

**Honorary Members of the International Association for Vegetation Science  
Lisbon, Portugal, July 2005**

**Laudatio Hartmut Dierschke**

*By Joop Schaminée*

To honor Hartmut Dierschke it would be possible and maybe even appropriate to give two laudations, one dealing with his scientific work on vegetation science and one for his practical work on behalf of various institutes and organizations, of which the International Association for Vegetation Science.

Grown up between the old masters of phytosociology, among which Reinhold Tüxen and Heinz Ellenberg, it will nobody surprise that the scientific research and output of Hartmut Dierschke has been strongly influenced by them. His work has to be positioned in what can be called the continental European tradition. Grasslands and forests have always drawn his special attention and the number of papers dealing with these ecosystems is really impressive. Quite a lot of these publications do have a syntaxonomic purpose, but the scope is always much broader, presenting new and original information on the ecology, spatial variation and dynamics of these ecosystems. The magnum opus of Hartmut Dierschke is definitely his handbook on vegetation science, published in 1996, entitled *Pflanzensoziologie – Grundlagen und Methoden*.

With regard to the International Association for Vegetation Science, the achievements of Hartmut Dierschke can be simply summarized in one sentence: he has been the heart of the IAVS for many, many years. In his capacity of Secretary General, he has written hundreds of letters and given his support to the organizers of the annual IAVS symposia und excursions for a period of sixteen years, from 1983 until 1998; in 1997, he started the series IAVS Bulletins; moreover, he has been Treasurer of the association during the same period and even somewhat longer, until 2002, and has kept our organization financially sound.

Being his successor as Secretary General, it is a great and personal pleasure for me to welcome Hartmut Dierschke as an Honorary Member of the International Association for Vegetation Science.