

## JOINT ANNUAL BOARD MEETING December 20, 2021

Name-change: Following years of criticism that the name ZerOrigIndia suggests bias towards India; and that the name was difficult to remember/pronounce/type, the name was officially changed to *The Zero Project* + website: [www.TheZeroProject.nl](http://www.TheZeroProject.nl). The Board of Trustees approved of the fact without further discussion.

The *Monograph on Zero* book project: We formally approached Embassies of Central and/or South America in the Netherlands to explore the involvement of a scholar on the 'Mayan zero' as to date they are the only ones not represented in the Monograph. However, we have not been able to enlist any expert on the subject to date. All other ancient civilizations that played a role in the invention and/or transmission of zero are on board the book project: Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, Europe, the Islamic world, China and India.

On instruction of VU University Press, we engaged a copy editor to standardize all the papers for the Monograph on Zero book project. Dr Robert Lawrence Kuhn and Dr Peter Getzels were invited to be the cover editors of the academic and popular editions of the book. Both accepted the invitation. They are expected to start work in the summer of 2022.

Online International Conference/Workshop on Zero: The opening was attended by Chairperson, Mr Eric Niehe, Dr Robert Lawrence Kuhn, Professor Sharda Nandram (VU Amsterdam), Ms Wende Wallert, VU Art Curator, who is organizing an art exhibition on the theme of 'zero'.

Successive weekly sessions of the online event started from October '21 onwards, producing fresh insights into the invention of zero in the interdisciplinary discussions among speakers and panelists. Sessions are recorded, edited and posted online within days.. Donations by a number of well-wishers make possible the publication of Monograph book project. UNESCO awarded the event Patronage + use of UNESCO logo for the duration. The logos of a number of companies supporting the Zero Project with their services free of charge are displayed in the Program as well as on the website.

Favorable comments received from third parties; doubling of website traffic to view the weekly video interviews -- due in part to the Joint CTT-Zero Project promotional video that attracted over 33,000 views; as well as the advancement of the objective of the Zero Project in drafting a roadmap for future research through interaction with scholars, all justify the present academic and publicity outreach strategy.

Expertise Center on Zero (XCZ): The rationale behind establishing an XCZ is that future in-depth research into the invention of zero may be conducted by the XCZ. Six universities already signed on in principle – budget estimated Eu. 250,000 – 350,000 / per annum over a period of 3-5 years.

KvK / UBO-registration under EU directive: deadline March / 2022. Process has been started.

The Hague,  
December 20, 2021

Peter Gobets  
*Secretary / Research Coordinator*  
*Trustee Zero Project*  
*The Hague, The Netherlands*

## THE ZERO PROJECT

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