

GERMAN TEA Party

What could be nicer than meeting with friends, having delicious food and drinks and exchanging the latest stories? We as Germans always like to meet in the afternoon for coffee, tea and cake and chat about what's happening. But you don't necessarily have to go to Germany for that.

On June 5th we had the opportunity of getting this experience of a typical German Afternoon Coffee in Taiwan. Arranged by the ladies of the WTIC, we met at "Wendel's" Bistro & Bakery in Tienmu and celebrated this wonderful German tradition.

Decorations in black, red and gold, the German colours, embraced the more than 80 members and friends of the WTIC all over the venue, on the ceiling and above all on the tables. Only a few minutes after we have started the registration, the room was already full of lively chatter. When all guests were seated, WTIC President Vivienne Shen greeted us all very warmly, before giving the floor to Mr. Martin Eberts, Director General of the German Institute, Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany. Mr. Eberts took us on a time travel through the more than a thousand years of German history, with its ups and downs. He gave us insights into the "Land of Poets and Thinkers", the "UNESCO World Heritage Sites" and many more important facts about Germany.

And if you now felt like traveling to Germany, Mr. Axel Limberg, Executive Director of the German Trade Office Taipei, invited us to a virtual trip through Germany. Starting in Frankfurt we traveled on the map of Germany, and during 11 stops we got brief but inspiring introductions into sights and attractions, food and traditions in various parts of the country.

After so much information and the growing desire to travel, there came a moment of melancholy. Martin and Hadwig Eberts are departing for a new posting outside Taiwan, as of August. So it was "time to say goodbye".

On behalf of all members and friends of WTIC, Vivienne Shen bid farewell to them with warmhearted words, and grateful recognition of their contributions to friendly and fruitful interaction between Taiwanese friends and the expat community. Both Hadwig and Martin were visibly moved by the warm farewell, and some befitting farewell presents.

Thanks to Michael Wendel and his team we were able to refresh ourselves at the buffet with some hearty German food: Pumpernickel and Salmon, sausages & potato salad, pretzels with ham and cheese, and "Haxn", the famous Bavarian pig knuckles. And of course, as we had come to the "Kaffeeklatsch" (German Tea Party), we also had delicious hazelnutcake, mixed fruit cake and black forest cake!

The band "Die Praktikanten (the interns)" underpinned this virtual excursion to far, far away, with typically German and also some international songs. In these hours, we were so close to Germany!

We were allowed to participate in a perfectly organized black-red-and gold event, that ended with a lucky draw.

Thanks to the lovely organization team for this afternoon!

Gratefully we say "auf Wiedersehen" and goodbye!

By Hadwig Eberts and Christiane Blohm