



**KUNGL. SKOGS- OCH LANTBRUKSAKADEMIEN**

## **Speech for the newly elected Fellows**

199<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Meeting, 28 January 2012

Marianne Eriksson

*Your Majesties, Fellows of the Royal Academy and all other guests*

I would like to say a few words on behalf of the newly elected Academy fellows, Swedish and international. I hope you have all noticed that the Royal Swedish Academy this year welcomes the first Chinese fellow.

I was told not to use PowerPoint for this speech... but no one said I couldn't use Meeting Point. (This is a Swedish road-sign that means meeting point). Isn't that exactly what the Academy is – a meeting point of the green industries?

We can find this road-sign along the narrow roads in the countryside, but we could also need them along the highways. At the meeting point you drive close to the roadside, slow down, pay attention to the other driver. And in that low speed your view of the world gets wider. The Academy is the meeting point of the green industries where we can slow down, get off the road and discuss current topics from different point of views, based on knowledge and science.

The Academy can also be like a church for the green industries. When we go to church we lay our weapons down at the church porch (Swe: 'vapenhus'). We leave the competition, for example the timber market, outside, and meet each other in a broad-minded conversation and reflection. Difficult questions do seldom have easy answers but hopefully we leave the church a little bit wiser and stronger than we were when we came there.

We, the newly elected academy fellows feel proud and honored to be a part of the Academy, which we know as a big resource for the green industries and the whole society. We are convinced that the green industries in the future will be more and more important to reach the sustainable society.

Well, we can find this road-sign out in the countryside. But we can also find signs of Meeting Points at international airports, railway stations and many other places. I think the Academy should have such a sign too, so I will now donate this one to the Academy.

At last I want to propose a toast for our Academy – the Meeting Point of the green industries.