

OPENING SPEECH

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am glad to have the opportunity to welcome you all to Kalmar and to Kalmar University.

I think it is important for the universities around the Baltic Sea to cooperate. The subject of two days conference, "Leachate and Waste Water Treatment with High-Tech and Natural Systems", is important for all us countries who share a common sea - the Baltic Sea. We have to take care of it.

It is also important that scientists and people from industries and enterprises from different countries around the Baltic Sea have the opportunity to come together and exchange their scientific and technical experiences. This conference gives such an opportunity and I hope it will create a lot of networks around the Baltic Sea.

Environmental studies have become sort of a theme at Kalmar University. This focus on environmental issues has been an ambition at the university already from the start in 1977. In the strategic plan for Kalmar University, Baltic region issues are important for any part of the university.

Research at the Engineering department for instance, is now developed with a clear focus on environmental science, under the name of "Environmental driven technology development".

The dynamic development in the Baltic region has put the geographical position of Kalmar University in a much more strategic situation. In the strategic plan for Kalmar University, Baltic region issues are important for any part of the University.

An important task for the University is, that together with the surrounding society, contribute to the positive development not only of the Kalmar region but to the Baltic region as a whole.

With Kalmar Universities scientific profile on environmental issues I believe we can contribute greatly especially within the field of technical environmental science.

I feel that the universities of the Baltic Sea region have an important roll to fill, as well as a common duty to further the positive development of this region.

With these words I wish you good luck with this important conference.