

PRESS RELEASE

Young scientists honoured for their research work “Green Talents” visit ecotech venues in Germany

10 September 2009. Professor Frieder Meyer-Krahmer recently honoured the winners of the international environmental technology competition “Green Talents” for their research work. The State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) received the up-and-coming young scientists at the sixth BMBF Forum for Sustainability (FONA) in Hamburg, which represented the culmination of a week-long “Green Talents Forum”. “German research institutions and companies are strong international partners in the field of environmental technologies. That is why I am particularly pleased to honour these talented young scientists as representatives of their countries, their continents and their respective research fields”, State Secretary Professor Meyer-Krahmer said at the award ceremony.

The German Federal Research Ministry’s “Green Talents” award is directed at 15 outstanding scientific minds in the field of environmental technology, and was bestowed for the first time in 2009. During the first week of September the winners were invited by Professor Annette Schavan, Federal Research Minister and the patron of the competition, to visit some of Germany’s best-known environmental technology venues. The “Green Talents” were shown around German universities, research institutions and companies involved in projects spanning various areas of technology, including fields such as global climate change, cleansing contaminated land, processing water and wastewater, and researching new fuels based on biomass and photovoltaics. The “Green Talents” also visited a decentralised, innovative, energy-saving water management infrastructure project and found out more about the production of energy-saving light-emitting diodes (LED). “During my entire professional career both as a researcher and an engineer, this is the first time I have been given so many opportunities to be exposed to world-class research and research infrastructure”, said Dr. Akintunde Babatunde, “Green Talent” from Nigeria, who is currently working at the University College Dublin.

The forum week placed special emphasis on encounters between the “Green Talents” and experts and young scientists from Germany, in order to help intensify a global exchange in the fast-growing ecotech field. “We had a workshop that gave me some good ideas for how I can direct my research to satisfy the needs of the future and to have some impact on people’s lives”, said “Green Talent” Dr. Kerem Güngör of Abant İzzet Baysal University in Turkey. The “Green Talents Forum” culminated in the “FONA Forum” in Hamburg, at which the “Green Talents” discussed new approaches to sustainability research together with more than 400 representatives of science, industry and politics. “It is important to exchange ideas to increase the motivation and the interest in the protection of the environment”, said Dr. Carlos Alberto Martínez-Huitle, “Green Talent” from Mexico, who is a researcher at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte in Brazil.

“Green Talents – The International Forum for High Potentials in Green Technologies”

31 August 2009

Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), Potsdam,
www.pik-potsdam.de

1 September 2009

Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ), Leipzig, www.ufz.de
OSRAM Opto Semiconductors/Siemens AG, Regensburg, www.osram-os.com

2 September 2009

Fraunhofer Institute for Interfacial Engineering and Biotechnology (IGB) with
DEUS 21 and Fraunhofer Water Systems Alliance (SysWasser), Stuttgart and
Knittlingen, www.igb.fraunhofer.de

3 September 2009

BASF SE, Ludwigshafen, www.basf.com

4 September 2009

RWTH Aachen University, Aachen, www.rwth-aachen.de

5 September 2009

The “Green Talents” meet young German scientists.
Workshop “Envisioning Pathways for Sustainable Production/Consumption
Patterns”, Berlin-Adlershof.

7/8 September 2009

Individual Appointments: The “Green Talents” meet German experts in
environmental technologies.

9/10 September 2009

BMBF Forum for Sustainability (FONA), Hamburg, www.fona.de

You will find more information about the competition, the winners, and the
venues of the Forum Week on the Internet at:
www.research-in-germany.de/greentalents

You can also follow the “Green Talents” journey across Germany in the
website’s video diaries.

Contact:

Dr. Marion Mienert
International Bureau of the
Federal Ministry of Education and Research at the Project Management
Agency c/o German Aerospace Center (DLR)
E-mail: greentalents@dlr.de
Heinrich-Konen-Strasse 1
53227 Bonn
Germany