



## Foundation Academic Chair Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said

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### Special Professor Academic Chair 'Quantitative Water Management in Semi-Arid Regions'

Prof. Dr. R.J. Schotting

## PRESS RELEASE

### Inaugural Lecture Prof. Dr. Ruud J. Schotting as Sultan Qaboos Academic Chair Extraordinary Professor on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009

### *International Water Seminar Will Precede Lecture*

The Hague/Brussels, 27<sup>th</sup> February 2009

**The Foundation Academic Chair Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said (SQAC) and Roosevelt Academy/University of Utrecht are pleased to announce the Inaugural Lecture of Prof. Dr. Ruud J. Schotting, Extraordinary Professor of the 'Quantitative Water Management in Semi-Arid Regions' Academic Chair.**

The Inaugural Lecture takes place on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009 at 16.15 hours in the University Hall in Utrecht. At 12.00 hours, in the framework of this ceremony, the seminar 'The Sultan Qaboos Academic Chair – Quantitative Water Management: Relevant Contributions to Society' is organized, opened by SQAC Chairman and former Dutch Prime Minister Mr. Andries van Agt. During the seminar academics, the Netherlands Water Partnership (NWP), the Sultan Qaboos University and the Dutch Directorate-General for Public Works and Water Management will share their experiences and insights regarding water management with the audience.

*"The seminar and the Inaugural Lecture are an important step in the development of the Sultan Qaboos Academic Chair which was personally presented to the Sovereign of Oman, Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said, by Dutch Prime Minister Dr. Jan Peter Balkenende during his visit to the Sultanate in November 2005. The Academic Chair, a Dutch initiative, was established in honor of the Sultan's 35-year reign and is sponsored by Dutch and international companies and organizations. Since his appointment as Sultan Qaboos Academic Chair Professor in September 2007 Professor Schotting has been involved in several water projects, not only in Oman but also in among others Algeria, Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh", says Mr. Van Agt.*

The seminar is also a first concrete cooperation opportunity for the Academic Chair with the NWP. *"During my most recent visit to Oman at the end of January 2009 – in the framework of the official visit of Dutch*

*Crown Prince Willem-Alexander and Princess Máxima to the Gulf State – the Netherlands Water Platform suggested me to act as an 'academic catalyst' in the relations with the Omani authorities and Dutch investors",* states Professor Schotting, who has been nominated for the Utrecht University 2009 Teacher of the Year Prize by the university students.

The Academic Chair's principal sponsors are C. Steinweg Handelsveem B.V., InterContinental Hotels Group, PA International, Shell Representative Office Oman and Damen Schelde Naval Shipbuilding. Alcan Inc., Vitol Holding B.V. and Van Oord are co-sponsoring.

Dutch Minister of Education Ronald Plasterk and his Omani colleague of Higher Education, Dr. Rawya bint Saud bin Ahmed al Busaidiyah, are the Chair's Honorary Patrons.

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### **Note for the editors**

#### **About the Foundation Academic Chair Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said**

The establishment of the Academic Chair commemorates 35 years of unprecedented leadership of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said, in Oman and in the world. His contribution to world peace through mediation and to the understanding between different cultures and religions through education and inspiration is an example to all, according to His Excellency Dr. Jan Peter Balkenende, Prime Minister of the Netherlands, when he presented the Academic Chair to His Majesty during his visit to the Sultanate of Oman in November 2005. The Omani Minister of Higher Education, H.E. Dr. Rawya bint Saud bin Ahmed al Busaidiyah, and her Dutch counterpart the Minister of Education, Culture and Science, H.E. Ronald Plasterk, are Honorary Patrons of the Academic Chair.

*For further information on SQAC please contact Mr. Rio D. Praaning, General Secretary ACSQ, tel. (+32) (0)2 735 83 96.*

[www.sqac.org](http://www.sqac.org)

#### **About Roosevelt Academy**

Roosevelt Academy (RA) is a high level liberal arts & sciences university college, offering courses in Arts & Humanities, Social Sciences, and Science. Located conveniently in the center of Middelburg, the capital city of the Province of Zeeland, RA is home to 600 students of whom approximately 400 are Dutch or Flemish, while the remaining student body covers a wide range of nationalities. Founded jointly by Utrecht University and the Hogeschool Zeeland, RA is one of Utrecht University's international honors colleges. Roosevelt Academy students are registered officially in Utrecht and receive their honors degree from this highly-acclaimed institution, one of the oldest in the Netherlands.

*For further information on the RA please contact Mrs Anya Luscombe, RA Spokesperson, tel. (+31) (0)118 655 526.*

[www.roac.nl](http://www.roac.nl)