

Sustainable Innovation 2015

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Professor Ab Stevels, Delft University of Technology, The Netherlands

Albert Leendert Nicolaas ("Ab"). Stevels was born in Eindhoven (The Netherlands) on Aug. 31, 1944. After Grammar School he studied Chemical Engineering at the Technical University of Eindhoven and took a Ph. D. degree (cum laude) in Physics and Chemistry at Groningen University.

As of Sept. 1969 Ab has worked for Royal Philips Electronics in a many fold of capacities in research on materials, production technology of glass, as a business manager in electro optics and as a project manager for jointventures and licensing in Asia.

On Jan 1, 1993 he became a senior advisor in Environment at the Environmental Competence Center of Philips Consumer Electronics.

In December 1995 Ab was appointed as a part-time professor in Environmental Design at Delft University of Technology. He was visiting professor in the Mechanical Engineering Department of Stanford University, in the fall of 2001 he was teaching at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering of the TU Berlin, in 2002 he was visiting the School of Industrial Systems Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology (Atlanta) .In 2003 he was a visiting professor at the Industrial Ecology Program at NTN University in Trondheim, Norway and in 2005 at Tsinghua University in Beijing. This was followed by shorter stays at Hong Kong Polytechnic in 2006, TU Ostrava (Czech Republic) in 2007, Tsinghua University in 2009 and 2014 and Sao Paulo University in 2013.

Ab Stevels has done trailblazing work in making EcoDesign into day-to-day business really happen and has researched in detail the setting up of take-back and recycling systems for electronics for these purposes tools and management procedures have been developed which have proven their strength through their practical success. Recent work includes a training course for MBA students on sustainability issues.

Ab is the author of some 200 journal articles and conference contributions. Training courses on applied EcoDesign have been held at various universities (Delft, Stanford, TU Berlin, TU Vienna, TU Ostrava, the University for the Creative Arts, Farnham (UK) , Mexico City, Hong Kong Poly, NTNU), Tsinghua University, and at various Philips departments and divisions around the globe and at other companies. For his work in EcoDesign he got an honorary degree from the University of Arts and Design. For his contributions in the field of recycling of electronics he got the "Cowbell Award" from the International Electronics Recycling Conference Organization. In 2014 he got a "Green Award" from the World Green Design Organization

Ab is married to Annet Stevels-Ekering as of 1968. They have three children: Wim married to Jeltina, Jolien married to Bas and Lennom married to Lesley and seven grandchildren: Vera, Jorin, Mathijs, Mick, Marit, Tess and Tom.