

Welcome Reception at City Hall



Once again, it's the time of year we all look forward to—all new foreign students who are registered with FwF are invited to Erfurt's most beautiful ballroom at City Hall, to celebrate. This year's celebration took place on November 4, 2016. As always, everyone was always so impressed by the ballroom and enjoy the festive ambience.



The guests were intrigued by Erfurt Mayor Andrea Bausewein, who opened the event by wishing the students many interesting and memorable moments with their host families. The cultural framework of the night was provided by “Kalter Kaffee” who performed a welcome song in English and German called “Welcome to Erfurt”. In addition, they performed a few funny songs called “Glück” and “Pisswetter”, which the audience also very much enjoyed.



In addition to the wonderful singers, there were two actors from the improvisation theater who helped create a cheerful atmosphere in the auditorium. They acted out activities that Mr. Schermer, a very involved host parent, shared with them. They even made Bakhtovar, student from Uzbekistan, feel like an emperor for a moment. After a great applause, we thanked the representatives of FwF cooperation partners and our own FwF project manager.



The evening also focused on the Kämmerer family, who in addition to hosting three foreign students they have also looked after three refugees from Syria and included them in all their FwF activities. They hike together, cook and bake, attend events, and have discussions on topics ranging all sorts. The moderator of the evening, Dr. Katerin Langer, Managing Director of TIAW in Erfurt, interviewed Ms. M. Kruppa, Commissioner for Integration, Migration, and Refugees agency. Ms. Kruppa thanked many members of FwF for their commitment in taking in so many refugees in Erfurt last year, especially having the students help as interpreters and other sponsors who

have helped with events. Mr. Thomas Genschow, Federal Managing Director of Noxus Wirtschaftsnetz, highlighted the potential of our students. He is very pleased that Shamsiya, student from Uzbekistan, is currently interning at his company. Hosea, student from Indonesia shared about this job experience, which he gained after finishing his studies in Erfurt. He emphasized that good German language skills are extremely important.



It was also very interesting to hear a few students briefly introduce themselves in their native language for example, Russell from the U.S.A., David from Nigeria, Hye Young from South Korea and Matee from Pakistan.



During the social event that followed, host families and students got to know each other better and agreed on when they would have their next meeting. This kick-off event was certainly eventful for all guests. The many photos that were taken will serve as a wonderful memory of this evening.



Erfurt, November 2016