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## **50 Years of German Orient-Institute**

by Helene Rang



H.R.H. Prince Turki Al Faisal Al-Saud, Chairman, Board of Directors, King Faisal Centre for Research and Islamic Studies

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010, the German Orient-Institute celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The German Orient-Institute / Deutsches Orient-Institut was founded by NUMOV / German Near and Middle East Association / Nah- und Mittelost-Verein e.V. on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1960 and is Europe's oldest private research institutes for the Near and Middle East region. To celebrate this event, the institute organized a special anniversary conference on Politics, Science, Culture and Economy of the Near and Middle East and a festive gala event. The Gala was opened with

a speech by Martin Bay, Chairman of the Board of Directors of German Railway Group International, Chairman of the Board of NUMOV and Member of the Board of the German Orient-Foundation.

Martin Bay stressed that 50 years after its foundation the relevance of the German Orient-Institute seems to be higher than ever. In times of globalisation nations, religions and cultures become more and more interconnected and interwoven. Orient and Occident depend on each other like never