



Introduction

During the last year the Royal Netherlands Institute for Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies has been very active. Half way through the year the management team held a 'mid-term review'. In this it was noted that the critical comments of the visitation committee of 2005 had been addressed. It was also established that there has been a spectacular increase in external subsidies for collections and research. The contribution of these external subsidies in the budget has doubled in a few years to about thirty percent.

The KITLV is doing well and will stay in Leiden. This last is the result of a decision made in the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW) about the bringing together of institutes in the field of humanities. At the same time the decision puts an end to the long period of waiting for the necessary extension of the building. Concrete plans for this will be made in 2009.

The collections form the basis of the KITLV. When the extension of the building is realised it will no longer be necessary to store annually a great number of publications elsewhere and optimal service can be offered. In the last year two important advances were made. Thanks to several large subsidies parts of the collection could be digitised. Moreover, in future new books from Indonesia will be included in the Leiden system.

This year too, KITLV Press put a series of beautiful books on the market, while the number of publications in Jakarta increased.

KITLV Press is part of APSEA, of which the most important non-profit making publishers dealing with Southeast Asia are members. This has led to better cooperation and greater efficiency. Moreover the Press is active in the area of digitisation and it aims to improve its marketing by the use of websites. Finally developments in the field of 'open access' are closely monitored.

Across the whole institute advances have been made in the field of ICT and the mutual cooperation between departments has been greatly improved. In this spirit, the KITLV is now ready to make better use of the unique combination of collections, publishing and research by starting joint projects .

The Research department is becoming an international centre. In addition to the projects already up and running, in the last year there was participation in projects and discussions concerning heritage and (post) colonial migration.

An innovation was the exhibition '24 uur Indonesië' (24 hours Indonesia), held from 27th June to 16th November 2008 in the Tropenmuseum in Amsterdam. The exhibition was based on the project 'Recording the Future' and offered insights into everyday life in Indonesia. Following this there appeared the film *Don't forget to remember me; A day in the life of Indonesia*, which also represented a new departure for the KITLV.

In most activities the office in Jakarta plays a crucial role and the relationship between Jakarta and Leiden is the backbone of the institute. Therefore it is satisfying to state that the mutual cooperation is very good.

The KITLV took part in the celebrations for the bicentennial of the existence of the KNAW by organising a colloquium on 'Science and Empire' around 1800 in the Trippenhuis in Amsterdam on 28th and 29th August. In addition the KITLV made a contribution to the celebration of the anniversary of the KNAW on 8th May in the Beurs van Berlage in Amsterdam.

On 16th May the honorary member of KITLV's Learned Society Professor Heather Sutherland stood down as Professor of Non-Western History at the Vrije Universiteit (Free University) Amsterdam (VU). On that occasion a festschrift was presented and published by the KITLV: Peter Boomgaard and Henk Schulte Nordholt were among the editors.

On 1st September Gert Oostindie left for a year's research leave. In this period he is replaced by Henk Schulte Nordholt. Yayah Siegers-Samaniri is on maternity leave from 1st September and her place is filled by Esrih Bakker.