, Unilever credits a large number of its above achievements to the power of collaborative regional partnerships. ■



● Unilever factories in the region achieved 11 per cent kg/ton reduction in CO2 emissions

Mark these dates!

The Netherlands presents a full roster of events at COP28 Dubai.
Get a lowdown on the events you ought not miss



From November 30 until December 12, 2023 world leaders from over 200 countries will gather in Dubai for the 28th session of the annual United Nations climate summit, or COP28. Climate change adaptation and climate finance are some of the topics being discussed on the multilateral stage during the climate summit.

Throughout COP28, the teams from the Embassy and the Consulate-General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UAE, will host a number of Ministerial visits (from Infrastructure and Water Management to Finance and of course Climate a.o). The Netherlands will be represented in the Blue Zone by means of the European Investment Bank BeNeLux (a contraction of Belgium-Netherlands-Luxembourg) Pavilion.

The Netherlands will also contribute to the programming of the COP28 Water for Climate and COP28 Food for Climate Pavilions. More importantly, we have instigated a series of signature events, most of which are open to the public, in collaboration with Dutch and local companies and partners. These events align with our local and regional efforts. They focus on scalable and feasible innovations, emphasising not just the smart use of resources such as water, food production and energy efficiency but also finance and design. Please consult the overview below:

CLIMATE NEUTRAL REAL ESTATE: LEADERSHIP FOR ACHIEVING NET ZERO IN DESERT CLIMATES

Mon, December 4, 10am-6pm | Green Zone, Slovenian Pavilion, G floor

In collaboration with Emirates Environment Group and Knauf, the Kingdom of the Netherlands is delighted to invite you for this session on Climate Neutral Real Estate. Over the past 50 years, the UAE grew from a pearl fishing and camel farming nation to an economic powerhouse.

Real estate was developed at a breathtaking pace, often with horizons for durability only spanning a few decades. Many buildings are up for a retrofit. The perfect opportunity presents itself to reduce the energy and water consumption associated with these buildings, as they are among the highest per capita in the world.

Construction materials have gone through an evolution, enabling retrofitters to reduce the carbon footprint in many ways. This day will focus on the opportunities in retrofitting that state-of-the-art technologies present.

THE ROLE OF SUSTAINABLE FINANCE IN GLOBAL CLIMATE ACTION

Tue, December 5, 8.30am-9.30am | Blue Zone, Greek pavilion

This insightful symposium highlights the importance of sustainable finance in bridging the gap and mobilizing the private sector towards sustainability. Participants from the finance and government will discuss how this can go hand in hand.

SCALING UP CLEAN HYDROGEN

Tue, December 5, 12.50pm-1.40pm | Green Zone, Technology & Innovation Stage (T&I 2)

Setting up a Green Hydrogen Economy requires an innovative climate to develop, implement new technologies and ensure these can be applied at scale. The Netherlands is a breeding ground for hydrogen related companies but they need to work with the Middle East as a future

Van Oord at COP28

Van Oord is pleased to be joining the COP for the third year in a row. We are an experienced Dutch marine contractor striving to enhance the energy transition and accelerate climate actions. Let's collaborate to deliver solutions for a better world.

</

production location for low-cost green hydrogen in order to pilot and scale-up the new technologies but also enabling a more balanced energy system.

BLUEPRINT FOR A CIRCULAR WATER SMART SOCIETY

Wed, December 6, 2pm-2.50pm | Green Zone, Technology & Innovation Stage (T&I 2)

In collaboration with the Water Alliance, Hydralooop and Metito, this event builds upon the successful launch of Blueprint for a Circular Smart Water Society during the UN Water Conference in NY. The Blueprint presents concrete solutions for practical application of circular water and a vision on water usage in the built environment.

BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE

Wed, December 6, 2.50pm-3.25pm | Green Zone, Technology & Innovation Stage (T&I 2)

In collaboration with the Global Centre on Adaptation, Deltares and Van Oord, this event aims to share knowledge on building climate resilient infrastructure, with a focus on water management.

GET IN THE RING: UNLEASH THE POWER OF INNOVATION IN WATER

Sat, December 9, 3.30pm-7pm | Green

Zone, Slovenia Business Centre, G Floor

Step into the Arena at COP28: Unleash the power of innovation in water! Join us at Get In The Ring COP28 for unique start up battles. Be part of the future, where innovation meets opportunity, and challenges are met with excitement and determination!

WATER CYCLES: COP28 DESIGN CONVERSATIONS

Sat, December 9, 4pm-6pm | Jameel Arts Centre

How can design and the arts help sustain or restart healthy water cycles? How can community-led and co-creative design present solutions to pressing hydrologic challenges brought about by climate change?

This afternoon symposium brings together thinkers from architecture, social practice and the arts to explore how design-focused and arts-driven practices can shape the understanding and health of water cycles across different geographies. Within the COP28 framing of December 9, 2023 as the Nature, Land Use, and Oceans Day, this event at the Jameel Arts Centre will host speakers from the Netherlands, India, Kuwait, and Bahrain. They will discuss ground-up regenerative approaches to tackling the hydrological impacts of the climate crisis. Each speaker is engaged with (re)designing thought frameworks and pedagogies that support community-led forms of action and to co-

create new water imaginaries. Speakers are: Professor Dr. Carola Hein (Delft University of Technology) and Architect John Hanna (Delft University of Technology); researchers Ain Contractor (IHE Delft Institute for Water Education) and Anjali (Yugma Collective); as well as artist Aziz Motawa (Akaz Collective).

WATER FOR PEACE & SECURITY: RISKS & RESILIENCE CONNECT CONFERENCE

Sun, December 10, 10am-11.30pm | Connect Conference Multipurpose Hall

Water scarcity is becoming an alarming global issue. This concern is echoed in the UNCCD Global Land Outlook (2017), which predicts that by 2025, two-thirds of the global population will find themselves in water-stressed countries. The increasing competition for these precious resources can lead to potential grievances, conflicts, and even outbreaks of violence. Notably, of the 153 countries sharing transboundary rivers, lakes, and aquifers, only 24 have fully operational arrangements in place for water cooperation. This event will highlight water insecurity as a fundamental threat to human health, peace, and security, as well as showcase tangible solutions to increase resilience to water-related risks; and further platforming the UAE's Global Call to Action on increased investment, technological innovation, and international cooperation for shared water security.

The event is organised by the COP28 Presidency, IFRC, Water Peace & Security Partnership, The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies, UNCCD, UNECE, and Macroscopic Strategies.

The journey for the Netherlands, from EXPO2020 to COP28 and beyond exemplifies the nation's shared dedication to addressing the interrelated challenges of water, energy, and food security. By harnessing innovation, technology, and collaborative initiatives, the Netherlands aims to create sustainable solutions that enhance resilience, promote economic prosperity, and safeguard the well-being of societies around the world

For more information, consult these platforms:
 LINKEDIN: www.linkedin.com/company/nlinuae
 FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/NLinUAE
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Further information about COP28 activities by the Netherlands can be found here:
www.netherlandsandyou.nl/web/united-arab-emirates/cop28

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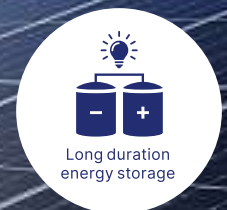
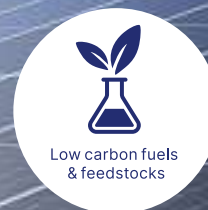
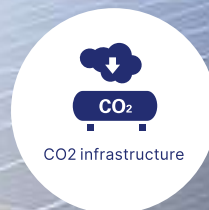


We play a pivotal role in handling with care the energy and materials the society needs today and tomorrow. For the future, we are working towards the infrastructure solutions for zero and low-carbon hydrogen, ammonia, CO2, biofuels and recycled chemicals

In the Middle East, Vopak has been working with long term joint venture partners including SABIC, Horizon Terminals, the Government of Fujairah and Kuwait's Independent Petroleum Group to operate terminals at key port locations. With 400 years of history and stock-listed in Amsterdam, we work every day to deliver safe, efficient and clean storage and handling services for your business.

Interested in partnering with us in the Middle East?

Aslam Moola
 Managing Director, Vopak Middle East
aslam.moola@vopak.com



Find out more about our energy transition projects here
<https://www.vopak.com/new-energies-and-sustainable-feedstock>

Joining forces for food safety and food security in the Gulf region

The Netherlands brings extensive knowledge and innovative technologies in the field to the table

Countries in the Gulf region have the ambition to become more self-sufficient and produce more sustainable fresh food, locally. The region grapples with a myriad of challenges in its food ecosystem. The prevailing arid climate and water scarcity pose significant hurdles for agricultural production, leading to a dependence on food imports. Therefore, ensuring food security in the face of a rapidly growing population remains an ongoing effort. Moreover, the Covid pandemic and political instability in some regions around the world have underlined what the governments in the Gulf region countries already knew: food security is a problem of the greatest urgency.

The Netherlands can support in reaching this ambition through long-term partnerships and by sharing our extensive knowledge and innovative technologies. The Dutch horticulture sector provides for millions of people worldwide, using state-of-the-art technology, and sustainable systems. With our combined knowledge, technology and experience, we can



accelerate achieving food security and food safety in the Gulf region.

HortiRoad2theGulf is a public-private partnership from the Netherlands, established to help the Gulf region in reaching food self-sufficiency. Leading horticulture companies, educational institutes and the

Dutch government including the embassies in the region work together within this consortium. The partnership is led by Dutch Greenhouse Delta, and represents the entire value chain of horticulture. Our solutions are able to improve the value chain, update current greenhouse

facilities and, to create new, more efficient systems, including advanced Controlled Environment Agriculture.

Our cluster of leading horticulture organisations from the Netherlands, is ready to work with local governments, investors, growers, and retailers to upscale horticultural business in a sustainable way. By working together, we can develop new strategies and business models, which significantly improve sustainable food production and reduce the loss of food.

Our path from EXPO2020 to COP28 represents our collective commitment to tackling global challenges, while also showcasing the Netherlands' expertise in these fields. Through the power of innovation, technology, and joint efforts, our goal is to develop sustainable solutions. The advancements in the horticultural sector in the Gulf region open up numerous possibilities for deeper collaboration between the Netherlands and the Gulf region. Together we can unlock the Gulf's full horticulture potential!

More information can be found at <https://hortiroad2thegulf.com/>

**Rainbow Milk & Ministry of Climate Change & Environment
have come together to recycle One Million cans
Join us in this Journey**



Recycle to green
for a greener tomorrow

An initiative to encourage recycling in the UAE
SCAN
TO START RECYCLING TODAY!

Sustainable business is better business for ING

Through initiatives that power its clients on a trajectory of expansive growth, ING is simultaneously inculcating sustainability in the heart of its operations



ING shares a deep concern for climate change. A pioneer in the finance sector, it has been working on sustainability through its partner clients for some time now.

Active in the Middle East for years, ING covers a range of wholesale banking activities, including syndicated lending, financial markets, international real estate financing and sustainable finance. The core element of its service strategy though is to aim to put sustainability at the heart of its operations, all the while helping clients along in their transition to a low-carbon future. It's no easy task, as every sector has its own complexities and balances, but ING aims to get the balance right.

PRIORITIES MARKED

Sebastian Frederiks, Head of Wholesale Banking - Middle East, ING, says "We've noticed a surge of interest from local businesses to prioritise environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards. This has partly been prompted by various government initiatives that set ambitious clean energy targets."

In Qatar, for instance, ING supported Qatar National Bank (QNB) one of the bank's long-standing clients to establish QNB's Green, Social and Sustainability Bond Framework. In 2020, ING was the sole sustainability advisor and joint leader manager for Qatar's first ever green bond, issued by QNB.

A year later, back home in the UAE, ING participated in the Gulf region's first sustainability-linked loan for Emirates NBD, Dubai's biggest bank, which linked sustainability metrics such as water conservation to the interest rate of the loan. ING was also hired recently by Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank as joint sustainability structuring advisor in a green bond. Besides, in October this year ING was mandated by Mubadala (Abu Dhabi's Sovereign Wealth Fund) as Joint Green Structurer, joint lead manager and joint bookrunner on their \$750 million debut Green Bond issuance. ING was also hired by RAK Bank as Sustainability Structuring Advisor for the region's first Social Finance Framework.

ING has invested billions of euros in wind farms, solar energy, and geothermal power production, while its businesses support the transition to a low-carbon economy, for example through green



● ING's Cedar Head Office in Amsterdam



Sebastian Frederiks, Head of Wholesale Banking - Middle East, ING

bonds. The institution plans to continue financing billions of euros in green energy projects through green loans and bonds, sustainability-linked products and other innovative products and financing constructions.

FIGHTING GLOBAL WARMING

ING's biggest impact, its management believes is with its lending portfolio. The fi-

ancial institution is aligning this with the most ambitious goal of the Paris Climate Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius, or net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

"To keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius, we follow the scientific insight that CO2 emissions should decrease by 45 per cent at global level by 2030 from 2019," says Frederiks. "We commit to reduce our CO2 emissions in our own operations (from ING buildings and data centres, our so-called scope 1 and 2 emissions) by at least 45 per cent by 2030 from 2019. The aim for ING is to steer the nine highest emitting sectors in its loan book in line with the Paris Agreement's goal of 1.5 degrees. Setting and refining interim targets to help its clients in their transition to a net zero society, ING is doing its bit to pursue the goal to minimise global climate change. "We report in our annual climate report on the progress we've made with our climate approach," says Frederiks. Sometimes ING also declines business. By policy it has decided to stop providing dedicated project financing for new oil and gas fields and to restrict the financing of the mid-stream infrastructure that supports the development of those fields. ING is also reducing the financing of coal-fired

power plants to close to zero by 2025. We finance a lot of sustainable things, but we still finance more that's not."

Ultimately, sustainable business is better business, believes Frederiks. "That is why our responsibility is to use our financing, advisory products and services to actively support client's transition to new sustainable business models that will ensure their success in the future. That being said, while we finance a lot of sustainable things, we still finance more that's not." ING also chooses to lead by example by striving for net zero in its own operations at its global offices.

SUSTAINABILITY STARTS AT HOME

For one, ING monitors and manages its environmental impact closely and believes in being transparent about the climate impact of its operations. The institution also aims to source 100 per cent renewable electricity each year for all ING buildings where it has management control worldwide, using RE100 technical criteria as a reference for reporting. ING is also improving the impact of its business travel, for example through fleet electrification, thereby integrating sustainability in its procurement processes. ■



Fully networked, fully connected

The Netherlands Foreign Investment Agency connects global businesses to the Invest in Holland Network with resources, tools and timely investment support

The Netherlands is a place to accelerate your business and benefit people and the planet.

In the Netherlands you will:

- Innovate and build smart, sustainable solutions for the future.
- Find fertile ground to connect and strengthen knowledge and skills.
- Discover new perspectives supported by our Dutch entrepreneurial mindset.
- Connect with Europe and the world. You can't beat our location!
- Create impact by harnessing the Invest in Holland network that brings together business in the Netherlands and beyond.

The Netherlands is committed to developing and finding sustainable, innovative and digital solutions to global challenges. That is why Invest in Holland is keen to welcome and assist foreign companies that contribute to this goal and strengthen our international ecosystems.

The Netherlands Foreign Investment Agency (NFIA) is an operational unit of the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy. NFIA helps and advises foreign companies across the various stages of expansion. Our services are free and independent. Consider NFIA your partner, connecting you regionally across the Invest in Holland Network, with the resources and tools needed to make investment decisions.

We provide:

- Current, customised information on the Netherlands, relevant business locations, Dutch legislation and tax regulations, labor law, permit procedures, governmental incentives and much more through in-person or digital meetings.
- Practical solutions that simplify and optimize establishment in the Netherlands.
- Personalised support by NFIA specialists in the agrifood, chemical industry, IT & Tech, high tech systems, life sciences & health, energy and other sectors.

NFIA WORLDWIDE - MENA REGION, DUBAI OFFICE

In addition to our headquarters in The Hague, NFIA maintains 26 offices across the world. The office for MENA region is located at the Consulate-General in Dubai.

Historically the UAE and the Netherlands are trading nations and energy hubs with a large number of port, logistics and



● Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade, receives the book *Heroes of Hydrogen* from Mark Rutte, Prime Minister of the Netherlands during the latter's visit to the UAE in September this year

trading companies from Middle East having expanded into Europe by setting up in the Netherlands, as well energy and (petro) chemical companies.

DP World, dnata, Emirates, Aramex, MASDAR, TAQA, OCI, SABIC, Aramco are well-known companies from Middle East having operations in the Netherlands.

Recently the focus of NFIA MENA is mainly on securing clean hydrogen supply from Middle East, decarbonising its chemical industry operating in the Netherlands and supporting digitalization & smart logistics between the two regions.

Within the framework of several public

and private sector MoUs on hydrogen and energy, concrete projects and investments are taking shape. The Netherlands is the hydrogen hub for North-Western Europe, especially for Germany with the Dutch ports closest located to Europe's largest industrial area.

Since Middle East is developing successfully its innovation ecosystems by attracting start-ups and talents from all over the world, more and more scale-ups from this region are eyeing Europe. The Netherlands succeeds in attracting valuable Fintech companies from Middle East as well as companies focusing on supporting & accelerating the energy transition.

COP28 EVENT SCALING UP GREEN HYDROGEN

December 5, 2023: 12.50pm - 1.40pm, Technology & Innovation (T&I) Hub, in the Green Zone

Explore business opportunities with Netherlands Foreign Investment Agency (NFIA)

For more details related to business and investment opportunities, get in touch with the NFIA team in Dubai, UAE.

www.investinholland.com | mena@nfia.com

Edo de Ronde,
Executive Director MENA

At the forefront of advancing sustainable maritime operations



Enable the energy transition

Facilitate the creation of
infrastructure through
our vessels and
equipment



Minimising operational impact

Provide solutions
fuelled by hydrogen,
methanol, or
electricity



Technology knowledge development

Implement design
philosophy LEAF:
low energy,
adaptive fuel

Want to
know more?

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Bernardete Goncalves Castro - Director CSR, Rotterdam - +31 88 015 36 58

CREATING SUSTAINABLE HORIZONS



Innovative sand engine
in West Africa

Climate change poses a major threat to vital infrastructure and local communities as coastlines erode. Boskalis has more than a century of experience in creating coastal defense solutions around the world. In addition to climate adaptive solutions, we have constructed more than hundred offshore wind farms to date, advancing the energy transition.

LET'S CREATE NEW HORIZONS TOGETHER