

## OPENING SPEECH

*Lars Malmborg  
Managing Director  
Kalmar RO Foundation - Graninge Foundation*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First I would like to welcome You all to our city. I am the chairman of our Science Park and also managing director of Kalmar Research and Development Foundation.

The Foundation was created two years ago to support the building of a scientific platform at the university and in a dialogue with the vice-chancellor; we decided to support five professors. The overall aim was directed to the environment and the first professor, William Hogland is involved in environment technology, as You all know.

The second professor, Bo Wiman, is studying the environment from a different angle, questions connected to Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration. We have over the years seen, more and more, that city development must go hand in hand with good relations to the near surroundings. We must find practical methods to help nature restore itself and also find forms of working, recycling methods.

My own background is a civil engineer from the 60-ths, when most of the environment issues started and lots of work were done in mechanical cleaning and later also chemical solutions. But as a town planner I was also involved in the broader issues of clean water and sewage.

This leads us to the third professor in biotechnology, which is another of the aspects into environment, knowing more about ourselves, our bodies and all the different things that will happen to us in terms of too much exposure to a bad environment.

The fourth professor is in information theory at the Baltic Business School. Water systems are complex systems and they can only be understood through models, which need lots of data and a capacity to deal with them.

Finally the fifth professor, also at Baltic Business School, will be involved in the economic changes in the Baltic Sea Region. Water questions will also here be of outmost importance. We could frankly say that there is know way of marketing the concept of a prosperous Baltic Sea Region without having solved the most urgent question, that of clean water.

The condition of the Baltic Sea can also be measured against other seas in the whole world thanks to the United Nations project "Global International Waters Assessments" which is actually coordinated from their office here in Kalmar.

Finally I want to give my best wishes for Your work in this conference which I hope will result in both good results and a successful strong, international network where Kalmar has a place in Your minds.