

Press Release

TU9 Conference "The Future of Internationalization - Strengthening Excellence, Shaping Strategy" & Evening Event on "Foreign Science Policy and the Future of Internationalization"

June, 22 & 23, 2023 in Berlin

Berlin, June 22, 2023

On June 22 and 23, 2023, TU9, the Alliance of leading Technical Universities in Germany, will host the conference "The Future of Internationalization - Strengthening Excellence, Shaping Strategy" in Berlin. The first day of the conference will be followed by an evening event on "Foreign Science Policy and the Future of Internationalization".

The two-day event of the TU9 Alliance will enable an exclusive exchange in a small circle against the background of the process for the further development of the "Strategie der Wissenschaftsminister/innen von Bund und Ländern für eine Internationalisierung der Hochschulen". The event is also intended to formulate common positions and needs of research-strong universities.

Invited are university leaders of research-intensive universities, heads of their international offices, strategy and research departments, experts from the DAAD and other science organizations, politics and business.

On the topicality of the TU9 conference, TU9 President Professor Angela Ittel said:

- "For the first time, the German government has developed a National Security Strategy and assigned a significant role to foreign science policy and science diplomacy. At the conference, we will discuss how we can shape internationalization of universities and other scientific institutions under these and other current framework conditions."

TU9 President Professor Tanja Brühl on the role of universities:

- "As universities today, we operate under significantly changed, volatile geopolitical conditions worldwide. It is therefore important for us as universities to analyze our efforts in the area of internationalization and to align ourselves strategically in an adequate manner on the basis of this analysis. In doing so, it is important to use this as a basis for defining and filling our role as scientific institutions in both German and European foreign science policy."

Focus on geopolitical aspects and recruitment of skilled workers

On day 1, the conference will focus on the geopolitical framework, opportunities, and limitations of internationalization. There will be impulses from politicians, including Anna Panagopoulou, Director ERA & Innovation at the European Commission, Ministerialdirigent Peter Greisler from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and Mattias Björnmalm, Secretary General of CESAER. Afterwards, different challenges will be discussed in five World Cafés, for example, how cooperation is possible under difficult geopolitical conditions. Also, the cooperation with countries of the global south, the strengthening of the European Higher Education Area, Blue Sky Research and global challenges as well as security and risk management will be discussed in the expert exchange. The whole event will be rounded off with a closing presentation by Dr. Ulrike Hillemann-Delaney, spokesperson of the TU9 International Affairs Panel and head of the department of International Affairs at the Technische Universität Berlin.



On the following day, keynote speaker Dr. Jens Brandenburg, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, as well as representatives of universities, business, and scientific institutions will address the topic of attracting and retaining skilled workers. TU9 Managing Director Dr. Nicole Saverschek will lead a closing discussion together with Dr. Sven Werkmeister, director of international affairs at the DAAD, in which a conclusion and an outlook will be presented.

About TU9

TU9 is the Alliance of leading Universities of Technology in Germany: RWTH Aachen University, Technische Universität Berlin, Technische Universität Braunschweig, Technical University of Darmstadt, Technische Universität Dresden, Leibniz University Hannover, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Technical University of Munich, and University of Stuttgart.

Tradition, excellence, and innovation are the hallmarks of TU9 Universities. Founded during the Industrial Age, they contributed decisively to technological progress back then and continue to do so today. They enjoy an outstanding reputation around the world as renowned research and teaching institutions that promote the transfer of knowledge and technology between universities and practice. As such, they train exceptional young academics for careers in science, business, and administration and assume social responsibility. TU9 Universities foster top-class international networks and diverse cooperation with industry, making them a key element of Germany's position as a location of science and innovation.

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