

Update.

In this newsletter: more information about the appeal for sector management, the 3TU spectrum and the opening of the 3TU virtual lecture hall. It also includes an interview with Jacob Fokkema, who is leaving his positions as rector of TU Delft and chairman of 3TU.Research.



Interview with... Jacob Fokkema

Rector Magnificus Prof. Jacob Fokkema has been chairman of the 3TU board committee since the beginning of 2008. On leaving his position as Rector of TU Delft, he will also be relinquishing his 3TU tasks.

Has the 3TU collaboration lived up to expectations?

We knew that collaboration in the area of research would not be easy. You can't blame people for that, as universities consider it important to excel in research. This also means that people feel a certain degree of competitiveness with regard to other universities. So our main focus was on the provision of facilities, such as a good infrastructure. We also applied ourselves to using the complementary research aspects of the three universities in putting us more firmly on the map. A total of 50 million euros was suddenly made available for this purpose. Our aim was that research would not be labelled as coming from Delft, Eindhoven or Twente, but rather from 3TU.

What developments do you expect within 3TU in the area of research?

The '3TU Speerpunt Bouw' programme is well underway. The mathematicians have got together and a new collaborative initiative has been set up in the area of logistics and mobility. The 3TU.Ethics & Technology Graduate Programme has received funding from the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research, enabling the appointment of four PhD graduates. And, of course, the presentation of the 3TU spectrum took place recently.

Is there still funding available for 3TU next year?

The policy that we have followed means that opportunities are still open to us, but on a greatly reduced scale. From 2011, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science has budgeted long-term subsidy for 3TU, but the contributions for 2009 and 2010 have been cancelled due to cut-backs. However, we will still try to start up the 'Speerpunt Bouw' programme initiatives and the logistics and mathematics initiatives.

What does the future of the 3TU.Federation look like?

There will be increased collaboration between the knowledge institutions and the business world, so that we can combine forces in the Netherlands to play a significant role in Europe. One great example is 3TU.NIRICT which, along with many other partners, has submitted a proposal to the EIT for a Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) in the field of ICT. I believe that this affords some great opportunities for 3TU.

3TU.Federation submits proposal for sector management

At the KIVI NIRIA conference on 26 November, 3TU chairman Amandus Lundqvist made an urgent appeal to give further shape to joining forces in the technology sector. He called for more collaboration with large technological institutions and for achieving administrative harmony in an umbrella management body. He gave the example of Switzerland, where two distinguished universities of technology (the ETH in Zurich and the EPFL in Lausanne) are combining activities with four top technological research institutions in the 'ETH bereich' programme. Lundqvist sees similar opportunities for the collaboration of 3TU with the large technological institutions in the Netherlands. 3TU would also like to involve the private R&D sector in sector management. Lundqvist also asked the government to at least act as facilitator and catalyst in this issue. The 3TU.Federation has also sent a letter to the Minister of Education, Culture and Science, requesting continued investment in the technology sector. The 3TU.Federation stresses that the technological science sector is the driving force behind Dutch knowledge economy, and that combining forces – as takes place in the 3TU.Federation – is a necessary factor.

From 1 January 2010, Drs. Dirk Jan van den Berg, (President of the TU Delft) will become chairman of the board of the 3TU.Federation and Prof. Ed Brinksmas (rector of the University of Twente) will become chairman of 3TU.Research.

Events

Euspen, Delft 31 mei t/m 3 juni 2010

The 10th edition of the Euspen conference will take place in Delft this year. As usual, there will be a common 3TU standpoint. The emphasis will be on the most recent insights and market developments in precision technology and production processes, as well as in manufacture, measurement and cutting materials in the nano and micro precision technology sectors. You can find more information about this international conference at: www.delft2010.euspen.eu



Telmme

One of the big challenges in integrating the new intake of students from abroad and from higher professional education institutions into the Master's courses at the universities of technology is catering for the big differences in knowledge backgrounds. These differences are mainly manifest in the knowledge of mathematics. This academic year, in order to eliminate these deficiencies in mathematical knowledge as quickly and as far as possible at the start of the first semester of the Master's course, the 'Telmme' project has been set up within 3TU.Education. 'Telmme' stands for 'Technology Enhanced Learning of Mathematics for Master Education'. Prospective students receive digital material for technology-enhanced learning that has been developed mainly in-house. They can use this material to measure their knowledge of mathematics and to improve it where necessary. It is expected to improve study results and to enable prospective students for a technological 3TU Master's course to be approached more actively. For more information, see: www.telmme.tue.nl

Credits

3TU.Newsletter is a publication of the 3TU.Federation (www.3tu.nl). The newsletter is sent to the staff and external contacts of Delft University of Technology, Eindhoven University of Technology and the University of Twente.

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Official opening of virtual lecture hall

The official opening of the 3TU virtual lecture hall took place on 30 November. Students can attend the virtual lectures of the 3TU Master's courses via HD video conferencing. A virtual lecture hall has been set up at each university. A professor gives a lecture at one university, which can also be 'attended' at the other two institutions. Thanks to this unique facility, students now save time otherwise spent in travelling.

After a word of welcome from Hans Van Duijn (Rector Magnificus TU/e), a short lecture was given by Stefano Stramigioli (UT). Finally, Paul Rullmann (TU Delft – second from the left on the photo) held an interview with users Professor Fred Hobma (left) and a student. You can get an impression of the atmosphere of the opening of the 3TU virtual lecture hall via: www.3tu.nl, under 'About 3TU', 'Publications', 'Education'.

3TU.Centres of Excellence attend the KIVI NIRIA conference

Three 3TU.Centres of Excellence – Dependable ICT Systems, Intelligent Mechatronic Systems and Sustainable Energy Technologies – each contributed a workshop to the KIVI NIRIA conference on 26 November. Professors and researchers from all three universities gave lectures at the workshops, which were well attended. There were some lively discussions at the workshops, about issues such as the possible applications of the research within 3TU.



Presentation of 3TU spectrum

At the annual KIVI NIRIA conference on 26 November 2009, Chairman of 3TU.Research Jacob Fokkema (right) presented the first copy of the 3TU spectrum to Jan Dekker, President of KIVI NIRIA. The book outlines the combined research efforts of the Centres of Excellence of the 3TU.Federation. It is the first time that the Centres of Excellence have published their research in this way and on this scale. The 3TU spectrum sets out the ambitions and key points of each Centre of Excellence. Top researchers and PhD students from the three universities transport the reader to their research world, discussing the collaboration with the 3TU partners and the social significance of their work.

The 3TU.Federation has the following Centres of Excellence: Intelligent Mechatronic Systems, Dependable ICT Systems, Sustainable Energy Technologies, Multiscale Phenomena, Bio-nano Applications and Ethics and Technology.



The 3TU spectrum is available via: www.3tu.nl, under 'About 3TU', 'Publications', 'Research'. If you would like to receive a copy, please let us know by sending a mail to communicatieadviseur@3tu.nl, stating 'request for 3TU spectrum'.