

Intermediate Evaluation of ETH World

Comments of the Program Director to the Report of the Review Panel

The Program Management of ETH World gratefully acknowledges the report of the Peer Review Committee. Within a very short time the Committee members thoroughly familiarized themselves with the broad range of activities and gained profound insights into the various aspects of the program. Their broad range of expertise and experience is reflected in the quality of their analysis and recommendations.

We would like to thank the Review Committee for the appreciation they express for the work of the Program Management and for their willingness to help in shaping the future directions of ETH World. We agree with the main findings, which in many respects confirm the self-evaluation by the Program Management team.

The report identifies possible improvements in the implementation of the ETH World program. These partly concern the work of the Project Management team and the individual projects. Here, the Program Management can take action and adjust processes to change, correct and improve. A significant part of the recommendations, however, focus on strategic issues that need to be addressed by the Executive Board of ETH Zurich. These pose by far the greater challenges than the improvement of the management tasks.

In the next weeks and months the Program Management will draw on the recommendation of the Review Committee when planning its future work. The main tasks can already be identified. We will:

- Together with the ETH World Advisory Committee contribute to the development of an ETH-wide ICT strategy and an institutional policy for e-learning and within the limits of the resources available to support the departments and other units in their corresponding processes.
- Ensure the coordination and networking of the projects to exploit better the synergies between them.
- Showcase successful practices, especially in e-learning, in cooperation with the Center for Teaching and Learning, NET and the IT Services in order to promote the acceptance by and willingness of faculty to adopt and implement them in their own teaching, research and other work.
- Ensure the sustainability of the project results through transfer into daily practice.
- Strengthen the external focus of the ETH World program and the individual projects through partnerships, cooperation, technology exploration and transfer.
- Work with the Vice-President Planning and Logistics to develop a proposal for how the results of ETH World can be maintained and further developments supported beyond 2005.

The corresponding actions will be reflected in the daily work of the Project Management team. As a first step the recommendations from the review have already been taken into account in the Call for Projects 2004, launched in January. Other measures will follow in the detailed planning of the activities for 2004 and beyond.

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