

PRESS RELEASE

15 September 2005

European Association for International Education

Axel Markert honoured with a Constance Meldrum Award

Axel Markert received the EAIE's Constance Meldrum Award for Vision and Leadership during the Opening Plenary of the 17th Annual EAIE Conference on 15 September 2005 in Kraków, Poland.

Axel Markert is the Director of International Relations at the Eberhard-Karls-Universität Tübingen, Germany. He received the award in recognition of his contributions to the internationalisation of higher education throughout his career, and his longstanding track-record of committed and inspirational involvement in the field. Already associated with many internationalisation organisations around the world, such as NAFSA, AACRAO and AIEA, he was one of the founding fathers of the EAIE in 1989 and became its first President. He has also played a role in the founding of other sister organisations of the EAIE, such as AMPEI and IEASA.

Throughout his career Mr Markert has had a great influence on transatlantic and global exchange. His institution's achievements and performance within internationalisation, the diversity of the destinations available to Tübingen study-abroad students, and the quality of the reception services at the University all testify to Mr Markert's commitment, talent and vision for international relations. Over the years, he has inspired and mentored many international educators and is well-known for his generosity in sharing with colleagues the fabulous networks and connections he has weaved around the world.

Throughout all his years of being active in his institution, in other organisations and at conferences he has demonstrated leadership and a great dedication to the profession. From the foundation of the EAIE, he has maintained a sincere interest in the Association and has promoted it throughout the world, forging many partnerships. As he approaches retirement in May 2006, the EAIE believes that now is an appropriate moment to honour Axel Markert for all his achievements in internationalisation and his tireless efforts for the worldwide promotion of the EAIE and its mission.

Constance Meldrum Award

The Constance Meldrum Award for Vision and Leadership is dedicated to the memory of Constance Meldrum who was a staunch supporter of the EAIE during her years at the European Commission, where she had worked diligently for the cause of international education. When she died, she left a substantial bequest to the EAIE, which the Executive Board decided should be used for an annual EAIE award for vision and leadership in international education. The Constance Meldrum Award was the first EAIE award ever to be presented, and was launched at the EAIE conference in Vienna 2003. It is given to a senior practitioner in international higher education with a documented track-record of high professional standard over a considerable period of time. The winners are widely recognised figures who have been central to processes as well as results in the field, with abilities such as innovation, leadership and inspiration and demonstrated sustainability, dedication and perseverance. The winners have also been very active in promoting and/or advancing the EAIE as an organisation for professionals.

EAIE conference

The 17th Annual EAIE Conference is being held from 14 to 17 September 2005 in Kraków, Poland. Each year the conference brings together some 2000 international education professionals, who come to to network and to update themselves on innovations and developments in the internationalisation of higher education.

Further information

More information regarding the EAIE and the conference can be obtained from the EAIE Secretariat, PO Box 11189, 1001 GD Amsterdam, The Netherlands, tel +31-20-525 49 99, fax +31-20-525 49 98, e-mail eaie@eaie.nl or consult the EAIE website: www.eaie.org

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