Working in partnership towards a better water future
Who we are

Water is a serious challenge everywhere. Too many people remain without access to water and sanitation. This makes their lives difficult: their health suffers; prosperity remains elusive. At IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, we work to change this. Our vision: a world free of poverty and injustice in which people manage their water and environmental resources sustainably and equitably.

IHE Delft is the largest international graduate water education institute in the world. Since the start in 1957, more than 23,000 water professionals from 190 countries have taken part in our education and training programmes spanning all water-related fields.

What we do

At IHE Delft, we address water and sanitation challenges through education, research and capacity development, at global, regional, national, local and even microscopic scales – the latter in our laboratories. We focus on fields such as social sciences, engineering, and more. Our world-class experts teach and research climate change adaptation, governance, water diplomacy, desalination, water supply, wetlands and sustainable hydropower.

Together with Dutch and international partners, we offer high-quality education, including an MSc Programme in Water and Sustainable Development, a PhD programme, diploma courses, various short courses and online courses as well as customized training and capacity development, all within a uniquely international and interdisciplinary environment. People seeking to make an impact for water and environment, including water professionals, scientists, engineers, practitioners, consultants, activists, decision-makers, change-makers and others, come to IHE Delft to sharpen their ability to contribute to global sustainable development.

Focusing on the global water crisis

Around the world, social welfare and economic development depend on water. The world is facing a water crisis that is compounded not only by climate change and the more frequent floods and droughts it brings, but also by growing populations, economic growth and conflicts. At IHE Delft, we are committed to contributing to sustainable water solutions and water security for all. To do so, we focus on regional challenges, such as droughts, floods and deteriorating water quality, as well as global challenges, such as climate change, ecosystem degradation, land loss, urbanisation, sanitities, poverty, hunger, and migration.

Working towards solutions

IHE Delft’s education and research centre on developing solutions that can be applied in real-world situations. Through our diverse programme of problem-focused research, we have the knowledge, networks and on-the-ground experience needed to help graduate students and working professionals develop the skills and competencies they need to address current and future water challenges.
IHE Delft’s unique position

IHE Delft works under the auspices of UNESCO and is a member of UN Water and the UNESCO Water Family. We play a dynamic role in the international water community, both in an advisory capacity, and during stakeholder-driven and policy-related research. We contribute to setting standards for water-related education and training.

Many of the Institute’s staff members are world-renowned experts in their field. Together with our ambitious students, they make IHE Delft a truly international and vibrant hub – a place where the water world meets.