

ES GILT DAS GESPROCHENE WORT

29.08.2011

Grußwort von Stadtpräsidentin Cathy Kietzer

zur Microscopy Conference MC 2011 an der Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel

Dear Professor Jäger,
dear Mr. President,
Madam State Secretary Dr. Andreßen,
Professor Rachel,
dear attendees of the Microscopy Conference 2011,
dear guests,

a very warm welcome to Kiel, the capital city of Schleswig-Holstein. It is my pleasure to welcome you here.

I am particularly pleased with the number of attendees from the Baltic Sea region. For many years, Kiel has maintained partnerships with cities in Poland, Russia, Estonia and Finland, among others. Furthermore, Kiel has amicable ties with eleven other cities in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Latvia and Lithuania. Kiel is involved in various international networks such as the Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC) and the Baltic Sea Chambers of Commerce Association (BCCA). I am very pleased to see representatives of these networks among our guests here today and would like to extend a warm welcome to you, too.

I do not know how many among you have been to Kiel before, or what you associate with Kiel in particular. Certainly, most think of Kieler Woche – the biggest sailing event in the world and the biggest summer festival in Northern Europe, or maybe the Olympic sailing competitions in 1972 or even our very successful handball team from THW. But Kiel is much more than Kieler Woche, sports, the fish delicacy Kieler Sprotten and the HDW shipyard. What characterises Kiel are also our institutions of higher education with 29,000 students in total:

Kiel University, Kiel University of Applied Sciences, the Muthesius Academy of Fine Arts and Design, Wirtschaftsakademie Schleswig-Holstein and the University Medical Center Schleswig-Holstein. The University Medical Center is classing among the largest medical centres in Europe, with locations in both Kiel and Lübeck. In addition to higher education, Kiel is also well-known for its international and interdisciplinary research facilities. For example, the Kiel Institute for the World Economy ranks among the most important centres for research into the global economy, economic policy advice and economic education.

Just next door is the German National Library of Economics – Leibniz Information Centre for Economics, which is regarded as the largest specialist library in the world for economics, with over four million publications and 25,000 journals subscribed for.

The Cluster of Excellence “Inflammation at Interfaces” - initiated by the Federal Government and the DFG (German Research Foundation) - houses around 200 scientists of various disciplines, who have been busy deciphering the inflammation mechanism since 2007.

A research approach unique in Germany is applied in the Cluster of Excellence "The Future Ocean", whose interdisciplinary aim is to investigate and reassess climate and ocean change and, based on these findings, to establish a system of sustainable worldwide resource management.

I would like to mention the Leibniz Institute of Marine Sciences (IFM-Geomar), one of the three leading European marine research institutions. Basic research in the field of chemical, physical, biological and geological processes in the ocean and interaction between the sea floor and the atmosphere is carried out here.

Last but not least, the Leibniz Institute for Science and Mathematics Education, an institution affiliated with Kiel University, is dedicated to fundamental and practical questions concerning the learning and teaching of science and mathematics.

But, Ladies and Gentlemen,

That is not all. Networking of science and schools is one of the priorities in Kiel and thus we are naturally promoting young talent: Did you know that Kiel is the current "Town for Young Researchers" (*Stadt der jungen Forscher*)? The joint initiative of the Körber Foundation, the Robert Bosch Foundation and the Deutsche Telekom Foundation supports 47 school projects, which are monitored by local universities. One highlight certainly was the Science Festival in the city centre by the sea this year, where all of the "Town for Young Researchers" projects were presented.

In addition, the finals of the Federal Competition "Jugend forscht" took place in Kiel at the end of May 2011, with the most famous competition for youth talent in Germany being hosted by the city of Kiel for the first time. This was a great honour for our city.

Kiel also boasts a successful networking of science and economy. On the one hand the Kiel Centre of Innovation and Technology, KITZ for short, has offered support for young, technology-oriented start-up businesses since 1996. On the other hand, the Research & Development Centre at the Kiel University of Applied Sciences is aimed at companies, investors, entrepreneurs and university scientists in need of anything from advice to project management.

The Science Park Kiel is only a stone's throw away. Business and science have space to unfold here on a surface of 20 hectares in close cooperation. The science park houses both public and private establishments under its roof. The aim is to attract research-intensive companies and to create and secure jobs for highly-qualified employees.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Microscopes play a very important role in research. They deliver greatly magnified images of small structures and objects often invisible to the naked eye, which lead to important discoveries. I hope that with this speech I was able to, figuratively speaking, sharpen your focus on Kiel as an academic and scientific location.

Without a doubt, Kiel is a top spot for science and research. We are delighted to welcome both the Microscopy Conference and you, dear attendees, to our city. The Land Capital Kiel, with its network of scientific, economic and leading research institutions, is exactly the right location for a conference such as this. I would like to thank those responsible, especially you, Professor Fouquet and Professor Jäger. As hosts of the Microscopy Conference you have once again made sure that experts and the interested public pay attention to Kiel's Christian-Albrechts-Universität and to the Land Capital itself as a location for higher education and science.

I hope, that I made you curious and whetted your appetite for more - more Kiel and more Schleswig-Holstein. I wish you a very pleasant stay here on the Kiel fjord and I am certain that following these six days of the Microscopy Conference, you will travel home with many new ideas and positive impressions.

And please do come back – maybe to next year's Kieler Woche – our doors are always open.