



Press Release

Quality Through Global Dialogue: International Education Summit in Berlin

03 March 2016

Over the next two days, Berlin will be the centre of the international education world. Together with the OECD and Education International (EI), the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs (Kultusministerkonferenz; KMK) will host the "International Summit on the Teaching Profession" (ISTP) on 03 and 04 March in the Berlin Congress Center. Around 400 people from 24 countries and jurisdictions, as well as from politics and the professional field will be participating in the ISTP – including 23 international education ministers. In addition to many European countries, the conference will also be attended by delegations from Brazil, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore and the USA.

The German delegation will be led by Dr. Claudia Bogedan, KMK President in 2016 and Bremen Senator for Children and Education. VBE Federal Chair Udo Beckmann, GEW Federal Chair Marlis Tepe, teaching professional Dr. Tagrid Yousef as well as the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs and Senators of the Länder will constitute the German delegation. The theme of this year's Summit is "Teachers' professional learning and growth: Creating the conditions to achieve quality teaching for excellent learning outcomes".

KMK President Dr. Claudia Bogedan says: "I am pleased to welcome the international world of education to Berlin. The Länder have deliberately brought the International Summit on the Teaching Profession as a global forum for education to Germany. The Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs will host the first major international conference on education involving the OECD in Germany – we are proud of that. We want to become more closely connected on an international level. We also understand a successful educational policy to include the exchange of expertise on an international level, and the ISTP offers us an ideal environment for this purpose. During the conference, we want to show that federally organised educational systems provide effective and high quality education policy."

Mari Kiviniemi, OECD Deputy Secretary-General, says: "Educational success is everybody's business and effective collaboration between governments and teacher

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unions is a cornerstone for progress. We are delighted to co-host the International Summit of the Teaching Profession as the premier platform to build trustful partnerships and innovative policy solutions for raising quality, equity and efficiency in educational outcomes.”

Fred van Leeuwen, General Secretary of Education International, says: “Our focus on teachers’ professional learning and growth is at the core of our continuing discussion on the future of the teaching profession. Which is why at this year’s Summit, the teachers’ unions and the education ministers want to discuss the question of how we can support our members as much as possible in their day-to-day work. We must collectively consider what skills teachers really need to exercise their professional activities as effectively as possible. We can only solve such questions together. Cooperation between governments and teachers’ unions is therefore essential.”

At this year’s ISTP, a closed international ministerial session will take place for the first time since the inception of the ISTP in 2011. At the same time, the union leaders and teachers will also convene separately. This breakout session aims to strengthen the exchange among delegates and allow intensive discussions in closed groups.

Senator Dr. Bogedan emphasises: "For the present and future challenges, we need professional, well-trained teachers. In the end, schools are based on teachers. Joint education and the transmission of values are a pillar for cohesion in our society. It is therefore important that education be offered as professionally and as excellent as possible. The professionalisation of teachers is a key concern for us. During the ISTP, many of the most powerful nations in the field of education come together from around the world, and we want to discuss and learn from each other. I'm curious to see what other countries do differently in terms of education."

For more information, please go to: www.istp2016.org

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