



# The Hague West



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## WBII 2011 Entrepreneurial Initiative Awards

THE HAGUE-WEST - The Women's Business Initiative International 2011 Entrepreneurial Awards were presented on 8 March at the annual International Women's Day Dinner Event at the Bel Air Hotel in The Hague.

The Women's Business Initiative International presents the WBII Entrepreneurial Initiative Awards each year at this annual event in recognition of the three core values: Ambition, Social Innovation and Networking.

The Ambition Award went to Godelijn Boonman, Partner at GMW Advocaten. Godelijn was honoured as an outstanding role model for professional women. Mary Chekera, founder of Glimlucht Mode, won the Social Innovation Award for establishing a fashion company with social ambition in her native country, Zimbabwe, while residing in the Netherlands and working toward her Bachelor Degree at New Business School Amsterdam.

Nicolien van Vroonhoven-Kok of De Culturele Zaak was crowned Networker of the Year.

Earlier in the evening Nicolien van Vroonhoven inspired the crowd of 150 men and women with her own career adventures and discussed the impact of the Network Economy. Nicolien's ongoing endeavors in business, politics and culture while raising four small kids are awe-inspiring. Of particular interest was her recent transition into entrepreneurship after 12 years in the Binnenhof, including two terms as a member of parliament.



The evening celebrated both the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day and the 5th anniversary of the Women's Business Initiative International, based in The Hague.

Founder and Director of the WBII, Suzy Ogé said, "I am so pleased by the incredible turnout tonight and the amazing cross section of men and women from corporate and public sectors as well as business owners. We work hard to connect small business owners to the broader business community and to connect the international com-

munity to the local Dutch community. This event truly represents the energy and inspiration that can be generated by bringing people together and celebrating success and opportunity."

Corporate sponsors of the event included BHP Billiton, SES New Skies, T-Mobile, GMW Advocaten, The Body Shop, ZJHT Risk & Insurance, Blue Lynx Recruitment, The Hague Expat TV and the Municipality of The Hague.

Visit the website of the Women's Business Initiative International at [www.wbii.nl](http://www.wbii.nl) for more information.

## Vital records ready on the spot

THE HAGUE-WEST - Every year some 18,000 people request a copy of their vital records from the Municipality of The Hague. Most of these official documents can now be prepared on the spot.

Until recently the vital records of Hague citizens were stored in a huge vault. It could take up to five working days before people were able to get a copy of their records. The Municipality of The Hague has now scanned 500,000 documents and most of these can now be printed out right away at the city's sub-municipal offices.

Vital records dating from 1 January

1985 have been scanned and stored in the municipality's computer system and include: marriage certificates; certificates of unmarried partnership; divorce certificates; birth certificates; death certificates. Vital records which predate 1 January 1985 will be mailed to the applicant's home address within five working days.

According to Deputy Mayor Ingrid van Engelshoven (Public Services): "It was quite a big task to scan all the vital records. We were at it for an entire year but we've achieved great end result: much faster service for all residents of The Hague."

## 100 car-sharing spots

THE HAGUE-WEST - There is increasing demand for car-sharing services as an alternative to privately held and rental cars. Greenwheels has expanded the number of reserved parking locations for carshares in The Hague to 100.

The increase in the number of car-sharing locations means that they are better distributed throughout the city. This makes it easier for customers to become a member of the car-sharing programme. An average of 15 people use one Greenwheels car.

Car sharing represents a successful and sustainable alternative,

particularly for city residents who don't drive enough to justify the expense of owning, licensing, insuring and parking a car.

For the car-sharing locations and information about becoming a member, visit the website of Greenwheels at [www.greenwheels.nl](http://www.greenwheels.nl) (in Dutch).

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