

Welcome by Prof. Dr. E. Jürgen Zöllner

## Welcome

Research, innovation and scientific progress play an increasingly critical role in shaping social, political and economic developments of contemporary societies. Which direction goes, might or should go research? The issues of research planning gain in importance not only to researchers, science policy makers and science administrators, but are also of growing interest to non-scientists.

Today's conference "Planning Research for the Future?" gathers researchers both from universities and non-university research institutions as well as science policy representatives and research funders who will together debate the issues of planning, advancement and regulation of research, it's implications, advantages and disadvantages, consequences, and structural needs.

All these topics are extremely relevant to Berlin. With its four universities, seven universities of applied sciences and more than 60 other scientific institutions, Berlin is one of the largest and most diverse science regions in Europe offering a tight network of university and non-university research institutions serving as an excellent basis for interdisciplinary scientific work and cooperation. To be competitive in the integrating European Research and Higher Education Area also in the future, Berlin is well advised to pay special attention to strategic science and research planning.

Education and knowledge are key drivers for development. Knowledge creates future, also the future of Berlin. Therefore, as Senator for Education, Science and Research, I am more than pleased to grant the patronage to this conference. Freie Universität Berlin is an excellent place for intellectually stimulating debates, so it only remains for me to wish you productive discussions during the conference and an inspiring stay in Berlin – the capital of science!

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Dr. E. Jürgen Zöllner  
Senator for Education, Science and Research, Berlin