

## 20 years of NIT - this was duly celebrated

On June 29, 2018, we rolled out the blue carpet and celebrated our 20th anniversary together with partners, students and interested parties from business, science and politics. At 2 p.m., NIT President Prof. Dr.-Ing. Otto von Estorff welcomed the more than 300 guests and opened the anniversary ceremony.

Afterwards Prof. Dr. Ed Brinksma, President of the TUHH congratulated the NIT with an opening speech and expressed his respect: "We are grateful and happy to have you as an enrichment of our university at our side!"

### Journey through the last 20 years of NIT

To take a look into the past, NIT student Sebastian Reinecke invited important contemporary witnesses to the stage. As a representative of the Körber Foundation, CEO Dr. Lothar Dittmer illustrated the close relationship between his foundation and the NIT. It has been a great supporter of the private educational institution for years and has built the building and supported many projects. The first CEO of the NIT, Dr. Jörg Dräger, and the former president Prof. Wolfgang Bauhofer then reported on the beginnings of the NIT. With a great deal of persuasion and commitment, they succeeded in establishing the NIT 20 years ago.

Among the panel guests was the long-standing supporter and patron, Prof. Dr. h.c. Thomas J.C. Matzen, who particularly appreciates the intercultural environment and the many talents from all over the world at NIT. He said true to the motto of the day: "You can't describe the NIT - you have to experience it!". Alumna Dr.-Ing. Natasa Manojlovis from Class 2 told students about her time at NIT, which has significantly shaped her future and still has a deep connection with the NIT and fellow students today.

### A glimpse into the future

Finally, the current CEO Verena Fritzsche, who brought a breath of fresh air to NIT five years ago, spoke. With the strategy project 'NIT 4.x', together with her team and various NIT partners, she developed a trend-setting direction for the private educational institute. In the future, the NIT wants to broaden its position and, in addition to the Master's degree in Technology Management, also offers lifelong learning workshops and process support for companies. "It is important to us not only to introduce students to the new developments but also to provide company employees with the right tools for digital change," says the CEO.

### NIT announces Hauke Trinks Award and inaugurates the foyer

Verena Fritzsche and Dr. Ole Trinks, son of NIT founding father Prof. Hauke Trinks, then announced the "Hauke Trinks Award". In future, the award will be awarded annually to outstanding theses by Bachelor graduates in recognition of the memory of Hauke Trinks. Another highlight of the ceremony was the official inauguration of the NIT foyer in honor of Prof. Dr. h.c. Thomas J.C. Matzen, whose lettering was ceremoniously unveiled.

### Experience NIT in workshops and start-up pitches

Afterward, Prof. Dr.-Ing. Otto von Estorff and Verena Fritzsche toasted the 20th anniversary with the popping of the champagne cork and opened the champagne reception. From 3.30 p.m. the guests had the opportunity to get to know the NIT better and to attend lectures or workshops. Partner universities and lecturers from business and science gave exciting lectures on digitization and new technologies in various themed rooms. Alumni and NIT students presented their start-ups and start-

up ideas. The program was rounded off with the Design Thinking Space, where the guests became creative and designed their own products.

#### **Foundation of commuNITy e.V.**

At 5 p.m. Verena Fritzsche invited to the foundation of the commuNITy e.V., which is to support future student projects. 17 founding members signed the statutes and thus founded the association.

From 6 p.m. the day was duly celebrated at a common barbecue party. The evening ended with home-brewed beer from Campus Perle, live music, cocktails and fire artists.

#### **About The NIT**

The NIT is a private institute of higher education and was founded in 1998 by 40 professors of the Technical University of Hamburg (TUHH) as a non-profit limited company. It is financially supported by various foundations and companies, among others. The NIT is located on the campus of the TUHH in the south of Hamburg.

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