

Florida Earth Programs at a Glance

International Programs

US-Netherlands Connection Project (USNC)

Begun in 2007, USNC is a knowledge exchange platform that develops delegations to share knowledge between the two countries through United States visits to the Netherlands, Dutch visits to the US, online knowledge portals and other mechanisms of discovery. Looking at the expertise available in each nation in water resources and infrastructure, climate adaptation and ecological science and policy, Florida Earth arranges logistics, recruits and assembles delegations, leads the visits and maintains follow-up with alumni. Two separate programs highlight this dynamic set of knowledge exchange mechanisms.

Professional Teams

The USNC Professional Teams are composed of agency, industry, academic and NGO participants interested in USNC project disciplines. Depending on participants' interests, week long agendas reflect the focus of the team. More information on this program is found at <http://floridaeearth.org/usncpt>.

Academic Teams

Under development, the USNC Academic Teams will be composed of PhD candidates from the major environmental institutes at top universities in both the United States and the Netherlands. From an international perspective, teams from both the US and the Netherlands will contain students from many countries with 20% or more from other nations and up to 80% international students from Netherlands institutes. USNC Academic Teams spend seven to ten days in the knowledge exchange country, studying a singular focus of the USNC suite of disciplines. More information on this program is found at <http://floridaeearth.org/usncat>.

The UNESCO-IHE/Florida Earth Partnership

Begun in 2005, the UNESCO-IHE/Florida Earth Partnership brings international students from all over the globe to study water-related disciplines in Florida. UNESCO-IHE, also called the Institute for Water Education, is the largest graduate level institution in the world, awarding MSc and PhD degrees in water-related disciplines to students primarily from developing countries. Over 120 alumni from over forty countries have participated in the Partnership's program, which focuses on students studying Hydroinformatics (modeling). In May and June of 2012, Florida Earth hosted 27 students from 20 countries. For more information, see <http://floridaeearth.org/ihestudents2012>.



The Water Law Course (WLC)

The Water Law Course is a partnership between Florida Earth and St. Thomas University's School of Law that brings law students from participating law schools to the Netherlands to compare US water law and European water law. Operated at UNESCO-IHE, WLC began as a pilot program with St. Thomas students in 2011 and doubled in size in 2012 with the addition of Barry and Ave Maria students. In 2013, WLC will add other law schools throughout the US.



The 2012 USNC Professional Team at Rijkswaterstaat in the Hague



Dr. Brian Helmuth, Northeastern University (right), Lindene Patton, Zurich Insurance, and Jeff More, of the Accord Group at the Maeslant Barrier



The 2012 UNESCO-IHE/Florida Earth Hydroinformatics students with Dr. Tom Armstrong, ED of the White House USGCRP and Lynn Scarlett, former Asst. Secretary of the Department of Interior.



St. Thomas, Barry and Ave Maria University Schools of Law students and UNESCO-IHE students listen intently at Florida Earth lectures given in Delft at UNESCO-IHE