

## SciFest 2013 - Berlin Long Night of Science Award

Having departed from Dublin shortly after nine o'clock we arrived in Berlin at around ten o'clock local time. A member of the Irish embassy staff met us at the airport and we were chauffer driven to our hotel. After being given advice on what to do in Berlin and told of the plans for the next few days we then were left to tour Berlin. We walked around the city of Berlin and saw famous sites like the Brandenburg Gates and the Berlin Wall. To end the tour got to see a 360 panoramic of Berlin. It really is a very nice city.

The next day, were met with an embassy diplomat at our hotel. There, we were taken to Technischen Universität Berlin where we were introduced to the former president of the university, Professor Steinbach. He showed great interest in my EWOCHS project. Professor Steinbach also told us about the college and his career history. After a tour of the University and its impressive facilities we returned to the Embassy. We had time for a quick tour of the Embassy and got to meet the various diplomats there. Unfortunately the Ambassador was in a meeting. The diplomats took us to a local restaurant lunch where the conversation turned to my project and SciFest as well as different aspects of Ireland. On completion of the meal we were brought to the Reichstag, the German parliament. The architecture was staggering and it was interesting to learn about the workings of the German parliament. On completion of the tour, we went back into Berlin City Centre.

The next morning, we went to the German Museum of Engineering and Science. It was very interesting. The tour focused on the developments of the transport industry, the technology sector and even science in general. When we were finished we then met up with another diplomat from the Embassy and made our way to the Humboldt University, for the opening of the Long Night of Science. Unfortunately the entire opening was in



Conor Begley, Coláiste Rís, Dundalk, Co. Louth



Berlin Wall



Brandenburg Gate

German, but we could understand parts and it was interactive, so it was still interesting. We then went back to the Technischen Universität Berlin for the VIP tour of the Long Night of Science. On the tour, we got to meet many important people, like the current university president and chancellor as well as the organiser of the Long Night of Science. Unfortunately the talks we attended were in German, but we understood parts of it and there were lots of diagrams etc. so we still took in a lot of it. The lectures were very interesting and they went on until around one o'clock in the morning.

For our final day in Berlin, we went on an open bus tour of the city. The tour was a great way to see the city and was filled with interesting facts about the city. After this, we got a train to the airport, and flew home. Overall, it was a fantastic trip. We got to see the city of Berlin and learn all about what's going on in the world of Science in Berlin. It was a very worthwhile trip and I really appreciate SciFest for giving me the chance to go to the Long Night of Science. I would also like to thank the Irish Embassy staff in Berlin for looking after us so well and the Department of Foreign Affairs for sponsoring the award.

Conor Begley  
Coláiste Rís  
Dundalk  
Co. Louth  
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NOTE: Conor Begley won the Berlin Long Night of Science Award at the national final of SciFest 2013 which was held in the Science Gallery, Trinity College last November.



The Reichstag



German Museum of Engineering and Science