



**Berichterstattung zu strategischen Entwicklungen auf den Politikfeldern des
BMBF in führenden Industrieländern**

Global

**Umwelt-Nachhaltigkeitsindex veröffent-
licht**

Das Ranking, veröffentlicht vom Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy, berücksichtigt 21 ökologische Aspekte wie etwa den Ausstoß von Treibhausgasen und die Wasserqualität. Auf Platz eins stehen die Finnen, gefolgt von den Norwegern. Platz drei geht an Uruguay, und danach kommen wieder nördliche Länder: Schweden, Island und Kanada. Deutschland belegt Rang 31. Die USA liegen auf Rang 45.

<http://www.yale.edu/esi/>
<http://www.spiegel.de/wissenschaft/erde/0,1518,338978,00.html>

Call for Global Biodiversity Agency

Researchers from around the world have endorsed a call by French President Jacques Chirac for a new international organization for biodiversity research – akin to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) – that would sift through the science and identify priorities for nations. An IPCC-like agency could provide the field with a stronger, unified voice. The loss of species continues apace, and a 2002 goal of achieving a "significant reduction" in the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010 appears doomed.

<http://www.recherche.gouv.fr/biodiv2005paris/en/>
<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/vol307/issue5710/?etoc>

Großbritannien

**Cash-Short Schools Aim to Raise Fees,
Recruit Foreign Students**

Even Britain's top research universities say they're broke. Although they receive regular government subsidies, the law limits what they can charge students for tuition. (The rate is about \$2170 per year at present.) In addition, compared to U.S. institutions, they get only modest gifts from alumni and philanthropies. The result is "chronic underfunding," says a strategic plan released last week by the University of Oxford. The problem is growing worse, according to the document put out by Oxford's vice chancellor John Ford on 24 January, and "radical" changes are needed, including higher student fees. The university also hopes to recruit more foreign students, who pay many times the domestic rate. Collier says the motivation is not to raise funds. Rather, the goal is to make the university more competitive in the world market.

Oxford raised about \$110 million overall in 2002-03, while in that period Harvard and Stanford raised about \$495 million and \$472 million, respectively. Only 5% of Oxford's alumni make annual donations, compared to 40% to 60% of rivals' alumni.

<http://www.ox.ac.uk/gazette/2004-5/supps/strategy.pdf>
<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/vol307/issue5710/?etoc>

Italien

Rescue for Italian Synchrotron

The Italian government last week approved a slate of measures to support science, including a bailout of the country's Elettra free-electron laser. The Council of Ministers approved an annual increase of \$18 million for the next few years. This also provides to a high-priority \$78 million European Investment Bank loan for construction of Elettra.

There is good cheer for academic researchers, too: Thanks to \$560 million added to university budgets, newly hired researchers can earn a full salary after 1 year instead of three. The change will boost their income by about 30%. Research minister Letizia Moratti calls the move "another way to keep the best youngsters in our universities."

<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/vol307/issue5709/?etoc>

Italy Pulls Out of Global Fund

Italy has decided to withhold a promised contribution of \$130 million this year to the Global Fund, a partnership of private and public agencies devoted to fighting AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. The cut is part of a \$325 million reduction in government assistance to nonprofits this year due to a tight economic climate. Mariangela Bavicchi, a spokesperson for the fund, calls the decision an example of "regrettable behavior at the international level."

http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/media_center/pressroom/

Norwegen

Bilateral research cooperation

The Research Council of Norway wishes to promote increased bilateral research cooperation. A call for proposals encompasses a number of different measures. Firstly, research grants for conducting pre-projects and seed money are available for

bilateral research projects in cooperation with the USA, Canada, Germany, France, Japan or China; and secondly, mobility grants are available between Norway, the USA and Canada.

During 2005, the Research Council plans to utilise a total of NOK 21.5 million on bilateral research cooperation in the form of support for pre-projects, seed money, and mobility. Of the total amount, at least NOK 13.5 million will be directed towards projects involving the USA and Canada.

http://www.forskningsradet.no/forport/application?lang=en_UK

Schweden

New forum reinforces plans for neutron source in Scania

An important step has been taken on the way to building the world's most powerful neutron source - ESS - European Spallation Source - in Scania, the southern Swedish province. To strengthen international contacts a collaborative group has been established, including members from the Nordic countries and several research financiers.

A European research facility like ESS would be a key tool in strategic areas such as energy and nanotechnology. Europe will lose its top position when the American and Japanese facilities come on steam in a couple of years. The objective is to have ESS up and running by 2015, and the cost of the project is calculated at 1-1.5 billion Euro. Allan Larsson, former Swedish minister of finance among other top posts, has been commissioned by the Swedish government to head a task force to attract ESS to the Öresund region. The task force is to report by July 1 this year, whereupon the government will make a decision about hosting the facility.

<http://publiceng.vinnova.se/Main.aspx?ID=3edfad37-bc64-4d3a-a502-840d3d7a83c4>

EU / Europa**Rückgang der EU-Förderung für Umwelt- und Energieforschung muss überdacht werden**

In einer Mitteilung der Europäischen Kommission wird ein Überdenken der "stetig abnehmenden Beachtung der Umwelt- und Energieforschung" gefordert. Der Bericht über die Umweltpolitik 2004 zeigt Höhepunkte aus dem vergangenen Jahr auf und weist auf die Bereiche hin, in denen weiteres Handeln gefordert ist. In dem Papier heißt es: „Sowohl in den Mitgliedstaaten als auch in der EU insgesamt müssen zu diesem Zweck intensive Forschungs- und Entwicklungsanstrengungen unternommen werden.“

http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/pdf/policy_rev_2004_en.pdf

Education and training 2010 - diverse systems, shared goals

The study has considered the enlarged European Union of 25 member states, as well as Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein and three accession countries, Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey. As the EU member states identify and implement strategies to create a learning economy and a learning society in their own circumstances over the next five years (15 years might be a more realistic timescale), it is noticeable that in many respects the Nordic EU member states are in poll position.

The Nordic countries perform highly on the UN Human Development Index, which means that they combine steady growth with high levels of social cohesion. They have high levels of participation in initial VET combined with high levels of participation in continuing VET, and they score highly on the indices of basic skills for young learners and for adults.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/education/policies/2010/study_en.html

USA**NASA Budget: Hubble and other Programs Face Cuts in 2006**

The White House's priorities for the space agency include returning the shuttle to flight, developing new human exploration technologies, and finishing the space station. Those programs will eat up the bulk of the increases in the president's request, say sources, and starve several other activities. For example, NASA and the White House have decided to let the aging Hubble telescope fall into the Pacific Ocean, say Administration sources, instead of mounting a servicing mission involving either robots or astronauts arriving via the shuttle. NASA plans to severely curtail spending for new technologies devoted to science missions such as information systems designed to improve data return from future robotic Mars missions, Earth science probes, and the upcoming Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy flight

<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/vol307/issue5709/?etoc>

President Bush Proposes New Education Initiative

Bush's new plan calls for math and reading assessments to continue through eleventh grade. Bush plans to request \$1.5 billion for this proposal in his FY 2006 budget request, but much of that money would be taken from existing programs. As part of this proposal, the President would recycle his plan from last year - which Congress did not support - to devote \$120 million of the Education Department's Mathematics and Science Partnership Program (MSP) funding strictly to improving secondary math instruction. Bush plans to request \$269 million in FY 2006 for the MSPs, equal to FY 2005 funding.

<http://www.aip.org/fyi/2005/012.html>

Academy Report Makes Recommendations on Federal S&T Appointments

The task of appointing new S&T agency officials at the onset of the second Bush Administration is not nearly as complicated as it was four years ago. Before the November election, a report was released by the National Academies addressing the process of making presidential appointments to top science and technology positions and federal S&T advisory committees.

<http://books.nap.edu/catalog/11152.html>

NIH Changes Ground Rules for Biotech

The nation's most significant source of funding for life science research, the National Institutes of Health, announced two sweeping changes last week that could dramatically alter biotechnology commercialization. The first policy change addresses known and potential conflicts of interest by NIH employees, while the second encourages all NIH-funded research to be released publicly within 12 months of final publication.

<http://www.nih.gov/about/publicaccess/index.htm>

AAAS Plays Key Role in U.S.-UNESCO Renewal

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is playing a central role in building a renewed relationship and in encouraging the American science and technology (S&T) community to be more deeply involved with the international body. U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell named AAAS to help represent S&T interests on the new United States National Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, formed after President George W. Bush moved to rejoin UNESCO in 2003.

<http://www.aaas.org/news/newsandnotes/inside116.shtml>

Japan

Wechsel in der Bildungspolitik? Rufe nach einem Überdenken „druckfreien“ Lernens werden lauter

Da die Beweise für die abnehmenden intellektuellen Fähigkeiten japanischer Schüler weiter zunehmen, sind nun vermehrt Stimmen zu hören, die auf eine Änderung der Lehrpläne für die öffentlichen Grund- und Mittelschulen drängen.

Der Schwerpunkt „Lernen ohne Druck“ wurde in den Lehrplänen für die Grund- und Mittelschulen ab dem Schuljahr 2002 eingeführt. Damit einher ging eine Verringerung der Stundenzahlen für „Hauptfächer“ wie Japanisch und Mathematik; die so eingesparten Unterrichtsstunden werden für „umfassendes Lernen“ verwendet. „Umfassendes Lernen“ zielt darauf ab, Kinder zu eigenständigem Denken zu ermuntern sowie das Interesse für Dinge zu fördern, welche einen Querschnitt durch die traditionellen Fächer darstellen, darunter z.B. Umwelt und internationale Kommunikation.

http://www.botschaft-japan.de/presse/jb_0504.html

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Redaktion:

Dr.-Ing. Raimund Glitz
0211/6214-546, glitz@vdi.de
Dr. Andreas Ratajczak
0211/6214-494, ratajczak@vdi.de
VDI Technologiezentrum GmbH

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