Acknowledgements
(Dankwoord)
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Writing a thesis while you are full-time busy and enthusiastic about your job, is definitely a challenge. But this journey had to be done. Reading the book on innovation by Prof.dr. Felix Janssen, back in 2002, triggered me to get started with the subject of this thesis. I got in contact with Felix and since, we spent many hours exchanging on innovation and facilitation. He supported me enthusiastically to use his new tool called value attribute analysis. I greatly appreciated our interesting and pleasant conversations, thanks so much Felix.

Meeting Dr. Jacqueline Broerse in 2005, gave a new twist to this journey. Her active role as co-promoter and the invitation to conduct this research in the setting of the Athena Institute gave a new impetus to the study. Jacqueline, I really appreciated your enthusiasm, professionalism, valuable comments and guidance. You really helped me in posing the right questions and in keeping focus. Thanks so much, I learned a lot from you. Though I was not often in Amsterdam, I appreciated to exchange with peers at the Athena Institute.

I would particularly like to thank my promoter Prof.dr. Joske Bunders, a person I experienced as very positive, creative and sharp. She always encouraged me to go on and provided guidance in difficult moments. Joske thanks so much for giving me the opportunity to translate my practical experience in technology management and development into scientific terms and for challenging me to do further work in the field of ICT and Health.

I am very grateful to the members of the thesis committee: Prof.dr. Hamelink, Prof. dr. Junne, Dr. Hoppenbrouwers and Prof.dr. Quinlan. Their critical reading and comments enriched the original manuscript. I also thank Prof.dr. Tjard de Cock Buning for his critical comments on some chapters. I would like to give a very special acknowledgement to my travelling companions on the journey in Mali and other countries, but especially in Tanzania. It is an experience we lived together with all the ups and downs. There are many names to be mentioned, ranging from the surprising youth groups in Magu to the hard working principals of schools and the officials of the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training. I would like to mention just a few names. First of all a very special thanks to my ‘soul-mate’ Theo Mlaki (the former Director of IT at the Tanzanian Commission of Science and Technology) and Dr. Frank Tilya (lecturer at the Faculty of Education at the University of Dar es Salaam). I would also like to mention Prof.dr. Beda Mutagahywa of the Computing Centre of the University of Dar es Salaam, Harish and Sharmila Bhatt, David Sawe, Dennis Mazali, the staff of the Tanzanian Commission on Science and Technology and the staff of the Christian Social Service Commission and not to forget the late Simbo Ntiro. A very special thanks go to all members of the teams that developed the ICT applications. They were the persons that made it happen. I always appreciated to get to know each other so well.
My other co-travellers were from IICD. Together with Dr. Stijn van der Krogt we did our first RT workshop in Jamaica and soon many followed. I always appreciated the open discussions and the joint search 'on what can we learn and how can we do better'. Stijn was also the person who initiated and pushed for a rather independent monitoring and evaluation system at IICD. I would like to thank all my IICD colleagues, to mention especially Anne Marijke Podt, Francois Laureys, Olaf Erz, Wietse Bruinsma, and Theresa Stanton as well as my former colleagues Lisette Gast, Arjan de Jager and Nathan Ducastel. Last, but not least I would like to thank Caroline Figuères, our director, who encourages learning as an individual and as an organization. I would also like to thank Hans Mabelis for his editing support for the introductory and concluding chapters. I appreciated his fresh look on the text and the way he deals with language; as a beloved one. Renate Siebes thank you for the prompt and perfect preparation of the lay-out. I would also thank my friends who did not give up on me as during some points in time my social life started to hit a bare minimum.

Much of my appreciation goes to my family; with great flexibility this study was incorporated in daily life. Gradually our spacious study room was turned into a living room. Thanks Johanna, my dearly beloved wife and August my son, for your love, patience and sharing the ups and downs of this journey. Without your support and encouragement, it would have been impossible. Much joy was in sharing the experiences with my daughter Cornelieke, who also pursues a PhD. It gave the intimate feeling like 'conspiring together'. Thanks Cornelieke and Theo, her husband, for all your support.

To wrap up: I hope this thesis might benefit the advance of the cause of development and bring more justice to the poor, because 'He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker (Proverbs 14 verse 31a, New king James Version). In any approach it are the people that count and the way they deal with one another. People have different sources of inspiration. I personally believe that God calls us to live up to the essence of His Word, the Bible, to love Him above all and our neighbours as ourselves (see Matthew 22, verses 37-40). Not an easy challenge, but through the mercy and Spirit of Jesus Christ, it is the happiest road you can take. Having respect and consideration for our neighbours, helps to give a meaningful human dimension to technology. Or to put in Dutch: Techniek onze naaste ten goede.1

---

1 Afscheidscollege Prof.dr.ir. A. Moens, Techniek onze naaste ten goede, 1986. Wageningen University and Research Centre, The Netherlands.
Curriculum vitae
Nic Moens (1954) finished his MSc Economics at the Wageningen University and Research Centre in The Netherlands in 1978, combined with studies on economic development at Erasmus University in Rotterdam. Thereafter he joined the Economic Services and Policy Analysis Division of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in a number of positions; on project planning in Tunisia, on training in project planning and investment analysis in Indonesia and at the FAO-World Bank Investment Centre in Rome, Italy. He worked as project leader with the State Secretary of Planning in Niger on a cascading training scheme from high government level to village level. In 1989, he joined DHV Consulting Engineers and did a number of assignments on training, investment planning, business development and export management. He acted as consultant to the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank. Thereafter he became corporate strategist advising the Board of Directors of DHV.

In 1995, he joined as head finance and marketing the management team of the Centre for Plant and Reproductive Research in Wageningen. Main assignments were the restructuring to a more business and performance oriented organization, the introduction of financial and management accounting systems and the marketing of technology. This triggered further interest in technology management and innovation. He joined the newly established International Institute for Communication and Development as senior programme manager in 1999.

The constant in the career is twofold. First, the internal drive to be involved in innovation and change programmes as facilitator and (co-)architect, especially in the newly emerging approach of transition management. Secondly to reflect and to advise on economic, organizational, and policy aspects of technology management. His present focus is on eHealth.