

Good morning, dear **Prof. Görres**,

dear **Prof. Yamamoto**,

dear **Ladies and Gentleman**.

I am very happy to see so many of you here today and in the name of the Senate of the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen I am honored to welcome you.

-On the same note, I would like to thank Prof. Dr. Görres and his team for organizing this conference.

Bremen: focus on nursing sciences

- By picking the city of Bremen to host the 5th Congress of the World Society of Disaster Nursing, you made an excellent choice.

- Bremen does have a strong and well recognized science sector, with excellent universities and countless scientific institutes.

- The University of Bremen has over the years developed great expertise and programs in areas, such as IT-Communication, Logistics, Public Health and Nursing Studies. All of these are important disciplines in the field of Disaster Nurturing and Disaster Management. Thus, the University of Bremen is eager to further push these topics on its agenda.

-Thereby, we seek not only to reach a certain improvement of health care in Germany.

-We are sure, that this will also contribute to humanitarian disaster relief worldwide. As a great number of German nursing personal is active in non-governmental-organizations (NGOs) all across the world, that are working in areas of conflict.

Bremen as an international City

-Not only does Bremen have a strong emphasis on nursing science. Bremen has for centuries been an open city, an international city.

-This goes back to our historic roots as an harbor city. As being part of the Hanse, an international trading network, Bremen was reliant on open borders to trade. And our trading network expanded not just to our close neighbors but all across Europe and the world.

-Thus, Bremen began early to establish strong connections across borders.

-And even though, the Hanse as the mighty trade bloc it used to be does not exist anymore, Bremen's connections to the rest of the world have endured. And we continue to attract visitor's, guests and partners from all over the world.

-This can easily be seen at the Universities in Bremen. Here we had approximately twelve point one percent (12,1%) foreign students in

two thousand and seventeen (2017). This is the highest rate in the entire country.

Topic is relevant today

-But also the topic of this congress is of great relevance, as we unfortunately just have witnessed in Indonesia, in the city of Palu.

-Here an earthquake and with it, a so called “soil liquefaction” has swallowed up and destroyed more than 1000 houses. The number of casualties is not yet clear but will most likely rise in the aftermath of this catastrophe. Furthermore, over hundred and ninety thousand (190.000) people (Stand 10.11.) in Indonesia are in need of help.

Bremen as a city that does help others/refugees

-In the field of Disaster Nursing Bremen, does not have many capabilities

-However, it has always been a big part of our cities identity to help others that are in need. This can be seen through our great refugee program.

-In that sense Bremen, does not offer direct help. However, we do offer indirect support through our strong engagement for refugees, no matter if they are coming to us to seek shelter from war or if their homes have been destroyed by natural disaster.

-For example through our Universities, we offer the so called Higher Education Refugee Entrance (HERE) program. With the help of this program refugees from all over the world that have fled to Bremen, can learn German and can get the opportunity to continue or begin a study at one of our universities.

End

Dear ladies and gentleman, the topic you are dealing with in the course of your two day conference is more important than ever. The worldwide number of catastrophes is increasing.

-I wish you all an interesting conference with many constructive debates and interesting talks.

-I wish you all an interesting conference with many constructive debates and interesting talks.

-We are sure that your contributions are of great importance for the humanitarian disaster relief and the destiny and the health of many people worldwide.

-Nevertheless, I also hope that you will all have a chance to see some of the beauty of our city, besides the inside of the Swiss Hotel. You might take a walk on the river banks, see the historic city center or just enjoy a drink in one of the many cafes and experience first hand the hospitality of our city.

Thank you very much for your attention.