



UIBE News

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Willem Houwink Professor Emeritus of UIBE: Nominated as one of the top 29 most influential overseas experts.

Walking around campus, it's easy to spot UIBE's foreign teaching staff, together with more than 3500 international students.

Internationalization is a top priority for UIBE, and not only because the word international figures in its name. Every year UIBE recruits new teaching staff, who are considered a treasured asset, bring-



ing special insight and prestige to the University.

This is the story of Willem Houwink, a now retired foreign teacher at UIBE, and who was part of China's resurgent focus on education starting in the early 1980's. At UIBE he's honoured as 'the first person who to have introduced Western Economics into UIBE'. Just recently, the International Exchange of Personnel magazine nominated him as one of the top 29 most influential overseas experts since the start of China's thirty years of economic growth.

Willem Houwink is Dutch/American, and an economist and a senior professor of economics at University of Nevada, United States. At one point in his career he worked with, "The Father of Econometrics", Doctor Jan Tinbergen who received the a Nobel Prize for Economics.

When Professor Houwink worked at a top Wall Street, he became interested in China and paid close attention to its progress. Initially, he was invited by the Chinese government in 1980, and came to China as part of a 16-member US delegation to study China's economic development, education reform, and other issues. In 1990, the Chinese government awarded him a "Friendship Award" in recognition of his contributions to the development of China's education.

Professor Houwink decided to come and teach at UIBE in 1983. In 25 years, he trained around 500 postgraduate. He has had a deep influence on Economics Education in China where he taught: microeconomics, macroeconomics, development economics, international economics and econometrics.

"I keep in touch with a lot of students. In America, I invite a lot of UIBE students to my home. I became very good friends with my Chinese students. I like to come to China once a year when I can." Professor Houwink put a lot of efforts into teaching, and now just as much as a mentor. Due to his age he does not travel much anymore, but the friends he has gained in China remain close to him.

Article provided by Cui Xuyan