



WORLD WIDE WEAVE

Advancement through education

Training and education have always ranked high at GKD. Its trainee ratio, for example, is always well above the average – regardless of the prevailing general economic situation. There are also regular opportunities here for numerous undergraduates to apply their theoretical knowledge from the university in industrial practice. And more often than not, this kind of project involvement becomes the first step towards a professional career with GKD after they graduate.

This conviction about the importance of education and training is also evident in GKD Managing Director Dr. Stephan Kufferath's commitment to pro-active educational policy in his role as the President of the industrial organization Vereinigten Industrieverbände (VIV). At this year's annual VIV kick-off event, he welcomed special guest Annette Schavan, the German Minister of Education and Research. In his speech, he insisted that "renewing the promise of advancement to the next generation" was the single most important objective of federal educational policy. Advancement through education was not only an option for students from academic families; it was open to all young people, regardless of their family's educational background. The engineering profession in particular offered great opportunities for upward mobility. The growing number of students and university graduates whose parents did not have a university education was clear proof of this. So the message that needed to be sent to young people and their parents was: "Advancement only comes through education."

His appraisal was shared by Federal Minister Schavan, who believes that "Education is society's capital". In her speech to the VIV she named



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consensus on objectives and contents, but also commitment and Europeanization as key factors for success in education.

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