

Science Workshop Neuro informatica  
Friday 26 November 2004

Opening by Dr. Edvard P. Beem, co-director ZonMw (The Netherlands Organisation for Health Research and Development)

Good morning,

My name is Edvard Beem, I am extremely honoured to welcome such an distinguished audience. You challenged the Dutch fog to shed full daylight upon another challenge with the aim to build on an open research network on the important and timely topic of neuroinformatics. Because of the fog the two distinguished speakers from abroad, Professor Robert Cannon, professor in Adaptive and Neural Computation from the school of Informatics of the University of Edinburgh and Mark van Rossum, a foreigner with a very Dutch name, from the same school in Edinburgh unfortunately couldn't come to The Hague.

I am pleased to see representatives of research policymakers among our guests today, from the Ministry of Science and various departments of NWO.

I am also extremely pleased that policy is only a minor part of the programme, while most of today's programme is devoted to scientific debate.

But let's go on with the programme. I introduce to you Mr. Emil Broesterhuizen, high representative of OCW, the initiator and supporter for the neuroinformatics enterprise since this topic arose on the Global Science Forum of the OECD already some ten years ago.

The whole enterprise is under the umbrella of NWO, NF and ZonMw coordinated by a Steering Group with highly devoted people.

Most devoted of them is Jaap van Pelt. He devoted most of his working (and private) life to the development of Neuroinformatics with great enthusiasm, firm believe and huge willpower. If this enterprise is going to succeed and we are well underway, than we owe him a lot.