Welcome Address by Mayor Jürgen Markwardt

Dear Participants,

The future is shaped by people who develop ideas, share knowledge, and drive change. I am therefore very pleased to welcome you to the Global Excellence Network Conference on Vocational Education and Training and Sustainable Development in our Hanseatic city of Uelzen.

By focusing on hydrogen, you are addressing a critical issue for the future. Hydrogen can make a significant contribution to the energy transition and open up new opportunities for a sustainable economy. However, even the best technologies are of little use if there are not enough people who can understand and apply them. Well-trained skilled workers are therefore key to a sustainable future.

I am particularly pleased that the Uelzen Vocational Schools and I advance this forward-looking topic together with partners from around the world. After all, the challenges of our time know no national borders and call for joint solutions. Sustainability is also a central priority for us as a municipality. To make our city and region a place worth living in for future generations, we need new ideas, dedicated people, and a willingness to learn from one another.

My heartfelt thanks go to Principal Stefan Nowatschin, the entire team at BBS I Uelzen, and all participating partners. Your commitment demonstrates what education can achieve and how collaboration creates real prospects for the future.

I wish you a successful conference, stimulating discussions, and many encounters that will foster long-term connections. Enjoy your stay in Uelzen, and may you take home not only new insights but also fond memories of our Hanseatic city.

Sincerely,

Jürgen Markwardt,

Mayor

Hanseatic City of Uelzen