

Siegfried Woldhek

Dreamcatcher

Founder
NABUUR.COM

Siegfried Woldhek (1951), initiator of NABUUR.COM, expresses his ideas in his own drawings and in the organizations he helps shape.

In 2002 Siegfried Woldhek founded NABUUR.COM, the global neighbour network. NABUUR.COM gives local communities in developing countries access to committed people via the Internet. And through these virtual neighbours to the huge reservoir of resources (knowledge, solutions, energy and money) that is available to solve the local problems. NABUUR.COM builds not on dominance and aid, but on horizontal mutual support throughout the world. It creates a promising tool to improve the state of the Global Village.

NABUUR.COM is structured as a self-organizing mechanism in order to be capable of serving a huge number of local communities. The basic elements of this novel approach have been developed in the period 2002 – 2005. NABUUR.COM is launched internationally in Sept 2005.

The basis for NABUUR.COM was laid during the many years that Woldhek led the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the conservation breakthroughs he masterminded there.



Woldhek and friends during NABUUR.COM meeting in Cochin, India.

Conservationist

Siegfried Woldhek studied theoretical ecology in Amsterdam and then worked for the Dutch Society for the Protection of Birds, first as biologist and later as CEO (1985-1990). From 1990-1998 he was CEO of WWF-Netherlands and until 2002 he was in charge of the Action Network for WWF-International. In 2002 he founded NABUUR.COM. In 2002 HRH Prince Bernhard awarded him the **Order of the Golden Ark** for his contribution to conservation.



HRH Prince Bernhard awards Woldhek the Order of the Golden Ark

During his career in conservation, Siegfried Woldhek has always been interested in strengthening the international effectivity of the conservation movement. Starting in 1978, he first worked for the international bird protection organization ICBP, which through his initiative was later transformed into Birdlife International. After 1980 he worked for the **Dutch Bird Protection organization**. During his period as **CEO** (1985-1990) the conservation impact and the membership base of the bird protection organization more than doubled.

An even larger increase in membership, income and conservation activities occurred during his years as **CEO** of **WWF Netherlands** (1990 – 1998). In that period, the organization grew from 230.000 to 700.000 members. More importantly, the ideas conceived in WWF Netherlands had a large impact on the international organization and the international conservation movement as a whole. Woldhek's approach is based on the enlightened self interest of the major forces that shape the future of a region and he therefore spent much of his time addressing international conferences, meeting with leading figures and giving interviews. (He speaks English, German, French, Dutch as well as basic Spanish and Russian.)



With HRH Prince Philip in Gabon



With Mikhail Gorbachov



With William J Clinton

From 1999 – 2002 he was **Director of the Action Network**, a collaborative effort of 12 WWF programs, in Brazil, Mexico, Cameroon, Russia, China, Malaysia, Indonesia and Australia. The special character of this program drew the attention of Art Kleiner, writer of a.o Peter Senge's Fifth Discipline. Kleiner wrote the attached profile for Strategy + Business in 2001.

Artist Since 1976 Woldhek has been making literary and political portraits for leading Dutch newspapers as a separate career. His work is often exhibited and is published in several books. On www.woldhek.com more than 1000 of his portraits are shown. For his contribution to Dutch literature he was awarded the **GH 's Gravesande prize**.

For the weekly magazine Vrij Nederland he has made hundreds of literary portraits of Dutch and foreign authors. The volume and breadth of this oeuvre is unique. Since 1980 the national daily newspaper NRC has published his political cartoons, animal drawings, and portraits of athletes.

He is part of Artists for Nature, an international group of painters from Russia, USA, South Africa, England, France, Sweden, etc. With this group he painted in the field in the Biebzra in Poland, the Copper River Delta in Alaska and the Tumbesian region in Peru/Ecuador.



Black Fronted Plovers, Australia

Siegfried Woldhek's art is often exhibited. His drawings have appeared in dozens of books. Several collections of his art have been published. The most recent volume shows 200 portraits of authors (Knetterende Letteren, Thomas Rap Eds, 2003). More than 1000 portraits can be found on his website www.woldhek.com making it one of the largest collections of portraits of the entire Internet.

Home Siegfried Woldhek is married and has two children. He lives in an old farmhouse in Giethoorn, a quaint little village in Holland where transport is done over water. The bordering 10,000 Hectare marsh is a speed skater's paradise in good winters. When the ice is thick enough the 200 km Elfstedentocht is organized in nearby Friesland and Woldhek completed this rare speed skating event three times.



Giethoorn