

## Introduction

2002 has been a year of both change and of consolidation of the projects initiated in the Foundation last year.

The current international situation, which is marked by change and crises, has required us to broaden our activities –in research, debate, and/or evaluation – for a greater participation and presence of other sectors of civil society beyond the academic sphere.

The changes of the CIDOB programmes' research fields respond to this need where, in addition to academia, we have incorporated representatives of civil society, such as heads of business, policy makers and other experts in international relations.

The signing of the agreement with between Casa Asia (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), whose head office is located in Barcelona, and CIDOB Foundation is the highlight of the Asia Programme. This agreement will pave the way for the development of joint projects in the fields of research and documentation, and the conducting of international seminars.

In terms of education, an agreement has been signed between the CIDOB Foundation and five Catalan universities which enables full-time post-graduate studies and establishes the Barcelona Institute for International Studies (IBEI). Until now, Barcelona was lacking a high-level postgraduate programme specialising in international relations and politics. The IBEI will allow our city to benefit from such an institute which promotes the study of these disciplines.

At the same time, and together with Caixa de Catalunya Foundation, we have extended the scholarship programme, entering into the London School of Economics (LSE), in order to ease mobility and access for students of international studies at the Universities of Catalonia.

For the above-mentioned reasons, it has been necessary to adapt the Foundation's framework, modifying its statutes and Board of Trustees in order to include public administrations and public Universities in the promotion the study and practice of international relations in Barcelona. Furthermore, a advice board has been created comprising former trustees. We owe our deepest gratitude to them for their efforts and the dedication they have shown to the Foundation over more than twenty years.

This annual report reiterates the CIDOB Foundation's commitment to stimulating discussion and debate over international issues, to ensure that this remains as a reference point in the city, and to promote international studies within future generations of students.