Country Historic Profile: NETHERLANDS
World Bank Group Archives
Profile completed: November 4, 2020

In its early years of operation, the World Bank had country members that controlled or occupied other territories as colonies or protectorates, etc. The World Bank worked with these members in the development of the controlled or occupied territories. Selected information and resources related to these activities have been included in this profile and identified with this icon: ⬜️

Basic Historical Information

Membership days for each affiliate
Information is taken from the World Bank Group membership page.

- IBRD: December 27, 1945
- IDA: June 30, 1961
- IFC: December 28, 1956
- MIGA: April 12, 1988
- ICSID: October 14, 1966

First loan(s)
Information is taken from the Projects & Operations website.

- August 7, 1947: Post-war Reconstruction Project

Resident Mission establishment
Information is taken from internal World Bank Group Archives resource.

- Has not hosted a resident mission

Photo Resources related to country
Hyperlink links to photos in the World Bank Group Archives’ Photo Catalog for a given country. Digitization and description of archival photos are ongoing, and photos are added to the catalog regularly. In instances where the catalog contains no photos for a given country, check back frequently for additions, or contact the Archives for consultation by emailing archives@worldbank.org.

- Historical photos related to Netherlands

Project profiles related to country
Link is to a list in the Projects & Operations website of all projects approved, dropped, or in the pipeline.
for a given country. Each project links to a project profile that includes description, financial details, and lists of reports, archival record folders, and photos, when available. This can be helpful to study the evolution of the Bank’s work in the country over time, and to identify notable projects that represent important shifts or moments in the country’s history. Projects are also excellent examples of case studies of how the Bank made an impact in a particular sector. The WBG Archives have original records and other information related to these projects. Email archives@worldbank.org for guidance.

- Netherlands project profiles in Projects & Operations

**Description of operational records in Archives Holdings**
Archival records relating to Bank operations are described according to the ISAD(g) standard and are accessible in our Archives Holdings catalog. Descriptions include lengthy organizational histories of the regional vice presidency responsible for operations in that region and a description of records created and transferred to the Archives by that vice presidency. The descriptions in the catalog can be helpful to understand the organizational context of Bank work, and to understand more about the content of the records in the Archives.

- Records of the Europe and Central Asia Regional Vice Presidency

**Chronology events**
Events have been selected from the Archivists’ Chronology, an 800+ page resource compiled by Bank Group archivists over the course of the institution’s history. Events chosen include important firsts, milestones and other events that evidence the country’s development history and/or its relationship with the World Bank Group. The Archivists’ Chronology is accessible on this page. This list of events can be helpful to determine if you’d like to dig deeper into any moments in the country’s history of engagement with the Bank. The WBG Archives may have original records and other information about these events. Email archives@worldbank.org for guidance.

**Bretton Woods Conference; Representatives of the Netherlands Attend**
July 1-22, 1944

**IBRD Articles of Agreement Signed by the Netherlands**
December 27, 1945

**Loan Applications from the Netherlands and Mexico Received**
April 29, 1947

**First Funding for the Netherlands**
August 7, 1947

- President Black Visits Netherlands East Indies at the Request of the Netherlands Government
  June 4, 1948

**Shipping Loan to the Netherlands**
August 9, 1948

**Dollar Savings Bank of New York Buys $1 Million Dutch Shipping Loan Notes**

January 12, 1949

**First Training Course for Individuals from Member Countries Announced; Participants from the Netherlands Included**

January 16, 1949

**Netherlands Trustee Certificates to be Issued Against 25-years 3 Percent Bank Bonds**

May 3, 1950

**Bank Announces Six Additional Countries Have Acted to Make Their Currencies Available for Lending Operations, Including the Netherlands**

May 24, 1950

**Bank Loans $7 Million to KLM Royal Dutch Airlines**

March 21, 1952

**IFC Articles of Agreement Signed by the Netherlands**

December 28, 1956

**IDA Articles of Agreement Signed by the Netherlands**

June 30, 1961 IDA

**The Convention on the Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) Enters into Force; the Netherlands among First to Sign Articles of Agreement**

October 14, 1966

**International Convention Establishing the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) becomes Effective; the Netherlands among First to Sign Articles of Agreement**

April 12, 1988

**Netherlands Commits $70 Million to HIPC**

December 20, 1999

**President Wolfowitz Visits the Netherlands**

February 26-27, 2006

**World Bank Group Timeline Events**

Events are selected from the [World Bank Group Timeline](https://www.worldbank.org). The Timeline is an online platform created by the Archives designed to highlight the important events in the Bank Group’s history and to illuminate those events through a variety of archival records, photos, video and audio clips, oral history transcripts, reports, and more.

[Eleven European countries sign IBRD Articles of Agreement](https://www.worldbank.org)
December 27, 1945

Bank Research Director Leonard Rist travels to Europe

May 21, 1947

First World Bank Funding for Netherlands Approved

August 7, 1947

The Prospects of European Recovery Released

April 8, 1948

World Bank Vice President Garner Travels to Europe

May 21, 1948

World Bank Mission Visits Indonesia

June 4, 1948

Funding for Dutch Shipping Approved

July 15, 1948

Economic Position of Netherlands Released

July 26, 1948

Funding to the Netherlands for Industrial Project Approved

July 26, 1949

Funding to the Netherlands for KLM Airlines Approved

March 20, 1952

Early Country Economic Reports

Reports have been selected from the Documents & Reports website, a database of publicly available World Bank Group authored reports and publications dating to the opening of the Bank in 1946. Country economic reports that are selected here are, in many cases, some of the earliest economic studies ever published on Bank member countries. Reports discussing the whole economy of a country, rather than individual sectors, are prioritized in this list.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic analysis of shipping phases of Dutch request for shipping loan</td>
<td>June 9, 1948</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic position of the Netherlands</td>
<td>July 26, 1948</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Netherlands Economy present position and future prospects</td>
<td>June 21, 1949</td>
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<tr>
<td>The external debt of the Netherlands</td>
<td>October 20, 1950</td>
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<tr>
<td>Creditworthiness of the Netherlands</td>
<td>February 1, 1952</td>
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<tr>
<td>Netherlands - Summary of external public debt</td>
<td>November 30, 1952</td>
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<tr>
<td>The end of the postwar period</td>
<td>April 22, 1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands - Summary of the external public debt</td>
<td>September 30, 1954</td>
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</table>
Country Assistance Strategies
The list is based on a similar list compiled by the World Bank’s Secretary’s staff. Introduced in 1990 and replaced by the Country Partnership Framework (CPF) in 2014, the CAS is an overview of each borrowing country’s current economic situation and contains a discussion of its development challenges, prospects, and project-planning. CASs were often initially published as part of project documents but later on were published as standalone documents.

None.

Staff Newsletters
Resources have been selected from the World Bank Group’s Documents & Reports website. The World Bank has produced a staff newsletter since 1947. The publication changed its name twice: from International Bank Notes to Bank Notes in 1971 and then to Bank’s World in 1982. The newsletter moved online in 2000 and physical publication ceased. In addition to offering news relating to Bank operations and country development, the newsletters were intended to foster a sense of community among staff by highlighting social events, marriages and births, the arrival of new staff, recreational events, favorite cooking recipes submitted by staff, and features on different aspects of staff’s home country and culture.

None.

Oral histories
Oral histories are selected from the World Bank Group Archives’ Oral History website. The site contains transcripts of oral history interviews with departed staff and, in lesser number, Executive Directors and other individuals affiliated with or impacted by the World Bank Group. Interviews were conducted as part of an ongoing effort by the Archives to collect the personal stories and reflections of Bank Group staff. A portion of the interviews was conducted as research for publications. Each transcript provides a valuable first-person account of Bank activities and decision-making from the very beginning of its operations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hugh Ripman</td>
<td>July 17 and 18, 1961</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aron Broches</td>
<td>April 18 and May 23, 1984. First Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>Albert Waterston</td>
<td>May 14, 1985</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pieter Lieftinck</td>
<td>February 5, 1987</td>
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Online exhibits
Online exhibits are authored by the World Bank Group staff and are accessible on both the Archives’
**Executive Directors**

The list is based on the World Bank Group [Board of Directors website](https://www.worldbank.org). The country following the name of each ED indicates their nationality.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Period</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BEYEN, Johan Willen (Netherlands)</td>
<td>June 11, 1946 to October 31, 1948</td>
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<tr>
<td>BEYEN, Johan Willen (Netherlands)</td>
<td>November 1, 1948 to October 31, 1952</td>
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<tr>
<td>DE JONG, A. M., (Netherlands)</td>
<td>November 1, 1952 to December 31, 1952</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRENA DE IONGH, Daniel (Netherlands)</td>
<td>January 1, 1953 to October 31, 1954</td>
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<td>CRENA DE IONGH, Daniel (Netherlands)</td>
<td>November 1, 1954 to September 30, 1955</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIEFTINCK, Pieter (Netherlands)</td>
<td>October 1, 1955 to October 31, 1962</td>
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<tr>
<td>LIEFTINCK, Pieter (Netherlands)</td>
<td>November 1, 1962 to March 31, 1971</td>
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<tr>
<td>SKJERDAL, Karl (Norway)</td>
<td>November 1, 1966 to October 31, 1968</td>
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<tr>
<td>RINNOOY KAN, Alfred (Netherlands)</td>
<td>April 5, 1971 to October 31, 1974</td>
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<tr>
<td>WITTE, Peter C. (Netherlands)</td>
<td>November 1, 1974 to October 31, 1976</td>
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<tr>
<td>VAN DAM, Ferdinand (Netherlands)</td>
<td>November 1, 1982 to October 31, 1986</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARLMAN, Paul (Netherlands)</td>
<td>November 1, 1986 to September 27, 1990</td>
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<tr>
<td>HERFKENS, Eveline (Netherlands)</td>
<td>November 1, 1990 to October 31, 1992</td>
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<td>HERFKENS, Eveline (Netherlands)</td>
<td>November 1, 1992 to October 31, 1994</td>
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<tr>
<td>HERFKENS, Eveline (Netherlands)</td>
<td>November 1, 1994 to October 15, 1996</td>
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<tr>
<td>STEK, Pieter, (Netherlands)</td>
<td>November 1, 1996 to October 31, 2002 PD to November 14, 2002</td>
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<tr>
<td>MELKERT, Ad, (Netherlands)</td>
<td>November 1, 2002 to February 28, 2006</td>
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<td>VAN DER KAAIJ, Jan Willem (Netherlands)</td>
<td>March 1, 2006 to October 31, 2006 PD to November 14, 2006</td>
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<td>WIJFFELS, Herman, (Netherlands)</td>
<td>November 1, 2006 to October 31, 2008 PD to November 7, 2008</td>
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<td>TREFFERS, Rudolf (Netherlands)</td>
<td>November 1, 2008 to April 5, 2013</td>
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<td>HEEMSKERK, Frank (Netherlands)</td>
<td>April 1, 2013 to October 31, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAVIDSE, Koen M. (Netherlands)</td>
<td>November 1, 2018 to present</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**For More Information**

If you would like information or guidance on accessing more historic sources, we invite you to contact us by emailing archives@worldbank.org.