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#### Special Professor Academic Chair 'Quantitative Water Management in Semi-Arid Regions'

Prof. Dr. R.J. Schotting

## Foundation Academic Chair Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said

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### Press Release

#### **Relationship Oman and The Netherlands grows stronger Professor for Water Management appointed at Roosevelt Academy**

The Hague/Middelburg, 30 August 2007

**The Foundation Academic Chair Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said (ACSQ) and Roosevelt Academy/Utrecht University are pleased to announce the appointment of Professor Dr. Ruud J. Schotting as Professor of the Academic Chair 'Quantitative Water Management in Semi-Arid Regions' at the Roosevelt Academy in Middelburg, The Netherlands.**

Prof. Dr. Schotting is appointed for an initial period of 5 years, starting on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2007. He is Associate Professor of Environmental Hydro(geo)logy at Utrecht University and Senior Advisor of TNO and has extensive experience in national and international scientific research projects. Dean of the Roosevelt Academy, Prof. Dr. Hans Adriaansens: *"This Chair is a true asset to the Roosevelt Academy. Our position in and close relationship with the community of Zeeland where the various aspects of water play an important role, made this particular research area a natural choice. The Academy looks forward to working with such an excellent scholar."*

The Chair focuses on research related to fundamental hydro(geo)logical problems and on specific problems of (semi-)arid regions. Typical examples are management of seawater intrusion to optimize protection of fresh water resources, industrial groundwater and surface water contamination, re-use of various sorts of water, e.g. for different environmental activities. Prof. Dr. Schotting: *"I have always had the dream to devote my life to work on relevant scientific water problems. Something really useful for society. This Chair provides this unique opportunity by bridging the gap between the wet/deltaic world of The Netherlands and the semi-arid world of Oman."*

Mr. Rio D. Praaning, General Secretary of the ACSQ Foundation: *"His Majesty Sultan Qaboos was ahead of his time when in 1988 he declared his country's water resources as a natural wealth."* The contribution of His Majesty the Sultan to human well-being through concern for both human and natural life led to the naming of the Chair; His Majesty's support for the Gulf-European Union and specifically the Omani-Dutch relationship led to His Majesty's consent to name the Academic Chair after him. Oman is currently diversifying its economy away from oil and gas that continue to earn the major part of its budget. Rapidly increasing investments are made in the public and private sectors. Water plays a crucial role in this wide-ranging development.



The Academic Chair is sponsored by its initial patrons C. Steinweg Handelsveem B.V., Intercontinental Hotels Group, PA International, Shell Representative Office Oman and Schelde Naval Shipbuilding. Co-sponsors of the Chair are Alcan Inc., Vitol Holding B.V. and Van Oord.

Interested parties are welcome to attend the official inauguration ceremony at the historic location of the Roosevelt Academy in Middelburg this fall. The inaugural speech will be followed by a bilateral seminar in January 2008 on the common challenges posed by water for The Netherlands and Oman.

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#### **Note for the editors:**

##### **About the Foundation Academic Chair Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said**

The establishment of the Academic Chair commemorates 35 years of unprecedented leadership of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said Al Said, in Oman and in the world. His contribution to world peace through mediation and to the understanding between different cultures and religions through education and inspiration is an example to all, according to His Excellency Dr. Jan Peter Balkenende, Prime Minister of the Netherlands, when he presented the Academic Chair to His Majesty during his visit to the Sultanate of Oman in November 2005. The Omani Minister of Higher Education, H.E. Dr. Rawya bint Saud bin Ahmed al Busaidiyah, and her Dutch counterpart the Minister of Education, Culture and Science, H.E. Ronald Plasterk, are Honorary Patrons of the Academic Chair.

*For further information on ACSQ please contact Mr. Rio D. Praaning, General Secretary ACSQ, tel. (+32) (0)2 735 83 96.*

##### **About Roosevelt Academy**

Roosevelt Academy (RA) is a high level liberal arts & sciences university college, offering courses in Arts & Humanities, Social Sciences, and Science. Located conveniently in the center of Middelburg, the capital city of the Province of Zeeland, RA is home to 600 students of whom approximately 400 are Dutch or Flemish, while the remaining student body covers a wide range of nationalities. Founded jointly by Utrecht University and the Hogeschool Zeeland, RA is one of Utrecht University's international honors colleges. Roosevelt Academy students are registered officially in Utrecht and receive their honors degree from this highly-acclaimed institution, one of the oldest in the Netherlands.

*For further information on the RA please contact Prof. Dr. Hans Adriaansens, Dean Roosevelt Academy, tel. (+31) (0)118 65 55 07.*

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