



Invitation for the WECF Anniversary Conference



# Innovation for sustainability

## The crisis as opportunity

WECF celebrates its 15th anniversary and invites you to a debate with global and local leaders in sustainability

**Wednesday, 10th of June 2009**

**Location:** The Hague, Theater Concordia, Hoge Zand 42

Come and listen to critical analyses and inspiring ideas about the fundamental causes of the current economic crisis and how this may create an opportunity for a more sustainable world. Experts in the fields of economics, politics, science and technology will clarify the major issues. The emphasis of the debate will be on stimulating discussion on the initiatives been taken by women and men in the field of innovation. The panelists will present examples from the Netherlands and from WECF partner organisations in Western and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia.

**Join our afternoon debate, which will address the following questions:**

- How can initiatives taken by pioneers at the local level be translated to the national and international level. How will they lead to increased sustainability in the fields of energy and water, agriculture and consumer products?
- Financial representatives will suggest how greater investment can support and stimulate local economies and initiatives. Government representatives and politicians will address how barriers can be removed and people can be stimulated.

Special attention will be given to the role of women in their participation in sustainable innovation.

The keynote speech will be given by **Professor Noreena Hertz**, the well known economist and author, from the University of Cambridge, who is visiting Professor at Erasmus University of Rotterdam. She will present a critical analysis of the roots of the current economic crisis, and ways out towards a sustainable economy.

**The Netherlands Minister of Environment Jacqueline Cramer** will present her vision on how innovation can create a sustainable economy.

**Minister Bert Koenders of Development Cooperation** has been invited to give his views on the theme of the day.

*The sustainable future exists already – locally – how do we make it global:*

**Andy Schroeter, Director of Sunlabob**, winner of the Sasakawa sustainability award (UNEP) will tell us how even the poorest can afford light from solar energy.

**Looking Back and Looking Forward:**

Farewell to our **first president and founder Marie Kranendonk** and introducing our **new President Christine von Weizsäcker**

The closure of the WECF anniversary will be dedicated to the work of WECF founder and president of many years, Mrs. Marie Kranendonk, who has been the driving force behind the international network the past 15 years.

As there is already great interest in attending this event, we suggest you to register in advance.

The address for registration is [15jaar@wecf.eu](mailto:15jaar@wecf.eu)

Or call Annemarie Hekkers, WECF Utrecht: +31.302310300, or fax: +31.302310878

Please register before June 5 to enable us to plan the lunch and consumptions.

The final program of the day can be found at: [www.wecf.eu](http://www.wecf.eu)

No fees are charged for this conference, but contributions to our project and advocacy work are always very welcome of course. You can donate online at [www.wecf.eu](http://www.wecf.eu)

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