

## **WELCOME REMARKS**

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by  
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### **Friends – Colleagues:**

It is my great honor and privilege to have the opportunity to speak here in Riga on the opening of ICEE-2014 on behalf of the iNEER Board. My university, Turku University of applied sciences was the hosting university for ICEE-2012, a successful conference about which we in Finland have plenty of good memories.

In the world where globalization and international cooperation have become a must and everyday activity in business life, the mission of iNEER and iNEER conferences, which is to achieve mutual progress through international partnership, is especially valuable. In universities we need possibilities of establishing international contacts with partners from different countries all over the world. Most interesting are contacts with partners who have similar aims and common understanding about the mission of the university and who are willing to share their ideas and experiences about recent developments in engineering education. Benchmarking best practices globally and learning from each other are always important goals when putting together these conferences.

According to its theme this conference is focusing on the global challenges of engineering education: innovations, university–industry cooperation and IT. Innovations are a hot topic all over the globe. The difficult times experienced during recent years especially here in Europe have made us understand the important role of engineering educators when contributing to the economic recovery of a nation. How we organize the delivery of education in the university significantly influences in the output we get. When aiming to educate innovative engineers we have to understand what is required in order to succeed in this task. In Finland we talk about Innovation pedagogy which is our solution in educating our engineers to be the innovative actors in their future positions in working life. These engineers must have a solid understanding about traditional engineering competencies but, in addition to the traditional knowledge, they must also learn to communicate with each other, present, even sell their ideas and have the ability to build networks, operate in them and maintain the networks by developing them further. I am glad that in this conference a special slot is devoted to pedagogical thoughts and experiences about educating innovative engineers.

Not only individuals are building networks but also whole institutions and enterprises as well. Creating competitive advantage requires finding partners with whom to work in close

cooperation. There is a tendency to create bigger units and in this way save expenses and improve the institutions' ability to create added value for its stakeholders.

Distinguished audience we need each other, we can become better educators by learning from each other and by sharing experiences. Let's use this opportunity to network and learn to know each other better.

Thousand thanks to organizers and participants

I wish you all a very fruitful conference.

**Let's Enjoy!**