

**GERMANY****German Leadership Conference – Hannover**

Hannover UPF proudly presented an UPF meeting in conjunction with the International Research Centre for Renewable Energy (IFEED) on Saturday, August 15, 2009.

Under the title of, "Peace connects Science and Culture", the question was how can renewable energies be used to help to bring peace to the world?





Opening the program, Randine Röhring, 2nd generation member, played several selections on the piano and also sang a song. About 18 people were in attendance and listened attentively to the various speakers.

Prof. Dr. El Bassam started the program with a talk about Religion and Energy. In his talk Dr. Bassam mentioned, that “God created the world, therefore the environment should be a blessing for our development. Besides that, we are also responsible for our surroundings, be it animals or plants. So that means we have to think deeper about our life and actions and this brings our thoughts back to the renewable energies.”

Jürgen Mandel, an AfP and member of IFEED, spoke about the need to combine the responsibility of religion in regard to preserving our environment. As an example he talked about Easter Island where people did not take responsibility and how this island is now environmentally dead. He confronted us with pictures how we also destroy nature and how we are moving in a critical direction. He challenged us to reflect about our situation and concluded

- first the problems
- than the options and
- afterwards the solution

In his opinion, the solution will be the use of renewable energies for example, the Concentrated Solar Power Plants (CSP) in North Africa and the Integrated Energy Settlements.

After a short break, the podium was handed over to Dr. Al-Fahad who gave a interesting report about his trip to Mecca last year. He pointed out that one of the 5 pillars of the Islam religion is the pilgrimage to Mecca or Hadsch which should be at least done once in their lifetime. His talk was very interesting and informative. In his talk, he included and embraced other religions and also emphasized the peaceful aspects of the Islam.

The final talk in the program was given by Rainer Fuchs who gave us an overview of the UPF principles. He also talked about the Peace temple to be built in Korea and about the International Blessing for AfP to be held this Autumn in Europe. Many people were very interested in these topics and he felt that many were pleased to hear about it.

Rainer Fuchs also talked about what is meant to be an AfP and their responsibilities. At this time, we presented certificates to two people - Prof. Dr. O. Badran from Jordan and Dr. Q. Xi from China. They were very pleased to receive the recognition. Dr. Xi said that he will try to live up to the obligation to be an AfP. Dr. Badran said that he has always encouraged interreligious cooperation in his home in Jordan and will take responsibility to be a good AfP.

Afterwards, people remained for discussion and to look at the Solar and Water exhibitions. At the end Cheiko Fuchs presented everyone with an origami crane as a symbol for peace. A big thank you to the Friedenszentrum in Sievershausen for the use of their facilities and to all our Hannover church members who helped to make this meeting possible.

Report by Lothar and Marcia Schlichting