

Berlin, 14 May 2014

Where Book Industry Leaders from Germany and from Around the Globe Gave Change in Publishing a Thoughtful Embrace

The Berlin Publishers' Forum 2014 closed with lively debates among about 280 delegates, standing ovations for the long-time director Helmut von Berg, and a handover for 2015.

"The Times They Are A'changin'", the legendary Bob Dylan song, had been picked by Bloomsbury Executive Director Richard Charkin in his keynote address, as a compact motto for two days of almost 40 presentations and round table debates, spanning a wide horizon between global and strategic key topics, and hands-on sessions and practical lessons to be learned.

As Germany, the world's third-biggest books market, is now one of the most dynamic theaters in the digital transformation of books, publishing, and reading, delegates came from both many of the domestically leading actors as well as from many other countries such as Austria, Denmark, France, Italy, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Switzerland and included such distinguished voices as Jens Bammel of the International Publishers Association, visionary Bob Stein, self-published bestselling author Hugh Howey, analysts David Worlock or Brian O'Leary, industry leaders Francis Bennett (Yale), Sven Fund (de Gruyter), Harald Greiner (Holtzbrinck), Anja Hagen (Cornelsen), Christoph Keese (Axel Springer), David Klett (Klett), Jens Klingelhöfer (Bookwire), Perry Moree (Brill), Nigel Newton (Bloomsbury), Eric Razenberg (ThiemeMeulenhoff), Marcello Vena (RCS), and many more.

The tone of the debates was clearly upbeat, focusing on innovation and opportunities, like radically new social reading experiences and models of cooperation, the integration of complex data and workflow solutions, or new approaches to publishing in the area of education and learning.

While the massive challenges to sustain a high-quality and diverse book sector, both in Germany and globally, were seen as an important context to current developments, the limelight was on exploring positive and practical ways for the digital transition, notably by integrating the best available tools and technologies in support of the creative work by authors, and for the distribution of their works in a globalized environment.

Helmut von Berg, director of the Publishers Forum for over 10 years, was applauded for making the Berlin Publishers' Forum one of the leading international platforms for discussing trends and perspectives for both the German and the international book sector in its digital transition. For 2015, he will be succeeded in this role by Rüdiger Wischenbart.

The next Publishers' Forum will be held in Berlin on 27 and 28 April 2015.

Summaries, presentations, videos, articles and pictures are available at www.publishers-forum.com as well as on Twitter at '#pf14_'.

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(For more information about Rüdiger Wischenbart go to www.publishers-forum.com and click on „Speakers & Presentations“)

About the Publishers' Forum

Over the last few years, the annual Publishers' Forum conference – hosted by the software provider Klopotek in Berlin – has developed into a stand-out industry event with about 300 participants from publishing houses and service providers.

The Forum integrates the entire media industry and is sponsored by renowned companies,

The Publishers' Forum offers a top-class, specialist program with hands-on workshops and seminars which communicate concepts and experiences in order to provide workable solutions to the challenges which have arisen as a result of digitization.

www.publishers-forum.com