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The 11th Baltic Sea Science Congress opens in Rostock: 350 Baltic Sea scientists meet to discuss their research results

It is the biggest “fare” for exchanging scientific findings in the field of Baltic Sea research: Every second year, scientists from all littoral states and beyond meet under the umbrella of the Baltic Sea Science Congress (BSSC) in order to present their new research results. This year, the BSSC is hosted by the Leibniz Institute for Baltic Sea Research Warnemünde and the University of Rostock.

The event, which takes place from June 12 to 16, 2017, at the HanseMesse Rostock offers a platform for 350 scientists from 18 countries, for 107 oral presentations and more than 200 poster presentations. The scope of topics comprises results from basic research related to eutrophication, harmful algal blooms, oxygen deficiency, invasive species, the impact of climate change on the living organisms, on the Northern Baltic ice sheet or on the salinity of the Baltic Sea, up to the detection and assessment of contaminant input and solutions for competing demands on maritime utilisation.

There is also a broad range of aspects, under which the scientists tackle their topics: biological as well as chemical, physical, geological and meteorological investigations will be presented. Reports on the development of highly specialised methods will be offered beside comprehensive reviews. Both, regional studies as well as overall Baltic Sea-wide analyses and calculations, are part of the programme.

Three minor, but nonetheless prominent satellite events accompany the programme. They are supported by the funding organisation BONUS from Helsinki.

- **Training the young scientists:** During the BONUS Young Scientist Day on June 12, the renowned Australian expert Hugh Kearns will offer the young participants of the BSSC some tips and tricks to boost their presentation techniques. Afterwards, students from Rostock and Warnemünde invite their fellows for a geo-caching tour within the IGA Park during which they have to prove Baltic Sea knowledge beyond their own discipline.
- **Innovative technologies:** A “Technology for Science”-workshop on June 14, will bring new methods and technologies to the scientists and the information on specific technological demands of scientists to developers and enterprises. What is the most effective way to detect contaminants in the water? Can autonomous underwater vehicles like gliders be a valuable instrument in waters like the heavily frequented Baltic Sea?
- **Science meets Policy:** The third “side event” is the “Science meets Policy” workshop on June 15. Triggered by the debates on “fake news”, this part of the programme is dedicated to the question of how politics can ensure to get the best sci-

ence for an environmental policy based on evidence based measures. Prior to a panel discussion with panellists from both science and politics, Ms. Sif Johansson, Director of MISTRA's council for evidence-based environmental management in Stockholm and Ms. Carola Veit, President of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference and President of the Parliament of Hamburg will introduce into the topic by their personal perspectives.

The Baltic Sea Science Congress takes place every second year at changing venues around the Baltic Sea. After 1998 and 2007, it is for the third located in Rostock.

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