

Welcoming address by the rector

Prof. Dr. Detlef Müller-Böling

Special International Conference on Teacher Training in Physics

14. September 1992, 9.30 Uhr

Haus Bommerholz

Mr. Diergent
Giese

Dear colleagues and dear guests,

I'm very glad that we have the opportunity to increase our knowledge and our activities on Teacher Training in this International Conference. Educational problems can't be kept back by borders, therefore it is unrealistic to continue a thought-process which does not include a global approach. We have to find international solutions and answers.

sometimes overnight, the Germans have experienced it 2 years before
Borders and walls are falling day by day, many former borders will be reestablished within a matter of days (if I look to Czechoslovakia or Jugoslavia or perhaps in the former Soviet Union in these days). These are some of the most important events we have recently witnessed in Eastern Europe. But in the Western World the situation is different. Here borders and walls only exist - if they do at all - in the minds of the people. I believe and hope that this conference will help to remove some of these imaginary boundaries for the whole world.

Dear guests,

I am convinced that within the coming decades the development of our world will be marked by exceptional progress in many quantitative and qualitative dimensions. Interdependent spin-off effects of these changes will reach far into all spheres of life. The world of the future, for example in thirty years, in which we and our children will live, has not yet reached a concrete shape. This is still a vision at most. But in order to bring this vision into line with reality, we'll have to combine the scientific, technical and economic findings with the vision and bind these together. Problems and their solutions can no longer be seen at a regional or national level. They will have to be considered in union with our neighbours from all over the world. For that reason I am pleased that so many scholars from different countries have found their way to Dortmund. You came from Australia or from Poland, from Israel as well as from Sweden, from the United States as well as from Brazil, from the UK as well as from Nigeria. Of course the Scientific Community was an international one long before all political activities to come to a united Europe and to throw down borders between nations. Nevertheless we cannot help admitting that advances to internationality are made rather within a community of research than within a community of education. Indeed we are far from it even in Europe. It will take great effort from all of us, a joint effort from all universities to achieve an educational system which allows any student to change from his or her native college to a foreign without an unbearable waste of time.

That's why I especially welcome this meeting today: I consider it to be an advance on the way to this community of education all over the world, a stage towards a network of cooperation between the universities in the matter of teacher training. There must be found a consensus of the essential contents in order to attire at corresponding programmes ^{or more} ~~and a~~ unified curriculum^a in the future. It is said that there is no such thing as national Physics. Nor - I believe - should there be any such thing as national Physics Teaching.

The University of Dortmund is a good place to discuss these problems and questions. Our department of physics enjoys a good reputation not only for its research staff, which is engaged in many international cooperations, but for its excellent system of instruction, especially by curricula which allow the students to take their final examinations in the shortest time of all German Physics departments. When the News Magazine "Der Spiegel" asked students to point out their favourite place for studying Physics, they gave the Dortmund department the first place on the list ranking all German universities.

Dear guests,

In recent years the University of Dortmund has followed the patterns of structural and economic changes in our region. The university was founded in 1968, and at present has 22.000

students, almost 800 of whom are studying Physics in order to get a diploma or a teaching qualification. Thus the department of Physics is not as overcrowded with students as are the departments of engineering, computer science or economics.

Since 1985 our institution has experienced the highest growth rate among the universities of North Rhine-Westphalia. This applies to new students as well as to the total university attendance. In both cases we are by way ahead of the field. This is quite a success but it also implies great responsibilities towards our students. I think that a conference like this one will help us to improve the training and education of our students too.

I wish all the participants of this conference a pleasant and successful time. I am glad to welcome you in these new rooms of an ancient house which, thanks to our good fortune and our good friends, the university is now able to use as a center for in-service training and for scientific conferences. And last but not least may I thank my colleague Mr. Nachtigall and his team who are responsible for all the planning and the organisation.

And I know, they did it well.

At last let me tell you something about the evening.

The University of Dortmund is part of the 600.000 people-town Dortmund, which is well known for sporting events, for steel production, insurance companies, scientific - we have more than 20 research institutes, working with great success, but most of all in the world ~~we~~ there is well known our good Dortmund beer. We are the beer-town No 1 in Europe, but as economist I know the difference between producer and consumer. Therefore I can tell you we are the No 1 in producing not consuming

Never Cess I wish you a pleasant time Also with a good Dortmund beer at the evening