

Jointly working towards the Internet of the future

The foundation brings together **young experts from all over the world** to develop strategies for controlling and regulating the Internet.

Working across national borders was a new and challenging experience for all involved. When newcomer experts gather from Germany, the United States, China, India, and Japan to spend a year together trying to figure out complex issues such as how the Internet can be controlled and regulated, there are many obstacles to be overcome. “We all have different professional backgrounds,” says Julia Pohle (34), who normally works for the Berlin Social Science Center (WZB) and already engages in how the Internet can be governed as part of her work there. The heterogeneity of the participants, she says, meant communication wasn’t always easy. But there was never any ground for ideological differences to be voiced, adds Aasim Khan (33), who is doing a PhD at King’s College in London to look at how the Internet is spreading across his home country of India. “Any differences were of an intellectual nature, not a political one,” he says.

The result of this prolific international cooperation, documented in writing at the five meetings of the managerial newcomers in Berlin, Tokyo, Peking, New Delhi, and Washington, is a report titled “Shared Responsibility: Towards More Inclusive Internet Governance.” Primarily, the report proposes two models for the future of the Internet by 2025. The more positive of the two scenarios, named “Cyber Davos,” sug-



Two models for the future: Global dialogue or cyber warfare

gests unfettered global dialogue on the free sharing of information and the dissolution of national boundaries. The more negative scenario, “Google Shock,” conversely suggests a significant loss of user trust in the Internet, as well as the U.S. and Russia engaging in very real and damaging cyber warfare. In the face of such potential challenges, the international working group recommends an intensification of intergovernmental dialogue regarding the governance and regulation of the Internet. The young working group also suggests others to be included in such talks: Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private companies, and by no small measure the Internet users themselves.

After the group presented its report in May in the conference rooms of the venerable Brookings Institution in Washington, it came to understand just how controversial some of its recommendations were taken to be. According to Laura DeNardis, Professor at the American University School of Communication in Washington, public authorities tend to restrict personal freedom. Because of this, she could not understand why the project fellows were advocating increased governmental involvement. However, she also acknowledged that the publication of the report was timed very wisely, as Internet governance is currently one of the most hotly debated intergovernmental topics.

Aasim Khan is pleased he participated in the Global Governance Futures program. He is certain that the contribution of his working group to the debate surrounding the future of the Internet will not go unnoticed – not least because only very few orga-



Two project fellows working together: Julia Pohle from Germany and Aasim Khan from India. Photos: Ralph Alswang

The **Global Governance Futures** program is run jointly by the Robert Bosch Foundation and the Global Public Policy Institute Berlin. Other partners include: Brookings Institution, Tokyo Foundation, Center for Policy Research, Hertie School of Governance, Tsinghua University, Fudan University, Keio University, Ashoka University, and Princeton University. A total of 25 project fellows have compiled three reports on current issues faced by the world population: Internet Governance, Geoengineering Governance, and Global Arms Control. These reports are now being discussed in public.

English versions of the reports are available via the Internet: www.bosch-stiftung.de/ggf

nizations have access to a project team as diverse as this one, featuring an investor from Japan, a professor from China, and a government official from the United States. Through the establishment of its new Alumni Association, the Robert Bosch Foundation is ensuring that the international dialogue between newcomer experts will continue into the future. *rr*

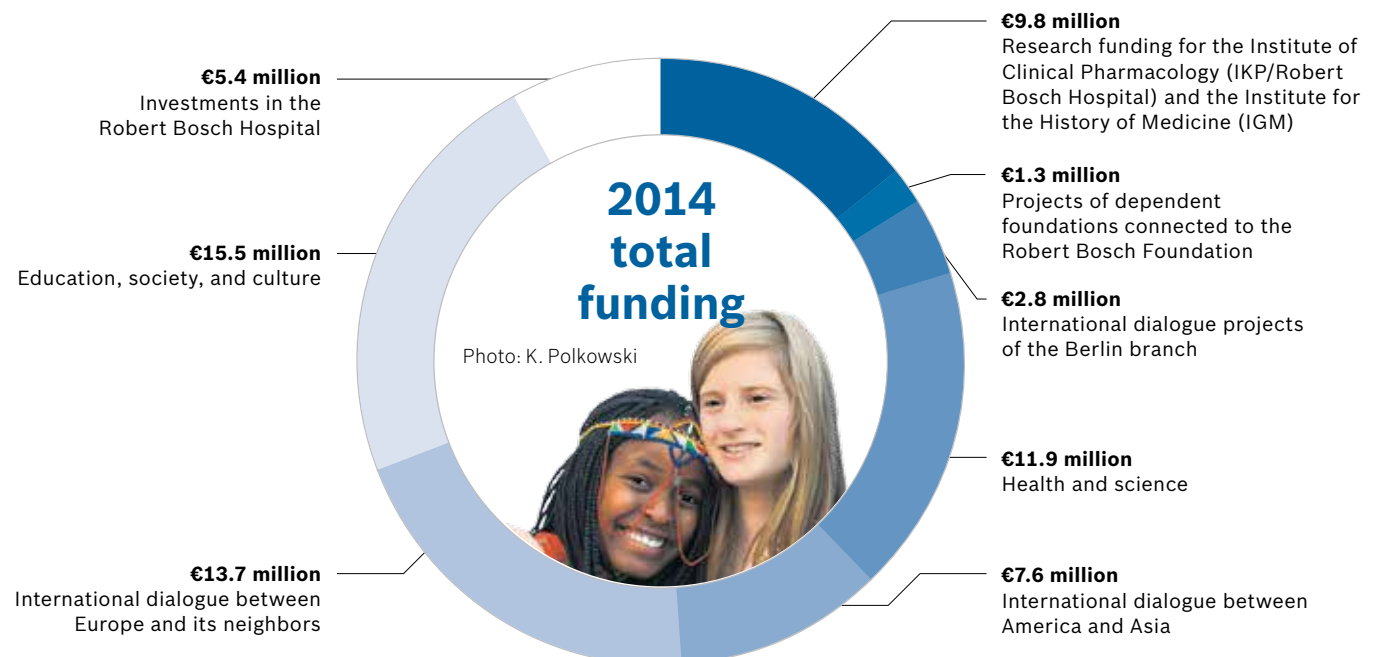
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Over the past year, the Robert Bosch Foundation has provided a total of €68 million in funding to its charitable projects and initiatives. The infographic to the right illustrates how this funding is distributed across the foundation’s facilities and subject areas.

The foundation finances its charitable activities from the dividends it receives as the company’s majority shareholder, thereby fulfilling the philanthropic legacy of Robert Bosch for over 50 years now.

The photograph shows two students at the UWC Robert Bosch College, an international school for senior secondary school students that opened in Freiburg, Germany in 2014 thanks to foundation funding. The school brings together education and international dialogue.

Read more about the foundation’s work in the current annual report: www.bosch-stiftung.de/bericht2014



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