

# Feel at home in The Hague

## The International Community Fair 2007

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On Sunday, 9 September, the international and expat community in The Hague will come together at the International Community Fair in the Atrium of the City Hall, to explore all that the fun and inspiring things this city has on offer.

### The Podium at The International Community Fair

There is no other way of introducing the podium plans for The International Community Fair 2007 other than to simply state that it is very, very varied. There was a lot of interest expressed for performing on the podium and it was a challenge to select groups which could reflect the variety of interests within the international community of The Hague. We are certain, however, that with the valuable support of representatives of Toastmasters, the performers and the audience will be in good hands.

On Sunday, 9 September, between 11.00 and 17.00, there will be a continuous program meant to entertain, inform, even enlighten all of us. The Fair will be officially opened by Mr G Ph. Huffnagel, Deputy Mayor for International Affairs for the City of The Hague, followed by Billy Allwood from TheHagueOnLine and Carol Wolley of ACCESS, co-hosts and organisers of the event.

After the official opening the stage will be open to the music, dance, exhibitions and challenges of no less than 12 different groups.

From demonstrations by hairdressers from AVEDA, who will mesmerize us with the potential of a good brush and good products to the hand clapping and foot stomping music to which the St Andrew's Society will perform their Ceilidh [kaylee] dances the audience will be hard pressed to choose for between visits to the more than 120 tables in the Atrium. There will be demonstrations of Tai Chi by the Kin San Tai Chi group, of Aikido by the Aikikai Aikido Club as well as choreographed dances of DRU Yoga by the DRU Centre. These will be complemented by the voices of the British School Junior Choir as well the alternative music of a trio offered via the Haagse Pop Centrum, representing the international character of those attending the Fair.

Movement and song are not the only elements of performance to be represented. The Musica Antica Foundation will introduce us to samples of Netherlands' Early Music as performed by a group of musicians on wind instruments; the Viotta Youth Orchestra will capture our fancy with an orchestra of approximately 50 young musicians aged from 9 to 12 years.

Finally, let us not forget the power of the word, spoken or read. As mentioned above, Toastmasters will serve as our master of ceremonies, introducing each and every group appearing on the stage. However, they will also take a moment to show us the skills they acquire through their public speaking techniques. By using improvisation and 'table topics' they will entertain and engage the audience with topics related to the first impressions, as international residents, in The Netherlands. POWERtalk International will introduce us to the potential of power talking and the results of the training in effective public speaking.

Whew! All that, and all that information about living and making a (new) home in The Hague, and a Children's Programme AND .... well, we do need to leave something of a mystery in the air, do we not? Whether you come for your own entertainment, or that of your children, or for the opportunity to pick up as much information about living here as possible, or even for the mystery of what else there may be going on, one thing is clear. 'Feel at Home in The Hague - The International Community Fair 2007' will be THE place to be on Sunday 9 September. Remember: the deadline for advance tickets buys expires at 17.00 on Monday, 3 September.

EDITORIAL NOTE: Since being published the programme for the Podium has been further enhanced. Adding to the variety there will be a sample of the work undertaken by the AATG (Anglo-American Theatre Group) as well as a variety of 'bollywood' dances performed by members of the Netherlands Malayalee Association (NANMA).

