

2021 Annual Report Rotary Scholarship Program IHE Delft

Executive Summary

The Rotary-scholarship program at IHE Delft Institute for Water Education that was established in 2011 has gone from strength to strength in 2021, despite the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has created quite some challenges for the students.

These challenges were both on the academic side (education program went on-line) as well as on the social side (concerns about family and friends back home, travel restrictions and quarantine requirements for the incoming 2021-2023 cohort). The students have all dealt with these challenges in an extremely resilient, determined and positive manner. The results of these efforts speak for itself: all 12 Rotary-sponsored IHE-students from the 2019-2021 cohort successfully graduated this year!

Main highlights of the year were:

All Year	Rotary host-counselor support in COVID-19 pandemic times
April 2021	IHE Delft Graduation ceremony
Aug 2021	Social activity for the Rotary-sponsored MSc students
Sept 2021	First Corporate Sponsoring via Rotary Club
Oct 2021	14 new Rotary-sponsored MSc students arriving, selected from over 60 applications and all financed with Global Grants
Nov 2021	“Empowering Girls” event – Rotary IHE Alumni making an impact
Dec 2021	4 Rotary sponsored “Water Cooperation and Diplomacy (WCD)” joint program arriving
Dec 2021	Rotary Scholarship application process for 2022 has gone live, aiming for 14 scholarships

Each of the above highlights is described in chronological order in a bit more detail below.



The Rotary program has now sponsored 146 IHE Delft students to date

All Year – Rotary host-counselor support in COVID-19 pandemic times

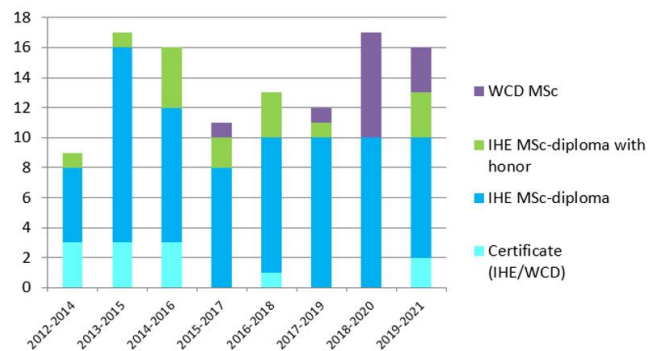
In times of crisis, it is important to take care of each other. The Rotary-IHE committee in the Netherlands and the Dutch Rotary host-counselors checked in regularly on all the Rotary-sponsored students at IHE Delft in virtual Zoom connects to see how they all are doing, how their families are doing back home and whether Rotary can be of any help and support. These are times of unprecedented challenges and together we will get through. We were impressed by the determination and resilience of our students. They are on a mission to obtain their MSc diploma, and they all will succeed!



Rotary Host-Counselor support in Corona times

April 2021 - IHE Delft Graduation Ceremony

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the graduation celebration of all 2019-2021 Rotary-sponsored IHE-students could not take place in the usual format (academic cortege from IHE Delft to the "Oude Kerk" in Delft for the formal ceremony, followed by a swinging party). To give credit to all graduating students, IHE Delft turned this into a personalized alternative, in which all COVID-19 measures could be honored and in which the students received their diploma with well-deserved appreciation. This was followed by an online plenary celebration live-stream. An excellent Corona-proof alternative of the yearly Graduation Ceremony!



IHE Delft Graduation ceremony in Corona times

August 2021 – Social activity for the Rotary-sponsored MSc students

For each new group of Rotary-sponsored IHE Delft students, a so-called “Get-Together_Meeting” is held shortly after the start of their degree. The purpose of this is to allow both Host Counselors and students, while enjoying a snack and a drink, to get better acquainted with each other. Thanks to the esteemed Fellow Rotarian Hilde Bos-Hagens of RC Lisse-Bollenstreek, who made her home available three times prior, we were able to enjoy pleasant meetings in a homely atmosphere each time around. Due to the ongoing Pandemic, it wasn’t possible to arrange a meeting earlier than August 2021 for the cohort of 2020.



September 2021 – First Corporate Sponsoring via Rotary Club

For the funding of the 2021-2023 cohort, we were successful for the first time to secure corporate funding support from a Dutch sewage management company (van der Velden Rioolbeheer) through Rotary Club Wamel Maas en Waal (District 1550).



The sponsoring is part of the company’s Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) strategy that links seamlessly to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the Rotary Scholarship program at IHE Delft.

We sincerely hope this funding example will be replicated by many other companies and Rotary Clubs in future years to come.

October 2021 - 14 new Rotary-sponsored MSc students arrived

In late October the 2021-2023 cohort of Rotary-sponsored students arrived in Delft. Due to the COVID-19 measures, they were required to go straight from the airport into a 10 day quarantine in their new accommodation. IHE Delft is to be commended on the preparations for this; all students were escorted by a senior student (in a corona-proof manner) to their new home, where a complete welcome-package (food, utensils, internet, telephone card etc...) was waiting for them to get started and to get through. It was impressive to experience the positive and upbeat atmosphere and attitude of the students. The curriculum has started on-line and IHE Delft is revisiting if, how and when some can go back to in-class, corona volente.



2021 Rotary-sponsored IHE-students

IHE Delft student	Country
Avellar Montezuma	Brazil
Jennife Dumalag-Borong	Philippines
Janani Ravindran	India
Tova Rose Crystal	USA
Ivonne Liere Quevedo	Guatemala
Gerald Abak Odur	Uganda
Kevin Yazbeck	Lebanon
Alvaro Gustavo Antezana López	Bolivia
Sajib Manash Mahanta	India
Maria Alice Ferreira Borges	Brazil
Amancio III Melad	Philippines
Daniel Fernando Blanco Gómez	Colombia
Adriana Trejo	México
Derrick Mirindi	Congo

2021 Rotary-sponsored IHE-students

Like in previous years, each Rotary-sponsored student has been assigned to a Dutch Rotary host-counselor for non-academic support and to ensure the connect to the broader Rotary organization. To date, some 70 Dutch Rotarians from 20 different clubs in the Netherlands have been host-counselor and many close friendships and connections have been made this way. In this strange year, the first connects had to be predominantly virtual, but we are hoping we can make up for that in 2022!

November 2021 - “Empowering Girls” event – Rotary IHE Alumni making an impact

Every year, Rotarians give a dozen of young people, currently mostly women, the opportunity to work towards a masters’ degree in Water Management at the IHE as an addition to their studies. These Scholarships are supported by Major Donors, Dutch RC’s and Districts, Local RC’s and Districts of the students and the Rotary Foundation. Upon return to their country, these women have a strong(er) position due to their education and are role models to their environment. Between November 14 and 19, various female speakers shared their stories with us, in order to draw extra attention to their journey of progress. One of them was IHE Delft master’s student Qurratulain (Ain) Contractor, who discovered the other side of India when she started working on the availability of water in the slums at the time of the first lockdown.



Discovering Through Water



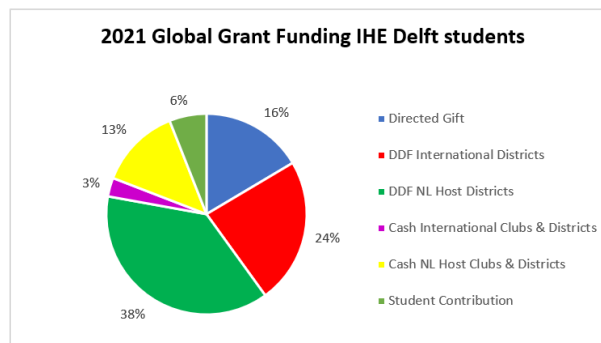
December 2021 - 4 new Rotary-sponsored WCD MSc students arrived

Independent of the main scholarship program, Rotary has also been sponsoring 16 students for an 18-month joint “Water Cooperation and Diplomacy (WCD)” program between the University of Peace (Costa Rica), IHE Delft and State University of Oregon. All students come from the Central Asia area. The local D1600 Rotary organization provides host-counselor support for these students during their stay at IHE Delft.

2021 Financial Support & way forward for 2022

A major highlight in 2021 was our ability to fund the 14 scholarships for the students of the 2021-2023 cohort. This is the third year that all students are funded by individual “Global Grants”, receiving financial support from many Rotary Clubs, DDF funds as well as Directed Gifts. A total sum of some \$740,000 of Global Grants were raised as follows:

Directed Gift	\$121.750
DDF International Districts	\$173.870
DDF NL Host Districts	\$279.390
Cash International Clubs & Districts	\$22.244
Cash NL Host Clubs & Districts	\$97.135
Student Contribution	\$44.300
TOTAL	\$738.689



To organize and carry this out was a major effort. Nevertheless, we are grateful and would like to thank all of you who provided the (financial) support to make this a reality!! We will heavily rely and depend on similar financial support in the years to come.

We strongly advocate as much as possible that Rotary Clubs & Districts fully sponsor their own candidate, that way there is no further selection by us. But at the same time, we are more than happy to facilitate the Global Grant application process to make it easier for all involved.

We are pleased to see that the contributions from the sending Rotary Clubs and Districts went up from 21% to 38% in 2021. This reflects an increased awareness and commitment from the scholarship program worldwide. Based on this commitment, we anticipate in 2022 the sponsoring Rotary Club and the student together to fund \$5,000 and to secure DDF-funds in their district of at least \$5,000. In this case we will arrange for the additional funding for the selected students. Please note that the total costs of each scholarship are now \$45,000 per student. With the help from all of you, we can sustain the future of this very successful partnership. Do not hesitate to contact us!!

Publication of the Rotary IHE Delft Global Grant Scholarship-committee: Wim Goedendorp (chair), Henk Jaap Kloosterman, Carlo Nash, Guy Alaerts and Bas Hendriksen, December 2021

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