

PRESS RELEASE

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## BICC-Annual Report 2011: International think tank facilitates peace, security and development

In its Annual Report 2010/2011, which is published today, BICC (Bonn International Center for Conversion) provides information on its work. The peace and conflict research institute is currently working in five program areas: global trends, arms exports and arms control; security practices; resources and conflict; migration and security, and base conversion.

"Last year, we asked ourselves which programmatic fields in which we conduct and provide our applied research, advisory and training services are appropriate to meet the current political challenges," Peter J. Croll, Director of BICC, explains.

The Global Militarization Index (GMI), for instance is one of the projects presented in the Annual Report 2010/2011. It shows that countries in the Middle East have held top places with regard to their degree of militarization for some years now and many Arab countries also rank high on the Index.

"Should policymakers not make more use of such an 'early warning system' like the GMI and reconsider their arms exports and control policies, for example?," Croll wonders. And in view of the continuing refugee crisis on and off the coast of Lampedusa, is it not time for European governments to rethink their (threat) perceptions of migration and security?

"North Rhine-Westphalia as science hub can be proud of a research center, which contributes important insights to existential questions of the modern world," Svenja Schulze, Minister of Innovation, Science and Research of the Land North Rhine-Westphalia, stresses in her Preface to the BICC Annual Report.

BICC's five program areas global trends, arms exports and arms control; security practices; resources and conflict; migration and security as well as base conversion are mirrored in the nine project reports of the Annual Report 2010/2011. Finally, the Annual Report provides an overview of the economic situation of the Center and contains an extensive list of publications by the Center and its researchers.

INFORMATION:  
SUSANNE HEINKE  
Phone.: +49 228/911 96-44  
E-Mail: [pr@bicc.de](mailto:pr@bicc.de)

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