



Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung

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für Bildung und Forschung

Heinemannstraße 2
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Workshop

“Advancing Innovation: Human Resources, Education and Training“

in Bad Honnef on 17/18 November 2008

Ladies and Gentlemen,

– Unfortunately, I cannot be present at your very important event and so I am writing to you today to wish you all a successful conference and a pleasant stay in autumnal Bad Honnef – the “Nice of the Rhineland”.

The continued targeted use of our potential for innovation is important for shaping our future. Research and development therefore play a key role in society, together with skills acquisition and improvements in the framework conditions for innovations – and for international cooperation. I am delighted that the OECD’s Innovation Strategy will not only include products and services in the private sector, but also interconnect with public goods such as education.

Innovation is not an end in itself – it should serve people, work to prevent exclusion and contribute towards mastering global challenges.

The Federal Government has recognized the significance of this issue and has introduced three Cabinet resolutions in this field during the last few years:

A coherent innovation strategy was agreed under the title “High-Tech Strategy” in August 2006. This sets the course for enhanced cooperation between research and industry. One key area is the further development of the educational system, which includes all links in the education chain – early childhood support, school, vocational training, higher education and continuing education – and the needs of industry and society on one hand, the potentials of all persons and their creativity on the other.

In January 2008, the Federal Cabinet approved the Qualification Initiative, whose aims and measures were recently included in the results of the national Education Summit which Chancellor Merkel convened in association with the *Länder* and Federal Minister Schavan.

There followed the Internationalization Strategy in February 2008 with a focus on the following four objectives:

1. Strengthening research cooperation with global leaders
2. International exploitation of innovation potentials
3. Intensifying the cooperation with developing countries in education, research and development on a long-term basis
4. Assuming international responsibility and mastering global challenges.

The inclusion of all relevant stakeholders, in particular the social partners and the research community, is a decisive factor of success in implementing these three frameworks.

I hope that this OECD project will not only spell out the conditions for successful national innovation strategies, but will also contribute to ensuring that besides competing in the field of innovation, we also make use of the opportunities for cooperation, both among OECD member countries and with non-member countries.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Meyer-Krahmer', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Prof. Dr. Frieder Meyer-Krahmer
Bonn, November 17th, 2008