
Opening Welcome*

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Rector

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Congress Honorary Chairman

I am delighted to welcome you to the Hochschule Wismar - University of Technology, Business and Design. We are proud to be acting as host to the 2nd Global Congress on Engineering Education. This marks the high point of our work with the UNESCO International Centre for Engineering Education (UICEE) up to now, and I am sure that the Congress will produce new initiatives for further cooperation.

The idea to organise the Congress here in Wismar was born two years ago in 1998, during the 90th Anniversary Jubilee Seminar on Engineering Education, organised by the Hochschule Wismar in collaboration with the UICEE. It was then that I first got to know Prof. Zenon Pudlowski. I think that this experience and the enthusiasm for international collaboration from my colleague, Prof. Norbert Grünwald, were the key for the idea and its realisation.

In this day and age, internationalisation and globalisation are characteristics for all fields of society. Beside the international product market is the already established international labour market, and the internationalisation of the educational market is in full swing.

The globalisation of higher education demands the development of comparable degrees and the promotion of student and staff mobility in full respect of cultures, languages and national education systems. The graduates from the engineering sciences need not only specialised knowledge; they also need multicultural qualifications and must have competencies in economical, ecological and social questions as well as in foreign languages. These graduates should be able to operate in international teams and be capable of life-long learning.

These are many requirements and there arise many open questions! I think this is the best guarantee for



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interesting addresses, short lectures and discussions during this Congress week and I hope that this Congress will help to answer some of these questions.

It is our wish to provide our visitors from all over the world not just with a platform for a broadly-based lecture programme, but with a whole range of opportunities to make personal contacts. Relaxed interchanges in a pleasant atmosphere will give participants a chance to get to know each other better and to produce ideas for new joint projects between universities in the promotion of international collaboration.

Let me next say some words about the Hochschule Wismar; today we have roughly about 3,500 students in 15 degree programs, including eight different engineering courses. Apart from the classical engineering sciences, there are degree programs in, for example, Nautical Science, Ship Operations Engineering, Process and Environmental Engineering as well as Multimedia Engineering. In connection with our

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artistic degree programs, such as in Design, and our degree programs in the Department of Economics, such as Business Law, they all make an important part of our university and its special profile.

With special degree programs in Multimedia Engineering, Business Informatics and Communication Design and Media, supported by our Multimedia Centre and the Computing Centre, we have a special set of degree programs and competitive technical equipment in the IT sector. This is our contribution to reduce the deficit of available specialists in IT technologies in Germany.

Besides teaching, there is another very important task of our university; our students are involved in applied research and the results of this work feed back into teaching. This applied research is closely connected with industry and commerce, and that is why the University has become an important partner for enterprises in this region.

Recently, the degree programs in engineering sciences of all German universities were examined. The result was that all of Hochschule Wismar's engineering programs received a *good* or *very good* evaluation in all parts of the assessment.

It is our intention to place an increased emphasis on interdisciplinary courses, based on our wide range of subjects, and with greater internationality. Currently, we are preparing Bachelor and Masters degrees in engineering sciences as well as in economics and we will start in the next semester with Bachelor and Masters degrees in architecture.

Future development will also focus on building up a postgraduate further education programme and in generating an increasingly international emphasis. We are interested in developing international Masters courses in cooperation with foreign universities and we offer international postgraduate courses in vocational training, for example in quality management or environmental technology. We have already begun to organise special cooperation with some Chinese universities, and we will offer special conditions for young Chinese students to study in Wismar.

Many of those taking part in the Congress will be faced with similar tasks at their own institutions – or with quite different ones. It is my wish for us all that this Congress may produce plenty of initiatives for modernising and further developing both teaching and research. I also hope that our visitors will be able to gain some insight into the rich culture and history of our region so that they will take many interesting memories of Wismar back home with them.

I am sure that the *2nd Global Congress on Engineering Education* will be an eminent contribution to the worldwide discussions about important and relevant issues and challenges in engineering and technology education for the 21st Century. I hope that the Program's framework will give you plenty of opportunities for talks with old and new friends in a pleasant atmosphere.

The staff and students of our university are looking forward to your visit and would like to take this opportunity to welcome you here.