



12th Asia-Pacific Weeks Berlin 2017

Asia-Europe Dialogue on Digitalization

With “Asia-Europe Dialogue on Digitalization” the 12th Asia-Pacific Weeks (APW), taking place from May 15th to 28th, 2017, tie in with the formats and results of the APW 2016 and carry them forward. Following the **re:publica** (May 8-10), the festival around the topics of internet and digital society, the **Global Innovation Gathering** (GIG, May 13 & 14) and the **CUBE Tech Fair** (May 10-12), the APW 2017 with the guiding theme “Digitalization” form the international high point and conclusion of the startup month of May. The APW provide the ideal platform for exchange of experiences, contacts and the initiation of international cooperations and projects. Berlin and the Asian metropolises profit from this dialogue – from the exchange and cooperations of young founders – and develop joint projects on this basis.

Programme Priorities

The central events of the 12th APW are concentrated in the first event week from May 15th - 19th, 2017. During the conferences and workshops, experts and players from Europe and Asia will discuss the status quo and trends of digitalization, interdisciplinary possibilities of its use as well as visionary innovations. The central events will be:

- High-level representatives of the Federal Government, the State of Berlin, the German economy and the Asia-Pacific partner countries will open the 12th Asia-Pacific Weeks with a **ceremony** about “Joining Forces in the 4th Industrial Revolution” on May 15th at Haus der Deutschen Wirtschaft with guests from Germany and Asia. Prior to that, a **launch conference** of the Asia-Pacific Forum Berlin (APFB) will introduce the topics of the “Asia-Europe Dialogue” on Digitalization.
- On May 16th, the APFB is hosting the **5th Embassy Day Asia-Pacific** at Palais am Festungsgraben. Within this frame, the embassies will carry out their own conferences, seminars and workshops for founders, companies and investors as well as foreign trade-related events and present country-specific, cultural highlights. The contributions by the embassies underline Berlin’s international potential in the interest of the German economy and its Asian partners.
- Then the conference ‘**Connecting Startup Cities**’ will follow from May 17th - 19th, which addresses internationally oriented startups, established companies, innovation labs, VC firms, accelerators, science partners, political decision-makers and institutional players from Germany and Asia. It will start with a two-day conference on the topic of digitalization at Haus Ungarn: During panels, keynotes, ignite talks and interactive formats like workshops, match & make or pitch sessions the topics of FinTech, robotics, artificial intelligence, impact and social innovation, cyber security, hardware and IoT, games, virtual reality, high tech & deep tech, funding as well as smart cities & smart home will be discussed. On the third day, industry players take the stage – participants and interested parties will have the opportunity to gain direct insights in the Berlin startup ecosystem and experience interdisciplinary formats focusing on entertainment and knowledge exchange.
- The **partner programme** with many cultural contributions will take place in the second week of the APW from May 22nd - 28th. Establishments from economy, science and society as well as museums and galleries participate as third party organizers focusing on the guiding theme of the APW or presenting selected cultural, social, political or economic aspects from the Asia-Pacific region. Within the frame of the APW, organizers profit from the manifold cooperation possibilities with partners from Germany and Asia. They also profit from the content-related, organizational and financial synergies emerging through early coordination of the programme and the speakers as well as joint activities within the field of public relations and marketing.