

Science Workshops in German, 24 November 2017

The German Honorary Consulate in Perth opened its doors on 24 November for the Goethe-Institutes Science Workshops. 40 Students from Rossmoyne Senior High School, Kelmscott Senior High and other schools in Perth engaged in lab experiments and hands on activities conducted by German speaking scientists. Mr Torsten Ketelsen Honorary Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany in Western Australia welcomed the students emphasising STEM and learning German as door openers to numerous excellent professional opportunities.



“How can we identify a whale through DNA?” was the question tackled in Dr Andrea Ducki and Dr Thea Linke’s (Murdoch University) workshop. The students extracted DNA from a strawberry and tried to figure out which species of wildlife had been smuggled into Australia by comparing DNA sequences.



With Melanie Bruckberger from CSIRO the students explored different types of bacteria and learned about their use in the decontamination of industrial sites. Dr Torsten Reiners presented a virtual 3D simulation developed by the Curtin University and with the students reflected on the use of virtual platforms in Health and Safety training. In the workshop run by Kaja Eling the students applied their ICT skills to the programming of Lego robots.



In only a few hours the students not only gained insight into how closely related language skills and success in science and research are, but also discovered which fascinating career options are ahead of them. Dr Marie Greyer, a scientist contributing to workshops in Sydney and Melbourne explained that in the scientific community, the ability to exchange ideas is vital. An understanding of intercultural communication and the ability to use more than one language are an integral aspect of such an exchange.

Professor Alexandra Ludewig from UWA, thus, suggested that the students should take advantage of the high quality tuition available to international students for no or very low fees offered by the over 400 German Universities and higher education institutions.

Speak German + Study Science

The science workshops are part of the Goethe-Instituts' initiative promoting English-German bilingual education in STEM (<http://www.goethe.de/stemclil>). German is considered, after English, one of the key languages used in science professionally and in research. Bringing STEM and German language learning together is at the heart of the workshops.