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Young scientists discuss the future

NextGEN conference for PhD students of the Helmholtz Association takes place at GEOMAR

05.07.2017/Kiel. How do you explain your doctoral thesis to your parents? How do you find the career path that is right for you? Where do you meet colleagues from other disciplines? 140 doctoral candidates of the Helmholtz Association meet at GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel for the NextGEN conference from 5th to the 7th of July to find answers to these questions. This year's conference focuses on interdisciplinary scientific communication as well as communication beyond pure science.

From plasma physics to aeronautics, medicine, energy or marine sciences: The Helmholtz Association deals with a wide range of socially-relevant research subjects. 140 young, active scientists from all 18 Helmholtz centres and different fields of research meet in the premises of the GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel from 5th to 7th of July at the NextGEN conference. "This is the second time the conference takes place", organizer Meike Klischies from GEOMAR explains. This year's event focuses on scientific communication and communication with a broader public.

A 13-person team of PhDs from GEOMAR, in cooperation with Helmholtz Juniors (HeJus), have organized an extensive program for the guests. The participants can choose between different workshops with communication-related subjects.

The "Pitch Talk Training" workshop provides insights into how research projects can be summarized concisely to highlight the most important aspects in a poster presentation, in a way that has a positive effect on the public. It also focuses on how scientific communication for different media, such as smartphone, comic or radio broadcast, can be optimized. Moreover, there will be an "Innovation" workshop that teaches critical idea-generation processes and strategies. These workshops will help the doctoral candidates to broaden their horizons, see their work from a different perspective through the interdisciplinary exchanges, and develop innovative ideas for their own research.

Besides the workshops, the participants take part in an Alumni Session, which focuses on how to start their careers after the doctorate, and which opportunities are available. A diverse sightseeing program at GEOMAR, including the aquarium, the GEOMAR Centre for Marine Biotechnology (GEOMAR-Biotech), the Technology and Logistics Centre, and various other laboratories will complete the event.

Luisa Listmann, doctoral candidate of the GEOMAR and member of the organization team, thanked all supporters of the NextGEN conference: "The extensive program of the event could only be realized with the support of many vigorous supporters including the Integrated School of Ocean Sciences and Yoweedoo. We are looking forward to an innovative conference and an active interdisciplinary exchange here in the GEOMAR in Kiel."

Links:

www.geomar.de GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel

<http://www.futureocean.org/de/isos/index.php> Integrated School of Ocean Sciences (ISOS)

<https://www.helmholtz.de> Helmholtz Association of German Research Centres

<https://blogs.helmholtz.de/hejus/> Helmholtz Juniors (HeJus)

Images:

Images are available for download at www.geomar.de/n5306-en.

Contact:

Sirin Schulz (GEOMAR, Communication & Media), Tel.: (+49) 0431 600-1816, presse@geomar.de