

Application for hosting AESOP 2017 Heads of Schools Meeting in Delft

The Department of Urbanism of the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, of Delft University of Technology is pleased to make a proposal for the 12th Heads of Schools Meeting. We are keen to assist AESOP in the organisation of the event and to invite heads of schools to Delft in 2017. The Netherlands offers a rich history in planning education and practice that will be of interest to many member institutions.

(a) The hosting institution: Delft University of Technology

- Research and educational profile

The TU Delft is one of the world's top universities of technology in the world, located in the historic city of Delft, in the Netherlands, in the heart of Europe. The TU Delft offers 16 Bachelor programmes and over 35 Masters programmes in the fields of science, engineering and design. All the Masters programmes are taught in English, and in some years all the bachelor programmes will be offered in English as well.

The Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment is in the top four of the QS ranking. Its department of Urbanism was established in 1948. Since then it has contributed to academic knowledge of the urban environment and design and planning interventions. Its education provides the urban planners and designers of the future with the right tools to come up with new solutions for effective and efficient organization and operation of the public space. The Urbanism research group's core task is to mobilise its multidisciplinary knowledge, skills and reputation towards the creation of more sustainable living environments. The priority is to contribute solutions to the urgent challenges of urbanisation in the context of climate change.

More than 120 people work for the department within its four sections: Urban Design, Spatial Planning, Environmental Design and Landscape. More than 200 masters students receive education in three master tracks (Urbanism, Landscape and Geomatics) and another 32 students follow the postgraduate masters track European Post-Master in Urbanism (EMU). More than 50 PhD candidates do their doctoral research in the department.

The department has a world-class international reputation for its socially relevant applied research and scholarship, and for its educational programmes. Research themes include: Delta Urbanism, Design of the Urban Fabric, Metropolitan Spatial Structures, Regional Design, International Planning and Developing Regions, 3D Geoinformation, Smart Cities & Urban Metabolism, History and Heritage Vector

The department is a preferred partner of some of the world's leading universities and attracts leading international visiting professors. The Urbanism programme is one of the few research centres in the world that brings together expertise in design, policy and research, and has a deep involvement with international networks arising from a long history of successful collaboration particularly in Asia and Latin America, and now extending to North America.

- Organizational capacity to host the conference

The proposed venue for the meeting, the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, is located very close to Delft's city centre and counts with state-of-the-art conference facilities and classrooms. The main location for the conference would be the Berlage Room, a conference room with capacity for 150 persons equipped with excellent audio-visual equipment. There are also enough smaller rooms available for the parallel workshops.

The conference will be supported by the facilities staff of the Faculty of Architecture and the Built environment. The department organises several conferences each year, of the same or even larger audience. For example, it co-organised the 2014 AESOP Congress on theme of 'From Control to Co-evolution' and hosted the PhD School, previous to the congress. In 2015, it organised a workshop on the topic 'How to create a sustainable knowledge region' for the 2015 ISOCARP Conference. In July this year, the faculty is hosting the 17th International Planning History Conference.

- Possible collaboration format with local institutions

The department usually teams up with different local/regional institutions for different events. For example, the Jane Jacobs Conference in May 2016 was co-organised with Erasmus University of Rotterdam. The ISOCARP 2015 workshop was organised with the help of the Municipality of The Hague. Another usual partner in similar events is the Province of South Holland. This collaboration can take different formats, from leading a workshop on a topic in which the partner is interested, to give lectures or organise excursions to projects they lead.

- Financial capacity to host the event

The usual 100 euros charge for registration will cover part of the expenses of the conference. Other expenses will be covered by the department, with or without a sponsor.

(b) Information about the location: Delft

- Accessibility

Delft is 45 minutes from Schiphol airport, the country's main airport. There is also the Rotterdam-The Hague airport, a smaller local airport only 12 km away from Delft, which receives some flights from other European cities. Delft has excellent accessibility by train and by car, as it is located in the Randstad, very close to the cities of Rotterdam and The Hague. The train system is very efficient and well organized in the Netherlands.

- Hotel capacity of the location

Delft is one of the main tourist towns in the Netherlands and therefore, it has enough facilities to host many visitors. The hotels range from luxury hotels to hostels. There is also the possibility to stay in a hotel in Rotterdam or The Hague and come to Delft by train, tram or bus.

- Public transport information

Delft is a university town of approximately 100,000 inhabitants. It has a very compact city centre, where most hotels are located. The TU Delft campus is adjacent to the city centre. Most hotels are within walking distance of the TU Delft campus and Delft station. There are also buses and trams connecting the train station with the city centre and suburbs of Delft, as well as with the cities of The Hague and Rotterdam.

- Average costs for participants (hotel, meals, transport/day)

An average hotel night is 120, breakfast included; but less expensive options are also available. The average price for a lunch is around 20 euros, and a dinner between 40 and 50 euros. As mentioned before, transport costs inside Delft are hardly required.

(c) Possible study tours

There are many possible and very interesting destinations for a study tour. The distances in the Netherlands are short, so the study tour does not have to limit itself to Delft but can bring participants to other interesting locations in the Netherlands. Examples of successful study tours organised by the faculty include Rotterdam - Self-organization in the Urban Realm; Delft/Rotterdam - Water and Flood Risk Management in the Delta; Nijmegen - Room for the River Waal Eindhoven - Smart Region by a Quadruple Helix Approach; Delft - Integrated Rail-Urban Redevelopment; and Almere - From Garden City to Green City.