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## THE-ICE 9<sup>th</sup> IPoE (International Panel of Experts) Forum 2015

Welcome by the Executive Board, Stenden University of Applied Sciences

### Mr Leendert Klaassen

President, Executive Board, Stenden University of Applied Sciences, the Netherlands



Mr Klaassen grew up in Groningen (NL) and studied law at the Free University of Amsterdam, after which he became an Official in 1975 in the town of Zevenaar, rising to the Head of General Affairs and Public Information. In 1984 he was appointed Mayor of the Groningen town of Midwolda then, in 1990, Mayor of the newly-amalgamated municipality of Zuidhorn.

Between 2003 and 2005, Mr Klaassen was Secretary-General of the Senate of the Dutch Parliament. Apart from his political career, Mr Klaassen is also a well respected expert in higher education.

From 2005 to 2011 he was a member of the Executive Committee of the Dutch-Flemish Accreditation Organisation for quality assurance in higher education, and was closely involved in the establishment of the new Dutch accreditation system that was implemented on 1 January 2011.

From 2008 Mr Klaassen was Secretary of INQAAHE (the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education) prior to NVAO assuming the Secretariat role of this worldwide network of quality assurance organisations.

In March 2011 Mr Klaassen was appointed as President of the Executive Board of Stenden University of Applied Sciences.