



CARIBBEAN NETHERLANDS SCIENCE INSTITUTE

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Newsletter

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Newsletter of the Caribbean Netherlands Science Institute at St Eustatius (CNSI)

King and Queen visit CNSI Science and Project Fair

On 15 November 2013 the King and Queen of the Netherlands visited the science and project fair at St Eustatius that also marked the start of CNSI at the island. Students of primary and secondary schools of the island prepared 10 beautiful presentations on subjects of importance to St Eustatius society today. Subjects included: volcanism, sea life, the water cycle, agriculture, quality education and sustainable development (agriculture and energy). The King and Queen and their retinue, which included the Island Governor of St Eustatius and the Minister of Internal Affairs (the former Minister of Education, Culture and Science who before 2010 was one of the first to start discussions about a scientific institute in the Caribbean Netherlands), praised the high quality of the presentations and the eloquence of the students.



NWO Call for Proposals Caribbean Research results in 45 applications

On 15 October 2013 the first call for proposals Caribbean Research closed. The call resulted in 45 applications in the fields of Earth and Life Sciences, Social Sciences, and Humanities. 20% of the applications are of a multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary nature. Most applications propose to make use of CNSI facilities in support of the research.

The call amounts to a total € 5 million, meaning that about 7 to 8 applications may be financed. In 2014 NWO will issue a second call for proposals Caribbean Research, also amounting to a total of € 5 million.



Renovation CNSI building well on track

The renovation of the CNSI headquarters started in September and is expected to be completed in March 2014. On the occasion of the official opening of CNSI a scientific workshop / symposium will be organized, to be attended by the members of the CNSI Steering Group.



Pelagia carrying equipment for CNSI to St Eustatius



NIOZ research vessel Pelagia will call at St Eustatius on 7 – 9 December 2013. To welcome the Pelagia and her crew there will be an official reception on board the ship on 7 December for invited guests. On 8 December the Pelagia will hold 'Open Ship' for the people of St Eustatius and all interested parties. On 9 December the Pelagia will cruise around the island taking school children and others interested for a scientific exposé. The Pelagia is at present carrying a container full of essential equipment for CNSI.

CNSI explores possibilities for cooperation with UNESCO

CNSI chairman and CNSI director visited UNESCO Paris to learn about the interest of UNESCO in the Caribbean. UNESCO may assist CNSI by involving its networks and suggesting ideas especially for sustainable development strategies for (small) Caribbean islands. Concrete leads for cooperation followed from meetings with staff from UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Committee (IOC), which had a sub-programme on the Caribbean (IOCaribe),

UNESCO's Man and Biosphere programme (MAB), which aim is to depart from the interaction between man and nature as the basis for sustainable socioeconomic and ecological development, and UNESCO's Ocean Literacy project to educate school children about the importance of the sea. At a dinner hosted by the Dutch ambassador to UNESCO representatives of different Caribbean islands were present. They urged for inter Caribbean cooperation and attention for Climate Change and disaster mitigation.

Naturalis Biodiversity Centre visits St Eustatius

A team from Naturalis, the museum of natural history in Leiden, visited St Eustatius to talk with local schools and other parties relevant to the scientific, educational and outreach activities of Naturalis and CNSI. They looked at the potential for setting up a natural history exposition in the CNSI building that could contribute to training programmes for the local schools.

Naturalis has taken the lead in setting up a CNSI User Group on Education and Outreach. Two other User Groups are coordinated by IMARES Wageningen UR (Earth and Life Sciences) and the Royal Netherlands Institute for Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies – KITLV (Social Sciences and Humanities).

