

*The Netherlands Institute for Academic Studies in Damascus (NIASD) and
Department of Zoology*

have the pleasure to invite you for the lecture:

**Fascination for salamanders and newts: three visions,
one passion**

- Lecture by Max Sparreboom, Frank Pasmans and Sergé Bogaerts -



Prof. dr Max Sparreboom (1951) is director of the International Institute for Asian Studies in Leiden, the Netherlands. He started his academic career in the languages and cultures of South Asia. Apart from Asian Studies, his academic interests include the biology of amphibians of Europe and Asia. He has published on the reproductive behaviour of salamanders in Europe and Asia and was visiting professor at the Chengdu Institute of Biology in Chengdu, China.

Prof. dr. Frank Pasmans (1974), veterinarian, is director of the Laboratory of Veterinary Bacteriology and Mycology of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Ghent University, Belgium. Besides, he is head of the amphibian and reptile diseases research group and clinic at the same institute. His main research interest is the study into host-pathogen interactions of bacteria and fungi with different animal host species. Frank Pasmans is an enthusiastic amateur field herpetologist, focusing on Mediterranean and Middle Eastern herpetofauna.

Ms. Sci. Biol. Sergé Bogaerts (1968) is ecological advisor for the Directorate-General (Rijkswaterstaat) of the Netherlands Ministry of Transport, Public Works and Water Management (VenW) dealing with national and international nature protection laws. His scientific interests cover the herpetofauna of the Mediterranean and Middle East, with emphasis on salamanders and skinks. He publishes on different aspects of these species, from captive breeding reports, ecology, distribution to taxonomical revisions.

**February 2nd, 2009, 10:00h, Third Auditorium (Physics), Faculty of Science,
Damascus University**

The lecture on Amphibians in the Middle East consists of three separate presentations of approximately 20 minutes duration each. One will deal with the current knowledge of salamanders in the Near East (Bogaerts), one on a fungal disease affecting frogs and salamanders world wide (Pasmans); the final presentation will give an introduction to the reproductive behaviour of salamanders (Sparreboom). All presentations will be in English (translated in Arabic) and are lavishly illustrated with slides.

Language: English – with Arabic translation

Location: Third Auditorium (Physics), Faculty of Science, Damascus University

Time: 10:00h

Information: Telephone: 6117622, Email: assistant@niasd.org