

## VIETNAM AQUAVENTURE 2023

*Inspiring the Next Generation of Vietnamese Water Entrepreneurs*

### Program Overview

In recent years, Vietnam has become one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. Two of Vietnam's most important sectors - agriculture and industrial - are becoming the country's leading sectors globally. Both sectors are also very water intensive. In business-as-usual scenarios, Vietnam is at risk of facing a water security problem in the near future.

Linking the business opportunities with the water issue, as well as driving sustainable economic growth in Vietnam, **The Water Agency** - supported by the Dutch government - is initiating **Vietnam AquaVenture 2023**, a business competition that challenges young aspiring entrepreneurs to develop and present their business ideas for innovative water technology solutions to a professional audience.

Guided by experienced Vietnamese and Dutch mentors, **Vietnam AquaVenture 2023** offers an intensive entrepreneurship bootcamp with training, workshops and field trips to equip young entrepreneurs with the necessary knowledge and skills to successfully develop their solutions.

### Program Objectives

- Support aspiring and ambitious youth in Vietnam to develop their innovative water technology solutions as promising new start-up companies.
- Nurture the creativity and technology-savviness of Vietnamese young entrepreneurs to develop innovative solutions for critical water issues in Vietnam.
- Connect young entrepreneurs with Dutch and Vietnamese networks for further business collaboration opportunities.

### Focus Theme

**Vietnam AquaVenture 2023** is focusing on two main themes:

- Water for Agriculture
- Water for Industry

Participants are to select from one of the two themes as their main focus. A combination of both would be welcomed.

### Timeline

- **3 – 21 July 2023:** Application Open
- **28 July 2023:** Participant Announcement
- **July – August 2023:** Phase I – Online Training
- **August – October 2023:** Phase II – Field Trip and Mentoring Session
- **October 2023:** Phase III – Investor Pitching and Final Showcase (in Ho Chi Minh city)\*

*(\*) For Phase III, expenses for participants are paid for.*

## Eligibility and Selection Criteria

- Apply as a team (2-3 persons per team) or as an individual.
- Has a business idea to develop. All entries must be the applicant's original work and free from any claim of copyright, patent or other restriction. The business idea should not be in violation of any intellectual property rights.
- Vietnamese university students or young professionals with a maximum of three years of working experience.
- Proficient in reading, writing, and speaking English.
- Willing to actively participate in an intensive program, field trip, and project planning.

## Application and Submission Information

**Step 1:** Prepare supporting documents as listed:

1. An abstract of potential business concept (max. 500 words).
2. A maximum of three-minute video presenting your team and motivation.

**Step 2:** Go to [www.asiaclimatelab.com/vav2023](http://www.asiaclimatelab.com/vav2023) and complete the Registration Form.

**Step 3:** Email supporting documents in Step 1 to [vav2023@thewateragency.com](mailto:vav2023@thewateragency.com).

In the email subject, please use this format: **(Your Team Name) Registration for VAV2023**

## Application Deadline

The application deadline is on 21<sup>st</sup> of July 2023 at 11:59 PM (GMT +7). No exceptions will be made regarding the deadline.

## Learning Journey and Benefits for Participants

### *Phase I – Online Training*

During the four-week online training sessions, participants are provided with an understanding of sustainable business from international case studies and essential business skills from experts. The participants will be guided to interpret that perspective into the water sector in Vietnam.

### *Phase II – Field Trip and Mentoring Session*

In Phase II, teams are assigned mentors from Dutch and Vietnamese companies. These mentors will guide the team in preparing and further developing a viable yet innovative business plan. Within this period, teams are encouraged to learn and experience real market analysis and best practices that are most suitable for their ideas through field visits.

### *Phase III – Investor Pitching and Final Showcase*

In this final phase, each team is given a chance to pitch their ideas in a **Dragons' Den** setting in front of professional audience. They are challenged to pitch in a unique way and attract the attention of the board of jury and potential investors in a limited period. The winning team will be announced by the board of jury in the Grand Finale in Ho Chi Minh City.

**We look forward to your organisation's participation in the program!**

For more information, please visit: [www.asiaclimatelab.com/vav2023](http://www.asiaclimatelab.com/vav2023)

Or contact us at [vav2023@thewateragency.com](mailto:vav2023@thewateragency.com) or [alice@thewateragency.com](mailto:alice@thewateragency.com)