It is a privilege to write a preface for the latest occasional publication emanating from the Centre for International Cooperation at the VU University Amsterdam. It would not have been written without the substantial and unwavering commitment of the University to supporting universities in developing and transitional countries and to concentrate human capital in its specialised Centre for International Cooperation.

Without going into the content and structure of the publication – Wim Kouwenhoven does that admirably in his introductory chapter – we can only subscribe to the value and merit of reflection on experiences in concrete and specific projects as a desirable form of personal professional development.

The result shows a healthy collaboration with colleagues within the University, particularly with the Faculty of Sciences and the Centre for Educational Training, Assessment and Research, as well as with development partners in the South. It is appropriate that the partners take stock of evidence-based educational development as they plan new ventures.

We hope that the book offers its readers knowledge, insight and understanding.

*Kees Kouwenaar, director CIS
Jos Beishuizen, director CETAR*

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Position and Experience</th>
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Kees Smit is senior education specialist in the Education and Development Unit of CIS-VU, coordinating a computer science project in Ethiopia and involved in other projects in Ghana and Yemen. He is also head of the Foundation Programme at VU University. His previous experience has been in various other Asian and African countries.

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