



*The aim of the Royal Institute for Linguistics and Anthropology is to collect and make accessible books and other documents, to undertake and to stimulate research, and facilitate the publication of books and periodicals about South-East Asia and Oceania, Indonesia in particular, and the Caribbean Area in the Social Sciences and Humanities. The headquarters of the Institute are in Leiden with an office in Jakarta.*

## Highlights from Annual Report 2004

Just after Christmas in 2004, the world watched the reports of the tsunami in South and Southeast Asia in shock and horror. The disaster hit close to home, literally and figuratively, for staff at the KITLV. Among the innumerable missing persons is Muhammad Isa Sulaiman. As a fellow with the Modern Indonesia project, he was at the KITLV in Leiden – accompanied for some of this time by his wife – for several months in 2003 and 2004. Just days before the disaster he had returned to Aceh from Jakarta, where he had taken part in a conference at the KITLV office there.

Aside from the grief, injury and material damage the tsunami caused in South and Southeast Asia, this disaster dealt a terrible blow to the academic infrastructure in Aceh, including local research collections. Shortly before the tsunami wreaked havoc in Banda Aceh, the head of the KITLV-Jakarta, Roger Tol, had gone there on an acquisitions trip. It is feared that the publishing companies and bookstores he visited on his trip were lost. Although there will be other priorities in Banda Aceh in the coming months, its academic infrastructure will undoubtedly need to be rebuilt. In anticipation of this, the institute has announced that it is ready to contribute what it can via the KITLV-Jakarta.

As for its own work, the institute may look back contentedly upon the year under report. The *Meerjarennota* 2004-2008 was presented in the spring. The *Meerjarennota* contained several main points: the institute must look at reinforcing research with external subsidies, strengthening the KITLV Jakarta, further utilizing opportunities offered by ICT; it must reflect on the present organizational structure and resolve the problems regarding the lack of space in the building. The KNAW directorate, the research commission, and the board accepted the *Meerjarennota*. The discussion about possible adjustments to the organizational structure of the KITLV, which centres on possibly revising the way in which the institute is divided up into departments, was not concluded. However, it was decided that a head of research would be added to the institute's team of managers. Funding for this position derives from a transitional arrangement for which the KNAW made additional moneys available. Eventually the institute will fund the head of research independently. The vacancy for the new head of research was made public at the end of 2004.

Old and new administrative tasks took up much time. The Minister of Education, Culture and Science allotted extra funding to the institute for its accommodation. As a result, the stalemate between the KITLV and the University of Leiden surrounding the financial agreement about the housing of the institute came to an end. In the closing months of the year under report, negotiations with the University of Leiden about an agreement satisfactory to both parties could be resumed. Moreover, the first steps could be taken towards the necessary expansion of and adjustments to the present building. The KNAW has already promised to set aside 1.6 million euros for renovations.

Since the KITLV started digitizing its own catalogues several decades ago, ICT management had become continually more important for the institute. Over the past years, the KNAW has promoted this emphatically. The institute's goal is to develop into a web-based centre of expertise, which will require it to work in new ways. In keeping with the increased importance of internet, in 2004, "Excerpta Indonesica", "Caribbean Abstracts" and the "Bibliography of the Netherlands

Caribbean" were placed online on the website of the KITLV. Furthermore, preparations were made for the further digitization of the photograph and audiovisual collections, for the electronic publication of older issues of *Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land-, en Volkenkunde* and the *New West Indian Guide*, and for the development of programmes that will automatically collect and archive relevant digital publications.

The Foundation "Het Gebaar" granted a subsidy applied for by the head of Archives & Images, Gerrit Knaap, who requested it for the digitization of the photograph collection. Thanks to the subsidy, in the upcoming four years most of previously accessible parts of the photograph collection will be described and published digitally on the website. This funding will allow the institute to take the next step in the digitization of the photograph collection, now that a related project subsidized by Het Geheugen van Nederland ended in 2004. As for the library, it obtained a substantial subsidy from the national conservation project "Metamorfoze" to conserve its unique collection of Sino-Malay literature.

Of the 29 publications the KITLV Press released in 2004, one deserves particular mention, namely the *Nederlands-Indonesisch woordenboek* (Dutch-Indonesian dictionary) compiled by Hein Steinhauer and KITLV staff member Susi Moeiman. Fourteen years after the publication of the renowned Indonesian-Dutch dictionary by A. Teeuw, it finally has a counterpart. At a festive book launching, the first copy of the dictionary was given to the ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia, his Excellency Mr. Mohammad Jusuf.

In the history of the institute, the Press has never managed to release 29 publications. In 2002, the KNAW granted a four-year subsidy to allow the Press to get rid of a backlog of work, to reduce the processing time for manuscripts, and to bring its output to a consistently higher level. These goals were achieved well before the end of the four years.

The development of the KITLV-Jakarta brought it closer to becoming a full counterpart of the institute in Leiden, to wit the strongly increased number of titles in Indonesian published by, or as a result of, our office in Jakarta. Unfortunately, the resolution to place one, or even two, externally financed professors at the KITLV-Jakarta has led to only limited progress, though a positive outcome is expected.

Research is an increasingly important aspect of the tasks of the KITLV. Research done by staff members covers a broad spectrum of disciplines, periods, countries and regions. What is more, in the past decade there has been a shift in the direction of research groups. The KITLV, however, continues to offer a place to specialized research by staff members, in particular heads of departments, who carry out their research alongside their daily management tasks.

The KITLV has a clear task in promoting the preservation of research on the cultural heritage from the colonial past of the Netherlands. Consequently the KITLV, supported by the Municipal Archives of Amsterdam and funded through a special programme of the ministries of Foreign Affairs and Education, Culture and Science, initiated an identification mission, 'The Atlantic World and the Dutch, 1500-2000'. This project began in February, after the grants had been extended at the end of 2003. Historian Han Jordaan was hired for the practical execution of the project. The director of the KITLV, Gert Oostindie, was invited to lecture in Brazil and Ghana and used these opportunities to gather information and to establish contacts for the projects.

The EDEN project (Ecology, Demography and Economy in Nusantara) reached completion. At the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Studies (NIAS) in the academic year 2003-2004, Peter Boomgaard led a project group that placed the research results in a broader regional and comparative perspective. It may be concluded that EDEN was, despite some setbacks in the first phase (1992-1997), ultimately successful. The project led to a wealth of publications by

Boomgaard, David Henley and others in authoritative journals and with leading publishers. The last publications resulting from EDEN will appear in the coming years.

Research in progress was continued. There was considerable progress made on the project 'Renegotiating boundaries; Agency, access and identity in post-Suharto Indonesia', led by Henk Schulte Nordholt. Besides Schulte Nordholt and Gerry van Klinken, eight fellows and ten associated fellows took part in the programme. The head of the press, Harry Poeze, used his sabbatical to complete his magnum opus, a very comprehensive biography about Tan Malaka's role in the Indonesian Revolution. KITLV researchers published many articles and several books about various topics, among them a revised reprint of Knaap's *Kruidhagelen en Christenen; De Verenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie en de bevolking van Amboen 1656-1696* and *Monsoon traders/ Ships, skippers and commodities in eighteenth-century Makassar*, with Heather Sutherland. Several staff members also gave lectures, participated in activities for the general public, and were in the media.

At the end of 2004, three sizeable grant requests were fulfilled. The policy of obtaining external funding for research instated in the past years has thus proven to be very fruitful. 'Het Gebaar', the foundation that was mentioned earlier, granted a second and considerable subsidy, the application for which was made by Oostindie and Fridus Steijlen. This subsidy will support the establishment of an 'Indisch Knooppunt', which will aim to trace, make an inventory of, and make easily accessible, sources from and about 'Indisch' history, as well as create a new source about organized 'Indisch' life in the Netherlands by means of oral history. This will be given an interactive dimension on the KITLV website.

NWO Humanities granted funds for both KITLV applications – a remarkable result given the amount of competition. The first project application, by Rosemarijn Hoeft and Oostindie, concerned a social-historical study of twentieth-century Suriname, titled 'Suriname; The predicament of a multi-ethnic society'. The second project proposal, 'Bringing history home; Postcolonial identity politics in the Netherlands' was submitted by Oostindie, with Professor J. Lucassen from the International Institute for Social History and Professor H. Roodenburg from the Meertens Institute. As a bonus for obtaining this last subsidy, the academy made a supplementary subsidy available to support the collaboration between these three KNAW institutes.

The institute is financially sound. The regular budget for 2004 was 3.3 million euros, of which 92 percent came from the KNAW, and the rest from the Learned Society and the profits generated by the KITLV Press. There are several structural problems, which result from, for instance, insufficient compensation for indexation, a disproportionate increase in acquisitions costs, and the decreased contribution from the Learned Society. Disappointments such as these are compensated for with some difficulty in the budget of the departments that must face them, but they greatly reduce room for the development of new policies.

For this reason too, the recent 'harvest' of external and KNAW subsidies is extremely important. Not including the investments in renovations promised by the KNAW (1.6 million euros), a total of 2.3 million euros in subsidies was obtained in 2004. In relation to the annual budget this is a sizeable sum. These subsidies will, in the coming years, be used entirely for new activities, in particular in the domain of research. An important step is thus being set in the direction of the plans for renewal laid out in the *Meerjarennota 2004-2008*.

There was fruitful collaboration within the immediate institutional surroundings of the KITLV. On the one hand the KITLV worked together with the KNAW and the research commission, on the other hand with the executive of the Learned Society. Naturally relations were maintained both nationally and internationally. On this front, the institute took part in discussions surrounding the alarming shrinking of area studies in general and Southeast Asian studies in the Netherlands in particular.