

German-Turkish film festival

This year's German-Turkish film festival in Nuremberg, Germany, saw director **Fatih Akin** receive the honorary prize for his artistic commitment and his services to cinema. The Robert Bosch Stiftung has been supporting the film festival since 2004. Having

started out as a small citizens' initiative, the festival now attracts more than 10,000 visitors every year. Rather than looking at German and Turkish films in isolation, the festival links the films thematically, thereby providing unique insights into German, Turkish, and German-Turkish culture. The festival this year screened a total of 50 titles.

Croatian president visits Berlin

During his inaugural visit to Germany, Croatian President Ivo Josipović spoke in Berlin, at the invitation of the Robert Bosch Stiftung, on the topic of "Reconciliation policies and Croatia's accession to the E.U.: Two sides of the same coin."

150th birthday of Robert Bosch

Taking on responsibility! This is the slogan adopted by the Stiftung to celebrate the 150th birthday of Robert Bosch this year. The anniversary website now features further information on Robert Bosch, his life and work, a Robert Bosch-inspired tour of Stuttgart, and the "Responsible Citizens" anniversary campaign, as part of which we will be highlighting the work of a number of representatives of civil society.
www.verantwortung-unternehmen.org



A minstrel wandering between languages

Luxembourg-based poet Jean Krier is the recipient of the 2011 Adelbert von Chamisso Prize

Stuttgart | al | A virtually impenetrable maze of narrow old streets criss-crosses Luxembourg, the capital of the Grand Duchy of the same name. The lively squares that can be found throughout the city are peppered with restaurants serving food and wines that confirm a long-established cliché: Luxembourg has taken the best of France and Germany and recreated it on a smaller scale. One person who truly appreciates all that his city has to offer is the German-speaking poet Jean Krier.

Food, wine, and verse

Sitting down in a restaurant, Krier speaks French as a matter of course. Good food and fine wine belong unequivocally to the French side of his identity. The Luxembourg side of his identity is made up of family and his circle of friends. "When we are together, we



Waxing lyrical in the narrow old streets of Luxembourg: The 2011 Chamisso Prize winner, poet Jean Krier.

Photo: Yves Noir

always speak Luxembourgish - never French or German. We are not a trilingual country, we are a multilingual one," he says in explanation of his relationship with his native language. But then you also have his verse, which he writes exclusively in German. "That's more down to coincidence," reckons Krier. "I studied in the city of Freiburg im Breisgau in southwest Germany. If I had ended up studying somewhere in France, I might well be writing in French today."

The occasional French word crops up here and there in Krier's texts, but he has never attempted to write a complete poem in any other language than German. The

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majority of Luxembourgers share this ability to switch quite naturally between Luxembourgish, French, and German. But hardly anyone in the Grand Duchy has such a good command of the German language as Jean Krier. Jean Krier was awarded the Adelbert von Chamisso Prize on March 16, 2011 in Munich for his complete works of poetry to date. He is an unlikely but worthy recipient of the prize, which has been awarded for over a quarter of a century to authors whose first language is not German but who have consciously chosen to write in the German language. Krier's latest volume of poetry, which is called *Herzens Lust Spiele*

("Play until your heart is content"), plays with the German language at a high literary level, and varies its use with the greatest of ease. The work introduces its German readers to the literary world of a small neighboring European country that is more or less unknown in Germany.

Runner-up prizes

Alongside the main prize worth €15,000 awarded to Jean Krier, two runner-up prizes worth €7,000 each were also awarded. One went to the Russian-born author Olga Martynova for her novel *Selbst Papageien überleben uns* ("Even parrots survive us"). The other was awarded to the Zagreb-born Croatian author Nicol Ljubic for his novel *Meesstil* ("The stillness of the sea").

► www.chamissopreis.de

Practical experiences in a different world

German trainees get to work in India

Aalen | kv | Klaus Barth, a teacher at the technical school in Aalen, praises the physical stamina and consistency of his Indian colleagues. "If a large hammer breaks there, they simply continue with a smaller hammer and work twice as hard." At the start of the year, Barth and 12 future carpenters traveled to India to improve the equipment in some local schools and boarding schools.

"The Indian colleagues we met were hugely dedicated and possessed impressive manual skills, whereas here in Germany we tend to approach the task in hand with expertise and machines." The two different nationalities communicated with each other in English - or by using their hands and feet.

Beds and benches

The German trainees undertook an eight-day work placement in the diocese of Brahmapur, which forms part of the state of Orissa on India's eastern coast. In the first village, they built desks and benches for 125 school children. They also showed their Indian colleagues how to build beds for the boarding school using bought-in materials. In the next village, they constructed 70 bunk beds for a boarding school and renovated the roof of the shared cafeteria. "We used our own design for the beds, but with the roof we adopted the Indians' steel design," explains Barth, who also highlights the particular demands they faced in terms of insects and the climate. The cooperation was shaped by mutual respect and communication.

Following the work placement, the trainees spent an additional four days traveling through northern India and visited the capital of New Delhi and the Taj Mahal.

Looking back on their trip, the trainees have particularly fond memories of the work they undertook together, and the village life that they experienced. Some of the trainees are determined to go back to India once they have completed their training. "There would certainly be enough to do there," says Barth. Thanks to the help provided by the team on site, two of the 28 boarding schools in Brahmapur now have beds. Usually the children sleep and learn on the floor.

The original plans to repair leaking roofs on private houses failed to materialize during this trip. Choosing individual families in a fair and equitable manner proved much too difficult, explains Barth, and there were far too many roofs in need of attention.

Focus on India

The Robert Bosch Stiftung has been maintaining a special focus on the issue of "German-Indian links" since 2006. Projects and programs supported to-date include school partnerships, journalist programs, a touring exhibition through Indian cities on the subject of homeopathy, and a country study looking at German-Indian cultural exchange. Projects to be supported by the Stiftung during the Indian Foreign Office's upcoming project year include a meeting between German and Indian town planners. In the medium term, the Stiftung will develop additional programs for young people and opinion-makers.

► www.bosch-stiftung.de



The German apprentice carpenters in the Indian school where they and their colleagues built desks and benches. Previously the schoolchildren had to learn on the floor.

Photo: Bolsinger



Pieter Samyn: recipient of the 2011 Robert Bosch Junior Professorship for research into nanotechnology.

Looking to recycle "black liquor"

Stuttgart | hmm | We use paper every day to write on, put our babies in diapers, and wrap our wounds with bandages. All these items are made from cellulose, which in turn is made from 90 percent wood. The process used to produce cellulose generates a by-product known as "black liquor." This viscous dark mass has until now been typically disposed of as waste - despite the fact that it contains biopolymers, a promising source of energy. Materials engineer Dr. Pieter Samyn has been awarded the 2011 Robert Bosch Junior Professorship with its research budget of €1 million over five years. The aim of his research is to use nanotechnology to recycle black liquor components for use in cellulose and paper manufacture.

Derived from the Greek word *nanos* meaning "dwarf," nanotechnology is all about the minute detail. Samyn is looking to extract the minuscule biopolymers from the black liquor and treat their surface so they can be recycled much more efficiently than before. It is hoped that the findings generated by Samyn's research group at the Albert-Ludwig University in Freiburg will lead to more sustainable production processes in the globally expanding paper industry. Over the long term, Samyn is expecting that it will prove possible to use biopolymers in the manufacture of other materials such as plastics.