

Meike van Ginneken new CEO of SNV

Den Haag, The Netherlands, 5 October: The Supervisory Board of SNV Dutch Development Organisation announces that they have appointed Meike van Ginneken (46) as Chief Executive Officer effective 1 January 2018.

"It is the perfect moment to have a new Chief Executive Officer at a time when SNV has reinvented itself," says SNV Chairman Koos Richelle. During a period of transition in which the subsidy from the Dutch government gradually ended, the organisation successfully applied for project funding. In 2016 SNV had an annual turn-over of €112 million from 75 international governmental and private donors. Koos Richelle says, "In 2016 we reduced poverty for over 6 million people. Our continued growth will enable us to further scale our work in Agriculture, Energy, Water and Sanitation."

"Our next CEO is the right person for SNV in the coming years. Meike van Ginneken is an entrepreneurial woman. She has been innovating in complex environments for over twenty years," Koos Richelle continues.

Meike has made her mark, both working in large matrix organisations, in business with corporate funding agencies and liaising with governments of developing nations. In other words, she has what it takes to combine at scale implementation with policy dialogue.

In addition she has extensive experience with SNV's focus areas; she has worked in sustainable sanitation and hygiene, urban water supply services, improved cookstoves, solar home systems, and climate smart agriculture. And thirdly, she is a seasoned manager of large teams, spanning multiple countries.

"But all this would not have been enough without sensing her strong conviction that it is a basic human right to free oneself from poverty. In Meike we have found someone who combines the passion to fight poverty with the ability to position the organisation's expertise in the development sector, and the operational power to implement multi-million euro projects." Koos Richelle concludes.

Currently Meike van Ginneken serves as the World Bank's Water Manager for South Asia based in Delhi, India. With her team, she oversees a six billion dollar lending and technical assistance portfolio on sanitation, water supply, and water resources management. She holds Masters Degrees in Civil Engineering and Change Management. After her studies she started her career with the humanitarian NGO Doctors without Borders (MSF) in 1994, tackling emergency situations in Africa and Central America. "During these years I have learned to deliver immediate results under pressure, while at the same time building bridges between parties. It also made me keen to work on more sustainable and scalable solutions," emphasises Van Ginneken.

She joined the World Bank in 2002. Since then she has held several positions in the water, agriculture, and energy sectors in Washington DC as well as in field offices. She has set up and implemented country programs in the Central African Republic and Cameroon. She adds, "Although I was raised in the Netherlands, my work has brought me to five continents, so I feel like a global citizen."

After implementing projects in the field and partnering with governments on large loans at the World Bank, Meike van Ginneken sees SNV as a logical next step and she emphasises that she likes moving closer to implementation and delivery. She will follow in the footsteps of Allert van den Ham who announced last April that after more than six years he will be stepping down at his own request. Allert van den Ham has transformed SNV into a trusted, decisive and financially sound organisation with a flourishing portfolio of programmes. Allert, "SNV is entering a new phase in its existence with new challenges and new opportunities. That requires fresh ideas, insights and leadership." Allert will continue working for SNV as Country Director Laos, following his wish to work closer to the practice of poverty reduction.

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About SNV: [SNV](#) is a not-for-profit international development organisation, working in Agriculture, Energy, and Water, Sanitation & Hygiene. Founded in the Netherlands in 1965, we have built a long-term, local presence in more than 30 countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Our global team of more than 1100 local and international advisors works, with local partners to equip communities, businesses and organisations with the tools, knowledge and connections they need to increase their incomes and gain access to basic services –empowering them to break the cycle of poverty and guide their own development.