



# The Sarphati Sanitation Awards 2015

Amsterdam, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**Interview with Kenneth Comvalius, Managing Director World Waternet  
(Partner of the Sarphati Sanitation Awards)**

## **Motivation**

*World Waternet became partner of the Sarphati Sanitation Awards because we believe it is very important to draw attention to (the lack of proper) sanitation worldwide. The Awards are a great way of setting sanitation in the spotlight. Without adequate sanitation, public health suffers. Dr. Sarphati was the first to make the connection between proper sanitation, the collection of waste and public health in the city of Amsterdam. His achievements led to lasting improvements to the living conditions of the poor in the city.*

## **Exposure**

*The Sarphati Sanitation Awards generate much needed exposure to this issue, and challenges parties to put more effort into solving the problem of lack of proper sanitation worldwide. This is one of the reasons World Waternet proposed to supplement the award for **Young Entrepreneurs** with a second award for **Lifetime Achievement**. Long term commitment and achievement in providing adequate sanitation for the poor deserves recognition as well. Two awards create twice as much exposure for sanitation, which should remain in focus! Both awards will be presented by the Mayor of Amsterdam, Mr. Eberhard van der Laan, indicating their importance.*

## **Awareness**

*Sadly, in many developing countries for lack of awareness people accept their current circumstance and are not known with the fact that lack of sanitation has a major and negative influence on their quality of life . Creating awareness among the population and the stakeholders that things can change with safe water and adequate sanitation is crucial! When this is broadly understood, change begins and lives improve.*

## **Flooding**

*Floods are also a major problem in some countries, forming a significant threat to public health which must be addressed. This is one of the goals of World Waternet, to strengthen the capacity of water organizations in underdeveloped regions through knowledge dissemination. We provide governments and public organizations with advice, coaching and training in order to address the water and sanitation challenges due to flooding.*

## **Integrated Approach**

*The consequences of climate change, such as long-term drought and sudden flooding, increasingly require an integrated approach to devise sustainable solutions. The effective and efficient management of the entire water cycle demands specific knowledge and expertise. World Waternet is committed to building long-term relationships with partner organizations and is focusing on Africa in the coming years. By sharing knowledge, we try to contribute to a world where all people have access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitary facilities.*

**Please join us at the 2015 Sarphati Sanitation Awards, part of the Opening Ceremony of the AIWW on November 2<sup>nd</sup>!**

---