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Press Release

72 percent of Germans fear extreme weather

Germans fear extreme weather events and urge to limit their critical impact by implementing environmental city projects (72 percent). 77 percent are particularly worried about the safety of drinking water, for instance in case of leaking oil tanks in the event of flooding. More than half (56 percent) the population in Germany asks municipalities to strongly encourage environmental city projects. 52 percent of Germans are self-critical in view of their own civic engagement. These are the results of the IFAT Environment Index 2018 for the world's leading trade fair for environmental technology in Munich – a survey carried out by a market research institute among a representative sample of 1,049 Germans.

“Based on global weather disasters, 2017 was the most expensive year of all times for the insurance sector,” said Dr. Eberhard Faust, Head of Research for Climate Risks and Natural Hazards at Munich Re at the latest IFAT Future Dialog in Munich. “93 percent of all insured damages were weather related - with a total rising to around 260 billion euros.”

“Global warming leads to an increase in atmospheric humidity,” explained Prof. Dr. Stefan Rahmstorf, climate scientist at the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research at the IFAT Future Dialog. “An analysis of the world's meteorological data shows that the number of extreme precipitations has significantly increased since 1990 – so we can expect a continuous rise in rainfall extremes. This is something we have already observed in Germany in recent years. Dealing with climate change and mitigating the consequences will possibly be expensive – but surely not as expensive as doing nothing,” said Stefan Rahmstorf.

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Press Release | January 26, 2018 | 2/2

The goal of smart city projects is to pursue the objective of achieving environmental protection goals by smart means through cooperation among administrative, economic and scientific structures as well as citizens. “The impact of storms, strong rains and heat waves should be addressed with a local environment strategy – 79 percent of Germans are convinced of this,” states Stefan Rummel, Managing Director of Messe München. “For 80 percent of Germans, these environmental projects are a big opportunity to help future technology make a practical breakthrough. With this in mind, platforms such as IFAT will become increasingly important in future.” Global collaboration is also needed: According to the IFAT Environment Index, 81 percent of Germans plead for a worldwide cooperation between research and development so environmental technologies can help stop the negative trends.

More information on the IFAT Future Dialog is available online:

www.ifat.de/press/events/future-dialog.

About the IFAT Future Dialog 2018 – “Extreme weather - are we defenseless?”

An audio recording and multimedia material on the IFAT Future Dialog, which took place in Munich on January 23, 2018, are available here: www.ifat.de/press/events/future-dialog.

About the IFAT Environment Index 2018

In November 2017, IFAT – the World’s Leading Trade Fair for Water, Sewage, Waste and Raw Materials Management organized by Messe München – carried out an international survey of a representative sample of the population in 5 countries on the following topics: drinking water, waste, air, environmental city projects and environmental technologies. Germany (N=1,049), France (N=1,052), Great Britain (N=1,023), Italy (N=1,86) and China (N=1,001).

IFAT

IFAT is the world’s leading trade event for environmental technology. A total of 3,097 exhibitors from 59 countries, and 136,885 visitors from 168 countries took part in the last event. IFAT is held every two years; the next edition takes place from May 14 to 18, 2018 in Munich.

IFAT worldwide

Messe München’s competence in organizing environmental-technology events is demonstrated not only in the world’s leading trade fair for the sector, IFAT, but also in a range of other international trade exhibitions around the world. The spectrum encompasses IFAT Africa in Johannesburg, IFAT Eurasia in Istanbul, IFAT India in Mumbai, and IE expo in Shanghai. With IE expo Guangzhou there is now also a regional edition of the trade fair, focusing on the market in South China.

Press Release | January 26, 2018 | 3/3

Messe München

Messe München is one of the leading exhibition organizers worldwide with more than 50 of its own trade shows for capital goods, consumer goods and new technologies. Every year, a total of over 50,000 exhibitors and around three million visitors take part in more than 200 events at the exhibition center in Munich, at the ICM – Internationales Congress Center München and the MOC Veranstaltungszentrum München as well as abroad. Together with its subsidiary companies, Messe München organizes trade shows in China, India, Brazil, Russia, Turkey, South Africa, Nigeria, Vietnam and Iran. With a network of associated companies in Europe, Asia, Africa and South America as well as around 70 representations abroad for over 100 countries, Messe München has a global presence.