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Atmosphere and variety delight EXPO-visitors

World Exposition turns out to be a real magnet for the public

Germany's Federal Chancellor Gerhard Schröder has already visited the EXPO 2000 in Hanover ten times. Hanover's star-DJ Mousse has had eight visits, and has become a real EXPO-fan. And Queen Silvia of Sweden has been attracted to visit the EXPO site three times. They are all delighted by the first World Exposition in Germany. "The EXPO 2000 is a unique, stimulating and instructive forum, where people from all over the world can exchange ideas and visions for the future", said Schröder.

Less prominent visitors are just as impressed. Millions of satisfied guests are making the final EXPO-month a real Golden October. In all, 17,21 million guests from all continents had taken a walk around the world by Friday, 27 October. The best figures were recorded in the week from 20 to 26 October, with 1.38 million visitors. The most visitors on one day were recorded on Saturday 26 October, with 276.427 people being counted. And the visitors are well-pleased with what they find there. The latest survey by the University of Hanover has confirmed this: 95 per cent of the visitors recommend a visit to EXPO 2000. Aspects that the visitors liked particularly were the atmosphere, the cultural variety, the Africa Hall, the green spaces, and the Netherlands Pavilion.

An international festival with culture, artists and queens

The imaginative pavilions of the international participants have been a complete success. More than 170 nations and international organisations have presented their ideas for the future – a record number in the history of the World Expositions. 49 countries have built their own pavilion, the others are presenting their contributions in the Exhibition Halls.

The stacked landscaped of the Netherlands' Pavilion have already been visited by 2,7 million people. 1,5 million entries have been counted in the visitors' book of the Finnish Pavilion, more than five million people have visited the German Pavilion. And more than three million visitors have also been to see the pavilions of Thailand, Hungary, France and Australia. In all, the total number of visitors to all the pavilions through until the middle of October totalled more than 40 million.

Latin American dances, Far-Eastern art or African music – the cultural programme of the participants is really appreciated. Through until mid-October, the participating countries and organisations have extended to more than 1000 cultural contributions. For the National Days and Days of Honour alone there have been more than 700 events on the Plaza Stage, offering authentic contributions typical for the countries concerned.

Numerous Heads of State and Royal Highnesses have provided international flair: Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands and Prince Claus, Prince Rainier of Monaco, Prince Philippe of Belgium and Queen Margrethe of Denmark, the Spanish Prince Felipe of Asturias, their Royal Highnesses Prince Edward and Sophie, and the UN General Secretary Kofi Annan to name only a few. By the beginning of October, 68 heads of state had visited the EXPO. In addition, 56 heads of government paid visits, as well as 413 ministers and deputy-ministers.

More than 20 000 cultural events generating the EXPO-atmosphere

With as many as 80 concerts, shows, theatre plays and performances in one location each day, and far in excess of 20 000 events within five months, the EXPO 2000 is a never-ending celebration. Where the worlds meet, the whole EXPO site is one huge, pulsating stage. Flambée and *Faust*, rock and reggae, sports

festival and symphonies, dance theatre and drumming spectacles – more than 60 million people have visited the various events on offer. In the animation programme, 69 different groups have provided more than 3 950 fascinating performances. 2.4 million EXPO-visitors had already admired the daily parade through until the end of September. In the evenings, some 30 000 visitors are attracted to the water and light spectacle "Flambée - Human Facets". Peter Stein's production of Goethe's complete Faust has played to sold out houses, with a total audience of 8 000. During the EXPO Film Festival, an average of 2 500 friends of film gathered at the open-air cinema. Tens of thousands visited the concerts and shows in the Preussag Arena. In the BeatBox, nearly 200 groups gave more than 300 concerts to a total audience of about 350 000 young people.

Unreachable paradise enchants the guests to the Thematic Areas

More than 17 million people had passed the ten entrances to the Thematic Areas by the middle of October. The numbers of visitors showed a continual upward trend. In June some 83 000 visitors were counted every day, but by October the number had risen to more than 160 000 EXPO guests daily. A real magnet for the visitors was "Planet of Visions/The 21st Century". The unreachable paradise was explored every day by up to 30 000 guests.

Sixty famous national and international institutions and organisations have been working together with the EXPO 2000 in the Global Dialogue in the search for answers to the challenges of tomorrow. The numbers of participants in the workshops, seminars and discussions has also risen continuously. Particularly well-visited were the public talk-shows, which presented a summary of the results of the conferences. In addition, about 45 000 people have been following the events via the Internet. Projects around the World of EXPO 2000 exceed all expectations

The programme of the Projects around the World was an innovation. For the first time, a World Exposition took place not only on the actual site of the World Exposition, but across all five continents. In all, 767 practical ideas have been presented which promise to provide realistic solutions to specific problems, offering people long-lasting and practical assistance. The global network of the Projects Around the World is in the Global House. In addition, 60 participating countries have included 140 Projects Around the World in their own presentation, and a further 77 are presented in the Thematic Areas.

More than 6.5 million people have already been to see the Projects Around the World that the EXPO 2000 has in Germany. After the end of the World Exposition, continuity with the Projects Around the World and the Global Dialogue will be ensured by the society "Global Partnership e.V."

Every second visitor came by public transport

There is more and more movement around the EXPO 2000. Whereas in the early stages there were only about five or six thousand cars on the EXPO car park each day, more than 50 000 are now being counted. No less than 3 million people came on buses. The distribution of guests between the various means of transport is in line with expectations: 51 per cent of visitors use public transport (including trains), 32 per cent came by car, 16 per cent by coach and bus, and one per cent by bicycle, taxi or motor-bike.

The downward correction of the original visitor targets from 40 million to 14 million visitors has resulted in a budget deficit of more than DM 2 billion. However, the EXPO management is optimistic that the corrected figures will prove to be too conservative. If current levels are maintained throughout October, then probably a total of 18 million tickets will have been sold in all.

Business partners have benefited from their participation

The EXPO 2000 has been supported financially and in kind by more than 140 business partners. More than DM 1.3 billion has been put up by the World Partners and Product Partners alone for their presentations and pavilions and the advertising measures linked with these. The business partners have also made important contributions in terms of contents to the EXPO 2000, e.g. the "Planet m" of Bertelsmann, the T-Digit of Deutsche Telekom or LAB 01 from DaimlerChrysler.

Environmental management at EXPO 2000 was a success

Shortly before the end of the World Exposition, the EXPO-organisers have arrived at a positive assessment of their environmental management. No other World Exposition has achieved such high levels of follow-up usage. A highly-developed waste avoidance strategy has made it possible to keep waste levels per visitor down to between 300 and 350 grams. Until 27 October, Duales System Deutschland has handled a total of 886 tonnes of paper, 1191 tonnes of lightweight packaging material, 857 tonnes of biological waste, 631 tonnes glass, and 2604 tonnes of residual waste.

A colourful farewell: EXPO-Finale with a fantastic party

The conclusion of the 153 days of EXPO-2000 will be celebrated in real style. On the eve of the grand finale a world star will be coming: the "Teen-Queen of Pop" Britney Spears will be performing on Monday, 30 October, in the Preussag Arena. On the final day there will be a gigantic party with an international programme. One highlight will be the "Grand Parade of the Cultures". The procession will include Brazilian bands, Oriental and East European dance groups, Asian orchestras and contortionists, huge fantasy

figures and inflatables from Latin America. The Plaza Stage will be the central venue for the stage performances. As a farewell to the nations, 550 trombonists of the Evangelical Church of Germany (EKD) will play a "travellers' blessing" for the participants in the World Exposition in the presence of a number of bishops. At 1.00 p.m. the nations will be officially bid farewell at a reception in the Preussag Arena. There will also be a performance by Japanese Taiko drummers, who will be providing a rhythmic link to the location of the next World Exposition, the EXPO 2005 in Aichi, Japan.

From 9.00 p.m. the Preussag Arena will be turned into a dance temple. At the international farewell party, music will be provided by stars of the turntables including super-star D-Jane Marusha. A visual highpoint of the evening will be the firework display at 10.00 p.m. from the roof of the European House. And on the EXPO-Plaza the celebration will be able to go on until the early morning.

If you have any further queries, please contact:

EXPO 2000 Hannover GmbH

Press Office

Telephone: +49 (0) 511 / 8404 – 888

Fax: +49 (0) 511 / 8404 – 999