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IAMO Director and Head of Administration Department says farewell

After 21 years at the Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO), Director and Head of Administration Hannelore Zerjeski retired. Newly appointed to the office is Dr. Stephanie Garling.

Halle (Saale), Germany, 2 May 2016 – On 30 April, Hannelore Zerjeski, Director and Head of Administration at the Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO) retired. She was one of the founding directors of the research institute when it was established in 1994 in Halle (Saale), Germany. The economist significantly shaped and directed the development of IAMO over the course of 21 years.



IAMO's Executive Board says farewell to Hannelore Zerjeski (4th from left). Professor Alfons Balmann, Professor Thomas Herzfeld, Dr. Stephanie Garling, and Professor Thomas Glauben (from left to right)
Photo: Markus Scholz (c) IAMO

As member of the executive board and budget commissioner, Hannelore Zerjeski, together with the scientific directors, was responsible for the administration and strategic and operational management of the institute. During the initial foundation period of the institute it was her task to find qualified personnel for the development of the Administrative Department and Central Services/Technical Support, whilst simultaneously establishing a modern administrative management system. In addition to this, she was also responsible for the renovation of a multi-purpose research

building on the present Weinberg Campus, which since August 1999 now hosts the institute. Since its founding in 1994, the number of employees in IAMO has tripled. Most recently Hannelore Zerjeski, besides being in charge of the institution-wide human resource responsibilities, headed a team of 24 colleagues from the administration department. During her time in office, IAMO was successfully evaluated three

times. The results of last year's evaluation are still pending, but in 2007 the Senate of the Leibniz Association praised the institute's efficient and modern administration. In 2000 the Science Council also awarded IAMO with the same commendation.

During the ceremonial handover on 26 April, the scientific directors of IAMO acknowledged Hannelore Zerjeski's outstanding work and commitment. "Always attesting to great enthusiasm and commitment, Hannelore Zerjeski built up and headed IAMO's administration department for more than two decades. Despite the large void left behind by her retirement, an excellently constructed administration remains as a future asset to IAMO. Although bidding farewell is difficult, it is outweighed by the joy of a long-standing, close and trusting work relationship. We sincerely thank her and wish her happiness, health and strength for her future projects," Alfons Balmann, Director of IAMO and Head of the Department Structural Change commented. As well as IAMO employees, longtime partners of the institute from science, politics and business also attended the ceremonial event. Gisela Liepelt from the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Sciences and Digital in Saxony-Anhalt delivered a message from Ministerialrat Thomas Reitmann who sent his special thanks for her work and emphasized the excellent and trustful cooperation with the ministry. Hannelore Zerjeski announced "They have been exciting and eventful years at IAMO and of course saying farewell is not easy, but I am looking forward to what lies ahead of me now."

She handed over her responsibilities on 1 May to Dr. Stephanie Garling, with whom she has worked closely together in the past month. Dr. Stephanie Garling was previously Managing Director of the Biotechnology Center of the TU Dresden (BIOTEC) and before that Acting Academic Director of the Doctoral Programme at the GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies.

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Photos for media reports

IAMO's Executive Board says farewell to Hannelore Zerjeski (4th from left). Professor Alfons Balmann, Professor Thomas Herzfeld, Dr. Stephanie Garling, and Professor Thomas Glauben (from left to right) Photo: Markus Scholz (c) IAMO

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IAMO Director Professor Thomas Glauben welcomes the guests. Photo: Markus Scholz (c) IAMO

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IAMO colleagues play a farewell tune. Photo: Markus Scholz (c) IAMO

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About IAMO

The Leibniz Institute of Agricultural Development in Transition Economies (IAMO) analyzes economic, social and political processes of change in the agricultural and food sector, and in rural areas. The geographic focus covers the enlarging EU, transition regions of Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe, as well as Central and Eastern Asia. IAMO works to enhance the understanding of institutional, structural and technological changes. Moreover, IAMO studies the resulting impacts on the agricultural and food sector as well as the living conditions of rural populations. The outcomes of our work are used to derive and analyze strategies and options for enterprises, agricultural markets and politics. Since its founding in 1994, IAMO has been part of the Leibniz Association, a German community of independent research institutes.

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