

DECP Change of management

On 12 December last year, the complete staff of DECP as well as a lot of guests took the opportunity to say goodbye to Mr. Paul Witte. Paul Witte, who was managing director of DECP since January 2015, retired as scheduled. A reception was organised to reflect on this period in which Paul guided the DECP organisation to a next level of professionalism, introducing the Theory-of-Change and improving DECP's efficiency.

During these four years of general management, Paul's views on how to support employers' organisations in emerging countries were highly appreciated by DECP country managers and experts, and in particular by the DECP partners. The DECP intensified its cooperation in the field with the main Dutch trade unions CNV Internationaal and Mondiaal FNV. Partly on Paul's initiative, structural coordination and information-exchange with like-minded organisations like Danish Industries and NHO (Norway) was developed.

"I am extremely grateful to look back on an interesting and constructive cooperation with the DECP staff, the boards and management of our partner-organisations and all the other parties that work hard and with passion to achieve common objectives", Paul Witte concluded in his speech. DECP is grateful for his efforts and energy over the past years in developing the organisation and wishes him the best of luck with his retirement.

As of January 1st Paul was succeeded by Mr. Peter Bongaerts. Peter (47) holds a master degree in Business Economics and Management. After working 5 years as (senior) Policy Advisor Economic Affairs for the Dutch liberal party VVD, he built up 17 years of experience in the Dutch APEX organisation VNO-NCW and in the sector organisation for the Metal and High-tech industry FME.

Peter Bongaerts: "Now, the opportunity occurs to benefit from my experience in Dutch employers' organisations, politics and social dialogue by contributing to achieve a stronger position of employers and entrepreneurs in emerging countries".

Already last November, Peter received a short introduction into the 'world of DECP' when he joined Rogier Chorus on an advisory mission to Indonesia and a training on lobby in Nepal. Rogier will be retiring from DECP as of February 15th next, after having worked as a special advisor and country manager for over 8 years. The DECP management and staff is very grateful for his dedication and commitment to DECP.