With the very first 3TU Sector Plan for Science and Technology, Slagkracht in Innovatie! ['Strength in Innovation'], a fertile foundation has been laid for future collaboration between TU Delft, TU Eindhoven and the University of Twente, says Arno Peels, the new chairman of the 3TU Federation and Chairman of the Executive Board of TU Eindhoven. He takes stock and outlines the plans for the future.

What are the plans for research in the future?

“Major investments have been made in order to realise the Centres of Excellence. We are now reaping the benefits in the form of outstanding research, which is also finding its way into society and businesses. The spirit in these Centres is so positive that new initiatives are being prepared for Centres in the areas of Mobility and Human Technology Interaction, as well as for Health and Technology.

Attention has recently been focused largely on improving our education. We are now going to apply even more energy to research.”

What is being done for education?

“In the 3TU.Federation, we are working very closely with each other in order to connect engineering education to social developments. Meanwhile, our efforts to make engineering education more attractive to young people are continuing unabated, in the hope of improving pass rates and reducing the average study duration. With regard to the latter point, we have obviously made good agreements with the Ministry within the context of the 3TU Sector Plan for Technology. We are also going out into the world together. For example, three of us recently visited KTH Stockholm to explore opportunities for collaborating with that university in the field of engineering education.

What do you expect from the government?

“As you can see, engineering education and research have high priority on the political agenda. This is good for us. Even though investments in research are declining in absolute terms, there are great opportunities for us to collaborate in designing the Top Sectors and the Technology Pact.

The government should nevertheless be aware that the academic world needs continuity and stability. We are world-class universities, and we are making significant contributions to innovation in the Netherlands. Such achievements should be sufficient to give our scientists confidence. We must prevent a situation in which we promote collaboration between scientists on the one hand, while, on the other, always getting them to compete with each other when it comes to the allocation of funding. The Dutch government has a tendency to loose sight of this delicate balance.”

3TU signs Technology Pact

On 13 May, a number of representatives of employers, employees, educational organisations, regional authorities and the government signed the National Technology Pact 2020. Signing on behalf of 3TU was Arno Peels, chairman of the 3TU.Federation. The Technology Pact is expected to ensure the addition of 30 000 engineers each year. The 3TU.Federation takes part in actions focused on the three research emphases: Choosing for engineering, Learning in technology and Work in technology. One proposal that comes to mind is the creation of a CoE for University Teaching in Engineering.

RoboCup in Eindhoven from 26 to 30 June

RoboCup is a global organisation that has the objective to develop a robot football team that will be able to beat the human world football champions in 2050. In addition, RoboCup's aim is to encourage technological developments and the sharing of technology. By sharing developments using the football application, the project will be able to reach a wide audience. The competitions will take place in the Gennepers Parks in Eindhoven from 26 to 30 June. For additional information, please visit www.robocup2013.org

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Colofon

3TU. Newsletter is published by the 3TU.Federation and is available to staff members of Delft University of Technology, Eindhoven University of Technology and University of Twente.

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Interview with... Arno Peels

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New prize in the field of mechanics

Together with CoE Fluid and Solid Mechanics, KIVI NIRIA has established a new prize: the Hoogendoorn Fluid Mechanics Award, which is aimed at encouraging promising young researchers in the discipline. Professor Charles Hoogendoorn was one of the founders of the J.M. Burgerscentrum (JMBC), a national research school in the field of Fluid Mechanics in the Netherlands. The winner will receive the prize, which consists of a certificate, a trophy and and prize money amounting to € 750, on the 2014 edition of Burgersdag.
Linda Ruigrok new project leader for 3TU.Federation

On 15 June, Linda will begin her duties as the project leader for 3TU.Federation. She will be coordinating and implementing various projects. In addition, she will be supporting IJsbrand Haagsma in his duties. Linda developed a passion for marketing/Communications while studying International Business & Languages in Rotterdam. After her studies, she worked as a flight attendant for KLM. For several years, Linda has enjoyed working as a project assistant. She had previously done this as a freelancer, and she has been employed by TU Delft for 1.5 years. She lives in Delfgauw with her husband Jeroen and their children Milou (6) and Niels (3).

3TU@Hannover Messe

From 8 to 12 April, the 3TU.Federation participated in the Holland High Tech Pavilion at the Hannover Messe. The projects and research studies that were displayed constitute a fine representation of the activities taking place at the three universities: from Master’s students to spin-off companies and from European research to research in collaboration with Industry. For example, the Delfly (lightweight drone) and the spin-off company Sorama, which is producing an innovative sound camera) attracted considerable attention.

3TU.Bouw Workshops on establishing a research programme

On 13 and 15 May, 3TU.Bouw organized four workshops to involve the commercial sector in developing a joint research programme for the various faculties of Architecture and Civil Engineering in the Netherlands. Each workshop addressed one of four themes: Resource Efficiency, Strategic Design, Infrastructure & City and Integrated Construction. These themes were adopted in response to the 3TU.Bouw Kick-off, which was held in October 2012. The workshops yielded interesting discussions regarding the current state of the construction industry and where it should go in the future. Several topics emerged repeatedly during the various workshops (e.g. the roles of clients and designers, types of contracts and knowledge management), thereby sharpening the focus of the themes. 3TU.Bouw plans to use the results of the workshops to start elaborating the themes into a roadmap for the construction sector. The intention is to implement the actions that ultimately emerge from this process in cooperation with the commercial sector. This will initially be realised through several PDEng research positions.

SAI participates in the PAEE conference

The fifth International Symposium on Project Approaches in Engineering Education (PAEE) 2013 will take place at TU Eindhoven on Monday 8 July and Tuesday 9 July. The title for the conference is Closing the Gap between University and Industry. This symposium aims to bring together deans from academic universities, universities of applied technology, educational specialists, researchers and professionals in the field of engineer training in order to exchange knowledge through various workshops and discussions on current practices and the results of recent research.

For those who are interested, training coordinators from the 3TU School for Techno-logical Design, the Stan Ackermans Institute, will be providing a workshop on Monday 8 July. Participants will work according to predefined criteria to ‘design’ a training programme for designers. The results of the workshop will be presented on Tuesday 9 July during the PAEE symposium.
Re-accreditation of the 3TU Master’s degree programmes

During the re-accreditation of the five 3TU Master’s degree programmes, the Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO) noted a discrepancy between the ambitions that the three universities of technology had formulated when these programmes were launched and the reality that the visitation committee had now encountered. It subsequently upheld the re-accreditation of several 3TU Master’s degree programmes. Administrative consultation between the three universities of technology and the NVAO has led to the understanding that the 3TU.Federation will work to formulate new ambitions with regard to the commonalities of these programmes. These new ambitions are to be incorporated into a document that will be submitted to the NVAO by the beginning of 2016. During the next round of visitations, this document will be provided to the visitation committees, who will then compile a report on the quality of the programmes for each location, as well as a separate report on the commonalities that have been achieved.

Diplomas for the SAI Programme in Clinical Informatics

The SAI Programme in Clinical Informatics has reached its first milestone: the first class of trainees will receive their diplomas on 20 September. A new technological designer in the health area will be available on the employment market.

New 3TU website

We are currently hard at work on a new website for 3TU. Recent months saw the development of the design, which takes into account the needs and desires of the programmes and Centres of Excellence. The plan is to launch the new website before the start of the new academic year. We will keep you posted!

3TU.Education Day

On 19 April, a 3TU.Education Day was held in the stately building of the Fundatie van Renswoude foundation in Utrecht for parties involved in the five 3TU Master’s degree programmes. Hans van Duijn, Rector Magnificus of TU Eindhoven and Chairman of 3TU.Education presented the current state of affairs regarding the 3TU sector plan, the re-accreditation of the 3TU Master’s degree programmes and several practical issues relating to these Master’s programmes. The five 3TU programmes then took the floor themselves, with each programme presenting its own vision for the future of the 3TU Master’s programmes. Anika Mulder, Vice President for Education at TU Delft, presented an inspiring glimpse into the stormy developments regarding phenomena such as MOOCs, online courseware and distance learning. Corne Legdeur demonstrated the new design of the 3TU website. The day ended with a lively discussion based on several statements about the commonalities within the 3TU Master’s degree programmes.

3TU.Datacentrum collaborating with DANS

The 3TU.Datacentrum and Data Archiving and Networked Services (DANS) recently launched the partnership Research Data Netherlands. With this coalition, which is open to other parties as well, the two data archives are joining forces in the area of sustainable data archiving. The 3TU.Datacentrum and DANS have already been collaborating for some time, for example on activities involved in organising the biennial Dutch Data Prizes and the course entitled Data Intelligence 4 Librarians. The establishment of the coalition strengthened this cooperation. “Research Data Netherlands is bringing us a step closer towards our shared mission: promoting sustainable accessibility and the responsible reuse of scientific research. This will ultimately be of benefit to science as a whole,” Wilma van Wansenbeek, Director of the TU Delft Library and spokesperson for the 3TU.datacentrum is delighted with the initiative. “Working together is a logical step because it will allow us to approach all issues concerning research data across disciplines and institutions in a much more efficient and customer-friendly manner.”