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German Pavilion at EXPO 2010 in Shanghai

The search for staff is on!

More than 200 vacancies to be filled

Up to 45,000 people per day are expected to visit the German Pavilion at EXPO 2010 in Shanghai. A good year before the pavilion opens its doors on 1 May 2010, Koelnmesse International GmbH has started the job, on behalf of the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, of looking for staff to take care of pavilion visitors and guests. The company is seeking around 180 hosts and hostesses to communicate the message behind "balancity", the pavilion of the Federal Republic of Germany, during the six-month world exhibition in China. A chief host/hostess is also being sought, as are VIP managers and staff to assist them, drivers, caretakers and assistants for the pavilion management, press relations and cultural events.

People interested in working at the German Pavilion in Shanghai should feel at ease communicating in a foreign language and engaging with strangers. They should be friendly, communicative, good organisers and improvisers, flexible, able to work under pressure, reliable, good team players, service-oriented and, last but not least, have a smart appearance and a confident manner. But it is also absolutely essential that they have a good or very good command of Chinese and German. Knowledge of English is also an advantage.

The plot of the German Pavilion, where the spotlight will be on urban life in Germany, measures 6,000 m². The various themed areas of "balancity" (the name of Germany's pavilion) will showcase exhibits from German industry, business, science and research, showing ways of making cities enjoyable places to live. Potential solutions for the urban problems of the 21st century will be presented, as will normal everyday urban life in Germany. The pavilion tour, which will last roughly half an hour, will finish with a show in the "Energy Source", in which the spectators will set a two tonne sphere swinging purely by shouting together. Providing information

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on this and other points, explaining exhibits, giving guided tours to delegations from China, Germany and the rest of the world, looking after guests in the waiting zone and the admission point for the "Energy Source" and answering questions at the reception desk will be among the tasks entrusted to the German Pavilion's hosts and hostesses.

"Where's the entrance to the exhibition?", "How long are the queuing times for the exhibition?", "How much is a beer in the pavilion restaurant?", "Where are the toilets?", "Where are you from?", "Why do you speak Chinese if you're German?", "Why do you speak German if you're Chinese?", "What's Germany like?", "What's its capital city called?", "Can you take a photo of us?" Those are the sorts of question with which everyone working in the German Pavilion should be able to deal competently. To ensure they understand the idea behind "balancity" and are able to explain the individual themed areas and exhibits in German, Chinese and English, training sessions will run in Shanghai from mid-March to the end of April 2010 during the run-up to the EXPO.

"Working at a world exhibition really is something special", says Marion Conrady, the German Pavilion's Press Officer. And she knows what she's talking about because she worked at the German Pavilion in Aichi, Japan, in 2005. "Of course, coping with the huge numbers of visitors every day *is* tiring but you get so much back – their interest in your country, praise for the exhibition and sometimes small presents such as a fan or other typical things from the host country. They're gestures of hospitality that compensate for the stress of the job. You also get to see guests of state from Germany, the host country China and many other countries around the world. But the interaction with the people working in the other pavilions is also a lot of fun and often the start of friendships that last beyond the world exhibition. The experience of working at a world exhibition is unique and definitely one of the most exciting and enriching experiences you can have in life."

Shared accommodation and travel to and from the EXPO (one return journey) will be paid for by the German Pavilion. Each member of staff will be equipped with a pavilion uniform. In addition, they will be paid between

1,200 and 1,500 euros (gross) per month. Working hours and days off will be organised in the form of a shift roster. There will be two shifts, one beginning in the morning and one in the afternoon. Of course, the pavilion will also be open on weekends - from 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 p.m. for 184 days.

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According to the Chinese organisers, the world exhibition in Shanghai, which is expected to attract an estimated 70 million visitors and which will have over 220 participating states and organisations, is set to be the biggest ever EXPO. People who would like to be part of this international mega event, at which the world will be meeting on the banks of the Huangpu River, and who are willing to provide a warm welcome to visitors to the German Pavilion until 31 October 2010 should apply by 30 April 2009.

All of the details – including information about other vacancies and special positions – can be found at www.expo2010-deutschland.de/informieren/jobs. Applicants should fill in the online application form posted there. Queries can be sent to personal-expo2010@koelnmesse.de.