

MY FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE, PROFESSOR DR. MATTI RAUDJÄRV

My first encounter with Professor Dr. Matti Raudjärv was in the autumn of 1989 when he first visited, as a representative of the Tallinn University of Technology, the Business Faculty of the University of Applied Sciences in Kiel. The aim of the visit was to discuss the possibility of a cooperation between the two universities¹. As I had previously gained experience of international collaboration in the field of Economical Science, through seminars and as a guest lecturer, I was invited, by the Dean to join the discussions. During these first meetings I came to know Matti Raudjärv as an extremely warm, pleasant and competent colleague. This impression was shared by many of my students who spoke enthusiastically of the guest from Estonia, who from time to time took responsibility for lectures. His interesting contributions to discussions during the seminars, which he attended at the university, have made him someone to be remembered by all.

In 2001 our common professional interests led Matti Raudjärv, in his role as initiator of the Estonian series of discussions on Economics, to invite me to join him in organizing this annual event. Together we have since then compiled the introductory comments, as a stimulation for this conference, which are now (since 2011) published, as a journal, twice a year; directly before the event and then in the autumn of the same year.

Through Matti I have gained a great number of acquaintances and indeed friends, in Estonia; too many to mention here without the danger of omitting someone. Estonia has become, largely due to Matti, my second home.

The numerous thoughts and ideas on economic matters in the foreword to the journal led us to jointly compile and publish the book: "International Discussions on Economics within a conference series in Estonia". ("Internationale Gespräche über Wirtschaftspolitik im Rahmen einer Konferenzreihe in Estland" – Books On Demand, Norderstedt/ Germany, ISBN 978-3-7448-0889-7).

Not only do we enjoy a close professional relationship, but also on a personal level we are close and have become the greatest of friends; Matti is like a brother to me; his parents are Mutti and Papa! Every year when I visit them in Estonia, my second home, and am greeted so warmly by Mutti with tears in her eyes, I feel as if I am a part of the family. Ever since 1990, when I visited Estonia for the first time, with my wife Monika, and stayed in the Tallinn University of Technology accommodation, Kose tee 79 (Kose way 79) has been my second home. Whenever it is time to say goodbye Mutti and I are beside ourselves with sadness and even Papa has a struggle to hold back the tears.

¹ In November 2019 it will be 30 years from the first business trip of Matti Raudjärv to Western countries (1989) and the first active and fruitful communication-cooperation with Western universities (Kiel University, Kiel University of Applied Sciences, Kiel Institute for the World Economy, Frankfurt-am-Main University).

I wish my great friend and colleague Professor Dr. Matti Raudjärvi, good health and continued success in the future.

April, 2019
Warder, Germany

Prof. Dr. Manfred O. E. Hennies