

# Laudatio

**Honoring  
Professor Dr. Karl Hayo Siemsen,  
University of Applied Sciences Emden / Leer**

The German philosopher Emanuel Kant wrote the immortal words: "Science is organized knowledge. Knowledge is organized life." This offers us a good start to speak about a scientist that is doing science in order to produce knowledge.

The strict timing of today limit this laudation to a small selection from the long list of merits entitling us giving to Prof. Siemsen our university's highest honorary academic title.

Born in 1944 in Lower Saxony at Norden, Karl Hayo Siemsen started his studies at Karlsruhe's Telecommunication Faculty. He finalized them with excellent marks and became assistant in systems theory. He had the task to optimize the electrical engineering students' learning processes. This was the start for his interest in haptic learning.

In parallel with his technical teaching career, he took his dissertation in philosophy at Heidelberg on an idea from the professors Joachim Thiele and Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker under the lead of Prof. v. Cube and Prof. Kaltschmid. His thesis was about the pedagogical theories of Ernst Mach and Mach's followers in the Vienna circle at the beginning of the 20th century.

In 1980 he became professor. As Dean he sets the basis of higher technical education at Emden University. Practically, he designed from scratch the whole structure of the faculty building, which now hosts a prestigious team in Germany's technical higher education.

In time he coordinated hundreds of bachelors, diploma and master degree's final thesis. He was teacher to 14 Ph.D. students and he was supervisor to tens of young teachers, which are now important scientist or top university managers. Even more important, the Volkswagen plant in Emden and many other important industrial enterprises in Lower Saxony rely on engineers trained as high level specialists from Prof. Siemsen's laboratory.

His teaching activity went together with his passion for research, therefore he published more than 75 papers in prestigious scientific revues and an important book for computer science teaching.

As top professional and Ph.D. leader he cooperated with important foreign universities like DeMontfort University in Leicester UK, Groningen University in the Netherlands, the University of Helsinki, Universitatea A.I. Cuza from Iasi, Universitatea Vasile Alecsandri of Bacau, Universitatea Asachi in Iasi and of course the Tibiscus University from Timisoara.

Prof. Siemsen's perseverant interest on improving university teaching standards also lead to many contributions to important European conferences on higher education area quality.

Last but not least, Prof. Siemsen is a precious friend our university has in Germany. He is a competent and benevolent personality, who - during the last decade - actively supported FCIA and the whole of Tibiscus' international relations development.

Prof. Siemsen represents a creative force able to produce change in our conception about school and its role in formatting youngsters and society.

This title represents our recognition for a contemporary encyclopedic man, a scientist open to innovation and creating knowledge.