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## **PRESS RELEASE: PERITUM AGRI INSTITUTE ESTABLISHES COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

Posted By [peritumAgriAdmin](#)

The Free State-based private agricultural college, Peritum Agri Institute entered into an international cooperation and exchange agreement with the Netherland-based Aeres University for Applied Sciences.

At a media launch yesterday, Dr. Wil Bekkering, Director and Board member of Aeres announced the cooperation agreement prior to signing the service level agreement. She passionately committed to be an ambassador for the College in Europe and actively promote the shared initiatives that transpired from the planning session that took place at the Peritum Campus this week.

Prof. Izak Groenewald, Chancellor of the Peritum Agricultural College, emphasized the importance of globalization and access to new knowledge and technology for implementing climate smart agricultural practices. He referred to the learning pathway of the college allowing students to progress from Diploma level to an Advanced Diploma in Agriculture and thereafter a PG Dip in Entrepreneurial Leadership in Agriculture. Academic staff from the two institutions will collaboratively develop curriculum components, working with colleagues from other SADC Academic institutions to ensure a multi-national, best practice qualification to which students from all participating institutions can enroll.

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Peritum is the Latin word for 'gathering of expertise'. This partnership will allow agribusinesses and organisations in SA access to a portal of passionate subject matter experts from two continents. The Peritumsphere offers articles and publications on relevant topics and research as well as the profiles and contact details of consultants in the network.

According to Emmie Pietersen, Director of Peritum, the Peritum-Aeres collaboration also offer exchange benefits to students from both institutions. Deserving students in their second year of study will have the opportunity to participate in a virtual community- exchanging knowledge on two continents via web based shared classroom sessions. Visits to the state of the art agricultural campus of Dronten, the agri tech institution and the biggest greenhouse in Europe are also included in the exchange possibilities. Peritum diploma students in their 3rd year of study will have the opportunity to apply and be selected and hosted for workplace exposure on the high tech experimental farms in the Netherlands as part of their curriculum.

Dr. Barry Huysamer, Head of Diploma Studies at Peritum College reminded of the unique nature of the Diploma's offered by Peritum, currently the only institution in SA offering applied agricultural science on a part-time basis. The Peritum methodology of teaching is hands-on and promote application of knowledge. Intensive practical assessments replace the traditional examination methodology. In addition, Peritum students will soon have access to a full curriculum pathway up to master's level.

Dr. Wil Bekkering in closure referenced a recent announcement by Agbiz about the urbanization trends in SA and expressed the desire for the Peritum-Aeres partnership to in future collaborate in sourcing urban farming solutions to combat the social challenges associated with urbanization.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Dr. Barry Huysamer (Peritum: HOD) ; Belinda Louw (Peritum: Director) ; Dr. Wil Bekkering (AERES: Director and Board Member) ; Ernest Beck (Peritum: Director) ; Emmie Pietersen (Peritum: Director) ; Prof. Izak Groenewald (Peritum: Chancellor)

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