

Register of Technological Designers

ir. Erik Jan Marinissen

All graduates of post-masters programmes in technological design of the three Dutch technical universities are registered by the Dutch Certification Commission for Technological Designer (CCTO). Although not consulted very often, the register provides an official record of all graduates, on which the financing of the programmes is based.

CCTO tasks

The CCTO is a commission installed by the three Dutch technical universities and the Dutch industrial community (represented by Royal Institute of Engineers (KIVI) and the *Raad van de Centrale Ondernemingsorganisaties* (RCO)). One of its main tasks is to supervise the quality of the post-masters programmes in technological design as provided by those three universities. Where the quality of regular academic curriculae is normally monitored only by the universities themselves, the evaluation of the post-masters courses is explicitly done by members of the world of business and industry. This makes sense, because these courses started five years ago in response to a growing need of and expressed by the industry for highly-skilled, multi-disciplinary technological designers. To make sure that the courses still meet their requirements, representatives of that industry should play a prominent role in the evaluation.

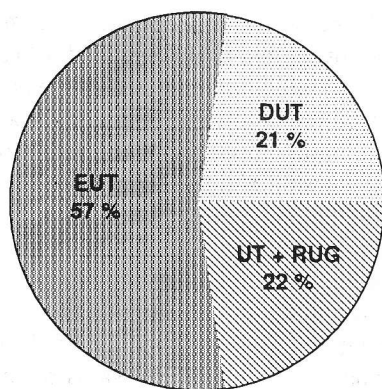


Figure 1: CCTO-registered graduates per university (based on CCTO Annual Report 1993)

Evaluation is done by specially composed commissions, consisting of knowledgeable people from industry. Courses that pass this test get an official certification. Such a certification is valid for a pe-

riod of five years, after which a renewed evaluation should take place by a new commission. OOTI started, as all post-masters programmes, under a temporary certification. After its first evaluation, it received its first definitive certification on May 10th, 1993 (see XOOTIC MAGAZINE, September 1993).

Another important task of the CCTO is to keep an official record of all graduates of certified post-masters programmes. Drs. Jan Boerke works for the KIVI in The Hague. Two days a week he is the office secretary of the CCTO. In that function he is also responsible for the CCTO's register of technological designers. The three technical universities reimburse through the CCTO the KIVI for this service.

Database

The actual register is a database on Boerke's computer. It contains information on all graduates of the so-called *second-phase* courses in The Netherlands. Apart from name, course name, and data of graduation, the database also contains other data. Sex, birthday, and information about the university and faculty where the person in question obtained his or her Master's degree are recorded. This additional data is used to produce statistics on the origin of the graduates of the various second-phase courses. From this data we can for example read that only 8% of all graduates is female.

Apart from the computer database, Boerke also keeps an archive with copies of all diplomas granted on behalf of the CCTO. Every year the names of all technological designers that graduated in the preceding year are published in book form. Both the CCTO office in the KIVI building, as well as the three Dutch technical universities keep a copy of this book.

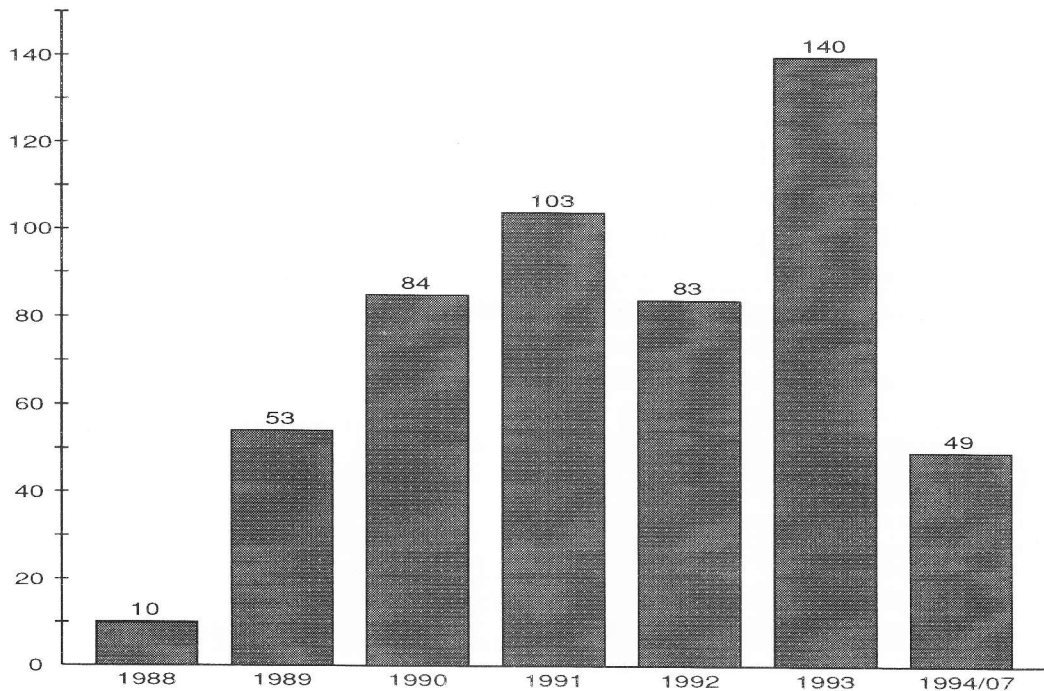


Figure 2: CCTO-registered graduates per year of graduation
(based on CCTO Annual Report 1993)

No consultations yet

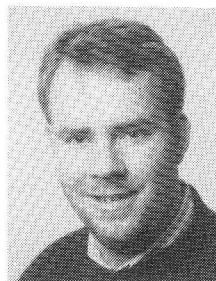
The register as kept by the CCTO can be consulted by everyone to check whether or not a certain person is graduated from one of the post-masters programmes. A typical usage one could think of is a recruitment officer of a company, who wants to check whether or not the candidate he is about to hire has indeed completed the designer's course as he is saying. According to Boerke he has, up till now, never been approached for such questions.

When asked, IVO, the institute that centrally organizes all designers courses at Eindhoven University, confirms that also their databases have never been consulted for such purposes. However, the value of the CCTO register lies more in the fact that it is an official recording of all post-masters graduates, on which the financing of the universities by the ministry of education is based. Only certified courses are paid by the minister and these payments are based on the number of graduates delivered.

Numbers

Currently the register contains information on 522 graduates. The majority of them graduated at Eindhoven University of Technology, as can be seen in

Figure 1. Since the start of this new branch on the academic education tree Eindhoven has played a leading role through its centralized institute IVO. The number of graduates per year (see Figure 2) shows an increasing trend, as can be expected from new courses. 1992 shows a dip in the number of graduates, but this was compensated for again in 1993. The number of graduates listed for 1994 is not definitive, as the year is not completed yet and experience teaches that many graduates around September. □



Ir. Erik Jan Marinissen completed the post-masters programme Software Technology in 1992 and is currently working as member of the scientific staff at Philips Research Laboratories in Eindhoven. He is a member of XOOTIC and co-editor of XOOTIC MAGAZINE.