The International Neighbour Group
Monthly Programme
October 2008

The ING organizes activities for foreign staff members, postdocs, Ph.D. and M.Sc. students at Utrecht University and membership for them is automatic.

If you have not received the full Monthly Programme a few days ago and would like to do so, please register your email address by going to our website http://www.phys.uu.nl/~ing/ and click on “please register” on the home page.

You will then get the information on how to join these events.

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If you book for something and you are accepted, please do turn up!
We could not accept 12 people for the walk on Sunday, 21st September because numbers were limited. On the day, 10 people who had been accepted did not come!
**Town walk in Utrecht “Hofjes en Kameren”**

The guide will take you on a tour of courtyards and almshouses. A tour taking in little courtyards, many of them situated in unexpected places, such as down an alleyway or behind a row of houses. Almshouses were set up for the poor by Utrecht's wealthy classes and are often no larger than a single room.

**ING Excursion to the Deltaworks**

**History.**

Already in 1937 studies showed that safety in many parts of the Netherlands could not be guaranteed at times of storms and high sea levels. In the densely populated areas near the river mouths of the Rhine, the Meuse, and the Schelde, it proved very difficult to build new dikes or strengthen the original ones. The first solution was to close all the river mouths: the Western Schelde, the Eastern Schelde, the Haringvliet, and the Brouwershavense Gat. This proposal was christened 'the Deltaplan'. In 1950, the first river mouths of the Brieles' Gat and the Botlek were closed. The Brielse Maas became a freshwater basin. This not only made the area safer, but it also provided Voorne with a freshwater supply. The plan was to build the remaining dams in the following decades. Unfortunately though, the infamous flood of 1953 prevented this from happening. Nearly two thousand people died and more than 150,000 hectares of land were flooded. People soon became aware that something had to be done, and very, very quickly.

Twenty days after the flood of 1953, the Delta commission was inaugurated. The commission would give advice about the execution of the Deltaplan, that would, in the long run, increase the safety of the Delta area. Although safety was the number one priority, the seaways De Nieuwe Waterweg and the Western Schelde would have to stay open, because of the economic importance of the ports of Rotterdam and Antwerp. In order to be able to build dams in the rivers' mouths, some auxiliary dams would first have to be built in the Zandkreek, the Krammer, the Grevelingen, and the Volkerak. These dams were known as 'compartment dams', since they would divide the large area of water into multiple compartments. In 1959, the Delta Law was passed, in order to organise the construction of the dams. The building of the 'Deltaworks' was such an enormous project, that it was sometimes referred to as the 'eighth wonder of the world' - and not without good reason.

During the excursion we will visit the Haringvliet Dam, make a stop at the storm surge barrier of the Eastern Scheldt and in the afternoon we will visit one of the characteristic old towns in the area (most probably Veere).
Further information on the Delta Works: [www.deltawerken.com/deltaworks](http://www.deltawerken.com/deltaworks)

**ING Bowling evening**

On Tuesday October 28th, the ING organizes this sporty activity of which we hope many of you will attend. Nine lanes have been booked at one of Utrecht's bowling halls, so that you can not only enjoy each others' company but might 'fight' each other on the bowling lanes as well! The games will start at 20.00 hrs and will last for two hours - so time enough to get back at those who may have beaten you!

There is room for nine teams of 7 people. You may register individually and then I will make the teams, but you may also register with an entire team (let me know what you want to call your team!). I do advise you to register as soon as possible. This fun and maybe slightly competitive evening will cost you €5 except the drinks and snacks that you order (but you are not allowed to bring your own). There will of course be an award for the best and for the worst team!

**A French Dinner**

The I.N.G. cookery group invites you to come and enjoy our French dinner. We shall start with salad Niçoise followed by boeuf bourguignon with stokbrood with garlic and then crepes Suzette. Beer, red and white wine and soft drinks will be available as usual.

**Social get togethers (Borrel)**

The social get togethers are held on Wednesday evenings from 21:00 to 22.00 at a Cafe

**Parent and Child Playgroup**

We are currently meeting on Wednesday afternoons from 16.00 to 17.30 at a school gymnasium near the centre of Utrecht (Deken Roesstraat, in front of the entrance you will find a lady beetle on the concrete). Each week we try to create a stimulating environment from the available equipment. The children can climb, swing, hop, run, slide, jump, and explore their physical abilities in a playful atmosphere. Fun and playing with other children are the main objectives. Babies are also welcome to observe or make their first steps. The children presently range in age from two months to four years. Families who attended the playgroup this year are from Germany, Iran, Finland, and China.
The group is open to anybody who has time and wants to enjoy a playful afternoon with the children and babies and a chat with other parents. If you wish to join us, even for just every once in a while, feel free to contact:

**Dutch language classes**

Dutch classes have already started. The next group will start at the end of January 2009.

**The ING has its own website:**
[http://www.phys.uu.nl/~ing/](http://www.phys.uu.nl/~ing/)

Our web site gives the latest information about the ING activities. You can download and print a copy of the latest ING monthly programme. There are some maps on how to find places for ING activities. There is also much general information about living in Holland and links to other sites giving information in English. You can register your email address with the ING.

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organizes activities for foreign staff members, postdocs, Ph.D. and M.Sc. students at Utrecht University and membership for them is automatic. The ING is a network of volunteers all of whom work at, or are connected with, Utrecht University. For some activities such as excursions and dinners the numbers are limited and you need to register