

## PRESS RELEASE

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*European Association for International Education*

### EAIE Constance Meldrum Award presented to Han Aarts

At the Opening Plenary of the 19th Annual EAIE Conference held in Trondheim, Norway, Han Aarts, was presented with the EAIE's Constance Meldrum Award for Vision and Leadership.

Han Aarts is Director of the Maastricht University centre for international cooperation in academic development (MUNDO) in The Netherlands, having previously directed the international office of Maastricht University for almost ten years. Han has been an active member of the EAIE since its formation. He has held positions on the Training Committee and the Executive Board. In addition, he was one of the initiators of the EAIE Professional Section on Educational Cooperation with Developing Countries (EDC), created in 1995 as a place to promote the cause for cooperation between European higher educational institutions and their counterparts throughout the developing world.

Han Aarts' passionate engagement with development issues in the EAIE is founded on his belief that knowledge plays a crucial role in development, and that knowledge and the capacity to work with knowledge are essential tools to overcome inequality. Han Aarts' active involvement in the EAIE, coupled with his dedication to raising the needs and concerns of education practitioners and policy makers in developing countries, make Han a worthy recipient of the Constance Meldrum Award.

#### 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 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 19th Annual EAIE Conference was held from 12 to 15 September 2007 in Trondheim, Norway. Each year the EAIE conference brings together more than 2000 international education professionals, who come to the conference 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 +31-20-344 51 00, fax +31-20-344 51 19, e-mail [eaie@eaie.nl](mailto:eaie@eaie.nl) or consult the EAIE website: [www.eaie.org](http://www.eaie.org).

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