



*The Netherlands Institute for Academic Studies in Damascus (NIASD) has the pleasure to invite you to its **MENA Scholarship Programme** Information Evenings and Lectures on the 20th and 21st of January, 2008.*

The MENA Scholarship Programme is a new Dutch scholarship programme with short courses in The Netherlands for Syrian mid-career professionals between 30-45 years old, employed by organizations in the fields of Water Management, Environmental Sciences, Business Administration and Management, Agriculture and Geology and Earth Sciences.

Sunday the 20th of January 2008

19:00 - 19:15: Welcome with coffee and tea.

19:15 - 19:45: Introduction by NIASD's Deputy Director Mr. Taco van der Zwaag to the MENA Scholarship Programme, covering topics such as disciplines, course providers, eligibility criteria, application and selection procedures and deadlines.

19:45 – 20:30: Presentation by Mrs. Mieke van Riet, M.A., of the Maastricht School of Management (MSM) on the courses: Project Appraisal and Management (PAM); Project Identification, Development and Management (PDM); The Consulting Process (TCP).

These courses are highly relevant for the increasing collaboration between international and local providers in project implementation, because multilateral and bilateral agencies are increasingly seeking high quality technical proposals and consulting expertise from local providers. The presentation will cover contextual factors in the local environment, the rationale and objectives of the courses, as well as the following topics:

- the core elements of the consultancy process;
- the setup and strengthening of consulting organizations with regard to the tender management process;
- effective tender management and project implementation;
- winning proposals: a funding agency perspective;
- key considerations in training consultants and project managers;
- training methodologies used – 'the MSM learning approach'.

Monday the 21st of January 2008

19:00 - 19:15: Welcome with coffee and tea.

19:15 - 19:45: Introduction by NIASD's Deputy Director Mr. Taco van der Zwaag to the MENA Scholarship Programme, covering topics such as disciplines, course providers, eligibility criteria, application and selection procedures and deadlines.

19:45 - 20:30: Two simultaneous presentations in separate rooms of the NIASD:

I - Presentation by Dr. Jan Willem Foppen of UNESCO-IHE (Delft, Holland) about that institution and the courses its offers under the MENA Scholarship Programme, followed by the lecture:



'Little Bugs in Groundwater'

We all know there are bugs, like bacteria and protozoa, in groundwater, but what do we really know? Which ones are found deep down in the ground, what are concentrations, how are they transported and how long do they reside in our precious groundwater sources? Foppen answers these questions using some juicy cases to increase your appetite. Although a lot is known about bugs in groundwater, fundamental questions remain. Foppen will provide an overview of these issues and talk about ongoing research at UNESCO-IHE.

II - Presentation by Dr. Abbas Farshad of the International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC, Enschede, Holland) about that institution and the courses its offers under the MENA Scholarship Programme, followed by the lecture:

'Geo-Information for Desertification'

It is estimated that 1/3 of the earth's land surface (4 billion hectares) is threatened by desertification, affecting over 250 million people. More than 110 countries have drylands that are potentially threatened by desertification (wind action, salinization). Today the world is facing a greater water crisis than ever. Droughts of lesser magnitude are resulting in greater impact.



The results of projects to combat desertification undertaken over the last 40 years have been mixed. One reason for this is probably that technical or technological approaches have taken precedence over the sociological approach. Geo-information in its broad sense (based on both biophysical and socio-economic-cultural data) will help us develop early warning systems leading to hazard/risk mitigation. ITC aims to build partnerships which promote awareness and strengthen capacity building in relevant institutes.

Language: English

Location: NIASD, Farabi Street 85, East Mezzeh (near the Greek Embassy)

*Time: **19:00h***

Information: Telephone: 6120515, Email: assistant@niasd.org

See for more information about the MENA Scholarship Programme (fact sheet, course list and application form): www.niasd.org. See also the website of the Royal Netherlands Embassy www.mfa.nl/dmc, English version, under the link 'news'.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: 15 MARCH 2008 !!!