



A Message From The Ambassador

I have the great joy today to announce the beginning of the "German Week 2015" and cordially invite you to join us in a number of events in which German institutions present their work in and for Jordan. In the upcoming days, they will showcase the diversity of our presence here in Jordan. Now, you may be aware that the Goethe Institute offers German language classes. But did you know that a German organization called Center for Environmental Research offers "Water fun action" at Fuheis? Would you have imagined that a German Political Foundation supports actors from Ma'an who will present the debut performance of a play written especially for the German Week? On the following pages you can learn more about some of these events. Don't forget to check out our Facebook page where you will find more detailed information - just search for "German Week 2015". As Ambassador to Jordan, I take pride to say that Germany and Jordan share excellent bilateral relations. And, to a large extent, we owe this to the hard work of our different institutions - the Goethe Institute, the Development Experts, the colleagues from the German Academic Exchange Service, from the Political Foundations, the Archaeologists, to name only a few. One year ago, we celebrated "German Weeks" for the first time. Eventually, they turned out to be a festival of German-Jordanian friendship. Though originally designed to be a one-time event, the responses we received sent us one clear message: You have to do it again! We are happy to be at your service.



Protection from the dark side of Olive Oil production: spring monitoring to prevent health hazards for drinking water supply.



BGR tested successfully a warning system against Zebar contamination for a safer water supply of villages in Ajloun Governorate

It is well known that Jordanian olive oil ranks among the best oils worldwide. Furthermore it is a vital part of the Jordanian food culture. Less known is the environmental phytotoxicity of by-products that are generated during the olive oil extraction process.

In most parts of the Kingdom extraction happens via a 3-phase extraction process: olive oil and the by-products olive cake ("Jift") and olive waste water ("Zebar"). While Jift possesses a monetary value, Zebar possesses none and must by law be dumped at special industrial dump sites. For short-term profit Zebar is often dumped directly into the environment and poses therefore not only an environmental but also a serious health threat by contaminating large quantities of groundwater.

In order to prevent contaminated groundwater being supplied to different villages BGR successfully tested a permanent water monitoring system at a spring in Ajloun governorate which is contaminated by Zebar on a yearly basis. This year, due to the installed monitoring system, no contaminated water reached its way into the drinking water distribution system.

An excavation day within the work of the German Protestant Institute of Archaeology



**DEUTSCHES
EVANGELISCHES INSTITUT
FÜR ALTERTUMSWISSENSCHAFT
DES HEILIGEN LANDES (DEI)**
German Protestant Institute of Archaeology (GPIA)
Research Unit of the German Archaeological Institute (DAI)

When the alarm clock is ringing at 4:30 am in the morning, the first impulse is often that you want to throw it on the wall. But then it comes to your mind that you are in the midst of an excavation campaign and generally a sunny and perhaps exciting day is waiting for you. The work is not easy, you have to shovel, work the soil with a pickaxe and carry many wheelbarrows back and forth. But by the time everything hurts, the first wall shows up.

The wall becomes a corner and maybe even an entire room. Later, perhaps even to a complex of houses, in which people have lived more than 2000 years ago. They have cooked, ate, worked and slept on the place you are standing right now. The pots and storage jars, small figurines of gods, bread ovens and more are coming to light to tell us the story of the people who have been on this hill long before us.

Many finds can be brought to the excavation house, where they are cleaned carefully, designed, photographed, drawn and cataloged.

At the end of such a day all team members are exhausted and happy at the same time.

Ahlan Intikhabat! Welcome, Elections!

"You are not weak. You are decision-makers. You are the ones to decide who will win and who will lose. We decide because we care about our country, our money and our children. We should unite and combat corruption in any possible way," says The Journalist, one of the main characters of new play "Welcome, Elections!" by the Ma'ani Theatre Group. The play was written with the support of the German Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) and will be premiered during the German Weeks, on Sunday, 10 May at al-Balad Theater in downtown Amman.

The journalist's statement echoes the spirit of Friedrich Ebert, Germany's first democratically elected President and the namesake of the Foundation. "Democracy needs democrats" was the credo of Friedrich Ebert, upon which the Foundation was built and launched in 1925. Since then, FES has been working towards promoting democracy and social justice worldwide.

In Jordan, the Foundation opened its office in 1986 and is registered with the Royal Scientific Society (RSS). FES is active in a variety of fields, ranging from supporting civil society and trade unions, working with youth across the Kingdom to discussing issues of political development, human rights, sustainability and Political Islam.

Those interested in attending the play "Welcome, Elections!" on 10 May are kindly asked to send an email to events@fes-jordan.org for further details or call the office of FES Amman at 065008335.

FRIEDRICH EBERT STIFTUNG



Renewable Energy Transitions in Jordan and the MENA region

Conference organized by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in cooperation with Wuppertalinstitut for Climate, Environment and Energy

Amman 5.5.-6.5. 2015

Hotel Crowne Plaza

The worldwide trend of renewable energy expansion has started to reach also the Middle East and North Africa (MENA). Many MENA countries are being implementing - or have already realized - a number of large solar and wind power projects. Thanks to the accelerated expansion in the past years, also a network of public, private and institutional actors were able to emerge - giving a further push to the professionalization of the MENA renewable sector. The Kingdom of Jordan is a good example, where a transparent regulatory and incentive framework successfully attracted developers and investors for the construction of large renewable power projects.

But will these achievements - and also those of other MENA countries - really be the start of a profound shift to a renewable energy future in the entire region? So far, it is not clear whether renewable energies can actually become a pillar of the future energy supply - or will rather see the fate of remaining a marginal "add-on" to a predominantly conventional energy system. Experiences in Europe, among others in particular in Germany, show that with increasing renewable energy penetration, not only technical issues arise, but likewise the challenges regarding the socio-economic consequences of such a transformation of the energy system. The Conference "Renewable Energy Transitions in Jordan and the MENA region" intends to address and discuss these questions with experts from six countries of the MENA region (Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan), regional and international institutions (RCREE, IRENA), and national key-stakeholders and energy experts from Jordan.

The conference - organized by the Amman office of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and the Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment and Energy - is aimed at addressing these questions by particularly looking at the socio-economic and governance aspects of energy system transformations in the MENA region.

Registration for the Conference by E-Mail: events@fes-jordan.org



Water fun – hands, minds and hearts on Water for Life!

When in 2011 teacher Amal Arafeh got nominated for a workshop titled "Water Fun" she thought they would be doing sports and water games. She may have silently wondered whether such activities would be of much use for her work at Al-Ashrafiyah preparatory Girls school 2, but anyway went to Al-Balqa Applied University to participate.

Soon enough she learned that the workshop was indeed about "water" and "fun", but rather an educational program. Water Fun equips primary school teachers with a comprehensive teaching unit in which students construct natural filters in bottles, filter artificial wastewater, analyze the filtered water and study ecological treatment methods - wetlands - that "copy" nature. It focuses on how students learn in a playful, hands-on and stimulating manner about the use and preservation of Jordan's most precious waters.

Water Fun was sponsored by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research in the context of the project SMART (Sustainable Management of Available Water Resources with Innovative Technologies in Lower Jordan Rift Valley). Implementing partners were the Education and Training Center for Decentralized Wastewater Treatment (BDZ e.V.), Al-Balqa Applied University, Jordan's Ministry of Water and Irrigation and the Helmholtz Center for Environmental Research (UFZ). To date this teacher's program has reached over 5,000 primary students in the Kingdom.

Since 2012 Amal Arafeh is facilitator of Water Fun. On Teacher's Day in 2014 she received special distinction by UNWRA for her extracurricular activities. Today she says: "If you do something with fun you will like it and you will protect what you like". For her this holds for Water Fun just as much as for Jordan's waters.

Amal will give a Water Fun presentation on May 7 at the SMART demonstration Site in Al-Fuheis. All interested persons are welcome to participate (transportation from Amman is provided). Please register with Eng. Anwar Subeh at 077 563 7776 before May 4th.

"Unusual sight for a German: goats in the city."

Almost every journey means a clash of two different perceptions: What is exotic and exciting for the traveler is nothing more than everyday routine for the „local“. To focus on these foreign and at the same time daily situations—that's the idea behind „Nahaufnahme“ (Close-Up), the Goethe-Institut's exchange program for journalists. Two journalists from different countries swap their places for two to four weeks. That way, they not only get to know a different country—but a different work environment as well.

Since it started in 2008, 26 pairs of journalists have partaken in the programme. While Europa was the focus of the season 2013 / 2014, this year's edition centered on the Arab world. Amman, Rabat, Beirut and Tunis took place on the Arab side, Berlin, Bonn, Bremen and Munich on the German one.

I went to Amman to work for the Jordan Times. Situated in a grey, undistinguished building, the staff was surprisingly diverse: The editors came from India and Rumania, from Serbia and the US. For Amman that's nothing unusual: The streets are crowded with foreigners. People coming from Syria, Iraq and Egypt. That diversity together with the hospitality and the openness of the people were the things that impressed me the most during my stay.

„Close-up“ wants to make you think about two cultures: your own and that of the guest country. As a Berliner I once more realized how hectic my life back home is—in the city itself as well as at work. I am curious to see how the Jordanian exchange journalist will perceive that. She will come to Berlin soon.



Together is better than alone

The German Protestant Community Center Amman has a long special relationship to the Arabic-Lutheran Community in the district of Um Al-Summaq and to their church „ The Evangelical Lutheran Good Shepherd Church“.

For many years, the German speaking community was a guest there. And even after their own community center in the building of the "German Protestant Institute for ancient studies in the holy land" (DEIAHL) in 2008 could have been obtained, the contacts remained.

Once a year, this relationship comes out in a special international church service ,that is equally designed in Arabic and German. It's a very special experience when the assembled motley community sings old familiar songs in exchange of Arabic and German or simultaneously in both languages.

The next church service will be held on Sunday, the 10th of May 2015 at 7 pm in the „ The Evangelical Lutheran Good Shepherd Church " with Pastor Samer Azar; for the German community currently the retired pastor Klaus Doerrie from Hannover operates.

The two pastors consider this church service as forward-looking and strengthening for the common path as Christians in the region.

All Christians are invited to participate at this special church service and to celebrate in ecumenical community. As siblings they are connected by faith and dependent on each other, to encourage each other to act.

For physical strengthening there is "potluck dinner "for all at the end.

Guests are most welcome.



The Best of Both Worlds

This year the German Jordanian University is celebrating its tenth anniversary. In its first decade, GJU has managed to establish an acclaimed status amongst the various universities operating in Jordan. Great efforts have been made by all GJU previous and present staff and leaderships, in order to achieve this great reputation of a successful and unique example of Jordan's higher education.

GJU has one of the most impressive concepts, promoting the cooperation between Jordan and Germany in the field of Higher Education, as well as bridging intercultural exchange between diverse cultures and societies.

The German dimension is anchored within the fundament of the university, and in daily life on campus. Its unique feature is the mandatory German Year, consisting of a study semester at a German partner university, and an internship in a German company. Furthermore, it is manifested in the intensive German language courses offered to the student body.

The unique study concept based on the German model of Universities of Applied Sciences paves the way for its students to be innovative creative and competent in the labor market and in the world of national and international industry. Ten years after its foundation, the GJU has gained an outstanding reputation in Jordan and the region. Its graduates are very unique: being trilingual –Arabic, English, German – and having received a practice-oriented education, they have excellent career opportunities. The German dimension certainly contributed to this success.



When?		Who?	What?	Where?
04/May		GJU, German Institutions and Organisations	Event on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the German Jordanian University	GJU Campus in Madaba
05/May	09:00	Friedrich-Ebert- Foundation	Conference about Renewable Energy in the MENA Region and Energie Transition in Germany	Hotel Crowne Plaza
	12:00	GIZ	Opening of Pump Stations	Wala/ Lib
	17:00	Hanns- Seidel- Foundation, RSCN	Discussion: The Future of Nature Conservation in Jordan - Chances and Challenges	Wild Jordan Café
06/May	12:00	GIZ, German Adult Education Association (DVV)	Opening of a recycling station	Karak
	15:30	Goethe- Institute, German Institutions and Organisations	Partner School Initiative Event & Hash Run	Haya- Cultural- Center
	17:00	DAAD German Academic Exchange Service	Presentation»Doing Research in Germany»,	Goethe Institute
	18:00	Friedrich-Naumann-Foundation, Jordanian-German Business Council	Conference about Economic and Entrepreneur Policy, German- Jordanian Economic Relations, Systems of Vocational Training	Sheraton Hotel
	19:00	Goethe- Institute	Film Presentation „Sound of Heimat“ within the scope of the the Film Series „Global Music“	Goethe Institute
07/May	08:30	Center for Enviromental Research (UfZ)	Guided Tour and Water Fun Action in Fuheis	Meeting point: Ministry of Water and Irrigation
	15:00	German Adult Education Association (DVV)	Taghmees and Ta3leeleh- Public Debate about Lifelong Learning	Department for Theater and Arts of the Ministry of Culture, Jabal Weibdeh
	17:00	DAAD German Academic Exchange Service	Presentation»Study in Germany»,	Goethe Institute
08/May	08:30	Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR)	Geological / Hydrological Trip along the Protected Zones of Wadi Al Arab Well Field	Vicinity of Irbid
09/May	10:00	German Protestant Institute of Archaeology	Archaeological Market Day	German Protestant Institute of Archaeology, Tla al-Ali
	14:00	German Protestant Community	Open House	German Protestant Institute of Archaeology
10/May	18:00	Friedrich-Ebert- Foundation	Debut Performance of a Play about Elections and Political Participation, Actors from Ma´an	Al-Balad- Theater
	19:00	German Protestant Community	German / Arabic Worship	Good Sheperd Church