

## Peter J. Croll says farewell

On 3 May, Peter J. Croll officially took leave as Director of BICC (Bonn International Center for Conversion) at the Museum Koenig in Bonn. 150 invited guests from politics, science, business and civil society as well as numerous colleagues came to honor the work of Peter J. Croll and BICC.

Helmut Dockter, State Secretary at the Ministry of Innovation, Science and Research of the Land of North Rhine-Westphalia and Chair of the Supervisory Board of BICC expressed his thanks and his appreciation of the outgoing Director of BICC. "Without you, the science hub NRW will be deprived of a gem." He honored Croll's contribution to bringing conversion up-to-date and to developing it as a prevention task and stressed: "In view of the many theaters of war in this world, one thing is clear: The work of BICC has to continue."

Other speakers at this evening's ceremony were Dr. Flavia Pansieri, Executive Coordinator UN Volunteers, Jürgen Nimptsch, Lord Mayor of Bonn, Prof. Dr. Armin Cremers, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bonn and Member of the Supervisory Board of BICC, Dr. Sverre Lodgaard, former Director of the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs NUPI and Member of the International Board of BICC and Michael Dedek, Director of Administration at BICC.

Prof. Dr. Armin Cremers, who passed on the greetings from the Chancellor of the University of Bonn, Prof. Dr. Jürgen Fohrmann, particularly thanked Peter J. Croll for initiating the cooperation between BICC and the University of Bonn. "It was under his auspices that the University of Bonn and BICC moved towards an ever closer relationship. A relationship that will find its preliminary climax in the mutual appointment of Peter Croll's successor who will be Scientific Director of BICC and at the same time Professor for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Bonn."

In his speech, Peter J. Croll singled out the institutional support by the Land of North Rhine-Westphalia, which was and is the precondition for his and the success of BICC. Croll took up the words of State Secretary Dockter, BICC being a 'good investment' for the Land of North Rhine-Westphalia and thanked him for his promise to stand by BICC. "This indeed ensures the future of this leading peace and conflict research center."

Looking at the development of BICC and its work in the areas of applied research, advisory services and capacity development, Peter J. Croll gave his piece of advice to the center: My motto has always been: Remain grounded in the real world ... and try to move minds."

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You will find a picture of the event at [link](#)

This picture shows Dr. Sverre Lodgaard, Dr. Flavia Pansieri, Lord Mayor Jürgen Nimptsch, Peter J. Croll, State Secretary Helmut Dockter und Michael Dedek at the Museum Koenig.  
Photo: Barbara Frommann/BICC