

## **Pupils from Hilden Participate in an Exhibition in Amsterdam**

### **Helmholtz-Students Present Pictures about the Beauty of the Sea**

Hilden. Pupils of the Arts Working Group of the Helmholtz-Gymnasium participated during the summer holidays in an international arts exhibition at the University of Amsterdam on sustainability in relating to the seas.

Seven of the 18 female students of the Arts WG under the guidance of arts teacher Ansgar Beer went [to] Amsterdam, in order to show works on the topic “Sustainable Seas through the Eyes of Art”.

They had been invited to participate by Dr. Cornelia Nauen – a former Helmholtz-pupil and collaborator of the Directorate General for Research of the European Commission. She had founded the Initiative “Science, Arts and Sustainability of the Sea”, which is formed by a group of international scientists, artists, teachers and pupils who pursue the objective of spreading the concept of sustainability of the world's oceans.

The pupils of Helmholtz presented big format paintings on the beauty of the seas, but also on the threats they are subjected to. They also displayed photographs, which had been created in a Fotosession on this very theme. The cooperation partner of the Helmholtz-Gymnasium 3M enlarged these photos to the impressive size of DIN A-0.

In addition to the pupils from Hilden four more groups displayed their works in Amsterdam: Students from Brussels, from Safi (Morocco), from Kayar (Senegal) and from Port Harcourt (Nigeria). Moreover, a number of professional artists from Nigeria put their works on display. The destruction of the seas is taking dramatical dimensions. A continuation of current fishing practice will result in the disappearance of marine table fish within 40 years.

The members of the Initiative travelling to the exhibition came from various regions (of the world) and represent diverse disciplines.

The Initiative tries to transfer scientific insights about the overexploitation of the oceans into the sphere of the arts and thus touch people in a holistic way and encourage them to act.

The exhibition in Amsterdam took place in the entrance area of the premises of the University of Amsterdam, which concomitantly hosted the „V. MARE Conference“ for scientific and political debates.

The pupils from Hilden were visibly touched. These insights led both the pupils and their arts teacher Beer to carry forward and expand the idea of sustainability. In the current school term the Arts WG was renamed WiKuNa WG – a WG for Science, Arts and Sustainability. It is open for pupils as of 9<sup>th</sup> class and will continue working on the links between scientific results and the possibilities of their transformation into artistic expression. The question of sustainability in all spheres of life will be at the centre of the programme.

Further ahead in the future it is planned to visit Nigeria upon the invitation of Prof. Stella Williams (Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife) in the school year 2010/2011.

- The exhibition of the pupils' works for Amsterdam in the aula of the HGH is open for visitors until 6

November upon prior registration (02103-89030).

Source: Wochenanzeiger Langenfeld-Hilden-Monheim, 30.9.2009