On August 28, 2013, the University of Groningen Hong Kong Alumni Chapter was treated to a celebration of Bommen Berend: the liberation of Groningen. The reception was held at the official residence of the Consul General, Mr. Wilfred Mohr. The reception was to bring all Groningers and RUG alumni around Hong Kong together, in celebrating the liberation of Groningen in 1672 and to be informed on current developments at our Alma Mater. It also was an opportunity to inform alumni in Hong Kong to the 400th anniversary celebration of the University of Groningen in 2014. In attendance were about 25 alumni out of over 80 that reside in Hong Kong.

After alumni arrived for the reception, Wilfred Mohr, an alumnus and President of the Alumni Chapter in Hong Kong, welcomed and thanked guests for taking time off their busy schedules to be part of the evening. He then recounted the story of the Relief of Groningen in 1672 when Groningers withstood the assault of the Bishop of Munster and drove him back and reclaimed the city. He mentioned that as host he was proud to honour his commitment to have alumni join him every year in celebration of his alma mater and city.

Having welcomed guests to the evening, Wilfred Mohr invited Prince Ralph Osei, International Alumni Officer for the RUG to bring news and updates from Groningen. Prince Ralph Osei, pleased to meet our alumni in Hong Kong for the first time, shared with them developments in Singapore where Prof.dr. Sibrand Poppema, President of the university, had inaugurated the Singapore Alumni Chapter the previous week. He then shared many of the university’s success stories with alumni: the university continues to strive to be a top research university of international reputation by welcoming over 1500 international students this year alone and attracting top researchers from around the world. He enthusiastically informed alumni that Groningen is the 92nd ranked top research university listed in the Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities. This ranking coupled with our enviable positions in two other most reliable rankings means that our university is among the top 100 universities in the world. Touching on research, he mentioned that under the leadership of the president, the university continues to focus on 3 themes: healthy ageing, energy and sustainable society. These are multidisciplinary approaches involving all faculties that seek to answer life’s pertinent questions by our researchers. He then went on to mention some of the many groundbreaking research being done by our faculties.

Prince Ralph Osei talked about Groningen’s Alumni Chapters being formed around the world to ensure active engagement first among our alumni and between our alumni and the university. This Alumni Chapter concept was recognized with a Bronze award from the Council of Advancement and Support of Education, a professional association serving educational institutions around the world. He further explained the interest of the Ubbo Emmius Fonds in establishing a chapter in Hong Kong to strengthen the relationship with our alumni and making them partners in the university’s development efforts. Because of the tremendous enthusiasm and success of the Dutch chapters, the university would now like to...
expand this concept and provide the same opportunity for our alumni abroad. Currently, our international chapters include New York city, Washington DC, Zurich, Hong Kong/Shanghai and now Singapore. Yearly, all members would donate through a specific scheme to the scientific project or any selected project. There will be a few different ways to donate, customized to different tax laws and locations. What could be better than supporting a talented scientist or special project, while reminiscing about your time as a student in the presence of old and new friends? Meanwhile a network of people that can support and coach each other broadens.

> 400th anniversary <

In wrapping up, Prince Ralph Osei invited all alumni to join their Alma Mater to celebrate its 400th anniversary. He touched on the many preparations towards the celebration from the 15th May to 15th June, 2014. He specifically asked alumni to join in the Alumni Home-coming on the 12th-15th June, 2014. Activities planned include a lunch reception at the Rijksmuseum for all alumni abroad followed by lunch with all alumni on the Broerplein all the way to the Vismarkt, a concert on the Grote Markt and a fundraising dinner at the Martinikerk, amongst others. As the evening wore on, alumni gathered to have a group picture with the university flag.

> Important links <


Alumni Worldwide newsletter RUG: http://www.rug.nl/news-and-events/newsletters/international/

More pictures of the event: http://on.fb.me/17DxcPY

> International Alumni Officer <

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> Attendees <

Wilfred Mohr
Amy Lee
Angelo Gidding
Arent Oldenziel
Bert Giesel
Carola van den Bruinhorst
Damon Wang
Hanco Halbertsma
Heleen Molenaar
Lotte Janssen
Jochem Temmerman
Cynthia Lam
Miguel Lau
Pieter Minne Vogels
Rienk Brouwer
Thierry Girardot
Xiang Shao
Tobias Hekster
Cees Brouwer
William Hendriks
Claudia van der Salm
Damiaan Jacobovits
Monique Bakker
Krijn Jelle Dijkstra