

### Forum on quality in journalism

Eastern Europe alumni of the Stiftung and leading German journalists met at Schloss Neuhardenberg outside Berlin to discuss the **future of journalism** in the digital age. "What kind of journalism does society need to stay informed?" was the ques-

tion addressed by the forum, which was established in cooperation with the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at Oxford University. Comparing the situation across Europe, participants discussed the impact of the Internet on traditional print journalism, and sustainable business models for quality journalism.



### Journalist Prize awarded

The Stiftung has recognized outstanding media contributions on the subject of **civic involvement** with the 2010 Journalist Prize. The names of the winners (left) in the categories of print, TV and radio can be found at [www.journalistenpreis.info](http://www.journalistenpreis.info).

### Trilateral dialogue inspires innovative visions

What are the challenges that must we face in a globalized world? As part of the German-American-Chinese workshop **Global Governance 2020**, the Robert Bosch Stiftung brought together students and graduate students to discuss issues of international cooperation in the future. The results, which were both innovative and realistic, were then presented in Washington DC, United States, at the end of January.

# 150 years of Robert Bosch taking responsibility

The Robert Bosch Stiftung is celebrating the 150th birthday of Robert Bosch in 2011

**Stuttgart** | kv | Robert Bosch was one of the most successful German industrialists of the 20th century. But that's not all. Robert Bosch was also someone who, as a citizen and benefactor, took up the social challenges of his era. He took responsibility for his associates and was the first employer in Germany to introduce the eight-hour day. He supported educational opportunities for citizens, from adult education centers to specialized tuition for gifted students. He was also politically active in support of Franco-German reconciliation and against anti-Semitism. In his interest in environmentally sustainable agricultural methods, Bosch was again ahead of his time.

Bosch pursued wide and varied interests, but common to all of his activities was his sense of responsibility towards his environs and his times. In this, Robert Bosch was - and still is today - a worthy role model.

Taking on responsibility! Fittingly, this is the slogan adopted by the Robert Bosch Stiftung to celebrate the 150th birthday of Robert Bosch in 2011. This is what the Stiftung has in mind:

#### ► Responsible citizens

The anniversary campaign. Just like Robert Bosch, countless people in Germany still take on responsibility in Germany today, driven by the desire to improve the world



The young Robert Bosch with hat accompanies the Stiftung through the jubilee year 2011: [www.verantwortung-unternehmen.org](http://www.verantwortung-unternehmen.org).

in which they live. They act to safeguard the environment, help children from socially deprived backgrounds, and campaign for greater tolerance in society. In this anniversary year, the Robert Bosch Stiftung will highlight the work of a number of such representatives of civil society. From April 27, 2011, Internet users will be able to share the experiences of these "responsible citizens" for 150 days as they go about their exemplary work on behalf of society. By means of "BoschCams," they will record

short videos introducing themselves and the projects that they are involved in.

#### ► Stepping back in time

A guided tour of Robert Bosch's Stuttgart. In this anniversary year, a sightseeing tour links up the locations in which Robert Bosch lived and worked. Participants will enjoy a scenic tour of Stuttgart, during which actors will present stories, anecdotes, and useful information about the industrialist, citizen, and benefactor. One of

the stops will be the Robert Bosch House, where Bosch lived with his family from 1910 and which is now the headquarters of the Robert Bosch Stiftung.

#### ► Audio book

In conjunction with the company, the Stiftung is releasing an audio book on the eventful life of Robert Bosch. It covers his professional career and his travels, as well as his influence as an industrialist and cosmopolitan. Important milestones in his life are used to illustrate how the industrialist and social visionary lived and thought.

#### ► Robert Bosch interactive

A light-hearted look at the life and work of Robert Bosch and a virtual tour of his environs via giant touch screens, which have been specially installed for visitors in Stuttgart and Berlin in honor of this anniversary.

#### ► Voluntary work

To mark this anniversary year, associates of the Robert Bosch Stiftung will be granted up to six days' leave to carry out voluntary work. They will visit retirement homes, hospitals or drop-in centers for homeless people to provide hands-on help.

#### ► September 23, 2011

We celebrate the 150th birthday of Robert Bosch.



Leading a biological revolution: Dr. Jan Wehkamp (left) with Björn Schröder and Prof. Eduard F. Stange. Photo: RBK

## Bodily defense mechanism discovered

**Stuttgart** | hmm | Researchers at the Robert Bosch Hospital (RBK) have discovered a naturally occurring bodily defense mechanism which seems to offer promising new treatment possibilities for intestinal diseases such as Crohn's disease.

For millions of years, organisms have been forming their own antibodies. In the human body too, every surface is covered with antibiotics known as defensins. "Everything is covered with this protective layer, even houseplants," explains Dr. Jan Wehkamp from the RBK.

We have only recently started to understand this naturally occurring defense mechanism. However, researchers around the world were perplexed by one defensin. Beta-defensin 1 is universally present, but in the laboratory it never killed bacteria. Wehkamp's team had the

brilliant idea of trying to simulate the behavior of the defensin in the intestine. As there is no oxygen there, a corresponding environment had to be artificially created. "Within a very short space of time, a huge zone of inhibition had formed, and this killed the bacteria. It takes oxygen deprivation to activate the defensin - in biological terms this is a revolution," Wehkamp says. He also mentions a further discovery - that the defensin can also be activated by the human protein thioredoxin.

The discovery was recognized recently by the internationally renowned science journal *Nature*. The RBK has since filed a patent, because Wehkamp believes "that this is a universal principle which in the future will make it possible for certain inflammations to be combated anti-infectiously."

## Building bridges with Islamic communities

Imams learn German language and culture

**Stuttgart** | kv | Ferda Meseci spends 16 hours a week in the mosque in Stuttgart-Feuerbach. Not as a devout Muslim, but as a teacher. Her students are 16 imams who come to her to learn about German language and society. "In order to gain their trust, I talked a lot at the beginning about my own beliefs and my commitment to coexistence between Muslims and Christians in Germany," Meseci explains. Born in Berlin as the daughter of Turkish parents, she herself grew up in both cultures.

Meseci works for the Goethe Institute in Schwäbisch Hall. In conjunction with the Robert Bosch Stiftung, the Institute is running German for Imams, a pilot project with the goal of improving mutual understanding and awareness between Muslims and Christians in Germany.

"I see the imams as important bridge-builders," Meseci says. That's because imams are not simply prayer leaders and counselors on religious issues. For Muslim migrants, they also provide advice on day-to-day matters, offering help with family and school problems, and on issues relating to life as a Muslim in a western society. Without a good knowledge of the language and country, their role as

mediators is severely limited. Yet some of them know little about German language and culture when they arrive in the country.

#### Huge interest

For that reason, the program also covers the dialogue between the religions and includes talks by external speakers, in addition to German language and culture. "It has attracted huge interest from the imams. Practical information about the country and visits to local facilities also go down well," Meseci says.

A partner in the pilot project is the Turkish Islamic Union (DITIB). "Improving the imams' German language skills is definitely an important step, making everyday life easier for the imams and for the community as a whole," says Sadi Arslan, president of the Union.

Some 50 imams are currently attending German courses in Stuttgart and Mannheim. The Goethe Institute has designed a nationwide program based on the pilot project, and has received funding from the German Federal Office for Migration and Refugees. This means that in the coming years, around 130 imams throughout Germany will be able to take part in the courses.

## Masterclass in new perspectives for the Balkans



**Vatra Dornei, Romania:** Silvia (16) and Elizabeta (15) fill up cans with milk every morning before setting out on their one-hour walk to the nearest school. In his feature "New Dawn over Carpati," Serbian photographer Marko Risovic documents the day-to-day life of young people in Romania. In a masterclass

called "SEE New Perspectives", which is funded by the Robert Bosch Stiftung, talented young press photographers from the Balkans learn new techniques and approaches for helping to shape the perception of news from their home countries through their images. Photo: Marko Risovic