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The Year 2001 in Retrospect

In the year 2001, CML has for the first time functioned as a formal University Institute. This involved the establishment of a board of directors, an internal scientific council (Instituutsraad), an internal employees' council (Dienstraat) and an external advisory council (Adviesraad). Also the first steps have been set regarding the agreements on future education and research activities between CML on the one hand and the faculties and university board on the other hand. The University board of Governors has agreed upon the financing of a number of 'central tasks' of CML. Each of three sections of CML has taken the responsibility for the preparation of one Masters curriculum. The section Ecosystems and Environmental Quality is partner for the Biology department in developing an MSc on Sustainability and Biodiversity. The section Substances and Products took the initiative for the establishment of an MSc on Industrial Ecology, together with faculties of Delft Technical University and Rotterdam Erasmus University; in Leiden the partner is the Chemistry department. The section Environment and Development works together with the department on Cultural Anthropology in the development of an MA Environment and Development.

In the section Environment and Development not less than 3 PhD theses were successfully defended. It becomes apparent that this section, with its field stations in North Cameroon and in the Philippines, has built an important and irreplaceable infrastructure which enables long lasting research programmes in developing countries. These field stations are not cheap in their management, but they have increasing potentials in the framework of international conventions and funds, such as the Biodiversity Convention, the Convention against Desertification and the Global Environmental Facility. The field station in Cameroon celebrated its 10th anniversary.

In the section Ecosystems and Environmental Quality one PhD thesis was defended. Furthermore, the second phase started of a research programme on the relationship between GMO's and pesticide use, commissioned by Aventis. The section guided a project group on the admission procedures of GMO's in Europe and the US; this project took place in the framework of the European Postgraduate Course in Environmental Management (EPCEM) (which is organised together with sister institutes in the two Amsterdam universities, Wageningen University, Debrecen University in Hungary and with the Ecole des Mines in Paris).

The section Substances and Products was quite successful in acquiring EU funds. The section is partner in three projects which are co-ordinated elsewhere, and is co-ordinating one project itself, dealing with computerised photo-identification of whale species. The section started the preparation of the Centre of Chain Analysis and Environment (CKM) together with TNO. An investment plan for this centre was set up, which will be implemented in the year 2002. The LCA guide, commissioned by the Dutch government, was finalised.

Regarding the finances, CML could close the year with a small credit balance. A point of attention concerns the fact that EU funding is more tight than usual research projects commissioned by industry. A start has been made with a shadow budget plan. This implies a plan, in which not the current revenues from the university board are included, but rather revenues which are to be expected if the future financial regime based on agreements with faculties will apply, i.e., starting from the year 2005. The first budget plan does balance, the second not yet, but the institute is well under way.

Professor Dr. Helias A. Udo de Haes
Scientific Director of CML