

THE HAGUE - WORLD LIBRARY CAPITAL – connects libraries worldwide with The Hague

On 14th of April 2011 'The Hague - World Library Capital' has officially been launched by alderman Ingrid van Engelshoven Education and Services and the president of the international library association IFLA, Ellen Tise. The launch took place on the occasion of the IFLA Presidential Meeting 'Libraries driving Access to Knowledge', during a reception offered by the municipality of The Hague, in the Central Public Library.



IFLA president Ellen Tise accepted the title of The Hague – World Capital wholeheartedly and encouraged further cooperation. The launch was attended by the 175 participants of the Presidential Meeting, including forty organizations of the new network.

Why is The Hague World Library Capital? What will the network do?

International city

The Hague is an international city. This is not only expressed in the field of peace and justice but also visible in the field of libraries. A large number of international organisations active in the field of libraries, information and knowledge are based in The Hague. In fact, the city is even deliberately chosen for its concentration of international advocacy and library development. Dutch library organisations working at the national level, located in The Hague are almost naturally also international in their orientation, activities and contacts. This is also true for The Hague Public Library and many other libraries in The Hague.

Library community

Libraries defend freedom of expression, the right to information, equal access to a diversity of sources and aim at contributing to knowledge, culture and development in a democratic and well-informed society. Through facilitating dialogue and serving as a meeting place, Libraries are in tune with many multicultural aspects now and historically, and reach many groups in society. Libraries are global. Worldwide libraries work for the free flow of ideas, science and culture; they stimulate reading and information literacy and cultural understanding. The mission of libraries fits well with the ambition of The Hague as international city of peace and justice.

World Library Capital

The Hague is the only true World library capital. Nowhere else is there a city home to so many major international library organisations, such as IFLA, EBLIDA, LIBER, Europeana etc. Here the interests of libraries and their policies are formulated and defended, especially at international level. Here new concepts and services for citizens worldwide are developed and distributed. The Hague benefits directly from this international expertise and, vice versa, its international image strengthens the visibility of the library world.

Special network

These are the reasons why FOBID Netherlands Library Forum has started the initiative for The Hague – World Library Capital. It unites The Hague and the (international) library community. The intention of The Hague – World Library Capital is the creation of a network of all kinds of library organisations working on advocacy and the development of libraries in an international context, based in The Hague. These approx. 75 library organisations and The Hague can benefit from the wider network and expertise. They can include their activities in a central calendar and label them The Hague – World Library Capital. In this way a wider promotion and reach is facilitated. The first edition of the calendar will appear in May on the [FOBID website](#)

A number of organisations have already expressed their support of the network: IFLA, EBLIDA, the National Library, the libraries of the Peace Palace, of the Parliament, of the International Institute for Social Studies, and the Hague Public Library. The City of The Hague has provided start funding, with which a logo, invitations and the first meetings are prepared. The autumn meeting of the network will take place during Open Access week 24-30 October 2011.

Committee of Recommendation

Mag. Gerald Leitner, president EBLIDA, European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations

Anja Overhoff, director The Hague Marketing

Drs. Bas Savenije, director Koninklijke Bibliotheek, National Library of the Netherlands

Ellen Tise, president IFLA, International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

Drs. Jeroen Vervliet, director Peace Palace Library

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