



Visit of the China AquaFishNet delegation to Ghent University

**Prof. Paul Van Cauwenberge
Rector of Ghent University**

Ghent, August 31, 2007

The rich history of Ghent University



Founded in 1817 by William I,
King of the Netherlands

Belgian independency 1830:
Belgian State University

Alma Mater of eminent scientists:
Joseph Plateau, Leo Baekeland,
Corneel Heymans

Decree of the Flemish Community 1991:
great autonomy to Ghent University



Ghent University today

- 1990's - today: uninterrupted growth
- 11 faculties, education and research in all scientific branches
- Open, committed and pluralistic university
- Broad international perspective
- Located in the cultural and economical heart of Europe



Mission statement

- to offer research based multidisciplinary **education** that by international standards is high-quality, attractive and broad in scope
- to carry on **fundamental research** in a selected number of scientific and academic fields in which she desires to play a leading role at the global level
- to develop **applied scientific research** with a view to generating a proactive interchange with various companies, organizations and public administrations

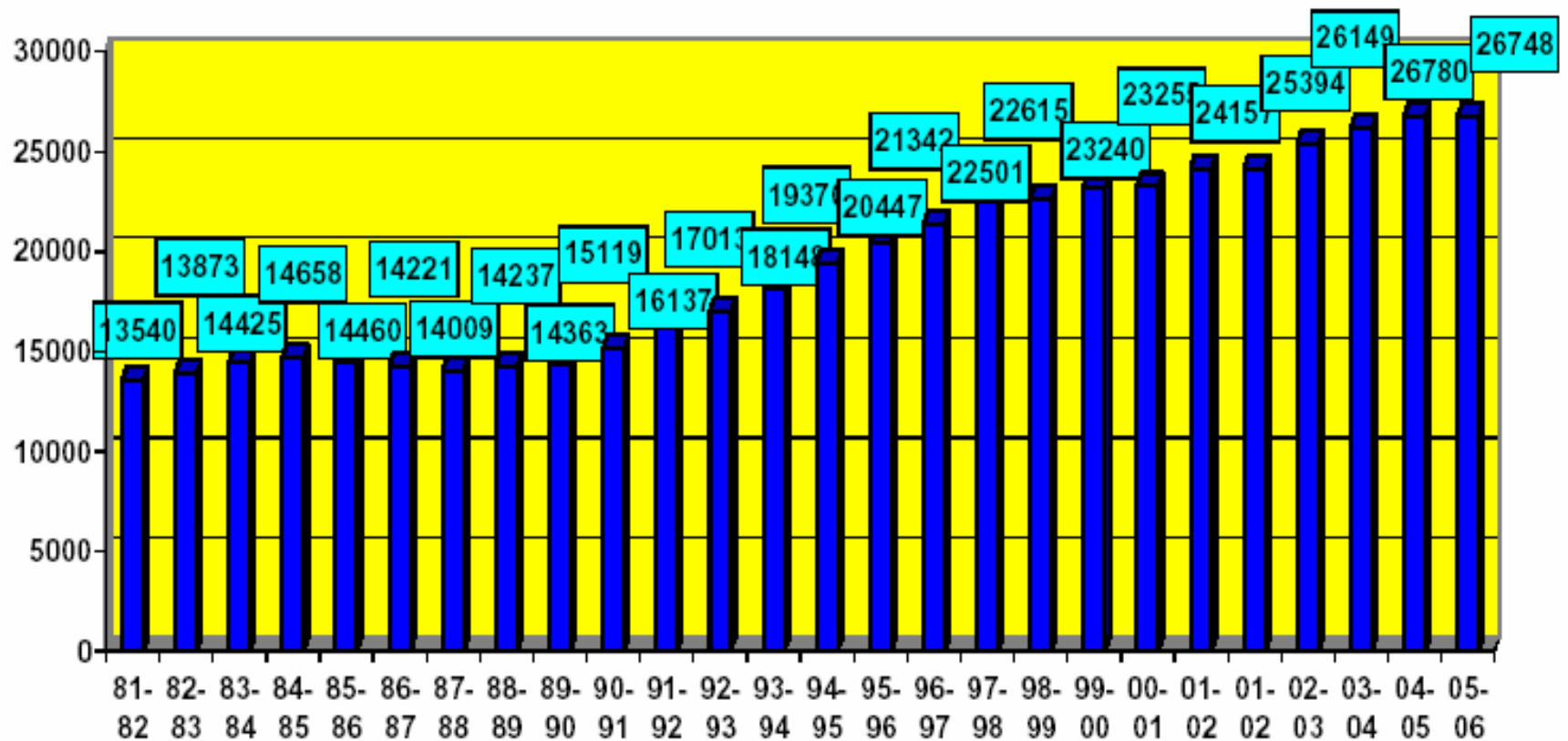


6,000 staff members

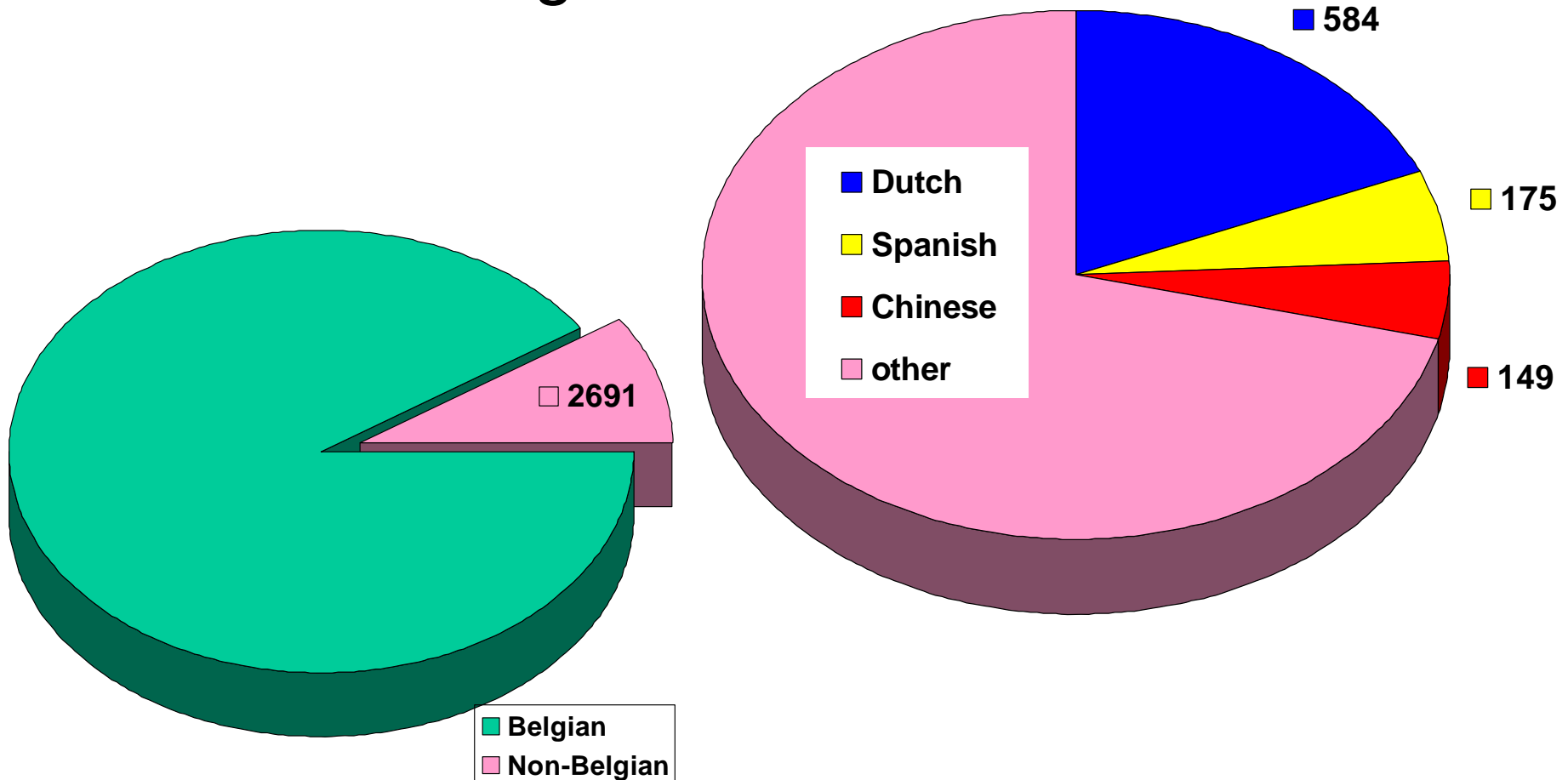
Staff working at Ghent University:

- 918 professors (Tenured Academic Staff)
- 869 assistants (Assisting Academic Staff)
- 713 other scientific staff members
- 2,202 administrative and technical staff members
- + 1,562 externally financed researchers

Student numbers



Fraction of foreign students



International visibility of research

- Publications in international refereed journals
- International networks & mobility (EU-funding, cooperative research networks, staff exchanges)
- Extra staff support for coordinators of large research networks (FP7, Development Coop.)



Training of young researchers

- Increase number of Ph.D.'s
- Doctoral Schools: focus on quality research culture (start September 2007)



Career Track opportunities

- Extra postdoctoral positions
- Extra tenured staff positions



Technology Transfer

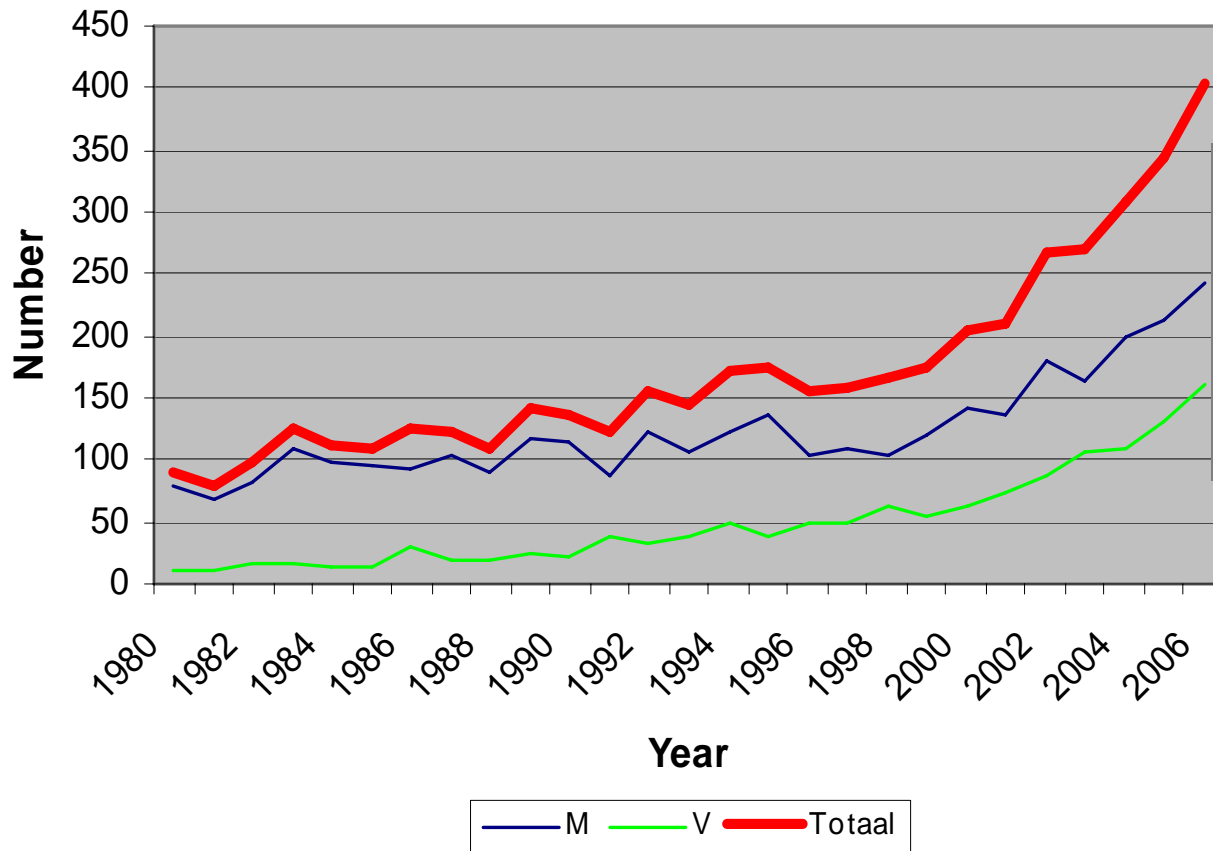
- Valorisation of research results: Spin-off's, patents, ...

Support spearheads of research

- Odysseus programme (Flemish Govt.)
- Methusalem programme (Flemish Govt.)
- Ghent University's Special Research Fund: large research networks



Number of PhD's (1980-2006)



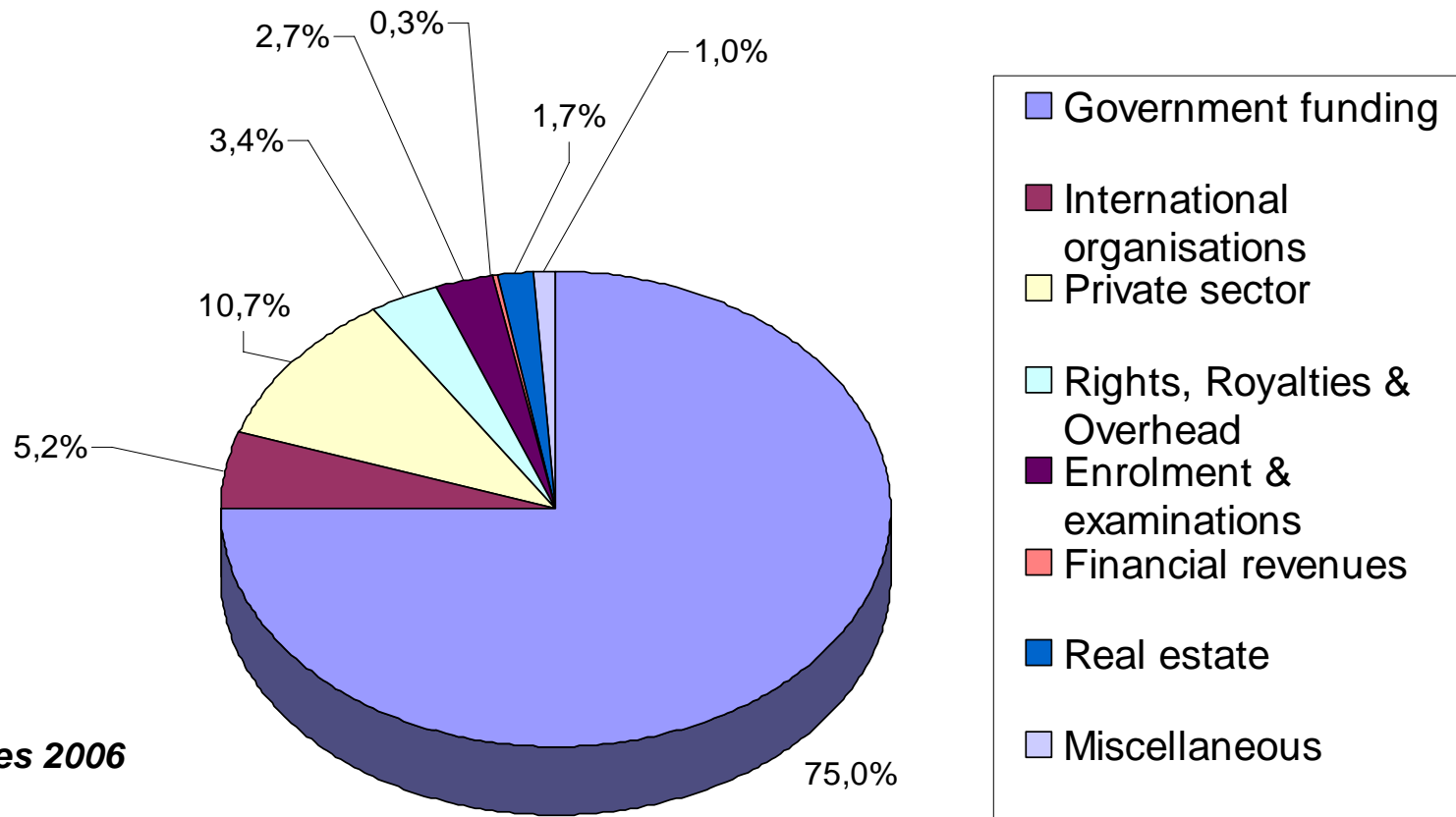
Proportion male / female:

1980: 89% vs. 11%

2005: 62% vs. 38%

2006: 59% vs. 41%

Financial Resources UGent: 380 M€



Doctoral Training Programme

5 Doctoral Schools to be established in September 2007:

- Doctoral School of Arts, Humanities and Law
- Doctoral School of Social and Behavioural Sciences
- Doctoral School of Natural Sciences
- Doctoral School of Life Sciences and Medicine
- Doctoral School of (Bioscience) Engineering



Doctoral Schools objectives:

- ☆ **Increase (international) visibility of Ph.D.- degree**
- Communication: attract potential researchers
 - attract interest from employment sector
 - newsletter for all Ph.D. candidates (facilities, activities, ...)
- Cooperation: private sector & service industry
 - international exchange
- Tuning:
 - Ph.D. researchers
 - supervisors
 - employers (academic + non-academic)

Doctoral Schools objectives:

- ☆ **Increase (international) visibility of Ph.D.- degree**
- ☆ **Improve support for Ph.D. researchers**
 - Supervisors + Ph.D. guidance committee
 - Flexible research training programme: optional, but can be made compulsory
 - A. Specialised / advanced courses
 - B. Workshops in transferable skills (i.e. communication skills, technology transfer, personal development, networking and team work, management skills)
 - C. Research-related activities (i.e. lectures, conferences, publications, mobility,...)

Doctoral Schools objectives:

- ☆ **Increase (international) visibility of Ph.D.- degree**
- ☆ **Improve support for Ph.D. researchers**
- ☆ **Encourage a quality culture in doctoral research**
 - Quality control: more checkpoints in doctoral programme
 - External assessor for Ph.D. examination compulsory
 - Internal and external communication
 - Interdisciplinary cooperation
- University-wide dynamic research culture

Overview of opportunities for joint co-operation between scientists from China and Ghent University

1. The European Commission: Framework Programme
2. Fund for Scientific Research (FWO)
3. Scholarships with UGent-financing:
 - visits of postdoctoral foreign researchers
 - PhD scholarships for candidates from developing countries
4. VLIR: University development cooperation programmes

2. Fund for Scientific Research – Flanders

Foreign postdoctoral fellows:

to introduce external expertise at Flemish universities

Junior postdoctoral fellowships

For fellows who have already taken a doctoral degree within 5 years

Monthly allowance of € 1.500

Senior postdoctoral fellowships

For fellows who have already taken a doctoral degree between 5 and 10 years ago

Monthly allowance of € 2.000

Duration: minimum 3 and maximum 12 consecutive months

3. UGent Research Fund: Visiting postdoctoral researchers

= open to all countries

- Beneficial for ongoing research cooperation (collaborative projects, co-publications)
- Submission of applications: via a professor at Ghent University
- Evaluation of applications: research council at Ghent University
- Duration: 12 months (exceptional extendible)
- The mobility grant is minimum € 1.500 /month

3. UGent Research Fund: PhD scholarships

- PhD scholarships open to countries from the OECD/DAC country list
- Yearly call for proposals
- Duration: 2 + 2 years
- The grant is € 1.500/month

For more information: www.UGent.be

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