Press Release

Dresden Celebrated 5th Anniversary as a UN Host City

On United Nations Day (24 Oct) 70 guests from 38 nationalities unite for diversity and collective action in Dresden at the UNU-FLORES Open House!

Five years ago, the United Nations University founded an Institute in the World Trade Center Dresden (WTC), making the city one of the few UN host cities in Germany. This is a real achievement for Dresden and Saxony, and a reason to celebrate. That is why the anniversary was celebrated on United Nations Day, 24 October 2017: Under the motto
“One world. Collectively. Our future.” the Dresden branch of the United Nations University, the Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources (UNU-FLORES), hosted an Open House with an international flair for the public.

Seventy people from 38 countries gathered to pose for Dresden’s most international group photo! They were joined by a number of international scholars from the Technische Universität Dresden and their families. The organisers used the occasion to make a statement. UNU-FLORES Officer-In-Charge Kai Schwärzel cut a giant birthday cake in the Atrium of the WTC at 12:30 p.m., which the Saxon Bakery Academy has designed especially for this occasion. He was supported by the patron of UN Day Dresden in 2017, State Minister and Head of the State Chancery Dr Fritz Jaeckel.

“The Free State of Saxony is very pleased to be one of the few hosts of the UN University in the world. UNU-FLORES strengthens the international profile of the Free State and its state capital and contributes to the diversity of our society. The scientists work in a global network to find mutual solutions to the major challenges in the world and compliment the many Saxon projects on international cooperation and development. I sincerely congratulate UNU-FLORES on its fifth birthday, and wish further fruitful developments, that we as the State government may accompany,” stated Dr Jaeckel.

Following that, guests participated in a diverse programme, where they had the opportunity to learn about the work of the United Nations University and UNU-FLORES and interacted directly with UNU Staff in the “Science Café”. “For this year’s anniversary, we would like in particular to draw attention to the relevance of the UN, to the diversity, which emerges through the cooperation of so many nations, and to the importance of all working collectively to solve global problems,” explains Prof. Reza Ardakanian, Director of UNU-FLORES.

In the evening, the traditional UN Spotlight Talk at UN Day Dresden will take place in the New City Hall. This year, Angela Siegmund, Senior External Relations Officer of the
UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in Berlin, will discuss the issue of migration. This year’s prize of the Local Agenda 21 for Dresden e.V. for regional projects on sustainable development will also be presented at the festivities. During the reception guests will have the opportunity to view the exhibition "Asylum is Human Rights".

The organisers of the United Nations Day in Dresden include UNU-FLORES, together with the City of Dresden, the German United Nations Association, the Technische Universität Dresden, Unicef Dresden, the Local Agenda Dresden 21 e.V., the Lions Club Local Agenda 21 Dresden e.V., and the World Trade Center Dresden.

Event website: flores.unu.edu/UNDay

Image: Crispin-Iven Mokry

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