

Feel at home in The Hague

The International Community Fair 2008

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Feel at home in The Hague: Networking and Enjoyment

If you are still wondering whether to attend The Feel At Home In The Hague – The International Community Fair next week on Sunday 21 September, then read the positive feedback from one of last years' participants.

Last year, on Sunday September 9th 2007, the second International Fair 'Feel at home in The Hague' was held in the Atrium of The Hague Town Hall. Basically this Fair is a guide for expatriate newcomers to The Hague. It introduces them to local clubs and offers an overview of the non-profit groups available, through which those new to The Hague can discover the city. Approximately 160 exhibitors from the public, private, volunteer, expatriate and local Dutch groups took the opportunity to reach out to their new neighbours. The variety was impressive.

I was at 'The Fair' to represent my club, POWERtalk International, which specialises in 'coaching in effective speaking'. Together with my fellow volunteers we took our position at our table and the cosmopolitan atmosphere immediately amazed us. There were, it seemed, people from every part of the world and it was up to us to grab the attention of those who sailed past our table. We enjoyed gauging if our passers-by were interested, just browsing, shy, curious or totally disinterested! From time to time we ventured out from behind our table and engaged in conversation. We were delighted and amazed at the varied opinions held about developing the skills of effective speaking.

Our horizons on The Hague, too, were broadened as we met and exchanged experiences with fellow stallholders and like-minded groups. In our 'time off' we browsed through the Fair. This networking opportunity has proven to be invaluable during the last year. I can put faces to names and know who to approach in what organisation in the spirit of mutual friendship.

All in all our day gave us an exercise in working together. For us at POWERtalk it was an excellent team-building affair. We also enjoyed the company of people from many different parts of the world. To be part of such a Fair is truly exciting. It was an experience I am delighted to say we all thoroughly enjoyed. We look forward to doing it all again in 2008 – and seeing you there.

Marlene Burns,

President, POWERtalk Club Clingendael, The Hague.

