



BONN INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR CONVERSION

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bulletin

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For More Peace in the World— 10 Years BICC

by Bärbel Dieckmann

The end of the Cold War has brought changes into the world of dimensions that had not been thought of before. Changes, big chances and equally many risks. What, for instance, will happen to the child soldiers in Angola when they finally put down their arms and start a new life as civilians? What possibilities are there for an arms manufacturer that can no longer sell its wares to change over to manufacture peaceful, that is non-military products? What residues pollute the soil of now vacant military sites and how can they be disposed of? What economic opportunities are there for a small town which is faced with great financial difficulties due to the closure of military barracks?

Many questions—and if there are answers, the Bonn International Center for Conversion will find them.

It all started with a UN conference on conversion as a chance for development and environment in 1992.

The idea to establish an international research and consulting center on all questions of disarmament and conversion fell onto fertile soil in the land of North Rhine-Westphalia. In 1994, this idea bore fruit: The worldwide unique Bonn International Center for Conversion started its work. Its patrons were the then Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, and the then President of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW), Johannes Rau, who will be attending the festivities of BICC's 10th anniversary in Bonn as Federal President.

The idea to establish such a center was such a good idea that one wonders why no-one had thought of it before. A center that gives advice to institutions, governments and companies alike on how to convert military assets to civilian uses has a deep peace giving sense. And who should doubt that the world needed this at the time of BICC's foundation in 1994 and still requires it today.

If a confirmation of BICC's exceptional achievements is at all necessary, the evaluations of its work have shown what successful path the two directors, Herbert Wulf and Peter Croll have taken with their staff. Their expertise is asked for worldwide and seemingly unrelated topics such the importance of health and water to peace have long been taken up in their work.

BICC's work today is more important than ever: terrorism poses a totally new challenge to governments worldwide. Development and peace belong together and cannot be separated. Without peace there is no development and without perspectives to development there is no peace. Conversion is also an integral part of development cooperation.

For these reasons, too, BICC fits particularly well into the picture of our city. Its scope of work both contributes to Bonn as the city of research and science, to the international side of Bonn and to the city of worldwide cooperation in the fields of development and environment. One cannot imagine the Bonn 'international family' without BICC, one of its important 'children'.

This year we continue with what has become a good tradition namely that each year the city of Bonn chooses an international institution located here as a partner institution. In the year 2000 UNICEF was the first partner of the city of Bonn, the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) followed in 2001 on the occasion of the international year of voluntary work, the Deutsche Welthungerhilfe (German Agro Action) followed in 2002 which then celebrated its 40th anniversary, and in 2003, the Deutsche Entwicklungsdienst (German Development Service) was able to look back on four decades of successful work. And now it's BICC's turn.

The international reputation of such institutions is, naturally, also to Bonn's advantage, in particular as we do not see ourselves merely as the city where they are situated but as the city that, due to them, is in a position to give input to discussions whenever it is possible. We can show in many ways that Bonn as the starting point

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of international activities gains increasing importance. We can point to the great network for international cooperation in the fields of development and environment that has developed here. In short, we can prove that Bonn's claim to be the "Center for International Cooperation" is more than just a label.

The city of Bonn is pleased to be able to offer its partner organization various different fora to present its work. Whether it be the 'open day' in the town hall or the international festivities (Begegnungsfest) in the Rheinaue, whether it be the traditional UN-discussion or lectures in the University—BICC is not only going to answer questions of experts but will also present itself to the citizens of Bonn. I herewith invite you cordially to attend the public events. You will find the latest program at www.bicc.de or www.bonn.de.

1.4 million letterheads of the city of Bonn will be carrying the message: 10 years Bonn International Center for Conversion—Partner for Peace and Development. The joint final event of the partner year on 5 December, the day of the voluntary work which the Federal President has used in the past years to present the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany in Bonn, has also become a valued tradition.

But before we dwell on the end of the year, we should look forward to the beginning and to many interesting events in the course of the year. I am sure that this year will further stimulate the so important work of BICC.

If the world is becoming more peaceful in future, which is my deepest hope, then it is also due to the contribution of the Bonn International Center for Conversion—with its roots in the UN city of Bonn—and of this, we are proud.

Bärbel Dieckmann is mayor of the city of Bonn

Staff Spotlight:



Ricarda Berg

Ricarda Berg (Germany), is the Network Administrator of BICC. She joined BICC in November 1999 and has been working since as the person responsible for the IT section of the department Communication & Organization.

She took over the planning and expansion of the BICC network and continues to be busy with the update of a security concept for the network. She is responsible for the administration and the smooth working of the technical information and communication systems inhouse. She looks after the BICC-network and -server as well as making sure that access to the net is safe and secure. Ricarda is in charge of allocating and configuring BICC's hardware and software; by using her 'magic touch' questions and problems concerning software applications are quickly resolved.

Ricarda studied German literature and language and philosophy at Bonn University; she finished her studies in 1986 with an M.A. 1989/90, she studied with Siemens-Nixdorf "Organisationsprogrammiererin" (software programmer) and has since been working in this field with emphasis on system and network administration in the IT sector. Before she started at BICC, she worked in the project OLIVER (OnLineVerbund-System), of the library center for universities of North Rhine-Westphalia (HBZ) in Cologne.

Ricarda loves literature. Her homepage "Ingeborg Bachmann Forum" to which she dedicates her spare time is an homage to her favorite author Ingeborg Bachmann (www.ingeborg-bachmann-forum.de). She also likes to play cards and badminton.

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BICC (Bonn International Center for Conversion) is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to promoting and facilitating the processes whereby people, skills, technology, equipment, and financial and economic resources can be shifted away from the defense sector and applied to alternative civilian uses.

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Exhibition “Small Arms— A Global Threat” in Berlin

BICC and UNICEF are showing the exhibition “Small Arms—A Global Threat” for the first time in Germany. It takes place from 13 January to 3 February in the west wing of the Parliament House (Paul-Löbe-Haus) right next to the Reichstag in Berlin.

The exhibition documents the dramatic effects of the worldwide trade with small arms and light weapons. Millions of pistols, assault rifles and machine guns circulate in the regions of crisis worldwide and destabilize entire countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq or Liberia. The availability of a huge number of weapons contributes to the fact that at least 300,000 children all over the world are misused as soldiers. As part of the exhibition BICC presents successful examples of national efforts in the fight against the flood of small arms by showing photographs and maps. It also shows national aspects of and opportunities for practical disarmament.

Sculptures made of disused arms by the artists project “Transforming Arms into Art” from Mozambique are also shown.

Opening times of the exhibition: Mondays from 8:00–16:00, Tuesdays to Thursdays from 8:00–17:00 and Fridays from 8:00–14:00. Admission is free, visitors need an identity card. Both exhibitions will move to Bonn and will be presented there at the end of April 2004.

→ Further information can be found at
→ www.bicc.de or contact pr@bicc.de

TRESA: Training and Education on Small Arms

The effort to stop the illicit spread of small arms is now firmly established on the international political agenda, but its results are disappointing. Three obstacles are slowing its progress. First, governments are not as eager to control guns as their public declarations would lead one to believe. Second, there is still a lack of reliable information on production, flows and stockpiles of small arms. Third, many countries lack the qualified personnel, the institutions and the equipment they need to control small arms. Therefore one of the ways to promote small arms control is to help those governments and organizations that are genuinely interested to acquire the capacities they need.

Therefore, on 28/29 April 2003 at an International Policy Dialogue held in Bonn, the implementation of the UN Programme of Action on small arms and the need for capacity-building was discussed and reviewed. This

event, organized by InWent with advice from BICC, was part of Germany’s preparation for the Biennial Meeting of States (BMS), which took place in July in New York. On 9 July, BICC and other German-based organizations organized a workshop at the UN on training programs for small arms control in lesser-developed countries. Finally, in December 2003, the German development ministry established a Fund in Trust for the development of training tools on small arms control. It is to be used for a project called Training and Education on Small Arms (TRESA). BICC will carry it out in close cooperation with the UN and other international organizations.

The aim of this project is to develop fully-fledged training courses and to document already existing activities, for instance in Africa, Latin America and the Balkans so that they can be more easily reproduced by other instructors and replicated in other places and other languages.

TRESA will develop training tools and training projects for government officials and civil society groups, especially in the developing countries. It will do this in close cooperation with UNDP, the UN Department of Disarmament Affairs, the Lester Pearson Peacekeeping Centre and other organizations.

→ For further information please contact
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Water Workshop

From 1–3 March 2004, BICC and the Center for Development Research (ZEF) are hosting an “International Expert Workshop on Water, Development and Cooperation. Comparative Perspective: Euphrates-Tigris and Southern Africa” in Bonn. Approximately 50 experts from the Euphrates-Tigris region (Iraq, Syria and Turkey), from Southern Africa (Botswana, Namibia, RSA) as well as from the United States, Germany and other European countries will discuss issues of conflict and cooperation relating to transboundary river basins. A comparison will be drawn between the situation of the Euphrates-Tigris basin and that of various international river basins in Southern Africa, aimed at identifying options for integrated water resource management in the interest of all riparians.

The international workshop will also serve to elaborate more detailed questions with regard to BICC’s TRICC (Transboundary Rivers Conflict and Cooperation) Project. A further aim is to forge and strengthen links to research institutions and experts working in the field of water, conflict and cooperation.

→ For further information please contact
→ Lars Wirkus at wirkus@bicc.de or
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BICC Publications

In addition to its annual *conversion survey*, the *BICC/DCAF security sector governance and conversion studies* and other books, BICC publishes *reports, briefs, and papers*. These series analyze the international conversion process, report on conversion projects and experience gained, and offer scientific as well as practical know-how. Further details can be obtained at www.bicc.de/publications/.

Anna Matveeva with Duncan Hiscock, Wolf-Christian Paes and Hans Risser, *Macedonia: Guns, Policing and Ethnic Division*, Co-publication BICC and Saferworld, October 2003

DCAF Occasional Papers No. 4: Brzoska, Michael, *Development Donors and the Concept of Security Sector Reform*, DCAF, Geneva, November 2003

Jörn Brömmelhörster and Wolf-Christian Paes, eds.: *The Military as an Economic Actor: Soldiers in Business*, Palgrave 2003

Sami Faltas and Wolf-Christian Paes, 'You Have Removed the Devil From Our Door'—An Assessment of the UNDP Small Arms and Light Weapons Control (SALWC) Project in Albania, BICC/SEESAC publication, October 2003

Forthcoming:

Paper 34

Elena Bratanova, *Overview of the Recent European Court of Justice Judgement on Art. 296 European Community Treaty and the New Role of the Commission in Armaments. A Step Forwards to a Single Market in Armaments?* February 2004

BICC Notes

BICC's supervisory board met on 25 November 2003. The chair, Hartmut Krebs, Deputy Minister of the Ministry for Science and Research of NRW praised the work that BICC performed in 2003. He particularly mentioned the **excellent quality of BICC's work** as well as its visibility and regional and international networking and thanked the Director and BICC staff for such a good performance. Due to the financial constraints, however, the allocated budget from NRW was reduced in 2004. At the same time the volume of the externally financed BICC projects increased during 2003 with a growing tendency for 2004.

→ For further information please contact bicc@bicc.de

On 2 December, BICC, together with the German women's security council and the GTZ, invited to a discussion on the topic of "**Security by and for women? Visit of Afghan police women in Germany**". A group of 10 women, seven police women, two lawyers and a journalist from Afghanistan, was invited by the BMZ in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and are touring through Germany within the framework of the GTZ project "Fostering of the Rule of Law" to inform and sensitize

German decision-makers to the situation in Afghanistan. At BICC, the discussion focused on the special situation of women within the framework of the security sector reform in Afghanistan.

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In 2004, BICC will celebrate its **10th anniversary** and is honored to be **partner organization of the city of Bonn** during the entire year of 2004.

On the occasion of being "Partner for Peace and Development" of the city of Bonn, BICC is planning numerous events during this year and will keep regularly updated information on ongoing activities on its web site. On 9 January a joint press conference with the city of Bonn was held in the old town hall to introduce the new partnership to the public.

→ For further information please contact pr@bicc.de or Information can be also obtained at www.bicc.de or www.bonn.de

In June 2003, the Council of the European Union adopted a **Common Position on arms brokering**. Member states are required to adopt national legislation according to a common format. Germany already has had some relevant legislation since the late 1970s which, however, needs to be complemented. A **meeting of experts of the government, industry and NGOs**, organized by BICC and IANSA, the international small arms NGO, took place on 14 January 2004 to discuss what changes in German regulations would be desirable.

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An external evaluation team carried out an **evaluation of BICC's performance and achievements in the past five years**. The results will be presented to the public in the framework of a press conference by Hannelore Kraft, Minister of Science and Research of NRW on 1 March in Dusseldorf.

→ For further information please contact pr@bicc.de

On 4 March 2004 from 18:00–20:00, BICC and the Institute for Commonwealth Studies (ICS) at the University of London will be hosting a **launch of the book "The Military as an Economic Actor—Soldiers in Business"** at the ICS, 28 Russell Square, London (Tube station: Russell Square). Moderated by ICS director, Tim Shaw, the event will feature presentations by the book's editor Wolf-Christian Paes and contributing author Tai Ming Cheung, followed by a reception.

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