Programme

Online Alumni Open Day
3 October 2020
Online Alumni Open Day

#WAOD20

Programme

14.50 - 15.00 Registration
15.00 - 15.03 Opening
15.03 - 15.30 Panel discussion between Louise O. Fresco and Joris Lohman
15.30 - 15.33 Closing Plenary Part
15.33 - 15.55 Elective Sessions Round 1
15.55 - 16.00 Break
16.00 - 16.20 Elective Sessions Round 2
16.20 - 16.30 Chat Carousel
16.30 - 17.00 International Sessions
17.00 - 17.15 Chat Carousel
17.15 Closing

Plenary part

Prof. dr. ir. Louise O. Fresco, president of the executive board of Wageningen University & Research, and Joris Lohman MSc, director of Food Hub, will discuss the role of science and emotions in the current public debate. Based on current examples, they will delve deeper into this theme. The meeting will be conducted under the guidance of former spokesman for the WUR Executive Board, Simon Vink.

Activities

Panel discussions  WUR scientists
International sessions  Lectures of study circles & network groups

If you want to leave the lecture you are in, press F5. You will then return to the title overview. You are welcome to join another session right away. The Dutch lectures are not mentioned in the English programme. For the Dutch lectures, see the Dutch programme.
The New Silk Road: Trade, Development Aid, or Neo Colonialism?

Lecture by the Study Circle for Development Issues (SKOV)
Prof. dr. Meine Pieter van Dijk, Maastricht School of Management and the Beijing University of Civil Engineering and Architecture

China is becoming the world’s largest economy. To sustain this development, China builds the “New Silk Road”. Many developing and some developed countries signed up for it. It looks like a beneficial project, but the large loans to pay Chinese construction companies must be repaid with interest. In case of default, China becomes the owner of the facilities, for example a harbour in Sri Lanka. China is expanding its economic and political influence through the New Silk Road, also in Europe, Sub-Sahara Africa and Latin America.

Nature conservation 2.0: the need for a landscape approach for the conservation of biodiversity

David Kleijn, Professor of Plant Ecology and Nature Conservation at WUR

David Kleijn is a Professor of Plant Ecology and Nature Conservation at Wageningen University & Research. He concerns himself with the question of how we can effectively preserve and foster nature in a densely populated country where every piece of land has to be used for multiple things. Much of his research focuses on wild bees because this species group is deteriorating sharply due to human actions. On the other hand, humans are also highly dependent on it for, among other things, the pollination of many of our agricultural crops. Because traditional management has proved insufficiently effective, Kleijn is currently exploring the effectiveness of new forms of nature management that are based on an integrated approach at landscape level, carried out by all those involved: nature managers, farmers, water board, municipalities and the province. He puts this into practice in the South of Limburg at Geuldal.
A sustainable agricultural ecosystem on Mars to grow crops to feed future human Martians

Wieger Wamelink, Ecologist and exobiologist WUR

When humans are going to live for short or longer periods on Mars they will have to grow their own crops at the site. This will most likely be done indoors and belowground due to the harsh circumstances on Mars. We are investigating if crop growth is possible on Martian soil and if we can design a closed system to grow the crops and support human presence.
Near realtime monitoring of trees
Lecture by the Association for IT professionals in the agricultural domain (VIAS)
Cornelis Valk, CTO at NEO, Specialist in geo-ICT and earth observation

Het Boomregister (a joint effort of Wageningen Environmental Research, Geodan and NEO) finalized the third version of the Nationwide tree register of the Netherlands. Unlike the first versions which were rather static databases, it will be continuously updated using satellite imagery, height models, Open Data and crowd sourcing. We will demonstrate the power of near real time monitoring by showing the general methodology, a number of applications for our customers as well as the internal value of up to date tree information for monitoring other objects.

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How to re-connect with your own group?

*Sana Foday Kebba JATTA Gambia, MSc 1981, Soil Science & Water*

Learn how the 1981-1983 MSc group Soil Science & Water re-connected after some 37 years of almost total silence. Alumni from around 18 countries now hold monthly online get-togethers which they find both enjoyable and useful for networking. They will share their experiences on how they got the group back together but also like to hear experiences and ideas from others on re-connecting alumni groups.

Developing the circular economy across the globe

*Vojtech Vosecky, MSc 2017, Urban Environmental Management Technology, Policy and Entrepreneurial specialization, Circular Economy Changemaker and Board member of the Alumni Chapter Czech Republic*

Best practices from the Alumni Chapter Czech Republic and an alumnus perspective on developing the circular economy in Czech Republic and in the EU, followed by discussion.

How to follow your heart in your career development?

*Ikrom Mustofa, MSc 2017, Environmental Sciences, Director of Research and Survey PI AREA & Founder of GCI Foundation, Indonesia.*

Hear from alumnus Ikrom his experiences with alumni activities in Indonesia and how he came third in the 2020 Holland Alumni Video competition ‘Life after graduation’ with his personal story leading to setting up the GCI Foundation (declared the winner for best organisation-nomination on Environment Category in 2019). Ikrom closes his video with an appeal to all WUR alumni: “Wageningen alumni, wherever you are, keep working from your heart, keep contributing to your country”. Join him in a discussion.
Horticulture: challenges in China, finding answers together

Dr. XU Dan, MSc 2010 Organic Agriculture, Managing Director of Hortipolaris, China

Water management for environment, agriculture and flood prevention

Dr. ZHANG Cheng, MSc 2004 International Land and Water Management, General Director ICFM-IWHR, China

How viruses can change the animal husbandry in China and worldwide

Jan Cortenbach, Chief Technology Officer, De Heus Animal Nutrition

First African Swine Flu had major influence on the Chinese meat production and changed export streams. And a year later coronavirus changed consumption habits. Jan graduated in Animal Science in 1988. He worked in Mexico, Netherlands, Yemen, Indonesia, Colombia and Hungary in pigs, poultry as well as ruminant production. Since 1997 in China, respectively as project manager for the Dutch ministry in the Sino Dutch Animal Husbandry Training and Demonstration Centre and as COO of Biomin China. Since 2005 Jan is Chief Technical Officer for De Heus and is responsible for technical know-how transfer to/from JV partner Wellhope. He is honored with a Chinese Green card for his contribution in the Chinese animal husbandry development.
Alumni of Wageningen, for life

Thank you for joining the Online Alumni Open Day! See you at the Alumni Open Day in 2021.

Stay connected
WUR Connect: wurconnect.nl

University Fund Wageningen

University Fund Wageningen (UFW) highly values the relationship between WUR and its alumni and encourages alumni to partake in alumni networks worldwide. UFW facilitates the alumni department in organising content-related (networking) events for Wageningen alumni all over the world.

University Fund Wageningen, to connect for quality of life