

Message of Ambassador Dr. Michael Koch

Dawn supplement for the German National Day in October 2009



Dear Reader,

October 3rd, 2009 is the 20th anniversary of Germany's National Day of Reunification.

We are celebrating the peaceful revolution in former communist East Germany, resulting in a unified Germany after 40 years of separation.

In 1989, the iron curtain which had divided the world and had split the city of Berlin in two was lifted. People overcame their fears of oppression, tired of secret service observation, militarisation, urban decay, environmental destruction and a questionable education policy and through the power of the people succeeded in overcoming a dictatorship that had not only denied freedom of travel and free elections, but also other basic human rights.

„We are the people“ was the slogan of more than half a million people demonstrating peacefully on November 4, 1989 in Berlin. A few days later the Wall fell and democracy was established on the other side of the iron curtain, too.

The united Germany stands for democracy and stability, respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Pakistan and Germany are tied together by a long lasting friendship. Bilateral exchanges continued to be intensive during 2009: The German Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development has paid an official visit to Pakistan; various members of our parliament, the Bundestag, came to Pakistan as well as high ranking German officials from different federal ministries.

German Federal Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier appointed Ambassador Bernd Mützelburg as his Special Representative for Pakistan and Afghanistan in order to intensify our diplomatic engagement with both countries.

Furthermore Germany has increased its emergency assistance to Pakistan to help the Internally Displaced Persons from Malakand Division to a total of € 29,1 million (approx. PKR 3.4 billion). This illustrates Germany's undiminished desire to assist Pakistan in difficult situations.

As we Germans celebrate our anniversary, I do hope that democracy in Pakistan will be further strengthened and that the contacts between our two countries will be broadened and deepened in the years to come.

Dr. Michael Koch