

Liz Mohn awarded honorary doctorate from Tel Aviv University

Acknowledgment of the commitment of the Bertelsmann Stiftung for German-Israeli relations

Tel Aviv/Gütersloh, May 21, 2006. Liz Mohn, Deputy CEO, was awarded an honorary doctor's degree by the Tel Aviv University for the Bertelsmann Stiftung's passionate commitment to shaping German-Jewish and German-Israeli relations. Together with nine other personalities, among them former German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, Liz Mohn received this honor on Saturday night from Professor Itamar Rabinovich, President of Tel Aviv University.

For more than two decades, the Bertelsmann Stiftung has supported numerous projects related to German-Israeli relations. It has enabled the promotion of its Europe-oriented political work at Israeli universities and has developed and implemented learning programs to foster democracy and tolerance in cooperation with Israeli partners. One of the outstanding initiatives was establishing and operating the first school of journalism in Israel, the Koteret School of Journalism and Communication. This training institution enjoys an excellent reputation and closely combines theory and practice. The school was founded in 1989 through a joint initiative from Reinhard Mohn and Dov Yudkovsky, the former editor-in-chief of the Israeli daily newspaper "Yedioth Aharonot". The Bertelsmann Stiftung will continue to support the school of journalism for five more years. The school and its programs are likely to be integrated into Tel Aviv University in the future

The German-Jewish Dialogue and the German-Israeli Young Leaders Exchange, a program that brings together young executives from both countries, are two more activities of the Bertelsmann Stiftung. The German-Jewish Dialogue was started in 1992 and is organized every year in cooperation with London publisher George Lord Weidenfeld. This forum for discussion brings together well-known Jewish personalities and leaders from the worlds of politics, business and culture from all over the world. In this trusting atmosphere, not only current affairs of German politics and society are discussed, but also the development of Jewish communities in Germany and Europe and the Middle East conflict with its impact on German-Jewish relations.

The German-Israeli Young Leaders Exchange focuses on similar topics. It facilitates both an exchange of information and the development of a constantly growing network of younger personalities who will be responsible for shaping German-Israeli relations in the future.

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