

## ***Biography***

Hans van Ginkel, male, geographer and urban planner, acquired his M.Sc.(summa) cum laude from the human geography department of Utrecht University in 1966 and received his Ph.D in the Social Sciences from 'Utrecht' in 1979, also (summa) cum laude. He started his career as a geography teacher at high school and college level and was appointed in the human geography department of 'Utrecht' in 1968. In 1980 he was appointed full professor and in 1981 dean of the faculty. His main fields of academic activity were population, housing and urban development and he published widely in his areas of expertise. He was the Rector Magnificus of Utrecht University from 1986 to 1997 and became then the Rector of the United Nations University in Tokyo and Under Secretary-General of the United Nations, 1997-2007.

Hans van Ginkel was among others vice-president of the European University Association (1994-1998), president of the International Association of Universities (2000-2004) and a member of UNESCO's higher education expert group organizing the World Conference on Higher Education (Paris, 1998). He was also among others, the chair of the Coordinating Council of the Sector-Councils for Science Policy (COS) in the Netherlands, and a member of the advisory board for science policy of the EU, chair of the Board of the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI), The Hague, and the International Training Centre for the Geo-Information Sciences (ITC), Enschedé, and vice-chair of the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok. At present he is among others, chair of the Board of the German Centre for Development Research (ZEF, Bonn) and the Advisory Board of the Institute for Social Studies (ISS), the Hague and a member of the Advisory Board of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt.

Van Ginkel became a member of the Social Sciences Council of the Royal Academy of Sciences of the Netherlands in 1992, a member of the Academia Europea in 2001 and a fellow of TWAS, the World Academy of Science, for the advancement of science in the Developing World in 2005. TWAS invited him to hold a Medal Lecture in 2015 ("*Next Generation Cities: Towards Sustainable Urban Futures*"). He holds five honorary doctorates (Cluj-Rumania, Sacramento-California, Accra-Ghana, Zvolen-Slovakia and McMaster-Canada), is Knight in the Order of the Netherlands' Lion (1994) and received the Order of the Rising Sun, grand cordon, Japan (2007). He was also active outside the world of academia. For instance, as the chair of the Utrecht Regional Council, which prepared the physical infrastructure plan for the central part of the Netherlands. For his contributions to the development of the city and the province of Utrecht he received the medal of the Chamber of Commerce of Utrecht and the Golden Medal of the City of Utrecht.