

bulletin

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Aniversaries are always an occasion to draw a balance and look back—but also to look ahead and to ask what is to be done for the future and whether one is properly equipped for the task.

(...) The diverse problems associated with arms conversion will continue to occupy us for a very long time to come. And new questions are arising, which were not visible at the end of the Cold War. Tackling these questions preventively is an enormous challenge and a political necessity.

Today we speak of asymmetrical wars: Strongly armed and extremely organized high-tech armies are being confronted with terrorist networks with unclear structures and relatively simple weapons. Analyzing these new questions is part of BICC's research profile.

I am sure that you will agree with me that today, more than ever, we need such places of dialogue and discourse below the political level. After all: Conversion research is to a certain extent a life science, whose significance we cannot emphasize strongly enough. We need this science to be able to shape our world and to make it a more peaceful place.

You will also know that sound political advice is characterized by knowledge, interdisciplinarity, the ability to cooperate and practical orientation. (...)

In the 10 years since it was founded, BICC has developed to become an outstanding research institute which enjoys an excellent position by international comparison. It is respected throughout the world, not only in specialist circles of conversion and peace research. Governments and non-governmental organizations are also among BICC's users and 'clients'.

BICC's undisputed reputation in the fields of politics and research is only partly due to the unique concept behind this institution and the topicality of the issues it deals with. It is primarily the result of the Center's high level of competence and the professionalism of its studies and its staff. The [recent] evaluation report states that BICC has even been able to enhance its position as international market leader. As Science Minister, this is something that I like to hear and I admit that I am more than a little proud of this achievement.

Minister Hannelore Kraft on the occasion of BICC's 10th anniversary

I cannot conceive a better location than Bonn for such a center of competence. I am therefore delighted that this year the City of Bonn and BICC have entered into a partnership. This once again underlines the attractiveness of Bonn as an international city of science and research and as a place for political dialogue. It also underscores the close relations between the city and its scientific institutions. As you, Lady Mayoress, recently said, one cannot imagine Bonn without BICC "as an important element of Bonn's 'international family' ". The participants at a UN conference on conversion as a chance for development and the environment were thinking along similar lines back in 1992. Their idea was taken up and implemented by the state government of North Rhine-Westphalia at the time.

Work at BICC began just two years after the conference. Its patrons were Kofi Annan—the then Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations—and the Prime Minister of North Rhine-Westphalia at the time, today's Federal President Johannes Rau.

I am therefore particularly pleased to have an opportunity today to thank the man without whose vision and courage BICC would never have been founded: our very honorable Federal President Johannes Rau. It is by no means normal practice for a federal state to set up an institution of this nature. Dealing with military structures and tackling the economic, social and ecological consequences of armaments are considered to be rather the responsibility of the federal government. But in those days there was no federal conversion program—and if there had been, this center would never have been founded.

Prime Minister Rau had the wholehearted support of my predecessor, Anke Brunn, and her State Secretary at the time, Dr. Konow. But we should not forget the real 'doers' behind BICC: the founding director, Professor Dr. Herbert Wulf and his successor, Peter Croll, as well as Dr. Michael Brzoska, who as deputy to both directors and head of research has ensured continuity to this day.

You and the numerous members of BICC's staff make BICC so exceptional. Please excuse me if I cannot mention by name all the many 'helping hands' who have

contributed to BICC's growth—be it our co-trustees, particularly the NRW.BANK, the members of the founding committee during the setting-up phase, or the many public institutions. However, I would like to make one exception as far as the City of Bonn is concerned and to thank the City's Lady Mayoress, Bärbel Dieckmann, for always having an open ear for BICC's problems, whether they be big or small.

Whether one looks at the Center for European Research and European Integration Studies at Bonn University or at the UN institutions: Bonn has continued to strengthen its profile as a first-rate international city of science. It is well on the way to asserting itself as a UN city in Europe, alongside Vienna and Geneva, and as an important venue for international political discourse. BICC, too, is making an important contribution in this area. A good deal has already been achieved—with the help of the federal government, be it the Ministry of Education and Research or the Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, not to forget Harald Ganns, the Special Representative of the Federal Foreign Office. I am thinking in particular of the Research and Training Center of the United Nations University, the Secretariat for the Global Water System Project and the 'Early Warning Secretariat', which is in the process of moving to Bonn from Geneva. I would like to assure you that the state of North Rhine-Westphalia will do everything in its power to continue along this successful path.

(Translation into English by BICC)

Hannelore Kraft is Minister for Science and Research of the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. This is an excerpt from her speech held on the occasion of BICC's festive celebration of its 10th anniversary, 2 April 2004 in Bonn.

**Bonn International Center for Conversion
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BICC (Bonn International Center for Conversion) is an independent, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting peace and development through the efficient and effective transformation of military-related structures, assets, functions and processes.

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Staff Spotlight:



Michael Ashkenazi

Michael Ashkenazi (Mike) began working at BICC in March 2004 as the TRESA (Training and Education on Small Arms) project manager. He has been interested in small arms since being exposed to them as a youth. His major current research interest is the ritualization of gun carrying, possession, and violence. A long-time practitioner of martial arts, Mike has written academic studies based on his own experiences.

Much of Mike's previous work experience was in the academic field. Since receiving a Ph.D. in anthropology from Yale University, Mike has taught at universities and been heavily engaged in university administration. His specialties have included the study of East Asian religion, rituals, and social organization, analyses of business cultures, the study of food cultures, and of immigration. He has authored and edited books and articles on Japanese food culture, business organization, Outer Space, the military, and religion. In addition to several books on Japanese society, he has been associate editor of the multi-volume *Encyclopedia of Ground Warfare* and has authored several articles in it. He has also authored articles on the ritualization of violence.

In addition to academic work, Mike has worked in two other parallel fields. He has been a business consultant to businesses working in East and Southeast Asia, providing research and cultural context. And for five years, Mike was the official evaluator for the Bernard Van Leer Foundation of a community development project for Ethiopian immigrants. He later served as an unpaid consultant for the same project for a number of years.

Outside of work, Mike writes (fiction), designs computer games, cooks, occasionally practices martial arts, and takes extended walks. His newest leisure project is upgrading his inline skating to Bonn standards, to the horror and embarrassment of his three grown children.

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Promoting Security: But How and for Whom?

More than 100 participants attended this international expert conference organized on the occasion of BICC's 10th anniversary. The conference started both with presentations and a critical review of BICC's achievements during the past ten years and its plans for the future. The discussion focused primarily on the question whether BICC should continue to work on issues of resource reuse or adopt a wider work agenda, moving on to issues such as conflict prevention and peacebuilding. This debate, which is central to the future development of BICC, also flared up repeatedly in the six panel discussions following the opening event. The organizers had asked presenters and participants alike to review the "state-of-the-art" in six topics central to BICC's work, but also to express their views on what BICC could contribute to advancing knowledge and practice in relation to these topics. The topics ranged from lessons learned for conversion during the "long decade of disarmament", the period 1986–1999, to the concept of human security or the future role of arms control and disarmament (www.bicc.de).

One general theme in the discussions which was of particular relevance to BICC dealt with the difficulty of finding a new conversion paradigm that would neatly capture all activities that are related to BICC's competencies and interests. One outcome was that resource reuse, BICC's classical theme of work, remains relevant in many parts of the world, including Eastern Europe, but is too narrow to capture even today's range of activities at BICC.

The contributors to the conference tended to affirm BICC's international standing in some fields of research and consultancy and to recommend BICC to build on these strengths. Such fields include resource reuse conversion, for instance in the field of base closures, but also small arms, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants and arms embargoes. In addition, it became clear that there is much potential to more explicitly link this expertise to broader issues, such as peacebuilding, conflict prevention and poverty reduction.

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BICC's International Board in Bonn

On the occasion of BICC's 10th anniversary and the International Conference in April 2004 (see above) the International Board met in Bonn. The Board members include Dr. Patrick Hardouin, Deputy

Assistant Secretary General for Regional, Economic and Security Affairs, NATO, Brussels, Patricia Lewis, Director of UNIDIR, Geneva, Theodor Winkler, Director of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) and other well-known experts from the field. The board pointed out its appreciation of BICC's achievements of the past 10 years and discussed in depth the expansion of BICC's work in the future.

The Chairman of the Board, Reinhart Helmke, Former Assistant Secretary-General, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), New York, stepped down, and Sverre Lodgaard, Director of the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), Oslo was elected chair.

Further information can be obtained at
→ www.bicc.de/info/boards/intboard.html and
www.nupi.no

BICC Market Leader in Conversion Research and Consultancy

Within its 10 years of existence BICC was evaluated twice by an experts' commission. On 1 March, Professor Wolfgang Vogt of the German Führungsakademie der Bundeswehr (military college of the German Armed Forces) presented the second evaluation report to Minister Hannelore Kraft of the State Government of North Rhine-Westphalia.

From the report:

"It is the Commission's opinion that BICC's good reputation and ensuing influence are based on the Center's very relevant and profound, innovative and efficient research into conversion issues and consultancy work. (...) All in all, BICC has not only been able to maintain its international standing as a global "market leader" in the field of research into conversion and consultancy work, but has also even expanded this position over the last few years. This is demonstrated, among others, by the steady increase in the third party funds which it has acquired. (...)

The members of the Commission confirm that BICC demonstrates an extremely professional approach in its research and consultancy work. (...) High marks were also given to continuity in the work on individual topic fields and problem areas, flexibility in tackling new questions, and creativity in devising and conducting projects and tasks. BICC assumes an exceptional position compared with other institutes world-wide working in similar areas because it has succeeded in combining its research and consultancy work with providing information to a broader public (characteristic of singularity). (...)"

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BICC Publications

In addition to its annual *conversion survey*, the *BICC/DCAF security sector governance and conversion studies* and other books, BICC publishes *reports*, *briefs*, and *papers*. These series analyze the international conversion process, report on conversion projects and experience gained, and offer scientific as well as practical know-how. Further details can be obtained at www.bicc.de/publications/.

paper 34:

Elena Bratanova, *Legal Limits of the National Defence Privilege in the European Union*, February 2004

brief 29:

Sami Faltas and Wolf-Christian Paes, *Exchanging Guns for Tools. The TAE Approach to Practical Disarmament. An Assessment of the TAE project in Mozambique*. Commissioned by World Vision Germany, May 2004

forthcoming:

BICC 2004. *Conversion Survey 2004: Global Disarmament, Demilitarization and Demobilization*. Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, Baden-Baden, May 2004

BICC/DCAF security sector governance and conversion studies no. 8:

Jocelyn Mawdsley, Marta Martinelli and Eric Remacle (eds.). 2004. *Europe and the Global Arms Agenda: Security, Trade and Accountability*, Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft, Baden-Baden, summer 2004

BICC Notes

On behalf of the *Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau* (KfW) Michael Brzoska, Marc von Boemcken, Wolf-Christian Paes and Willem Jaspers compiled a short **assessment study** on the extent to which defense budgets in selected African countries were incorporated into different aspects of public expenditure management. Taking Ethiopia, Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda as case studies, it placed particular emphasis on the differing degree of transparency and accountability evident in the respective planning and implementation of military spending.

For further information please contact

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On 3 March 2004, BICC, in cooperation with the Peace Counts Project, WDR 5, the Center for International Cooperation Bonn GmbH (CIC) und the city of Bonn held the well-received public event **“The Peace Counts Forum: Peacemaker in Jerusalem—Abt Benedikt Lindemann”** at the UN House Carstanjen in Bonn. Abt Benedikt Lindemann reported about his experiences as peacemaker and mediator between the adversaries in the Holy Land, followed by a lively discussion among the audience. The event was also broadcast on WDR 5 radio.

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The *exhibition “Small Arms—A global threat”* by BICC and UNICEF, which was first shown in January at the German Parliament House in Berlin, can now be viewed from 22 April–17 May at the Wissenschaftszentrum in Bonn. The exhibition documents the dramatic effects of the worldwide trade with small arms and light weapons. Among other things, BICC presents successful examples of national efforts in the fight against the flood of small arms by showing photographs and maps.

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The Foundation for Peace and Development (SEF), in cooperation with BICC, held the **workshop “States between stability and decay. State of affairs and analysis of problems in three world regions”** in Bonn on 7–8 Mai 2004. Presentations were made on general questions concerning ‘failing states’ as well as six case studies (Brazil, Colombia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Zimbabwe, Namibia). The workshop was the first in a two-year series of events devoted to the subject of development and failing states.

For further information please contact

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On 11 May 2004 BICC invited to a **roundtable discussion on “The psycho-social rehabilitation of former child soldiers in Mozambique: Successes in and challenges to healing”**. Boia Efraime, a child psychologist from Mozambique, gave a presentation about his work in his home country where he has been dealing with the psycho-social reintegration of child soldiers for many years. Currently, Boia Efraime is doing research for his Ph.D. at the University of Cologne and is a Ford Fellow at BICC.

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On 28 May 2004 BICC will launch its yearbook **conversion survey 2004**. The event will take place at a national press conference in the Federal Press Office in Bonn. Further presentations in other cities are planned for June.

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On 15 June 2004 the **Friedensgutachten 2004** will be presented to the public at the Federal Press Office in Berlin. The yearly *Friedensgutachten* is a joined publication of BICC and other German research institutions (INEF/FEST/IFSH and HSFK).

For further information please contact

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