Dialogue forums
Creating awareness in the region
Background
The Munich Re Foundation has been organising dialogue forums in Munich every year since 2006.

Over five evenings, attendees are able to discuss current topics with prominent experts and thereby discover new facts and background information. The topics covered in the dialogue forums are of great interest and concern to our society. They require solutions and are of global relevance.

Politicians, scientists and journalists discuss with the audience with a view to dispelling popular preconceptions. Rather than exchanging conflicting views in contentions debates, our aim is to highlight interdependencies and raise awareness.

With the forums, we are looking to contribute towards social dialogue and, with the help of critical discussion, identify new courses of action for the future.

Since 2014, the foundation has been organising another forum at Munich University and invites young people to take part in dialogue.

Our topics over recent years

2015
Climate, poverty, catastrophes – save the world!
2015: The year of decisions. Global agreements and agendas are renewed. Experts discussed political processes that shape our future.

2014
Starving in the midst of abundance?
While food is thrown away without a second thought in Germany, people in many parts of the world are starving. Experts emphasise that the plight of world hunger is not a question of quantity but a problem of distribution.

2013
The (im)mobile society – Ready for the future?
Environmental and climate change agreements fail, and rich and poor nations alike are overburdened by more and more disasters. A radical shift in mindset is called for to ensure our society has a sustainable future.

2012
Power and influence: Who controls the world’s destiny?
Who is determining current political, social and ecological changes, and so driving forward global change? We went searching for the answers to these questions in the 2012 dialogue forums.

2011
Where from? Where to? – Demography and migration
Demographic developments and the different facets of migration were addressed in 2011.

2009/2010
World in flux – the forgotten billions
How is the global financial market crisis impacting poor nations? Development policy, poverty, and sustainable growth and climate policy were the focus of discussions.
Our speakers in recent years

Aygül Özkan
Minister for Social Affairs, Women, Family, Health and Integration for Lower Saxony

Rita Süssmuth
Former President of the German Bundestag, Berlin

Christian Ude
Lord Mayor of Munich, President of the Association of German Cities and Towns

Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker
Club of Rome, UNEP Resource Panel, Emmendingen

Dr. Gerd Müller
Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Berlin

Tanja Gönner
Chair of the Management Board of the German Society of International Cooperation (GIZ), Bonn and Eschborn

Reiner Klingholz
Director of the Institute for Population and Development, Berlin

Mojib Latif
Head of Ocean Circulation and Climate Dynamics at the Leibniz Institute of Marine Sciences, Kiel

Dirk Messner
Director of the German Development Policy Institute, Bonn

Franz Müntefering
Member of the Bundestag, Berlin

Claudia Roth
Vice-President of the German Bundestag, Berlin

Global power changes

Jürgen Trittin
Chair of the Alliance 90/Green Party’s parliamentary group, Berlin

Frank-Walter Steinmeier
Chair of the Social Democratic Party’s parliamentary group, Berlin

“The consumption of raw materials is rising dramatically and is making us vulnerable. We need a different raw material and innovation strategy that makes us more independent.”

“We are essentially still suffering from the late effects of globalisation. The old order has collapsed and a new one has yet to take its place.”

The major transformation of society

Gesine Schwan
President of the Humboldt Viadrina School of Governance, Berlin

“If we want to shape the energy transition successfully, we have to talk more to our neighbours and create more understanding.”

Klaus Töpfer
Executive Director at IASS, Potsdam

“Politics must involve the people as early as possible when seeking to shape change successfully.”

Food supply and consumption

Thilo Bode
Director of consumer organisation “foodwatch”, Berlin

Bärbel Dieckmann
President of Deutsche Welthungerhilfe e.V., Bonn

“Nobody need starve – distribution is a political problem.”

“We need more transparency on the commodity exchanges.”

Resources and climate change

Claudia Kemfert
Head of the German Institute for Business Research, Berlin

“Oil is much too good to be used as fuel. We need a far-sighted energy mix.”

Hans Joachim Schellnhuber
Director of the Institute for Climate Impact Research, Potsdam

“The human species is so successful because it optimises its actions for the short term. Now we have a global problem because this model is not sustainable in the long term.”

Experts in dialogue (selection)

Tanja Gönnner
Chair of the Management Board of the German Society of International Cooperation (GIZ), Bonn and Eschborn

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Director of the Institute for Population and Development, Berlin

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More information:
www.munichre-foundation.org/home/DialogueForums

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