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Research in Germany
Land of Ideas

Newsletter "Research in Germany"

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www.research-in-germany.de

Dear Readers,

"Knowledge knows no frontiers" – this was the motto of the first Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting in 1951. It has lost none of its topicality and also applies more than ever to this year's event, the 60th meeting.

From 27 June to 2 July 2010, 61 Nobel Laureates will be meeting 650 young researchers from 70 countries. As a unique opportunity worldwide for Nobel Laureates and junior scientists to communicate on both subject matters and personal issues, the Lindau Meetings have been setting standards in the international dialogue on science and research for years. Here, networks of international excellence develop reaching beyond the boundaries of cultures, disciplines and generations.

The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) supports the Lindau dialogue because international exchange and cooperation are actually lived here. To mark the 60th anniversary of the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings, we are presenting some of the participants and their projects in this issue of the Newsletter.

We will also inform you about the latest developments in science and research in Germany. The next issue appears in September 2010.

Prof. Dr. Annette Schavan, MdB
Federal Minister of Education and Research

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Interview

The Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings: Informal, International, Unique

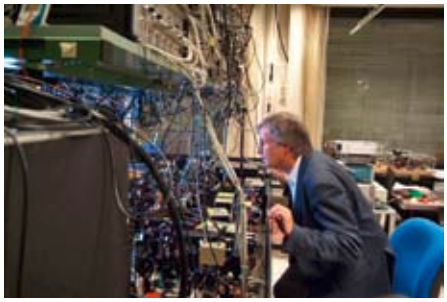
Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Theodor W. Hänsch is Professor of Physics at LMU Munich and Director at the Max Planck Institute of Quantum Optics at Garching. Along with Roy J. Glauber, Hänsch was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics 2005 jointly with John L. Hall for their contributions to the development of laser-based precision spectroscopy, including the optical frequency comb technique.

Nobel Laureate Professor Theodor W. Hänsch.

Professor Hänsch, this year you will be attending the Nobel Laureate Meeting at Lindau for the fourth time already. For up-and-coming researchers, what is the added value of the Lindau Meetings in a globally interconnected world with all the communication technologies of the new media, email, telephone and video conferences?

It still makes a huge difference whether you are surfing websites and using interactive communication channels to gain information or whether you can meet a Nobel Laureate "in flesh and blood", listen to his presentation, discuss topics with him and ask him questions you might not dare to ask in a different setting. What is so special about the Lindau Meet-

Media attention for Professor Hänsch immediately after the announcement of the Nobel Foundation in Stockholm in October 2005.



Professor Hänsch working on an experiment to create ultracold Li K molecules.

Get further information about the 2010 Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting, its participants and scientific programme and watch lectures of Laureates as livestream feeds at www.lindau-nobel.org. Or visit the official blog of the Nobel Laureate Meeting at www.lindau.nature.com.

ings is the unique opportunity for informal personal encounters. Already during the panel and student discussions, but also on the fringe of the official meeting programme, Nobel Laureates and the world's scientific elite of tomorrow get the chance to discuss subject matters as well as personal issues. In the relaxed atmosphere at Lindau, open and controversial debates can be held across generations both on forward-looking topics in research and on current affairs in general.

Never before have there been as many participants from developing countries as among this year's 650 scientists at the 60th Meeting of Nobel Laureates. What makes an invitation to Lindau so special for young people from these countries?

Since their beginnings in the fifties of the last century, and in particular since the Foundation Lindau Nobelprizewinners Meetings at Lake Constance was set up in 2000, the meetings have seen constant internationalisation. Today, the audience are composed of international participants from over 70 countries. The diversity of people's backgrounds and the exclusive opportunity to extend networks is equally beneficial to the young researchers and the Nobel Laureates. Meeting and exchanging information and ideas with top level scientists, colleagues and fellow researchers from other continents on an equal footing is probably exceptionally important for participants from developing countries. As we must all seek progress in science in the developing countries, we should encourage these young researchers to forge valuable scientific networks. For example, I very much welcome the founding of the African Physical Society (AfPS) in Dakar on 12 January. It is the first joint physical society for the African countries.

In this context, how do you view Germany's academic cooperation effort?

It is good to see that many institutions, organisations and leading figures are actively supporting young international researchers. For example, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) has enabled many ambitious and talented young people from all over the world to visit German research institutions so that they can conduct their research here in good conditions and develop their potential to the fullest. In the course of the general exchange of German and international academics, universities here are continuously improving their curriculum for foreign students, which enhances the attractiveness of Germany as a research location. I would also like to emphasise that the Max Planck Society (MPG), with its International Max Planck Research Schools (IMPRS) and international announcing of doctoral candidate positions, is contributing to a greater share of qualified foreign academics at German research institutions as well.

In your highly anticipated lecture "The Heartbeat of Light" you will inform the specialist audience at Lindau about the state of the art in the field of laser spectroscopy. Fifty years after the invention of laser, what are the future challenges for quantum optics?

Even after 50 years, laser research has lost none of its innovative power and fascination. We are constantly creating new possibilities to put things into practice with laser light that used to be impossible. It really is astonishing that laser research is still providing us with new insights after all these years. In the interaction between technological development and science, the flow of innovation in quantum physics remains uninterrupted. This is vividly borne out by rapid progress made in applications in telecommunications technology, navigation technology, medical technology, process engineering, mechanical engineering and microscopy. Regarding the frequency comb technique in particular, more and more highly interesting applications are emerging for science. They range from high-precision optical atomic clocks to the quest for earth-like planets in astronomy and to new, highly sensitive trace gas analysis methods.

Contact: Max Planck Institute of Quantum Optics, Gabriele Gschwendtner, Head of Office, Conference Organization, LMU & MPQ, gag@mpq.mpg.de

Research at the Max Planck Institute of Quantum Optics concentrates on the interaction of light and matter under extreme conditions. Professor Hänsch and his division team are currently focusing on precise laser spectroscopy of simple atomic systems and on the quantum physics of ultracold atoms.

More information: www.mpq.mpg.de/~haensch/

Science and Research News

A chance to learn from Nobel Laureates

Aaron LaForge, a promising young physicist who recently graduated from Missouri University of Science & Technology, will be among the 650 young researchers at the 60th Meeting of Nobel Laureates at Lindau. He was recommended to the Council by his doctoral supervisor Dr. Michael Schulz as one of the best PhD students in many years. The results of Dr. LaForge's experiments on proton impact ionisation of atomic hydrogen have provided the most detailed data so far to study the few-body problem (FBP), a fundamentally important, but as yet unsolved problem in physics. Measuring dynamics in few-body systems such as small molecules presents problems even when the underlying forces are known. An analysis of the experimental data obtained by Dr. LaForge led to major progress in our understanding of atomic fragmentation processes. Dr. LaForge will now join the Emmy Noether Junior Research Group at the Max Planck Institute for Nuclear Physics in Heidelberg, which focuses on Precision Studies on Ion Collisions (PRIOC) and is led by Dr. Daniel Fischer, who himself attended the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting in 2004. Using a "MOTREMI" reaction microscope, which implements a magneto-optical trap (MOT), the scientists will attain even higher precision in measuring atomic processes such as ionisation. Asked about his expectations of the 3rd interdisciplinary Meeting of Nobel Laureates, Dr. LaForge answered: "It is important to me to learn from scientists in more distant or completely different fields because I want to familiarise myself with a wide variety of thoughts and ideas. Learning from Nobel Laureate Roy J. Glauber himself about his closely-related work in laser spectroscopy and the trapping of cold atoms will be extremely beneficial to my current research."

More information: www.mpi-hd.mpg.de/prioc/en
Contact: Max Planck Institute for Nuclear Physics, Emmy Noether Junior Research Group "PRIOC", Dr. Daniel Fischer, Email: fischer@mpi-hd.mpg.de

Dr. Michael Schulz and Aaron LaForge.

Science and Research News

Offshore wind energy research ready to start

Alpha ventus, Germany's first offshore wind park 45 kilometres off the coast of the island of Borkum, started operating on 27 April 2010, launching the production of wind energy in the German parts of the North Sea and the Baltic. Besides representing a milestone for the use of wind energy out at high sea, the wind park is at the focus of intense research activities. Optimising offshore wind energy is the goal of the Federal Environment Ministry's RAVE (Research at Alpha VEntus) initiative. "Offshore wind energy will be an indispensible pillar of energy supply in future," stresses Professor Jürgen Schmid, head of the Fraunhofer Institute for Wind Energy and Energy System Technology (IWES) in Kassel, which coordinates the RAVE research initiative. However, he explains that a lot has to be done to make this young technology sufficiently profitable and reliable.
The offshore testing field alpha ventus offers unique opportunities in this respect. Aspects covered by the RAVE project include the development of safe steel foundations for the plants, optimising rotor technology, establishing sediment dynamics and assessing the environmental impacts of wind parks. The RAVE researchers will take their data from special sensors installed both in some of the offshore wind energy plants and their foundations as well as on the transformer stations out at sea and on land. This is being backed by ecological research carried out e.g. from ships and aeroplanes and meteorological and oceanographic measuring data from the nearby research platform FINO1. The European Technology Platform on Wind Energy, the European Wind Energy Academy (EAWE) and the International Energy Agency (IEA) are among the institutions that alpha ventus is cooperating with.

More information: www.alpha-ventus.de, www.rave-offshore.de
Contact: Fraunhofer Institute for Wind Energy and Energy System Technology, Uwe Krengel, Email: uwe.krengel@iwes.fraunhofer.de

Germany's first offshore wind power plant.

Science and Research News

Wallpaper to resist earthquakes

Researchers at the Institute for Solid Construction and Building Materials Technology at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) have developed an "intelligent composite seismic wallpaper". The Institute Solid Construction Department designed the wallpaper to reinforce the walls of buildings in earthquake regions. The idea behind the new fabric, consisting of textile material with four different directions of fibres that is embedded in mortar, is to stabilise buildings damaged by earthquakes and make them fit for use again. However, the textile-mortar reinforcement system can also serve to protect intact buildings as a preventive measure. And it is generally suitable to fill in and bridge cracks in buildings caused, for example, by subsidence. The KIT researchers are now testing the reinforcement system on a badly damaged building in Pavia/Italy. The architecture of the house and its material are based on buildings typical of the Abruzzi region and the City of L'Aquila, hit by a powerful earthquake in April 2009. In a large-scale experiment, the house is being reinforced with the seismic wallpaper to then be placed on a vibrating table simulating an earthquake. The seismic wallpaper is the work of a group of partners in science and industry around the Italian firm of D'Appolonia S.p.A. in the context of the EU POLTECT (Polyfunctional Technical Textiles against Natural Hazards) project to develop intelligent textiles for construction as an earthquake protection measure. At the recent JEC Composites Show, a composite materials trade fair, a jury of international experts chose KIT and its partners for the JEC Innovation Award 2010 in construction and structural engineering in recognition of the new reinforcement system.

Experiment in Pavia: A badly damaged building is reinforced with the seismic carpet to be placed on a vibrating table for testing the intelligent composite seismic wallpaper.

More information: www.kit.edu
Contact: Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Monika Landgraf, Email: monika.landgraf@kit.edu

Recent Research Cooperation

New Lindau Academic Partner nominates Turkish scientists

The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBITAK) is a new member of the international network of more than 120 Academic Partners for the Meetings of Nobel Laureates at Lindau. For the first time, TÜBITAK has supported the Council and Foundation of the Lindau Meetings in selecting Turkish participants for the 2010 event. Dr. Nimet Bölgen, a bioengineer at Mersin University, is one of the five candidates accepted this year. In her research, she focuses on nanofibrous biomaterials for biomedical applications and the development of tissue engineering scaffolds for bone and cartilage repair. Her EU-funded participation in a top-class practical training course at RWTH Aachen University in 2009 further encouraged her to work passionately for medical-technical progress. "Attending the 60th Meeting of Nobel Laureates will give me the opportunity to determine future scientific strategies and interact with talented scientists from around the world and, hopefully, become part of a global network of outstanding researchers," Dr. Bölgen says, and she eagerly anticipates the discussions with the Nobel Laureates. "Disputing the use of stem cells in tissue engineering with Sir Martin John Evans, the pioneer researcher with embryonic stem cells and co-winner of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2007, will be an inspiring opportunity for me." During the 59th Meeting of Nobel Laureates in 2009, a Memorandum of Understanding was concluded between the Council and Foundation of the Lindau Nobel Laureat Meetings at Lake Constance and TÜBITAK. The signing of this agreement reflects a common interest in ensuring the participation of highly talented young scientists from Turkey at the Lindau Meetings.

Dr. Bölgen working with an HPLC (high performance liquid chromatography) at the laboratory of the Chemical Engineering Department of Mersin University.

More information: www.tubitak.gov.tr
Contact: The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey, Science Fellowships & Grant Programmes Department, Burcin Alparslan, Scientific Programmes Assistant Expert, Email: burcin.alparslan@tubitak.gov.tr

Recent Research Cooperation

New decentralised wastewater project in Jordan

HELMHOLTZ CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH – UFZ

On 18 March 2010, a German Embassy representative officially handed over the first demonstration facility for decentralised wastewater management to Jordan's Al-Balqa Applied University in Fuheis. The site was designed by the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) in collaboration with the Training and Demonstration Centre for Decentralised Sewage Treatment (BDZ), an initiative for the promotion of decentralised wastewater treatment, and supported by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). It develops decentralised wastewater treatment technologies and adapts them to the arid local conditions. "Experience in Fuheis is helping us to optimise operating costs and the stability of the wastewater technology pilot plants in the arid Arab climate. Next we want to put this know-how into practice on a larger scale," explains project manager Dr. Roland Müller of the UFZ. A network consisting of the Jordanian Ministry of Water, the UFZ, BDZ, the Applied University of Al Balqa and the German and Jordanian companies Huber SE, ATB Umwelttechnologien GmbH, Ecoconsult and NAW seeks to extend activities to larger drainage areas over the next few years, so that the project could serve as a model for other arid countries. Recycling treated wastewater could reduce pressure on Jordan's groundwater resources by around a fifth.

More information: www.ufz.de
Contact: Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Dr. Roland Müller, Email: roland.mueller@ufz.de, Dr. Khaja Rahman, Email: khaja.rahman@ufz.de, Jaime Cardona, Email: jaime.cardona@ufz.de

Hand-over of keys for the Fuheis facility at Al-Balqua University. From left to right: Prof. Omar Riwawi (Al Balqa University), Hans Christian Mangelsdorf (German Embassy in Amman), Vera Stercken (German Embassy in Tel Aviv), Prof. Dr. Heinz Hötzl (KIT, SMART project coordinator) and Fajes Badaine (Ministry of Water and Irrigation of Jordan).

Latest R&D Funding Programmes and Activities

Developing countries showing their potential

ILMENAU UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

MEETINGS OF NOBEL LAUREATES LINDAU

DAAD Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst German Academic Exchange Service

The list of young researchers participating in the 60th Meeting of Nobel Laureates at Lindau highlights the scientific potential of developing countries such as Bangladesh. Sushanta Ghoshal, one of this year's three Bangladeshi participants, graduated as Master of Science in Applied Chemistry & Chemical Technology from Dhaka University in 2007 and attracted the attention of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). The fellowship the DAAD granted to Mr. Ghoshal as one of four doctoral candidates from Bangladesh in 2008 enables him to do his doctorate with Prof. Dr. Siegfried Stapf at the Department of Technical Physics II/Polymer Physics at the Ilmenau University of Technology in Thuringia, Germany. Focused on the molecular dynamics during the film formation of different environment-friendly biopolymers like gelatine, starch and shellac, Mr. Ghoshal's research findings are likely to contribute to the modification and improvement of the moisture barrier, surface and thermo-mechanical properties of new biopolymer blends and mixtures for their application in the food, packaging and coating industries and in biomedicine. The Lindau Meeting is an opportunity for Mr. Ghoshal to expand his network of international researchers and thus perhaps contribute to the scientific development of his home country. Mr. Ghoshal is also one of 50 young researchers selected by the Robert Bosch Foundation to attend the Euroscience Open Forum (ESOF) 2010 as part of the post-conference programme "Lindau fellows go ESOF!". The DAAD provides a variety of programmes for academics from developing countries such as scholarships, postgraduate degree programmes, university partnerships, academic and alumni networks, as well as programmes for experts and executives.

More information: www.tu-ilmenau.de/techphys
Contact: Ilmenau University of Technology, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Department of Technical Physics II/Polymer Physics, Sushanta Ghoshal,
Email: sushanta.ghoshal@tu-ilmenau.de
DAAD funding programmes: www.daad.de/en, www.funding-guide.de

Mr. Ghoshal working with a Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrometer.

Latest R&D Funding Programmes and Activities

"Green Production Technologies" presents German market innovators

Low CO2-emission energy production, intelligent electric motors and innovative fine-dust air filtering technology: German companies are leading the way in energy efficiency and resource conservation. The new compendium "Green Production Technologies" presents around 100 of these firms – from Audi AG to ZF Friedrichshafen AG – all of which have contributed to the "Made in Germany" seal of quality. The publication was initiated by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and edited by the German Engineering Association (VDMA). The official book release at the Hannover Trade Fair was attended by 100 representatives from the German Engineering Association, together with Dr. Manfred Wittenstein, President of VDMA, and Prof. Dr. Annette Schavan, Federal Minister of Education and Research. According to Prof. Schavan, "German technologies are leading the way in climate protection and resource conservation – here in Germany and around the world. Many companies have come to realise that ecology and economy do not contradict one another." The new reference work on efficiency technology centres on these market and innovation leaders each of which is presented in German and English. With the aid of pictograms, the reader can discover at a glance which technologies the company is renowned for. In addition, "Green Production Technologies" includes numerous project presentations, such as the Desertec Foundation's desert energy project as well as 21 renowned German research institutes. "Green Production Technologies" can be purchased in German bookstores and, in cooperation with the partners of "Germany – Land of Ideas", at all German embassies and Goethe Institutes around the world.

Dr. Wolfram von Fritsch, Chairman of the Board of the Deutsche Messe AG, Federal Research Minister Prof. Dr. Annette Schavan, VDMA President Dr. Manfred Wittenstein and publisher Dr. Florian Langenscheidt at the official presentation of the book "Green Production Technologies" at the Hannover Trade Fair in April 2010.

More information: www.deutschestandards.de, www.vdma.de
Contact: BrunoMedia Communications, Gerd Jan Gauger, Email: gauger@brunomedia.de

Current R&D Policy

German-Brazilian Year of Science to strengthen innovation and growth

"How can we combat global climate change? How can we strengthen innovation and growth? These important questions can only be answered with the help of international partners such as Brazil," said Federal Research Minister Prof. Dr. Annette Schavan in São Paulo. On 12 April 2010 Schavan and her Brazilian counterpart Sérgio M. Rezende opened the German-Brazilian Year of Science, Technology and Innovation 2010/11 under the motto "sustainable:innovative". "Together with Brazil, we want to break new ground in our academic cooperation," Schavan added. "Collaborations will strengthen the international competitiveness of both countries." Numerous science, education and research organisations in Germany and Brazil are organising bilateral conferences, workshops and exhibitions over the course of the year. For example, the research collaboration BRAGECRIM (Brazilian-German Collaborative Research Initiative in Manufacturing Technology), which is funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG), will present itself at the German-Brazilian Economic Meeting in Munich in May 2010; a number of Fraunhofer Institutes are having bilateral meetings with Brazilian institutions; the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is participating in education and science fairs in Brazil and Germany and will provide information about bilateral cooperation in education; the German Rectors' Conference (HRK) is working on a new university framework agreement; and the "Science Tunnel" exhibition of the Max Planck Society (MPG) will open in Brazil in spring 2011. Events organised by key universities and research institutions will present the excellence of science locations and provide new impetus for intensified cooperation. With over 1,200 German firms operating in Brazil, it is already one of Germany's most important partners in Latin America. So far German and Brazilian universities have organised more than 230 joint programmes, and over 2,000 Brazilians are studying in Germany.

Minister Annette Schavan and her Brazilian counterpart Minister Sérgio Rezende opening the German-Brazilian Year.

More information and upcoming events: www.deutsch-brasilianisches-jahr.de (in German and Portuguese only)

Current R&D Policy

Go-ahead given for German-Turkish University in Istanbul

DAAD Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst
German Academic Exchange Service

Federal Ministry of Education and Research

On 1 April 2010, the Turkish Parliament approved the Foundation Act establishing the German-Turkish University (DTU) in Istanbul. "The Turkish-German University is a forward-looking project that is going to considerably intensify German-Turkish academic relations," commented Federal Research Minister Prof. Dr. Annette Schavan. "The decision taken by the Turkish Parliament today has cleared any remaining obstacles to founding the institution. I am also pleased that a very attractive site has been provided for the University in the Istanbul district of Beykoz." The resolution adopted by the Turkish Parliament in Ankara is based on an intergovernmental agreement ratified by both states. Germany is going to make substantial contributions to academic activities, teaching and German language training. This part of the collaborative venture is being funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and supported by a consortium on the German side that consists of 26 higher education institutions and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). One German university each will be in charge of coordinating the setting up of the planned DTU faculties. The German-Turkish University has been conceived as a university with a special research profile and is designed to educate at least 5,000 students in the medium term, the target being 20,000. Turkish-German courses will be offered on an intercultural basis incorporating not only German language tuition but also German degrees. The five initial faculties are: Law, Natural Sciences, Economics and Social Sciences, Humanities and Civilisation Studies and Engineering Sciences. Students will be able to obtain Bachelors', Masters' and doctoral degrees. The University will cooperate intensively with Turkish and German industry.

More information: www.daad-magazin.de/13469 (in German only)
Contact: German Academic Exchange Service, Dr. Meltem Göben, Email: goeben@daad.de

Representatives of the German university consortium, K-DTU, on a fact-finding mission in December 2009.

Last but not least

Chartbangers needn't keep kids from learning

technische universität dortmund

Musicologists at TU Dortmund have discovered that contrary to common assumption, background music usually has no negative effect on the learning ability of pupils. "This result came as a big surprise to me," comments Prof. Dr. Günther Rötter of the University's Institute of Music and Musicology, and head of the study. Over several weeks, the musicologists of TU Dortmund alternately confronted 88 pupils (average age about 15-17) of the tenth grade of a comprehensive school with an extract from an intelligence test (CFT test) and with a concentration test. One group of adolescents had to do one test "with" and – for checking purposes – the other test "without music". With the other group, it was the other way round. Test groups with roughly homogeneous performance had been selected and brought their own music along. The result was that performance stayed exactly the same. "So obviously, the music had no influence at all," Prof. Dr. Rötter concludes. The reason for the Dortmund findings could be the omnipresence of music in the environment of young people. With an MP3-player, they can listen to music whenever and wherever they want to without spending much on technology. And then there is the internet, with its extensive music-download offer. The adolescent consumers don't even perceive the music as background music. In the 1990s, there were studies already dealing with this topic. It was not possible to prove that music has a positive effect. One study even discovered that listening to background music during homework resulted in a decline in learning ability. Altogether, however, the results were very contradictory. The enormous technical progress made over the past ten years prompted the recent Dortmund study. Good news for around two thirds of all school kids and their parents: No need to switch the music off during homework.

More information: www.fb16.uni-dortmund.de/musik (in German only)
Contact: TU Dortmund, Prof. Dr. Günther Rötter, Email: guenther.roetter@tu-dortmund.de

Apparently music does not distract children from homework.

Events

Naturejobs Career Expo 2010 (London/UK) 23 September 2010

The career fair and conference "Naturejobs Career Expo 2010" aims to introduce scientists at PhD level to potential new employers in their fields. Over 1,000 scientists from physics, chemistry, life sciences and medical sciences will be able to discuss job prospects with German representatives from universities and science organisations. The German delegates will hold a workshop providing further information on their institutions.
The German pavilion is part of the "Research in Germany – Land of Ideas" initiative run by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

More information:
www.naturejobs.com/careerexpo

Young Scientists go German (Heidelberg/Germany) 8 to10 July 2010

The grand 'RISE Scholarship Holders Meeting', sponsored by the DAAD, is to be held in Heidelberg this year. The students are to meet with high-profile business representatives and become acquainted with attractive Master and PhD graduate programmes in Germany. Since its humble beginnings with just 98 students in 2005, the DAAD/RISE programme – Research Internships in Science and Engineering – has continually been on the rise! In 2010, more than 320 undergraduates from North America and the UK will work with doctoral candidates on cutting-edge research at German universities and explore the country.

More information:
www.daad.de/rise

Future Megacities in Balance (Essen/Germany) 11 to 13 October 2010

The conference "Future Megacities in Balance – New Alliances for Energy and Climate-Efficient Solutions" is being held in the context of the Future Megacities programme (2005-2013) run by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). The event will offer an opportunity to join an international, transdisciplinary dialogue with about 500 experts. Topics include energy systems, climate adaptation and resilience, mobility and transport, cooperation and governance, urban development and planning, and sustainable financing in future megacities.

More information:
www.megacities-megachallenge.org

Discoveries 2010: Energy (Isle of Mainau/Germany) 20 May to 29 August 2010

The exhibition "Discoveries 2010: Energy" on the Isle of Mainau in Lake Constance shows how science and research are contributing to a sustainable use of energy. The interactive "hands-on exhibition" consists of 18 pavilions and focuses on tomorrow's renewable energy resources and technologies such as solar and wind power, nuclear fusion and biofuels.
The exhibition, jointly organised by the Foundation Lindau Nobelprizewinners Meetings at Lake Constance and the Mainau GmbH, is the second part of a three-year series and is funded mainly by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) within the context of the Year of Science 2010, "The Future of Energy".

More information:
www.mainau-entdeckungen.de/
(in German only)

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