



Bundesministerium  
für Bildung  
und Forschung

**Speech**  
**by the Federal Minister of Education and Research,**  
**Prof. Annette Schavan, MdB,**  
  
**at**  
**the opening of the 61st Meeting of Nobel Laureates**  
  
**in Lindau**  
**on 26 June 2011**

**Check against delivery!**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

“Education does not mean simply communicating textbook content or lab reports. It stands for learning from one another, deliberately in both directions. What are relevant topics of the future, and which global problems are to be addressed? Exchange creates inspiration – be it in a new way of approaching a problem as a result of discussions with a Laureate or with another young scientist; or be it in a new way of looking at one's own work.”

This describes the philosophy of the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings. It also encapsulates the fascinating atmosphere that you will experience over the next few days here in Lindau.

Count Bernadotte came up with the pioneering idea for these meetings. Since then, they have become more and more attractive. The Lindau Nobel Laureate Meetings are unique today.

Progress in science and research is based on the interest of generations in each other. Encounters are inspiring. Interest is encouraging. Questions can open up new worlds and give you a different perspective on your own work.

The research community knows no national borders. Research is global. And I would go even further: Research can be described as the diplomacy of trust. The relations between Israel and Germany are an excellent example of this. It is a great pleasure for me to welcome my Israeli colleague, Minister Hershkowitz, here in Lindau today. In 1958, Israeli scientists invited a delegation from the Max Planck Society to Israel. This was the first official contact between Israelis and Germans after the Shoah. In those days, this invitation was certainly not a matter of course. In the years that followed, the research community continued to help build up trust. Mr Hershkowitz, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to you and to the entire Israeli people.

The interest of policy-makers in the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting has increased significantly over the years. This is reflected by the presence of my Russian colleague, Professor Fursenko, and my Austrian colleague, Professor Töchterle. A very warm welcome to you too!

Both science and politics need to face the global issues and problems of our time. The sovereignty of science and its incorruptible intellectuality make it one of the most valuable dialogue partners for policy-makers. Solving global problems requires scientific expertise and the creativity of elite researchers.

Scientific curiosity and creativity open up new worlds of knowledge and insight. This year, the Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting will focus on physiology and medicine. Medical advances

have improved people's quality of life in an unprecedented way in recent decades. We are living longer. We are healthier. There are few other areas of science in which people experience progress as directly as in medicine.

In Germany, we have just opened six new German Centres of Health Research, in which cooperation between university and non-university institutes has been reorganized and strengths have been pooled. Additional financial investments are being made which make health research in Germany a priority of research funding. In this way, we want to strengthen health research in Germany and become an attractive partner for the international research community.

I am very pleased that a scientific exhibition will once again be presented on the Isle of Mainau. This year, it will focus on discoveries in the field of health research. The exhibition is part of our joint efforts in science communication. It also represents the highlight of the Science Year in the field of Health Research in Germany.

Science is fascinating – and this is another thing that these encounters in Lindau reflect. That is why I support efforts to create a media library in which the extensive documentation on these meetings is brought together, prepared, and made accessible to people at any time and anywhere with the help of modern media. The coordination efforts have reached an advanced stage, and the new joint project is to be launched next year.

I would like to extend my special thanks to all those who have made this year's Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting and the exhibition possible: the members of the board of the Nobel Laureate Meetings foundation, represented today by Professor Wolfgang Schürer, the sponsors and friends, and particularly you, the researchers. My thanks also go to the Bernadotte family, represented here by Countess Bettina, for their unwavering commitment to science. You are giving science space – literally – on the Isle of Mainau.

Finally, Federal Chancellor Angela Merkel has asked me to pass on her best wishes. She is a great supporter of science and of research policy.

I hope you will find the next few days inspiring. Once again – welcome!