

Message of H.E. Dr. Michael Koch, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany, on the occasion of the German National Day in October 2010



Dear Reader,

This year, on 3 October, Germany will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of her reunification and two intense decades of eastern and western Germany growing ever closer. From the peaceful revolution that brought down the Berlin Wall on 9 November 1989 to German unification on 3 October 1990, political events came thick and fast in the years 1989 and 1990, leading to a historic turning point – in Germany, Europe and the world. After all, German unification did not only bring a long divided country back together. It also meant the collapse of the Iron Curtain, which divided the European continent, and the end of the East-West conflict.

Pakistan and Germany are tied together by a long lasting friendship. Bilateral exchanges continued during 2010: The German Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Dirk Niebel, paid an official visit to Pakistan in June 2010. Ambassador Michael Steiner was appointed new Special Representative for Pakistan and Afghanistan. He visited Pakistan in July 2010. Two German business delegations visited Islamabad and Karachi in April and September 2010.

Large parts of Pakistan were devastated in late July 2010 by a disastrous and unprecedented flood. Both the German Government with a total of € 35 million (approx. PKR 3.75 billion) as well as the citizens of Germany with donations of around € 160 million (approx. PKR 17.2 billion) have contributed substantially to help in the humanitarian effort. This aid has been largely channelled through experienced German implementing agencies such as the GTZ and German NGOs as well as through UN organisations.

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