

Short Bio of Gijs (G.J.G.) Kok, M.Sc. Retired in Water And Environment

SHORT BIO - Gijs Kok grew up at a dairy farm in the Alblasserwaard-Vijfheerenlanden. After HBS-B in Gorinchem he did a B.Sc. in Cultuurtechniek with irrigation and wastewater treatment and an M.Sc. (N-30) in advanced mathematics, hydraulics and geology. Both at WUR.

During his M.Sc. he worked at Rijkswaterstaat Deltadienst on numerical simulation of the dynamics of nutrients, biota and detritus. He implemented a numerical model for the tidal and salt movement in estuaries. After graduation, by support of Rijkswaterstaat, and in cooperation with Delft Hydraulics, he developed a predictive model for the appearance of thermal stratification in deep lakes and reservoirs in response to variable weather conditions.



In 1977 he joined Royal Haskoning DHV until retirement. The first period he was engaged in numerical backstopping of large projects, including the simulation, design and optimization of water and wastewater, hydropower, treatment works, water quality, air quality, solid waste, logistics and engineering economy. Project formulation and appraisal was learned by analyzing and reporting the technical, financial, economic, environmental feasibility. In a later phase the institutional, social and governance issues were included, whereas a larger emphasis was put on the project's externalities. **Thinking in alternatives and investment with impact became the subject.**

Onwards from late seventies, as an hydraulic and environmental engineer, he worked on all continents for projects related to infrastructure, industry, water and sanitation. Most of this work was for International Financial Institutions (World Bank, Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank, European Investment Bank), bilaterals, multinationals, contractors and some NGOs.

In parallel, since the early eighties, he often acted as a team leader for multilateral projects. These included registration of potentially toxic chemicals for IRPTC UNEP Geneva, transport and the environment for the Former Soviet Union (EBRD), environmental auditing and industrial counseling of the riparian industry along the Danube (PHARE), set-up of monitoring systems for air-, water- and soil-pollution in the EU accession states for the European Environment Agency, ditto the transport and environment policy, water quality management for the Caspian Sea (EU Neighborhood Policy Programme), and others. The emphasis was on strategies, plans and programs.

Special assignments awarded, included the CEO panel for the World Water Forum, audit of war damage to the water and sanitation sector in the Dayton line, Strengthening the Palestinian Environmental Action Plan (SPEAP) in Gaza and West Bank. Second opinions were prepared for MPDA's Strasbourg brine disposal in the Rhine, Alexandria's WWTP effluent disposal in the Mediterranean, Bogota City's sanitation master plan, Israel's Dead Sea Works containment of brine tailings, Aruba's LAGO refinery decommissioning, etcetera.

He was commissioned for more than 100 projects, plans and programs in more than 85 countries worldwide, at least 10 in SSA. This offers the bases for his introduction on water, sanitation and agriculture in Mega Cities in Sub Saharan Arica, also supported by a recent paper of Mani James, Regional Director of Frost and Sullivan, Cape Town, RSA.