



Royal Tropical Institute

Annual Report

Royal Tropical Institute Annual Report 2007



2007



Royal Tropical Institute

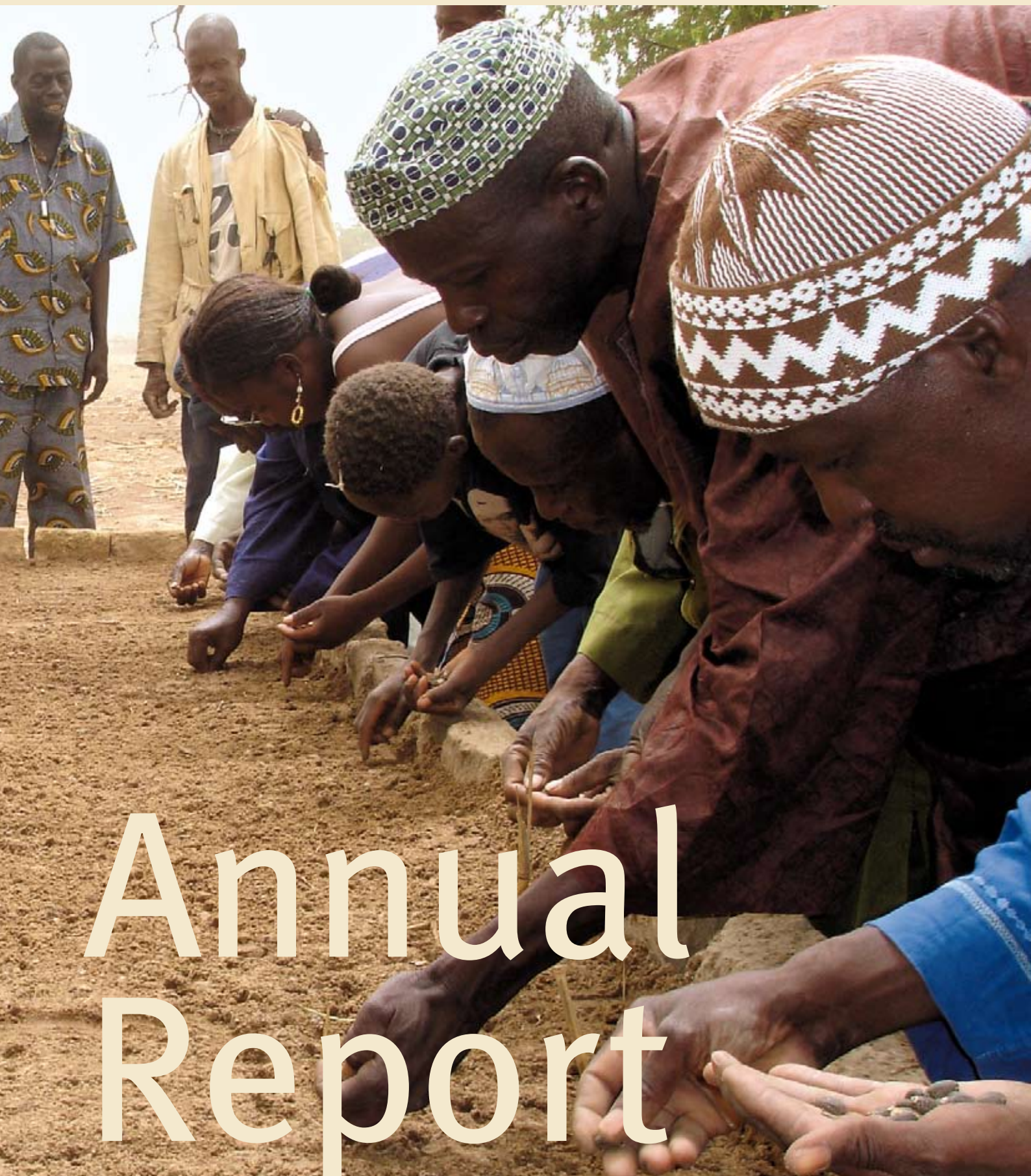




Royal Tropical Institute

Annual Report 2007





Annual Report

Colophon

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Cover Bangladeshi staff working on patient data for the COLEP project (see p.16). Photo by Ron Schuring

Back 'For those without access to the internet, participation by mobile phone, verbally or in writing will also be facilitated' (see page 34). Mali. Photo by Hugo Verkuijl

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Foreword by the President



The Royal Tropical Institute has a special place in the area of international cooperation. It is a knowledge institute with expertise in both the cultural field and the area of socioeconomic development and health. Our activities include library and ICT services, training courses and educational programmes, biomedical research and innovative sustainable economic venture. That diversity allows us to look beyond individual disciplines and offer integrated and multisectoral solutions, increasing the impact on the welfare and well-being of those who are less privileged. In recent years, KIT has stepped up its efforts to work according to a more integrated approach.

In 2007 we applied this approach in a range of projects and programmes. In several African countries, we helped improve crop cultivation and worked to strengthen production chains, enhancing the social and economic position of farmers and other stakeholders. In Yemen, we contributed to improvements in maternal and neonatal care and provided training and educational programmes on gender equality and better health care. Our track record in improving health care was recognized by the World Health Organization, which designated KIT a 'collaborating centre for research, training and development of human resources for health'. This is the second time that a department at KIT has been designated a special centre by WHO. The exhibitions in the Tropenmuseum attracted a record number of more than 210,000 visitors, while the Tropentheater continued its tradition of presenting performers from around the world to a Dutch audience. Our Business against Poverty programme aims to engage the private sector in efforts to reduce poverty, while KIT also played an active part in relevant debates around the world and in the Netherlands itself.

KIT achieved positive financial results in 2007, but our turnover must continue to grow if we are to maintain KIT's versatility as a knowledge institute and therefore our role as a service provider to the public and private sectors. Our main focus in coming years is to generate more income from assignments for governments and businesses.

The world is constantly changing, and that applies equally to KIT's areas of work. More and more initiatives for development cooperation are coming from the private sector, and partnerships are gaining in importance. International cooperation is increasingly dominated by global themes like peace and security, migration and technological advances. Throughout its almost 100-year existence, KIT has always adapted to changing circumstances, both financially and related to the nature of its work. At KIT, we consider such changes as challenges and opportunities to learn.

Dr Jan Donner,
President

The Institute in 2007

Transferring knowledge to developing countries, strengthening capacity, disseminating information on culture and development in the Netherlands, and developing effective new products and services: these were again the main areas of activity for KIT in 2007. There was a special focus on the themes of preserving cultural heritage, ICT and developing Public Private Partnerships.

Cultural heritage and intercultural cooperation

Exhibitions and stage performances to raise awareness of and support for other cultures in the Netherlands: in 2007 KIT offered a multifaceted programme with exciting new shows in the Tropentheater, while the Tropenmuseum presented striking and successful exhibitions like 'Beauty and the Bead' and 'Che! A Commercial Revolution'.

On top of scientific study and preservation of its own collections, KIT supports efforts to preserve cultural heritage around the world. The often impressive cultural heritage of developing countries, too, needs to be preserved and presented in museums and schools so that it contributes to self respect in these countries. In 2007 various KIT departments were involved in cultural preservation activities in many countries, including Suriname, Indonesia and Kenya.

The preservation of cultural heritage and national cultures is acquiring an increasingly important place in Dutch foreign policy and development cooperation. KIT welcomes this trend and its cultural departments play an active part in both the debate and in projects to help formulate policy in this area. Respect for and cooperation with other cultures is the guiding principle in all these activities.

ICT as a carrier for knowledge development

ICT is an important instrument worldwide in providing access to knowledge and information. There is a large gap – the *digital divide* – between the extent to which ICT is accessible in the West and the North on the one hand and the South on the other. In 2007, KIT once again developed new initiatives to use ICT to provide people in developing countries with optimal access to knowledge and information at the lowest possible cost.

New projects were initiated in 2007, e.g. in the context of ICT for Development (ICT4D), including the launch of a website on participation in agricultural production chains in Durban, South Africa.

KIT is helping local organisations to use the site and develop it into virtual knowledge centre. Three new web-portals were also launched (*Value chains for Development*, *Culture for Development* and *Rural Innovation Systems*) which make a wide range of information accessible to professionals and policy-makers throughout the world. The numbers of visitors confirm that the portals clearly meet a need. ICT also makes it possible to offer distance training courses. In the past year, KIT conducted a number of pilots with such courses together with Elsevier Science Publishers. Initial results are encouraging and KIT will certainly continue to explore the possibilities in coming years.

Public Private Partnerships

In recent years, KIT has developed economic activities to promote sustainable economic development in developing countries. In doing so, it has worked together with governments and businesses. Projects include support for tuna fishing in Ghana, biological cocoa production in the Dominican Republic and the production of biodiesel from jatropha nuts in Mali.

Governments are indispensable in these partnerships, facilitating new economic activities by issuing licences and providing training and grants, while private partners help farmers, fishermen and many others to develop entrepreneurial skills. In 2007, the 'Business against Poverty' programme brought together money and knowhow provided by companies and financial institutions in the context of

corporate social responsibility (CSR) with local knowledge and management experience, with KIT and other partners playing a supervisory role. This resulted in new forms of sustainable employment and improved incomes for some of the poorest.

Millennium Development Goals

By adopting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) the global community committed itself to making considerable advances in eight major areas between 1999 and 2015. In 2007, at a special public meeting on the former island of Schokland, the Balkenende government marked the halfway point in this programme by drawing attention to the sometimes disappointing results achieved so far. KIT joined a large number of other government bodies, organizations and businesses in signing the 'Schokland agreements', in which they undertook to make a greater and more targeted effort to achieve the MDGs. KIT makes a direct contribution, both in the long term and through individual projects, to the achievement of several of the MDGs, including gender equity (MDG 3), reducing maternal mortality (MDG 5), combating diseases that disproportionately affect the poor (MDG 6) and promoting fair trade (MDG 8).

Positive financial result

KIT has closed 2007 with a positive result. Nearly all KIT departments contributed to this positive outcome, at the minimum covering their costs. 2007 saw a lot of hard work, high productivity, and new cross-departmental products and services were gradually developed.

Restructuring

KIT provides an inspiring working environment with committed staff. The organization has gradually changed in recent years to grow and to develop further as a knowledge institute, and for the different departments to work more closely together.

KIT's versatility – one of its great strengths – also means that there is a wide variety of views on its strengths and weaknesses, where it is vulnerable and where its opportunities lie. In 2007 a number of decisions were made about changes, which will be implemented in 2008.

Evaluation of output funding

In 2007, the research and advice bureau ACE Europe conducted an evaluation of KIT's output funding and activities in the 1999-2007 period, commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Output funding covers the costs, in both a qualitative and quantitative sense, of the products and services provided under the agreement between KIT and the ministry. ACE concluded that the output funding functioned well in general terms, resulting in high quality products and services. Certain elements, however, need reviewing as not everything that KIT does can be translated into output. The evaluation confirmed KIT's multifaceted and unique character, but also identified the organization's vulnerability in various areas, in terms of its relations with both the government and the private sector.

This annual report

This annual report presents the financial data for 2007, together with some of KIT's most important projects and programmes. A complete overview of projects and programmes can be found in the digital annual report at www.kit.nl/annualreport2007.



Research and Advisory Services

KIT possesses the expertise, experience and conviction to conduct and support research and provide advice in a wide variety of areas. As the selection of activities presented in this section shows, KIT adopts an integrated approach centred around its core concerns of relieving poverty and helping people to take control of their own development. In pursuing these aims, KIT works together with a wide range of partners in the public, private and non-profit sectors.

This annual report contains some of KIT's projects and programmes. A complete overview can be found in the digital annual report at www.kit.nl/annualreport2007.

1.1

Culture

Culture in all its aspects has always been at the heart of KIT's activities, not only by promoting expressions of culture through theatre and music, but also by preserving cultural heritage through its collections and helping other countries strengthen their capacity to preserve and promote their own cultures.

Capacity strengthening in Suriname

Project

Theatre on the Move

Location

Suriname

Partners

KIT/Tropentheater;
Fawaka Creations;
individual participants

Funder

KIT; Netherlands Embassy
in Suriname; Netherlands
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Duration

November 2006-July 2010

Theatre on the Move, a project to coach emerging Surinamese stage performers, got properly underway in 2007. The three participants, who were selected from a group of 12 candidates in November 2006, spent the time getting to know each other, clarifying their study objectives, attending workshops and festivals, and networking. They visited the *Association of Performing Arts Presenters (APAP) Conference* in New York in January, and the ITs (International Theatre School) Festival in Amsterdam in June, where they took part in acting and dance workshops. In Suriname, together with *Fawaka Creations*, they organized an expert meeting for colleagues and other interested parties.

Under the supervision of professional coaches from Suriname and the Netherlands, the three young performers drafted a long-term project proposal. In 2008, the project will focus on achieving greater depth and on practical applications, and in 2009 any final individual questions will be answered and a large-scale performance prepared. The project will be completed in 2010, the year in which Suriname will be celebrating the 35th anniversary of Srefidenci (Independence). The Director of Culture at the Surinamese Ministry of Education and Human Development, Mr Stanley Sidoel, has asked the participants to conclude the project by performing at the anniversary celebrations.

Physical Anthropology Reconsidered

Publication

Physical anthropology
reconsidered. Human remains
at the Tropenmuseum

Authors

David van Duuren, Mischa ten
Kate, Micaela Pereira, Steven
Vink and Susan Legêne.

Duration

2003-2007

The question of how to deal with human remains in a responsible and dignified manner once again became topical in 2007. KIT made a contribution to the debate by presenting a book on the subject at the Value of Human Remains Conference at the Museum of London on 3 March.

Physical Anthropology Reconsidered, which was published as part of KIT's Bulletin series, generated a great deal of interest in other countries, and within and outside the museum sector. The Tropenmuseum was invited to contribute to various platforms and symposia, including the Repatriation of Cultural Heritage Conference at the Greenland National Museum and the Forbidden Collections? symposium at the National Museum of Antiquities in Leiden, the Netherlands.

‘I want to tell stories from my own Maroon culture, in such a way that they acquire a universal character and everyone will be able to identify with them, understand them and relate them to their own lives. It is about reflecting emotions that appeal to everyone.’

— Tolin Alexander, one of the Surinam participants

The book’s main focus is the collection of human remains in the Tropenmuseum, but it also looks at other objects made using human remains, and at anthropological photographs, field notes and other archival sources at the institute. Although the Tropenmuseum’s collection in itself is not contentious, it raises a number of questions which can only be answered in a dialogue with museums and other stakeholders around the world: why were the remains collected, what was their significance, who owns them, and who should decide on what should happen to them? In addressing these questions, *Physical Anthropology Reconsidered* contributes to the debate about the significance of physical anthropological collections around the world.

The Curiel collection

Project

Augusta Curiel, Photographer
in Suriname 1904-1937

Funder

Netherlands Embassy,
Suriname

Partners

Suriname Museum;
KIT Publishers

Duration

2007

In 2005, the curator of the Tropenmuseum discovered a unique collection of more than 400 glass negatives that had lain in storage at the Suriname Museum in Fort Zeelandia, Suriname, for almost fifty years. The negatives, of photographs taken by the Surinamese photographer Augusta Curiel, were in reasonably good condition but too fragile to be put on display. Building on their close cooperation in previous years, the Tropenmuseum and the Suriname Museum joined forces to research and work on a publication about Curiel.

Augusta Curiel (1904-1937) was the leading photographer in Suriname in the early decades of the last century. Her photographs are a unique record of a period in the country’s history from which there is very little visual material. They are also of exceptional quality, and remarkable in terms of both technique and composition. Before her death in 1958, her sister Anna, who assisted Augusta in her work, bequeathed the negatives to the Suriname Museum.

To preserve the photographs for the future, the museum asked the Tropenmuseum to help digitize the negatives, so that prints can be made and given a permanent place in the museum. The original glass negatives are now stored in acid-free envelopes, in a climate-controlled environment. In addition to digitizing the glass negatives, the two museums researched their collections of Curiel’s work.

To make the whole collection more widely accessible, KIT Publishers has published a book entitled *Augusta Curiel, Fotografe in Suriname (1904-1937)* (see page 45).

1.2

Good governance

International interest in fragile states and conflict-affected countries has been growing in recent years. Nowhere is the need for poverty alleviation and sustainable development greater, yet these countries are characterized by poor governance, a lack of security and slow development. KIT has considerable experience in countries affected by conflict and where institutions are barely functioning.



Securing land rights in Burundi

Project

Formulation of a programme for securing land rights in Burundi

Location

Burundi

Partners

Commission Nationale des Terres et Autres Biens (CNTB); the *Première Vice-Présidence*; the NGO Global Rights

Funder

Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Duration

May 2007-February 2008

In Burundi, after decades of violent conflict, the transition to peace has begun with the support of the international community. An important reconciliation process is currently under way regarding land rights, a key issue in this densely populated, mostly rural country where over 80 per cent of court cases deal with conflicts about land. The return of refugees from Tanzania, many of whom fled the country in 1972, is increasing the tension. The government has appointed a special *Commission Nationale des Terres et Autres Biens* (CNTB) to help refugees regain access to land they had to leave behind. Reintegrating refugees and other displaced persons can make a major contribution to the peace process, while secure access to land is an important precondition for economic development.

The Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs is supporting the government of Burundi's efforts to strengthen its capacity to deal with land-related conflicts, as a contribution to lasting peace and rural development. At the Ministry's request, KIT sent a fact-finding mission to Burundi to assess local interest in a programme to secure land rights, and facilitated the programme's development.

Together with the CNTB and the *Première Vice Présidence*, KIT identified three main themes for the Dutch programme. The first is to strengthen capacity for policy-making and legislation based on evidence and consultation. This was one of the recommendations of a workshop organized by the NGO Global Rights, with KIT's support and entails enhancing the Burundian government's capacity to collect, analyse and communicate information on land issues. The second theme, identified by Burundian partners as an issue demanding urgent attention, is land conflicts following the return of refugees and internally displaced people. Here the programme will focus on improving the CNTB's capacity to find sustainable solutions to such conflicts. The third theme focuses on preventing conflicts by supporting the development of a decentralized, low-cost system of land administration that is accessible to rural populations.

1.3

Health

Sustainable access to healthcare is one of the main preconditions for improving livelihoods in developing countries. KIT has a long track record of helping developing countries to strengthen their health systems and ensure good access to healthcare for all.



Midwifery students with KIT senior advisor Jan Willem Harnmeijer in Dhamar, Yemen. Photo by Jan Willem Harnmeijer

WHO collaborating centre for human resources for health



In 2007, the World Health Organization (WHO) recognized this track record by designating KIT a 'collaborating centre for research, training and development of human resources for health'. The availability of qualified staff is a key factor in achieving the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on tuberculosis, AIDS and malaria, and the reduction of infant and maternal mortality. But in many countries, there is an acute shortage of qualified and motivated healthcare workers and quality healthcare is under enormous pressure. The availability and level of expertise of healthcare workers is influenced by a variety of factors, including health sector reform, brain drain and the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Recognizing the need for skilful management and guidance to address these issues, WHO took the initiative of setting up an international network of external centres of expertise. These centres, currently located at KIT and in Brazil and South Africa, support WHO in the fields of human resource planning and resource and policy development in the healthcare sector at national and international level.

As one of these centres of expertise, KIT provides developing countries with advice on recruiting, training and retaining healthcare workers, on capacity strengthening and on other aspects of human resource planning and management in the healthcare sector. It will devote special attention to how to motivate staff and reduce staff turnover.

Support for Maternal and Newborn Health in Yemen

Project

Maternal and Newborn Health Programme

Location

Yemen

Partners

Health Care International (HCI), Egypt; Liverpool Associates in Tropical Health (LATH), UK

Client

Ministry of Public Health and Population, Yemen

Funder

Netherlands Embassy, Sana'a

Duration

2007-2012

The health of women and newborn babies is a major concern in Yemen, where pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death among women of reproductive age. The Ministry of Public Health and Population estimates that eight women die every day as a result of pregnancy and child birth, and 365 die for every 100,000 live births. With over 40 per cent of the population living below the poverty line and limited resources available for the health sector, the maternal mortality rate is the highest in the Middle East and North Africa region. The situation is made worse by one of the world's highest fertility rates: on average, women in Yemen bear seven children.

The reasons for the high maternal mortality rate are well documented. The majority of deaths could be avoided by providing an appropriate mix of health services, which are currently lacking in many regions. Other major issues that need to be addressed include women's status in society, access to care, quality and equity of services, and factors such as poverty, communication and transportation. The weak institutional context, particularly in terms of planning and management attitudes and practices, is a further impediment.

Together with HCI and LATH, KIT is providing the Yemen Maternal and Newborn Health programme with managerial, technical and coordination support. The programme is designed to help Yemen reduce its maternal and newborn mortality and morbidity. The emphasis is on strengthening the capacity of institutions and human resources, addressing system weaknesses and identifying opportunities for donor harmonization and alignment. Through equitable rights-based approaches, the programme focuses on improving the quality of services and the capacity to cope with increasing demand for them. The main objective is to achieve a sustained increase in the use of midwifery, obstetric and family planning services, especially by poor and marginalized women. This should lead to a better health service delivery system, fewer maternal and newborn deaths, and a lower fertility rate.

1.4

Biomedical research

Continuous research to develop new vaccines and affordable and effective treatment programmes is essential to improving public health. KIT conducts biomedical research to help fight diseases like HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and leprosy.

Preventing leprosy: a trial in Bangladesh

Project

Contact transmission and chemoprophylaxis in leprosy (COLEP)

Location

Bangladesh

Partners

TLM-Bangladesh Rural Health Programme, Nilphamari, Bangladesh; Erasmus University Medical Centre, Rotterdam, the Netherlands

Funders: American Leprosy Mission; The Leprosy Mission International

Duration: 2001-2008

In 2007 a research project on preventing leprosy, in which KIT collaborated with the Erasmus University Medical Centre and the Leprosy Mission International (TLM), came to completion. COLEP, a trial study on contact transmission and preventive medication, was initiated in 2001 in the Rangpur and Nilphamari Districts in Northwest Bangladesh.

Although there is an effective cure available for leprosy, it is clearly better to prevent the disease than cure it. The aim of COLEP was to assess whether a single dose of the antibiotic rifampicin could prevent the development of leprosy among people in contact with leprosy patients. Effective prevention of leprosy could break the chain of transmission and ultimately eliminate the disease.

COLEP was a truly collaborative project with all three partners actively involved in every aspect. The Erasmus University Medical Centre was the official coordinator of the project, while TLM's excellent leprosy control infrastructure in Bangladesh was crucial to its success. One of KIT's main priorities was to determine whether the presence of leprosy-specific antibodies can predict which individuals would develop the disease in the future.

More than 20,000 contacts, comprising household members, neighbours, friends and colleagues, were given either rifampicin or a placebo. They were then checked for symptoms of leprosy after two years and again after four years. A further 20,000 people who had no known contact with a leprosy patient were monitored to compare the incidence of leprosy in the general population with that among the contacts.

The outcome of the project showed that people in contact with leprosy patients did indeed have a higher risk of developing the disease, and that a single dose of rifampicin was capable of preventing 56 per cent of new leprosy cases in the first two years. However, this preventive effect disappeared between years two and four. This transient effect implies that either the treatment has to be repeated or stronger regimens must be sought which work for a longer period.

1.5

Information management

Information management is a core competence in which KIT has accumulated a great deal of expertise and experience over the years. With the advent of the internet, especially in developing countries, KIT has added ICT solutions to its more traditional forms of support: giving advice, training and technical assistance to partners who disseminate and exchange information.

Virtual knowledge community

Project

Virtual knowledge community

Location

<http://www.dgroups.org/groups/hivos/iManagement>

Partners

International development organizations

Client

Librarians and information specialists

Funder

Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Duration

From 2005

One of KIT's priorities is to encourage cooperation with partners in the South to strengthen ICT and information management. To further this objective, which is of great importance within the context of the Millennium Development Goals, KIT is facilitating a virtual knowledge community (VKC) on information management. This closed community allows 60 key partner individuals and institutions, primarily from developing countries, to exchange experiences and identify issues of common interest.

In 2007, as part of Elsevier's Information Philanthropy Programme, KIT and Elsevier signed a Memorandum of Understanding allowing VKC members in under-funded institutions in least developed or low income countries access to full-text articles in two prominent bibliographic databases, Scopus and ScienceDirect. To help ensure that community members not only have access to these powerful tools, but also know how to use them effectively, KIT and Elsevier organized a trial online training session in December for a group of community members in Africa and Asia. Despite a number of technical problems, the participants were enthusiastic.

In reaction to this positive response, KIT and Elsevier are planning future training sessions, and will consult with community members to ensure that the content is relevant to their needs. A questionnaire will be distributed before the session so that members with similar interests can be grouped together. The online sessions are a flexible, environmentally friendly means of providing instruction, with great potential for further development. The long and productive relationship between Elsevier and KIT, formalized in the Memorandum of Understanding and their joint development of the online training sessions, is a prime example of public-private partnership and corporate responsibility.

Future plans for the VKC include involving members in the development of a portal on information management, which will provide a valuable perspective from information professionals in the South. Additional training modules are also being considered, with possible topics including how to set up a selective programme for the dissemination of information.

Partnerships with university libraries

Project

Partnership to develop a digital university library

Location

Mozambique

Partners

Lúrio University, Mozambique

Clients

Students, teachers, researchers of Lúrio University

Funder

Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Duration

June 2007-July 2011

KIT is involved in long-term partnerships with university libraries in developing countries, with the general aim of strengthening partners' capacity in the field of digital library resources and online library services. A team of ICT advisors and trainers work with the partners through exchange programmes, training sessions, advisory missions and remote support. The partnerships are currently concentrated in three countries: Ghana, Mozambique and Suriname. In 2007 KIT entered into a partnership with the newly established Lúrio University in Nampula, Mozambique.

Like other universities in Mozambique, Lúrio University has adopted a problem-based learning approach, in which students are trained by solving real-life problems in collaborative working groups. This requires them to collect and select relevant information themselves, placing a heavy demand on the university library which cannot be met by traditional library facilities alone.

The library is still in the earliest stages of development, but its strategic plans already include the creation of a digital library. The partnership with KIT has been established to achieve this objective. It is a four-year project to provide online access to digital information resources through the university's intranet. These resources include an electronic catalogue of library holdings, access to internet resources, an electronic thesis and research repository, and a content management system. Staff training is a central element of the project.

After a reconnaissance mission in early 2007, KIT experts undertook a first advisory mission in the summer. The project leaders from Lúrio University and KIT then drew up a project plan and started working on the first priorities. The project will run until 2011.

1.6

Social development and gender equity

Women in developing countries are much more likely than men to be poor, malnourished and illiterate. They also tend to have less access to medical care, property ownership, credit, training and employment, and be much less politically active. Achieving gender equality is therefore a fundamental aspect of development. KIT has long been involved in gender training to build understanding about the role of gender in development, but there is a growing awareness that training alone cannot create change, and needs to be accompanied by complementary strategies.

Revisiting gender studies and training

Conference

Revisiting Studies and Training in Gender and Development

Location

The Netherlands

Funders

Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; UK Department for International Development (DFID)

Duration

14-16 May

In May, KIT organized a conference on gender training in Amsterdam, the first international conference on the issue in almost two decades. A serious and critical review of gender training – what it represents and how it contributes to the successes and failures of gender mainstreaming – had not been undertaken since conferences in Bergen, Norway, and at KIT in the early 1990s. An opportunity to reflect on experience in gender studies and training was therefore long overdue.

The conference, entitled *Revisiting Studies and Training in Gender and Development*, brought together 40 prominent researchers, academics, policy-makers and practitioners from Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, Europe and North America. The participants welcomed the opportunity to critically examine gender training and re-energize themselves.

The conference produced a number of concrete results, including lessons learned about gender training methodology, and a review of the implications for gender training of gender mainstreaming and the current emphasis on women's leadership and empowerment. One of the main recommendations was to hold follow-up workshops in different regions to learn about and improve practice. The report on the conference can be downloaded from the Publications section of the KIT website.

‘Thank you for assembling a dynamic group of academics, practitioners and agency people for a very productive conference. Everything was very well planned and the discussions were productive. I, for one, learned LOTS with the cross-regional set of participants!’

— Conference participant





1.7

Sustainable economic development

Many people in developing countries, especially Sub-Saharan Africa, continue to be dependent on farming for their livelihoods. As the 2008 World Development Report recognizes, greater investments will have to be made in agriculture in developing countries if we are to achieve the first Millennium Development Goal of halving extreme poverty and hunger by 2015. In 2007, KIT continued its long-standing efforts to reduce rural poverty by strengthening capacity in the agricultural sector.

Strengthening agricultural research to improve livelihoods in Africa

Project

Strengthening agricultural research to improve livelihoods in Eastern and Central Africa

Location

Eastern and Central Africa

Partners

Ten ASARECA member countries (Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda)

Funder

Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA)

Duration

January-October 2007

Improving agricultural productivity, profitability and sustainability requires innovation. For many years, support for innovation tended to focus mainly on strengthening agricultural research, devoting little attention to other relevant stakeholders, such as farmer organizations and private companies, or to the institutional weaknesses that hinder innovation.

Recognizing that a better system of agricultural research for development is key to improving rural livelihoods in Sub-Saharan Africa, the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA) has put this issue at the centre of its agenda. ASARECA's mission is to promote economic growth, fight poverty and reduce hunger through agricultural research, extension and training. It facilitates research that promotes agriculture oriented towards markets and income generation, and serves as a regional, collaborative forum where ideas are conceived and exchanged.

In 2007, KIT was asked to help ASARECA and its partners to bring about these changes by designing a regional capacity strengthening programme on Integrated Agricultural Research for Development (IAR4D). Consultations with key players in ten ASARECA member countries resulted in a position paper on its vision of IAR4D. This was followed by case studies and a comprehensive needs assessment to identify gaps in knowledge and experience. Through an online discussion group, 120 experts from all member countries discussed these initial findings, validating the study's conclusions. The outcome was a capacity strengthening programme that is rooted in reality and relevant to agricultural innovation in all ten countries.



A fruit stall by the roadside in Uganda. Photo by Bertus Wennink



Women farming potatoes, southwest Uganda. Photo by Bertus Wennink



Diagnostic Products and Services

Diagnosing health problems on time can save millions of lives but in many countries diagnostic resources are either unavailable or too expensive. KIT works with governments, NGO and private sector partners to develop cheaper and more accessible methods of diagnosis and strengthen capacity in diagnostic laboratories.

KIT improves microscopy for the diagnosis of tuberculosis

Project

Fluorescence microscopy for tuberculosis diagnosis

Location

Vietnam and the Netherlands

Partners

KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation, Academic Medical Centre (AMC), National Institute of Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), the Netherlands; National Hospital of Tuberculosis and Respiratory Diseases, Vietnam

Funder

KIT

Duration

2006-2007

Microscopy is a very effective method of confirming a diagnosis of pulmonary tuberculosis (infection of the lungs with the bacterium *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*). In 2007, KIT worked on a new method for identifying the mycobacteria under a microscope which is also affordable for developing countries.

In order to make them visible under a microscope, the bacteria must be stained. The classical staining method produces dark purple bacteria on a pink background which are viewed using illumination with white light. This method is effective but difficult to employ, requiring a painstaking search at high magnification (1.000x). Each sample has to be examined for at least 20 minutes before it can be confidently concluded that it is negative.

An alternative staining method is available, however. This uses a fluorescent dye (auramine O) to stain the cells. When the cells are illuminated with blue light they glow bright green/yellow on a dark background. The samples can be examined at lower magnification and for only four minutes. Unfortunately, until recently, illuminating fluorescently stained cells required expensive and fragile lamps, which are difficult to obtain in the developing world.

Significant and rapid advances in the power of light-emitting diodes suggested, however, that LEDs might be used as alternative sources of light. KIT explored the possibilities and demonstrated that 'royal blue' LEDs are indeed effective and practical for viewing fluorescent samples, while requiring only a fraction of the electrical power of the standard lamps. KIT is now actively advocating this method of improving the microscopic diagnosis of tuberculosis in developing countries. Together with the project partners, KIT conducted an initial evaluation in Vietnam, which clearly demonstrated the method's potential. The concept has now received wide acceptance and microscopes using LEDs are now under development by major manufacturers. WHO is leading an international multi-centre evaluation (for which KIT contributed to protocol development) and in 2008, KIT will present the technology at a workshop in China.

Strengthening diagnostic laboratory capacity

Project:

Laboratory strengthening in Africa

Location

Africa

Partners

Various, including Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics (FIND), Switzerland

Duration: 2007-2010

Evidence-based control strategies for HIV, tuberculosis, malaria and many other diseases depend on timely diagnostic and monitoring methods. The importance of accurate and appropriate diagnostic testing is therefore increasingly recognized in improving global health and achieving the Millennium Development Goals in this area (MDGs 4, 5 and 6). Often, however, national policies for medical laboratory services are not linked to practical tools for implementing quality services.

Enhancing the quality of diagnostic laboratories means more than just improving their technical performance. It also requires a supportive and enabling environment. That calls for an integrated approach which takes account of input, process and output requirements determined by both technical and human factors, and of the perspectives of customers, providers and managers. Such a comprehensive commitment to quality is essential to achieve the best possible service for patients and increase effectiveness, efficiency and accountability.

To ensure the constant availability of quality laboratory services, KIT works together with organizations like WHO and FIND to strengthen the leadership and management capacity of

laboratory networks in resource-poor settings. It pursues this aim by offering its comprehensive expertise and experience in disease control, health systems, laboratory diagnostic services, quality systems, and human resource development.

In 2007, KIT initiated a range of activities aimed at strengthening this quality care. It started developing a staged quality standard building on the principles of international standards, but adapted to the individual needs, capabilities and capacities of peripheral, district and central laboratories. It also started developing a training programme consisting of a series of courses covering all aspects of laboratory quality management. The programme is linked to an information portal offering electronic interactive situational and self-assessment tools, and tools for interactive learning, implementation and evaluation. These complementary practical tools will be useful in implementing quality systems in resource-constrained environments. Several advisory missions were also carried out to help developing countries improve their diagnostic laboratory systems.

Monitoring drug resistance in tuberculosis

Project

Effect of genetic variation of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* on vaccine escape and the acquisition of drug resistance (TBadapt)

Location

Brazil, France, Mexico, Norway, South Africa, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Vietnam

Partners

Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Institute Pasteur, France; National Institute of Medical Sciences and Nutrition, Mexico; University of Oslo, Centre for Molecular Biology and Neuroscience, Norway; Stellenbosch University, South Africa; World Health Organization, Switzerland; National Institute of Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation, The Netherlands; National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology, Vietnam

Funder

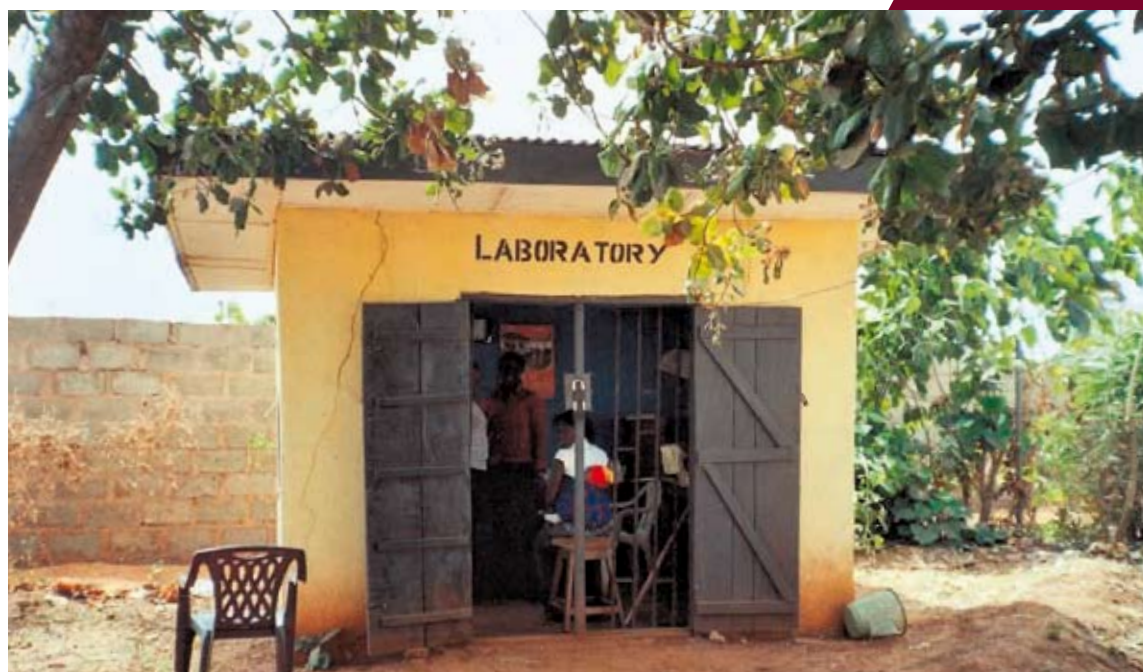
European Union

Duration

2006-2009

As a lead partner in TBadapt, KIT is investigating the possibilities of adapting the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* to control tuberculosis. Tuberculosis is estimated to infect one third of the human population and results in significant morbidity and mortality in approximately 10% of these individuals. Efforts to control the disease rely on vaccination and infection control, and treatment relies on accurate diagnosis and effective antibiotic regimens. Since, however, bacterial generation is much shorter than human generation, bacteria have the capacity to rapidly adapt to control measures. This can be seen in the emergence of drug resistant strains of *M. tuberculosis*. Shifts in the most prevalent strains after mass vaccination may also reflect the selection of strains that can evade the protection offered by vaccines.

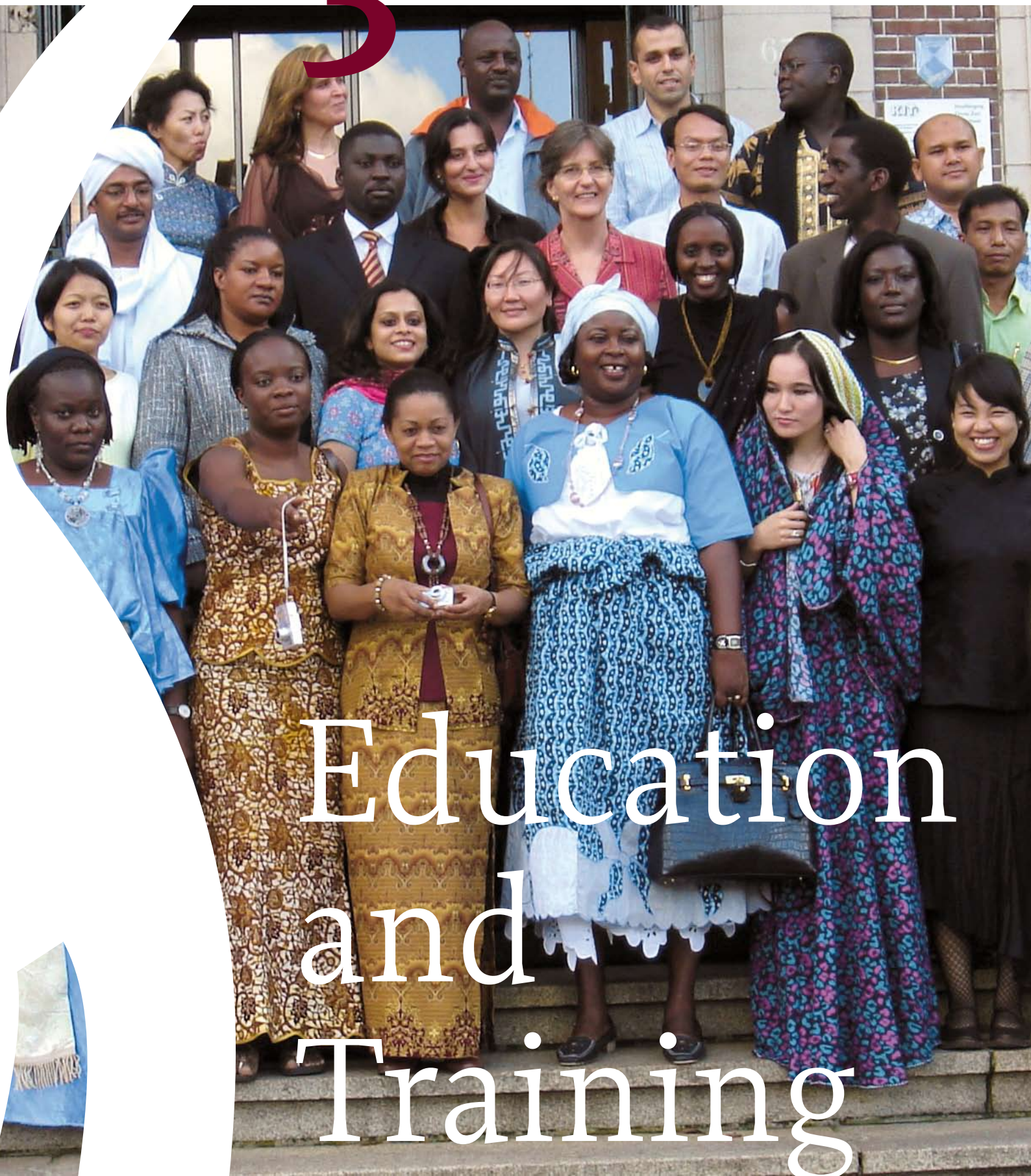
The TBadapt project is coordinated by the RIVM and comprises partners from Brazil, France, Norway, Mexico, South Africa, and Vietnam, with a wide range of skills in tuberculosis diagnosis, epidemiology and fundamental research. KIT's role includes developing methods that will allow simultaneous bacterial typing and detection of drug resistance based on a method called multiplex ligation-dependent probe amplification (MLPA). This assay will enable KIT and its partners to assess the diversity of different collections of isolates of *M. tuberculosis*. KIT is also exploring the behaviour of different types of *M. tuberculosis* in the laboratory particularly looking at how effectively and at what rate they are able to adapt. This involves exposing bacteria to antibiotics and studying variations in the response of strains with different genetic backgrounds.





‘The LED is much more cost-effective (with a longer life) and can even be powered with a battery. So it seems to be a way to deliver the benefits of fluorescence microscopy deeper out into the periphery.’

— Theo Smart, in ‘TB diagnosis: Improving the yield with fluorescence microscopy’, article on AidsMap News (www.aidsmap.com), 23 March 2007



Group photo of ICHD Graduates. Photographer unknown

‘Rising enrolments reflect the fact that increasing numbers of participants and funders are seeing the value of this kind of high-level training in public health. It also speaks to the reputation of the ICHD itself. Our alumni work in countries around the world is a great help in raising awareness about the programme.’

— Programme director Dr Prisca Zwanikken



Education and Training are key to KIT’s core concern of sharing knowledge with developing countries. In 2007, in addition to its two ongoing master’s programmes, KIT organized and facilitated a wide variety of training courses tailored to clients’ specific needs.

3.1 Master’s programmes

KIT offers two master’s programmes - the *Master in Health* (MIH) and the *International Course in Health Development/Master of Public Health* (ICHD/MPH) – jointly with the *Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam* (VU). In the 2007/2008 academic year, the ICHD/MPH attracted 47 students from 22 countries, the highest number of participants in the programme’s 44-year history. This growing interest reflects deepening concerns about global health issues, such as HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, bird flu and SARS, an increasing awareness of the need for effective and efficient national public healthcare systems, and recognition of the role of health in poverty reduction and greater well-being.

New HIV/AIDS specialization

In 2007, KIT and the VU launched the Netherlands' first master of public health focused on HIV/AIDS, as a specialization within the ICHD/MPH. The programme is designed to meet the needs of organizations in countries burdened by HIV/AIDS. HIV/AIDS programme managers and other senior staff members from government ministries and NGOs will acquire skills and knowledge to improve the effectiveness of HIV/AIDS programming in different sectors – from organizing, monitoring and evaluating HIV/AIDS programmes to managing personnel, carrying out research and influencing policy.

The new master's programme is one element of KIT's special programme on HIV/AIDS, which also got underway in 2007. The special programme aims to strengthen the capacity of decision-makers, communities and organizations to effectively reduce the spread and impact of HIV/AIDS, in line with the agenda for *Universal Access to HIV prevention*, treatment, care and support by 2010.

3.2

Training

Good governance and equity in post-conflict countries

Course

Good Governance and Equity in Political Participation in Post-conflict Sudan

Location

Sudan

Funder

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Duration

January 2007

The UNDP project *Good Governance and Equity in Political Participation in Post-conflict Sudan* aims to enhance the capacity of Sudan's potential women leaders and of institutions with an impact on women's political participation. Another goal is to create the conditions for gender-sensitive policy reform to ensure equality in political participation.

At UNDP's request, KIT organized a six-day training course on good governance, strategic planning and gender in Khartoum for senior officers of the planning divisions of all the major Sudanese government ministries. The course used participatory methods to draw out and build on participants' experiences and knowledge, while developing new skills and fostering gender-aware planning practices. Gender concepts, gender analysis and key issues in good governance were all discussed, as were methods for applying concepts of good governance and gender to the strategy planning cycle.

In a similar exercise, KIT worked with UNDP to organize and lead training workshops relevant to the context of Somalia and post-conflict environments. KIT helped to identify and address gender gaps in UNDP interventions aimed at influencing national strategies and policies and enabling its country offices to strengthen and influence national reform related to gender mainstreaming. A final component of the project was to support the establishment of a Gender Advisory Group within UNDP.

Understanding the Dutch

Course

Understanding the Dutch

Location

The Netherlands

Target group

Foreign employees and their families coming to the Netherlands from abroad

Intended result

To help foreigners coming to live and work in the Netherlands to understand Dutch culture

Structure of the course

Training sessions

KIT offers approximately 400 training courses a year for people going to live and work abroad. The courses cover 50 countries, but the majority are focused on increasingly popular countries like India and China.

KIT has also developed a course aimed at another significant – and growing – target group: foreign employees coming to work in the Netherlands. *Understanding the Dutch* has the same objectives as the courses for Dutch employees going abroad: to give them a better understanding of the host country's culture. Foreign employees can find it difficult to adapt to working in the Netherlands. They often find their Dutch colleagues too outspoken and result-driven. This, together with having to work within the Dutch consensus-based 'Poldermodel', can leave foreigners in a state of (culture) shock.

‘Dealing with HIV/AIDS requires a multitude of skills and competencies on the part of the people addressing the pandemic. The master’s in HIV/AIDS was developed in response to a growing number of requests from people in low income countries for a targeted programme on how to deal with the spread and impact of HIV/AIDS.’

— Programme director Dr Prisca Zwanikken



As finding new staff can be very costly, more and more businesses and organizations in the Netherlands ask for KIT's help in retaining foreign employees. They are becoming increasingly aware that intercultural communication can have very 'hard' consequences if not dealt with properly, and therefore requires 'soft' skills. The main principle of KIT's courses for expats and for foreign employees coming to the Netherlands is understanding that a different culture goes hand in hand with acquiring a better understanding of your own.

Cultural diversity

Training

Dealing with multicultural target groups

Location

The Netherlands

Client

Pre Wonen building corporation

Aim

To increase knowledge of multicultural target groups and develop alternative approaches

Duration

April and June 2007

KIT's clients face a number of challenges relating to diversity, including dealing with individual and target groups from different cultural backgrounds, using diversity among their staff to encourage creativity and innovation, and integrating diversity into their policies on human resources management.

In 2007 KIT extended its activities in the field of cultural diversity, providing training programs, workshops and lectures for a wide variety of organizations, including a police department, an insurance company, a bank and a government institution dealing with Islamic schools.

One example of these activities was a training program developed for Pre Wonen, a building corporation that increasingly has to deal with multi-cultural target groups. The participants acquired deeper insights into and knowledge of their culturally diverse clients, and learned about new strategies for approaching them and involving them in social cohesion issues.

In May, together with the Dutch Institute for Managers (NIVE) and the ITA Language Centre, KIT organized a congress on 'How to Manage Employees from Different Cultures'. The program, which included several keynote speakers, attracted around 70 participants.

KIT also made efforts to find new partners for cooperation. These included joining in an *iftar* – the traditional evening meal to break the day's fast during Ramadan – organized by Agiad, an organization for Turkish entrepreneurs in Amsterdam.

Developing international business

Service

Consultancy

Location

Morocco, The Netherlands

Client

Agis Zorgverzekeringen

Aim

To assist the client's commercial and ethno-marketing organization

Duration

June-October 2007

International cooperation means that individuals and groups of people from different backgrounds have to work together. KIT's training centre helps clients address these cross-cultural challenges, offering advice on aligning corporate policies between local subsidiaries and headquarters, communication with local clients and stakeholders, and cross-cultural teambuilding.



→ and → → Participants in a KIT training course.

Photo by Paul Romijn

In 2007, these consultancy services included an audit of the international commercial organization of medical insurance provider Agis Zorgverzekeringen, for whom KIT previously provided training. The commission also entailed a survey of the needs of new ethnic client groups, resulting in a culture profile and marketing recommendations.

Developing international leadership

Course

International Negotiations

Location

The Netherlands

Client

FMO

Aim

To provide FMO employees with insights and skills relating to international negotiations

Duration

October 2007

KIT offered a variety of training courses for multinational companies on international leadership competencies and talent development programmes related to transnational teambuilding. Demand for these competency courses is increasing, especially for technology-intensive companies. In working with other cultures, employees need to develop more 'soft skills'.

A good example was a training course in international negotiations which KIT designed and provided for the Netherlands Development Finance Company (FMO). The course was intended as a pilot and will be integrated in the FMO training course in Advanced Development Banking in 2008.

Internationalizing higher education

Program

Pilot to facilitate the internationalization of higher education in the Netherlands

Clients

Higher education institutions and research institutes

Location

Virtual and live

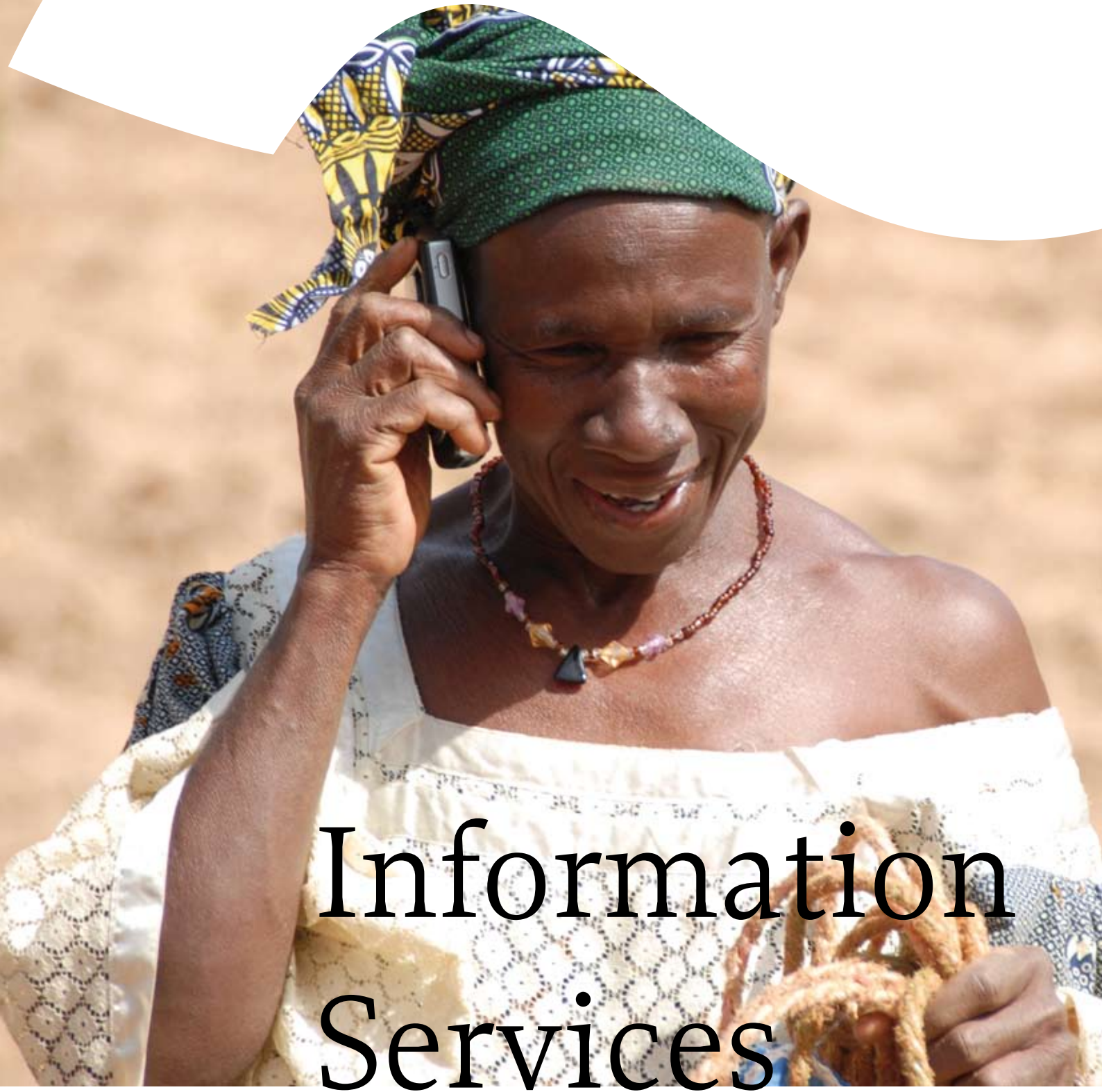
Duration

From 2007

In 2007, KIT responded to demand from the Dutch higher education sector by introducing a pilot program to facilitate the process of internationalization. In November a workshop, organized jointly with the University of Utrecht, was given at a seminar in Utrecht hosted by SURF, a collaborative organization for higher education institutions and research institutes which focuses on breakthrough innovations in ICT. The workshop, attended by policy-makers of Dutch universities, illustrated the methodology of virtual action learning (VAL) by proposing an assignment on intercultural competencies.

Two other workshops were held as part of the program: one during a seminar on the quality of internationalization policy in higher education organized by the Netherlands Association of Universities of Applied Sciences, and the other for members of the DHO, the Dutch network for sustainable higher education, on intercultural competencies needed for leading international projects.





Information Services

'For those without access to the internet, participation by mobile phone, verbally or in writing will also be facilitated' (see page 34). Mali. Photo by Hugo Verkuijl

‘The Culture for Development portal is a fantastic resource.’

— Gail Dexter Lord, president Lord Cultural Resources

In recent years KIT's information services have increasingly expanded into the realm of the internet. The internet allows those services to reach other target groups than solely the institute's visitors. This includes users in developing countries, who are gaining access to the internet at a growing pace. The introduction of information portals is another step in this wider development process.

Information portals

Project

Launch of information portals

Location

<http://portals.kit.nl>

Partners

Experts at international development organizations

Client

Development practitioners, researchers and policy-makers worldwide

Funder

Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Duration

From 2007

In 2007 KIT launched three information portals directed at professional users from the world of international development cooperation. Each portal is dedicated to a specific development theme, aiming to raise the level of knowledge on the theme and taking account of both existing information services and the current or future needs of users. The themes – *Culture for Development*, *Rural Innovation Systems and Value Chains for Development* – reflect focal areas of the institute itself. A fourth portal on *Governance & HIV and AIDS* is ready to be launched early in 2008 and others are planned in the near future.

For each portal, KIT's information specialists and experts on the theme concerned work together to select the resources to be made available. These resources include not only electronic reports and articles, newsletters and journals, but also news items, announcements of events and whole websites relating to the theme. It is KIT's policy to select only resources that are openly accessible, so that all users can retrieve the full content, including those in developing countries who have no access to licensed databases. In this way, KIT supports free access to digital scientific and scholarly material.

The portals' catalogues include titles, authors, years of publication and similar basic information. The content of every item is described using keywords and a short lead text. This allows users to search and browse through the portal. Once an item of interest has been found, they simply click the appropriate link to gain access to the item itself.

The portals can be found at <http://portals.kit.nl>.

ICT for Development

Project

ICT for Development

Location

Various

Partners

International development organizations

Clients

Information services in developing countries

Funder

Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Duration

From November 2006

In 2007, KIT expanded its expertise on ICT and supported a number ICT-related development projects. It aims to step up these initiatives on *ICT for Development (ICT4D)* and has several new projects in the pipeline.

KIT believes that ICT can only improve project results if the right social, cultural and economic conditions can be created for it to be effective. All staff working on ICT therefore need a mind-set characterized by cultural sensitivity, equity and open exchange. Sustainability and ownership are key words in every development project. KIT's activities will therefore always be based on a needs assessment that includes the broader perspective.

The institute's ICT4D services focus on content management, sectoral information systems and specific applications. They include advisory services, training, evaluation, information design and IT project management.

One ICT4D project to which KIT contributed in 2007 was the EU-funded *Learning, Monitoring and Research Facility (LMRF)* in Durban, South Africa, which was commissioned by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development. Through learning, monitoring and research, *LMRF* aims to enhance the performance of service providers, intermediate organizations and private sector organizations that influence local economic development in KwaZulu-Natal. Sharing the knowledge, expertise and outcomes of action research is essential for the learning process.

KIT supported the setup of the LMRF website by providing information on local economic development. The website will be developed into a centre for interactive communication, with stakeholders actively participating in discussion forums on which they can exchange experiences and share their expertise. The stakeholders include local farmers, entrepreneurs, consultancy firms and international organizations. For those without access to the internet, participation by mobile phone, verbally or in writing will also be facilitated.

Advanced internet searching

Project

New training module on advanced internet searching

Location

Ghana, The Netherlands

Partners

Association of African Universities, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology

Participants: Information workers in developing countries

Funder

Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Duration

March 2007-January 2008

In 2007 KIT launched a series of training modules as part of its capacity strengthening programme in the field of information and library services. In the context of the programme it has established partnerships with academic libraries and documentation centres in Ghana, Mozambique and Suriname. A detailed project plan, usually covering several years, has been drawn up for each of these partnerships, based on a needs assessment.

With the internet becoming increasingly important for sharing development-related information, especially in developing countries, the emphasis of these project plans is increasingly shifting towards the use of ICT. Many academic libraries in Africa have now established internet services for their users, or are working hard to do so. Students and faculty use the internet for academic purposes, often through local internet shops and cyber cafes. Young African students display astonishing ingenuity in working with internet resources, given the limited resources at their disposal.

The availability of the internet has generated a demand for training among African academics so that they can use it to its full potential. KIT's training module on advanced internet searching is designed to meet that demand. The module, which includes many hands-on exercises for using the latest internet tools, is divided into units, so that the course can be tailored to take account of the participants' daily work.

The training module was piloted in Ghana at the Resource Centre of the Association of African Universities, where a group of 11 information specialists took part. After the feedback from the pilot was incorporated into the module, it was again rolled out at the central library of Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), also in Ghana. A selected group of KNUST staff members are now be trained as trainers, so that the library can deploy a university-wide training programme for students and faculty.

In 2008 KIT will evaluate the outcome of these pilots in the medium and long run and implement the training in various projects.

‘Through the training I acquired searching skills that will help expedite action on information requests. The training helps us to understand the importance of a search plan and a search strategy. It exposed us to resources we were not familiar with. This is very helpful to us in the developing world.’

— Participant in one of the KNUST sessions



5



Tropenmuseum

PRACHT & KRAAL

van Madonna tot de Masai 16 . 12 . 2006 - 13 . 5 . 2007

Tropenmuseum

For the Tropenmuseum, 2007 was a year to be proud of. A record 210,000 visitors passed through the museum's doors, compared to 167,125 in 2006. Many of them came to see the eye-catching exhibition on the history and cultural diversity of beads (*Beauty and the Bead, from Madonna to Maasai*), but the Che Guevara presentation and the Bombay Star event in the Children's Museum also attracted a great deal of attention.

Together with the Saatchi & Saatchi advertising agency, a new visual promotion campaign was developed to show that a visit to the Tropenmuseum means much more than just looking at the thousands of objects on show. The campaign, which started in September and ran for 13 weeks, told the fascinating stories behind some of the more striking objects in the museum's collection. Each month a new story was told through advertisements and posters, on the museum's website, and at the museum itself.

The new design of the permanent exhibitions, which nearly reached completion in 2007, drew much attention from both professionals and the general public. The redesign has coincided with increasing requests for loans and steady interest in taking over the museum's exhibitions and concept. One striking example of this is the adaptation of the Tropenmuseum's successful *All about Evil* exhibition, which opened in Bremen, Germany.

The Tropenmuseum cooperated on cultural projects with partners in Indonesia (Sintang, Jakarta and Aceh), India, Kenya and other parts of the world. In its activities in the Netherlands and abroad, the museum worked more closely with its internal partners, the Tropentheater and KIT's Information & Library Services department.

Exhibitions

Beauty and the Bead - from Madonna to the Maasai

Light Hall, 16 December 2006 to 13 May 2007

This very successful exhibition revealed the evolution of the bead as an integral part of the history of mankind. It presented beaded costumes from every epoch and all corners of the earth. Among the highlights were a royal robe from Congo, a mummy from ancient Egypt, a sparkling dress worn by Marilyn Monroe, and haute couture by Versace.

Beauty and the Bead was the first exhibition ever to focus on beads as a worldwide phenomenon: a tiny object that has symbolized identity, status, origin and emotion for more than 100,000 years. The show revealed how beads have brought peoples from different continents into contact and how they have influenced each other, with beads serving as a visual language.

Che! A Commercial Revolution

Park Hall, 2 February to 6 May 2007

This exhibition focused on one image: the world-famous photograph of Che Guevara, taken in 1960 by Alberto Korda. The portrait has been reproduced in innumerable forms across the world: on T-shirts, bags and buttons, and by artists, politicians and pop stars. The exhibition showed how a politically intended photograph has been used and abused by popular culture. It included works of art by Pedro Meyer and photographer Annie Leibowitz, and paraphernalia such as Russian matryoshka dolls, cigarette packets, beer bottles and postage stamps.

Grande Sertão – Images of a Brazilian Novel

Park Hall, 2 June 2007 to 27 January 2008

This exhibition was dedicated to the *sertão*, the dry, sparsely populated interior of Brazil. Dutch photographer Mark Nozeman and Brazilian colleague Marcelo Greco presented life in the heart of Brazil, co-inspired by *Grande Sertão: veredas*, the book of short stories written by the Brazilian author João Guimarães Rosa in 1956. The stories in *Grande sertão* convey the rigours of life in this harsh and inclement region. To Rosa, however, the *sertão* is more. It is his world, and his travels through the region represent the journey through life. Through their photographs, Nozeman and Greco presented, each in his own way, a poetic rendition of Rosa's *sertão*.

Bombay Star – Tropenmuseum Junior

The Tropenmuseum Junior welcomed thousands of children to the *Bombay Star* exhibition this year. The young visitors could take a Bombay Tour to meet the people who live in the huge Indian city with its millions of inhabitants. Under the guidance of mostly Indian staff members, the children took part in activities to learn about life in Bombay. Stories, objects, dance, music, smells and tastes brought the city to life. *Bombay Star* focused on the contrast between rich and poor, child labour, family values and Bollywood, the popular Indian film industry. The exhibition was presented in partnership with Plan Nederland and the Liliane Fund.

The exhibition also resulted in an exchange project called *Who are You?*, which is giving four children from Bombay and four from Amsterdam the opportunity to learn about each other. The exchange visits took place at the end of 2007. During the visits, the children learned how to make short films on their mobile phones, which is the main way in which they communicate with each other. Using the same themes, the two groups make reports on their home environment, which they share through YouTube, e-mail and webcams. In 2008, the project will continue with a television series and a schools project in which 455,000 children will take part. *Who are you?* is a joint project with HIVOS and NCDO.

Exhibitions in the Gallery

The Gallery of the Tropenmuseum hosted four exhibitions this year. The themes were historical clubs from the Pacific, the East-Indies artist J.F.E. ten Klooster (1873–1940), and contemporary photographs of mask-dancers in Malawi by Douglas Curran. The fourth exhibition, *The Spider Anansi*, showed specially created works by 14 artists from the Netherlands and Ghana.

Exhibitions on tour

In addition to the adaptation of the successful exhibition *All about Evil* in Bremen, Germany, several of the Tropenmuseum's exhibitions could be seen at venues around the world in 2007. Historical photographs from the Tropenmuseum collection were on view at the exhibition *Another Asia* in Prague, the Czech Republic, while the exhibition *South African Family Stories* was presented at the National Cultural History Museum in Pretoria, South Africa. Within the Netherlands, the Moluccan Museum in Utrecht presented the exhibition *African Soldiers in the Dutch East Indies*.

Tropenmuseum

Sponsors 2007

Netherlands Ministry of
Foreign Affairs
Netherlands Ministry of Education,
Culture, Science
Mondriaan Stichting
BankGiro Loterij
Stichting Doen
NCDO
HIVOS
Liliane Fonds
Plan Nederland
Gemeente Amsterdam
Simons Juweliers
VSBfonds
GasTerra
Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds
Wilhelmina E. Jansen Fonds
K.F. Hein Fonds
V.J.F. Glaser BV
D. Swarovski & Co



Acquisitions

Contemporary objects were acquired to strengthen the existing collection profiles, with a special focus on popular art and culture, culture and migration, religious folk cultures, colonial history, shared cultural heritage, and modern art.

Since receiving financial support from the BankGiro Loterij the Tropenmuseum has been able to obtain special collections, including one of silver objects from Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The collection contains more than 130 pieces, varying from tea services to powder compacts, and from mirrors to napkin rings. With the acquisition of this collection, the Tropenmuseum now owns the largest and most complete collection of Yogya silver in the Netherlands.

Many objects were also acquired because they support the story line of the refurbished museum. These objects are on display and, in many cases, their significance, how they were made and their function in the community of origin have been documented on film and stored in the museum's digital object database. A number of recently acquired objects also relate to story telling as an aspect of intangible heritage, as a social practice and a way to preserve tradition.



Tropentheater

In 2007 the Tropentheater once again strengthened its programming, one of its primary policy targets. The programme offers a balanced and interesting mix of well-known and unknown performers and styles, from a fairly representative selection of countries and continents. By presenting a variety of stage disciplines, the Tropentheater aims to offer the public a selection of ‘unheard of sounds and rarely shown images’. It also offers a stage for emerging talent from non-Western countries. Once again, more than 50 per cent of the acts performing in 2007 were appearing in the Netherlands for the first time. This has made the Tropentheater a reliable springboard for new talent.

Own productions

In 2007 the Tropentheater staged a number of its own productions, including the final part of *Layla and Majnun* (a three-part Islamic story about impossible love) in April, *Cantigas* (Arabo-Andalusian music by the Mareas Ensemble) in September, and *El día de los Muertos* by the Tierra Caliente, a production by and for young people based on the Mexican celebration of All Saints in October/November. The Indian show *Pune Highway* by Rage Productions, which the Tropentheater produced, was followed by a focus on Indian actor/director/writer Naseeruddin Shah in October. The master himself was present and, together with his theatre group Motley, performed his play *Ismat Apa Ke Naam*.

Festivals

The Tropentheater organized a number of festivals including the *International Gamelan Festival Amsterdam (IGFA)* in June and *Echoes from the Steppe* in November. Highlights of the *IGFA* included performances in the Light Hall of the Tropenmuseum by orchestras from *Banyuwatis* (North Bali) and Surakarta (Java) together with European gamelan musicians, gamelan music originating in the Netherlands, a conference and master classes. *Echoes in the Steppe* focused on music from Central Asia. Both festivals received a great deal of attention from the public and the media.

Two festivals were also organized jointly with other Partners

Beeld voor Beeld (Image for Image) in June, which focused on anthropological documentaries, and the Brazilian film festival *CineBrasil* in September. Other activities included organizing performances for the *Amsterdam Roots Festival* and *Colouredance*, and taking part in the programme committees for the festival *Turkey Now!* from January to April.

Concerts and tours

Budding music and dance talent from India was represented in four national concert series and tours. The Parur Violin Brothers (in January), Monisa Nayak (March), Kaushiki Chakrabarty (April) and Rama Vaidyanathan (October) gave a total of 19 performances that attracted a combined audience of 1,967.

A new concept in the programming was the subscription series organized jointly with commercial partners, such as ECM Artists in Concert and the Putumayo World Music Series.

Highlights from the regular stage programmes were the sold-out opening concert of the Bembé Orchestra in January, the Egyptian Sufi singer Sheikh Ahmad Al-Tuni (March), the Iranian grand master Mohammed Reza Shajarian (May), the reunion concert of the Chilean-Dutch group Amankay (September), the exciting new tango of the Argentinian Quasimodo Trio (October) and the magnetic sounds of the Iranian-Indian Ghazal collective (October). The Tropentheater also presented dance performances, including Infinita by the Korean-Indonesian company Sen Hea Ha & TB Surakarta Dance (March) and the Bharata natyam dancers from the Indian company Rama Vaidyanathan (November).

New series

A number of new series were developed, including *Dance and Food*, a combination of three dance performances together with a buffet dinner, and the music documentary series *Muziek in Beeld* (*Focus on Music*). As well as showing films, *Muziek in Beeld* included a discussion with the producers, leading actors, experts and the public.

The public performances by the Mexican company Teatro Tierra Caliente were also transformed into shows for schools and young people. Since the Mexican celebration of All Souls/



All Saints has a festive character, it lends itself well to creating a classical discussion of difficult topics like death and bereavement. The interactive show is accompanied by an extensive learning kit, a teacher's manual and workshops.

In addition to performances as part of the regular youth programmes, there were also two shows in the framework of the Art School Day and four in cooperation with the *Festival De Rode Loper*.

Missions

Mali

In February two Tropentheater programmers went on a mission to Mali. The purpose of the trip was to increase the scope of African music on the Tropentheater's stage, to scout for new talent and to carry out acquisitions to strengthen the theatre's capacity.

The programmers attended the *Festival sur le Niger* in Ségou and a number of clubs in Bamako, where they saw established and unknown performers. Among the latter was Yaya Coulibaly, who has a collection of more than 7,000 puppets and other dolls from the heritage of his royal ancestors. On the whole, the quality of new acts was disappointing, indicating that the best way to tap unknown talent is to invest in existing contacts. The new contacts with impresarios and performers will, however, enhance the Tropentheater's access to the African market.

During the mission, a clear question arose: in which capacity strengthening projects can the Tropentheater play a role? One answer came from Toumani Diabaté, who – like his colleague Youssou N'Dour – has set up and supports all kinds of local musical projects. He provides for hundreds of family members and others by employing them in a music school, recording studios, an international music school, a PA rental company, musicians' housing and the Club Hogon. Toumani appealed to the Tropentheater to help him train sound and light technicians.

Taiwan

In response to an invitation from the Taiwanese Council for Cultural Affairs, a Tropentheater programmer visited the country. The itinerary included a number of performances varying from the Taiwanese Opera to Chinese chamber music and ancient Chinese music. The programmer also went to see a few less well-known performers and companies, including performances by descendants of the original Taiwanese people, and innovative musicals. Puppet shows, traditional Taiwanese ritual Tao music and acrobatic dance shed a new light on Taiwanese stage repertoires. The Tropentheater was deeply impressed by the diversity and quality of the performances seen during the mission to Taiwan and is taking active steps to bring some of them to the Netherlands in the near future.

Structural subsidy

Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Netherlands Ministry of Education, Culture & Science

Other subsidy and sponsors

HIVOS / NCDO
HGIS
Fons voor de Podiumprogrammering en marketing
Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds
Amsterdams Fonds voor de Kunst
Lira Fonds

Fonds Amateur en Podiumkunsten
Plan Nederland
Corporate Communication (KIT)
KIT Publishers
Sawadee Reizen
Putamayo Europe
Challenge Record International ECM
Cafe Restaurant Ekeko/Soeterijn
Nederlandse Programma Stichting NPS
Magazine 'Colorfull'



Other Entities

The three books on Iran were presented to Mr Shinofouishan, the director of Kanoon (left) and the mayor of Siraz by Ron Smit, the Director of KIT Publishers (right). Photo by a member of the public

Three other entities are also part of the KIT association: KIT Publishers, which facilitates the transfer of knowledge generated within and outside the institute to enhance KIT's role as a knowledge-building institute, the NH Tropenhotel, conveniently located next to the institute, and a new initiative to produce biofuels in Africa, Mali Biocarburant.

7.1 KIT Publishers

In 2007, KIT Publishers seemed to have overcome the problems of recent years and even made a modest profit. It produced over 50 new publications, a number of which were a great success. The complete print-run of 3,000 copies of the catalogue from the exhibition *Beauty and the Bead* was sold out within the six months during which the exhibition was on show. *Standplaats Paramaribo (Duty Station Paramaribo)*, one of the new titles in the popular series *Van onze correspondent (From our Correspondent)* received a great deal of media attention and author Nina Jurna was interviewed on several national television shows. Nine new titles were published in the *World Series for Children* this year. Also new were *Taking a Look at... Oman* and *Taking a Look at... Saudi Arabia*, which were published in cooperation with the countries' embassies in the Netherlands with financial support from Saudi Aramco and the Shell office in Oman. The Saudi book has been translated into six languages: Italian, French, English, German, Chinese and Japanese. *Taking a Look at... Iran* was published in cooperation with the Ministry of Education in Tehran, making 2007 a fruitful year for the World Series.

Taking a Look at... Iran

Taking a Look at... Iran was developed from the outset with the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults. The Institute, better known as Kanoon, is part of the Iranian Ministry of Education. It was established in 1965 with the aim of promoting cultural cooperation, and has been working with Tropenmuseum Junior since 2003. The text of the book, written jointly by KIT Publishers and Kanoon, has been translated into Dutch, English and Farsi, and published in the Netherlands and Iran. The three editions were officially launched in Shiraz in December 2007, and presented to a number of high-level government representatives.

Augusta Curiel

Augusta Curiel; Fotografe in Suriname 1904-1937 is a unique book in many ways. It offers the first overview of the works of Augusta Curiel, who was one of the most famous photographers of her time, and provides a rare glimpse of the historical photography of Suriname, which is still relatively uncharted territory.

‘In these tense times, it is exceptional that cooperation continues at least in the area of culture.’

— Roderick Wols, Deputy Head of Mission at the Netherlands Embassy in Tehran

The book is the result of cooperation between the Tropenmuseum, the Suriname Museum and KIT Publishers. It is based on the collections of the museums in Amsterdam and Paramaribo, which surprisingly hardly overlapped. The curators of the two museums put together the text and photography, and the result is a beautifully produced book with 250 colour illustrations, giving a splendid view of the city of Paramaribo, the plantations, the interior of Suriname and its inhabitants. The book clearly filled a gap in the market: the first print-run of 1,500 copies was sold out within a month. In Suriname alone, 1,150 copies were sold through the Suriname Museum and local bookshops. See page 12 for more details of this project.





7.2

Mali Biocarburant

With fossil fuel supplies increasingly under pressure, there is a global trend to promote the use of biomass as an alternative. KIT is contributing to this by taking part in a new enterprise in West Africa, Mali Biocarburant SA. The idea behind Mali Biocarburant is to produce biofuel that not only supplements farmers' incomes and contributes to poverty alleviation, but is also used locally, minimizing its impact on the environment. Mali Biocarburant is a public-private partnership in which KIT is participating together with the Dutch government's Emerging Markets Cooperation Programme (PSOM) programme, the *Spoorwegen Pensioenfonds* (the Dutch Railways pension fund) and FM Flowermachines, a private company. KIT intends to sell its shares in the Mali Carburant to one of the other stakeholders within a period of three to five years. This will depend on assurances that the underlying idea and aims of Mali Carburant remain intact.

Biodiesel from vegetable oils

For its primary process, which is the production of biodiesel based on vegetable oils, Mali Biocarburant uses physic nuts (*Jatropha Curcas*). Small-scale farmers supply the nuts to a farmers' union, which extracts the oil and sells it to Mali Biocarburant. The press cake leftover from the process is sold to the farmers to improve the fertility and structure of the soil. Mali Biocarburant uses the oil to produce biodiesel that can be used for generators and cars with diesel engines. A by-product of the process, glycerol, which a women's cooperative uses to produce excellent quality soap. As the farmers' union owns shares in the company, farmers benefit directly from the sales of the products and the expected increase in value of their shares.

Cultivating and processing the nuts has no negative impact on regular food crops or the environment. Nor is it 'rainforest fuel' – fuel for which the raw material (palm oil, corn) is cultivated on plantations built on areas of cleared rainforest. KIT explicitly aims to support small-scale projects geared towards small farmers and integrates its activities with existing agricultural systems. The *jatropha* plants used to produce the biofuel are either integrated with food crops or grown on 'spare' stretches of land, such as on roadsides.

Innovation prize

The Mali Biocarburant project was nominated for the Dutch *Ei van Columbus* prize, which is awarded to initiatives that are innovative and promote sustainability. In March 2008, Mali Biocarburant won the prize in the International Development category.

7.3 KIT Hotel BV

KIT Hotel BV can look back on a year in which it increased both its turnover in food & beverages and its occupancy levels. Since the middle of 2007, external exploitation has been in the hands of the NH Hoteles hotel chain, while KIT has remained responsible for the internal hiring of rooms and facilities.

From 2008, all activities relating to external conference facilities and internal catering for KIT's conference rooms will be managed completely by KIT Hotel BV. Hotel activities are expected to remain stable, with external conference facilities and catering increasing slightly.

Corporate social responsibility

NH Hoteles supports Foundation Codespa, a project which aims to give street children in Mexico private schooling to increase their chances of a better life, and Warchild, helping to organize its annual dinners.



The Institute at a glance

The Royal Tropical Institute (KIT) in Amsterdam is an independent centre of knowledge and expertise in the areas of international and intercultural cooperation, operating at the interface between theory and practice and between policy and implementation. The Institute contributes to sustainable development, poverty alleviation and cultural preservation and exchange.

KIT operates internationally through development projects, scientific research and training, and also provides consultancy and information services. These activities, along with those of its Tropenmuseum, Tropentheater and publishing house, are the Institute's means of bringing together people and organizations within the Netherlands and all around the world.

The Institute is a not-for-profit organization that works for both the public and the private sector in collaboration with partners in the Netherlands and abroad¹.

Basic Facts

- KIT is an institute for international, economic and intercultural cooperation, operating at the interface between theory and practice and between policy and implementation. The Institute conducts research and provides educational, consultancy and information services.
- KIT advocates an integrated approach that reflects diversity and works towards one clear aim: to produce workable solutions to the challenges of sustainable development and international poverty reduction.
- KIT was founded in 1910 as the 'Colonial Institute' to study the tropics and to promote trade and industry in the (at that time) colonial territories. It was founded on the initiative of a number of large companies, with government support, making it an early example of a public-private partnership.
- The Institute has the statutory form of an association with private and corporate members.
- KIT is a not-for-profit organization. The Institute offers a broad range of services and products, some of which are paid for by the general public – museum, theatre, books, training, etc. Other services and products are purchased or commissioned by governments, companies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and international organizations; some 40% of KIT's activities are financed by the Dutch government under annual production agreements.
- KIT has a turnover of approximately € 40 million and employs around 400 people. Half of its staff work on international projects.
- Since 1926, KIT has been housed in a historic building specially designed by the architect J.J. van Nieukerken and his sons. The building is richly adorned with decorative features and symbols referring to different cultures of the world and the colonial history of the Netherlands.

Field of Operations

KIT provides products and services in three areas:

- Economic and social development, health improvement and, specifically, combating tropical diseases.
- The cultural aspects of development, specifically cultural exchange involving museums, the performing arts and cultural heritage.
- Information and communication on its various fields of operation, including intercultural communication, through information services, publications and training.

Development and Health

Work in this core area is the responsibility of two departments:

- **KIT Development Policy & Practice**, which provides research, advice and capacity building on international health care, economic, social and institutional development, and gender issues.
- **KIT Biomedical Research**, which conducts health research, advises on capacity building for health research, and develops diagnostic tests for tropical diseases.

Culture

The museum and theatre form the cultural mainstay of the Institute.

- The **Tropenmuseum**, which is the oldest and most diverse ethnographic museum in the Netherlands, also supports museum capacity building in developing countries. A special branch of the museum is the Tropenmuseum Junior, which is specifically aimed at children.
- The **Tropentheater** is a leading international venue for world culture in the form of music, dance, theatre and film, as well as a platform for lectures and debate.

Information and Communication

The following departments are involved in the sharing and exchange of knowledge, including intercultural communication, and the provision of information services, publications and training:

- **KIT Intercultural Management & Communication** provides management consultancy, training and coaching services.
- **KIT Information & Library Services** manages one of Europe's largest collections of works on international and development cooperation, and also provides information services to developing countries.

Closing Comments by the Board of Directors

As this Annual Report shows, KIT has again proved itself an innovative knowledge institute capable of providing products and services throughout the world. This was a welcome development after the Institute's ambitions in that respect experienced some decline in 2006.

In 2007, KIT changed course to ensure growth. The Board of Directors is pleased to see that the financial results are improving, that a new organizational structure will be introduced in 2008, and that the conditions have been created for a continually productive and growing Institute.

The Board welcomes the initiatives with private entrepreneurship through KIT Holding, while the good relationship with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs guarantees the Institute a solid financial basis on which to operate. KIT will further strengthen its already strong position as a knowledge centre for development-related policy, which is visible in its many partnerships, the participation in academic training and research, and the increasing number of part-time professors at the Institute.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I compliment the Institute's Executive Board, management and staff on all of these achievements. Their commitment is the best guarantee for a flourishing organization that will serve its vision and mission well. The Board of Directors is convinced that a good basis has been laid for the KIT's centenary celebrations in 2010.

Professor R. Rabbinge
Chairman of the Board of Directors