

Report Wetskills-Egypt 2024



Picture: Wetskills participants, partners and audience at Fionals & Awarding Ceremony at the Residence of the Ambassador of the Kingdom of The Netherlands to Egypt (Cairo, 5 March 2024)



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1. Introduction

Wetskills-Egypt 2024

Wetskills Foundation and partners organized the second Wetskills Challenge in Egypt from 24 February to 6 March 2024. Wetskills Foundation organized its Wetskills event in Egypt was in 2012, aligned to the Bilateral Water Cooperation between Egypt and The Netherlands. Last years Wetskills Foundation organized several times its unique Water Challenges in MENA Region, like Palestine, Oman and Jordan. After this event several Egyptian participants joined the Wetskills editions in The Netherlands, like in 2013 and 2015 and in the MENA regions as in Jordan (2023) and Oman (2024).



Group picture Wetskills-Egypt 2012

About Wetskills

The Wetskills Water Challenge is a two-weeks pressure-cooker programme for students and young professionals with a passion for water from all over the world. They meet in a country and work in transdisciplinary and transcultural teams at water-related topics. The main challenge: develop as a team your own innovative and out-of-the-box solution for water challenges in a changing world.

The study cases are provided and formed by study case owners, companies and organizations with a dedicated challenge in a local situation. These concepts are presented during the formal event through an ice-breaking and energizing session, when the cooperation between the Dutch water sector and the partner-country is showed and positioned. It provides a base to integrate different generations, water challenges, disciplines, and cultures.

Since 2010, More than 1300 students and young professionals from about 200 international universities and organizations have participated in one of the 68 Wetskills Water Challenges held in: Asia (China, South Korea, Taiwan, Japan, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan and India), North Africa & Middle East (Oman, Israel, Palestinian Territories, Jordan United Arab Emirates, Morocco, Iran and Egypt), Sub-Saharan Africa (South Africa, Lesotho & Mozambique), Europe (United Kingdom, Romania, Hungary, Denmark & The Netherlands), Latin America (Colombia) and North America (United States, Mexico & Canada).



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Wetskills Foundation

Wetskills Foundation is a non-profit organisation, based in The Hague, The Netherlands. Wetskills Foundation promotes stimulation of Future Water Leaders to join and stay in the water sector and the integration of generations in the sector (capacity development, knowledge exchange). Wetskills Foundation exists of a board with four members that represents the water sector and are dedicated to promoting the Wetskills mission and philosophy. Mr. Johan Oost is the managing director of the foundation and run the operations with 35-40 team members, who execute the Wetskills activities.

Wetskills in the MENA region

The MENA (& Gulf) Region is one of the focus areas for Wetskills. This means that Wetskills aims to (described in the Wetskills Strategy 2023-2030, which is integral part of the Water Action Agenda of the UN 2023 Water Conference):

- organize 3-5 events yearly in MENA Region (countries where Wetskills has been organized: Oman (5x), UAE Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, Egypt (2x))
- strive to follow-up ideas as WetsNext
- combine communities in the countries
- strengthen communication



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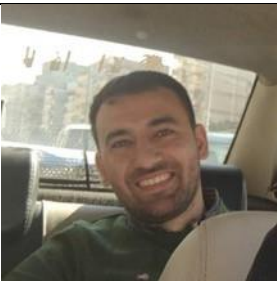
Partners

For this Egypt event, Wetskills Foundation cooperates with Egyptian, MENA regional and Dutch partners to prepare and execute the event. The Egyptian Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation is involved as contribute of knowledge and expertise. The Embassy of the Kingdom of The Netherlands will host the Finals and Awarding Ceremony where the international participants will present to ideas to an invited audience. The Arab Academy of Science and Technology (in Alexandria and Cairo) is the local host of this event where the teams will work and the main part of the programme will take place.

Summary of partners and supports of this event:

- Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Egypt
- Egyptian Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation
- RVO.nl / Partners voor Water: Bilateral Water Cooperation between Egypt and The Netherlands
- Arab Academy of Science and Technology (in Alexandria and Cairo)
- Agricultural Research Center
- Various universities in Egypt, like Cairo University and Nile University
- Participants of various universities in The Netherlands, like Utrecht university, Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences, TU Delft and Saxion University of Applied Sciences (Enschede)
- Egyptian Association of Sustainable Development
- Arab Youth Green Voices
- Water Footprint Network & Water Footprint Implementation
- Wetskills Foundation and its Alumni Community in the MENA Region

Organisers Wetskills Team

			
Dr. Alia Amer	Loay Alatrsh	Ayman Kassem	Johan Oost
Local supervisor	Regional Manager MENA	Programme Officer	Managing Director
Egypt	Palestine	Jordan	The Netherlands



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2. Participants

Announcement

The open registration for the 2024 event started in December 2023 with the event page on www.wetskills.com, announcement for participants and some items on the website, Social Media and Newsletter. Already some candidates of a previous registration for Egypt in 2023, which was postponed. These candidates showed still interest to join the programme.

After an Instagram post of Amr Ramadan (Influencer / YouTuber, who supports Wetskills), Wetskills received approximately 120-130 registrations in 36 hours. These candidates came mainly from Egypt, but also MENA region.

Six participants from The Netherlands got funding from RVO.nl. The recruitment process of these participants took place by sending professors/teachers from 10 universities and universities of applied sciences in The Netherlands within the close Wetskills network.

Selection

Due to time constraints and the permit security, Wetskills decided only to focus on participants from Egypt and The Netherlands. About 10 applications from other countries were not taken into consideration, however the candidates were requested to register for other Wetskills events in the MENA region.

Wetskills selected 15 participants out of the approximately 130 Egyptian candidates, based on CV, motivation and diversity in backgrounds and experiences. Also the MWRI and Arab Academy for Science and Technology were able to appoint some young talents from their institutes to join this event.

For the six positions of the Dutch participants, 10-12 applicants registered online. Wetskills Foundation selected the first participants. This was based on diversity in universities, gender, motivation and availability. Due to study matters, some participants could not join, so the full list of the six participants was ready one week prior to the event. These universities sent students:

- Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences
- Saxion University of Applied Sciences (Enschede)
- TU Delft
- Utrecht University



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3. Cases

This Wetskills events had four teams, so four cases in total. Based on the main themes of the bilateral water cooperation, coastal zone development, Water in Agriculture and WASH, Wetskills Foundation started the development of the cases by asking partners to submit a case with a focus on Egypt.

Wetskills requested MWRI to formulate 2-3 of the cases. MWRI requested the Water Resources Research Center (WRRC) to come up with two cases, based on a list of several topics. The two topics were related to



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irrigation practices and flash flood (read the case abstract in Appendix 2). The other two cases were formulated by Wetskills partners Water Footprint Implementation and World Waternet, both organisations in the Netherlands.

All cases were further described in a full case description (3 pages) with background information, research question and contact person(s).

The teams were created at the beginning of the programme, taking into consideration: Top 3 preferences of the participant and diversity of the team (meaning that Wetskills selelooked at background, organization, gender, experiences, etc).

4. Programme



Start in Alexandria

The compilation movie will be published coming weeks. See more information in the Communication section in the document.



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Day	Activity	Potential location
SA 24 Feb	Day 1: Arrival participants and Meet & Greet Informal Meet & Greet	Hotel- Alexandria accommodation
SU 25 Feb	Day 2: Excursion Official start in Alexandria Water Excursions Dinner & Teams announcement	Arab academy for science and Technology
Mo 26 Feb	Day 3: Meet Case Owner & Brain Hurricane Wetskills and program introduction Meet & Greet met Case Owners Brain Hurricane, speed dates with external experts Intergenerational brainstorming	Arab academy for science and Technology
Tu 27 Feb	Day 4: Action Plan Discussion and Training Belbin Team roles Reflection and Plan of Action discussion Teamwork / Coach session / Expert consultation Training Belbin Team roles	Arab academy for science and Technology
WE 28 Feb	Day 5: Working day Teamwork / Coach session / Expert consultation	Arab academy for science and Technology
TH 29 Feb	Day 6: Communication style - Pitch & Poster Pitch & Poster training Innovation round Teams work on the ideas	Arab academy for science and Technology (Leave Alexandria to Cairo)
Fri 1 Mar	Day 7: Free time	Visit the Pyramids and the old Cairo
SA 2 Mar	Day 8: CANVAS Business Model Training CANVAS Business Model Teamwork	Arab academy for science and Technology
SU 3 Mar	Day 9: Pre-presentations practice (pitch and poster) Feedback session with participants Teamwork / Coach session / Expert consultation / Keynote	Arab academy for science and Technology
MO 4 Mar	Day 10: Deadlines Day Deadlines for Poster and Paper Rehearsal of pitches	Arab academy for science and Technology
Tue 5 Mar	Day 11: Finals & Awarding Ceremony (workshop) <i>Finals: Pitches per team / Jury panel / Q&A</i> <i>Awarding ceremony</i> Farewell dinner	Residence of the Dutch ambassador in Cairo
Wed 6 Mar	Day 12: Community building Social activities and cultural visits by the participants in Cairo	Old Cairo
Fri 1 Mar	Day 13: End of program Check-out last participants	



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5. Finals



Flyer to promote the Finals

Programme

- 15.00: Welcome by Marjolein Jongman (deputy ambassador)
- 15.10: Start programme by Loay Alatrash (moderator of the day)
- 15.15: Introduction to Wetskills and programme in Egypt, presentation by Johan Oost
- 15.30: Pitch competition with the four teams of Wetskills-Egypt 2024
- 16.15: Break with Poster Market and optional presentations (the jury is debating to select the winning team)
- 17.00: Start networking
- 17.15: Awarding Ceremony
- 18.00: End of programme



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Jury

Name	Organisation	Function
Prof. Hossam El Nazer	National Research Centre Egypt	Prof of Water Technology & Renewable Energy
Johan Heymans	GIZ	Advisor
Othman Elshaikh	Egyptian Association for Sustainable Development	Head & Climate Adaptation Expert
Dr. Hany Ayad	Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport	Vice Dean and Chairperson of the Board Youth Entrepreneurs Network
Dr. Marmar Badr	Nile University	Assistant Professor and Head of Water Program/ Faculty of Water Science and Food Security, Nile University/National alumni coordinator of IHE Delft in Egypt
Dr. Samar Attaher	International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA)	Research Associate

Pitch competition

Each team presented the ideas with a two minute pitch to the jury after introducing every team member. The jury asked questions for approximately 8 minutes.



Audience



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Impressions of the pitches and Questions & Answering between jury and teams



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Poster market



Team 2 at the poster



Dialogues with jury and teams during the poster market



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Awarding Ceremony

Dr. Amr Fawzy (Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation) gave his reflection at the start of the Awarding Ceremony in the garden of the residence. After him also Dr. Dr. Hany Ayad (Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport) reflected on Wetskills in Egypt.

The jury, represented by Dr. Samar Attaher announce team 4 (acse owner World Waternet) as winner of this Wetskills event in Egypt.



Winning team, supervisors and jury

Pictures of the event

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xl_hmgKYhOI7s0focxICDKHkJ50zG3tP



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Represented organisations

- Main Partners
 - Embassy of the kingdom of The Netherlands
 - Arab Academy for Science, Technology and Maritime Transport
 - Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation
 - Agriculture Research Center
- Guests
 - Ministry of Housing, Utilities & Urban Communities (Egypt)
 - GIZ
 - Empower Hub
 - UNICEF
 - Egyptian Association for Sustainable Development
 - Egyptian Network for Renewables and Water Cycle
- Research Centers and Academia
 - Agriculture Research Center
 - Agricultural Engineering Research Institute
 - Animal Production Research Institute
 - National Research Centre Egypt
 - National Water Research Center
 - Water Resources Research Institute
 - Cairo University
 - Ain Shams University
 - Misr University for Science and Technology
 - Nile University
 - Helwan University
- Youth empowerment networks
 - Wetskills (Alumni in Egypt)
 - Arab Youth Green Voices Network
 - Youth Entrepreneurs Network