



PRESS RELEASE  
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## Despite the corona pandemic, the Humboldt Forum will be completed by the end of 2020, and will open in December

*On the basis of the report by the executive board on the progress of the construction work of the building, the foundation board of the Stiftung Humboldt Forum foundation in the Berlin Palace has decided at today's meeting to open the Humboldt Forum in December this year, as previously announced. The fact that this will be possible despite the delays on the building site due to corona-related restrictions is a major achievement by all planners, engineers and construction workers involved in the project. In particular, the Federal Office for Building and Regional Planning is doing everything it can to allow the necessary tests for the complex building technology systems to be conducted in good time by the assessors. These tests are mandatory before permission for use can be issued. This means that the Humboldt Forum will not be opened until December 2020. Naturally, this is dependent on whether or not further restrictions are put in place due to the pandemic.*

In recent weeks and months, construction work on the Humboldt Forum has made good progress inside and outside, mainly in the ground floor areas. On 29 May, in an event that attracted a great deal of public interest, the keystone of the reconstruction of the Baroque façades, the lantern with the cross, was lifted up onto the finished palace cupola. In the exhibition areas of the museum on the second and third floor, the construction of the complex display case structures is coming on apace. On the first floor, the Stadtmuseum Berlin Foundation is installing an exhibition of the federal state of Berlin in collaboration with the Kulturprojekte Berlin non-profit organisation. At the end of the month, the exhibition of the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin will be installed on the same floor in the northern section of the building. The sculpture hall in the eastern wing of the Schlüterhof building, with the original historical sandstone sculptures, is nearly complete. The exhibitions on the history of the site in the palace cellar and in the southern wing between portals 1 and 2 are rapidly taking shape. The ground covering is already being laid in the courtyards on the ground floor. Also, the scaffolding on the outer wall in front of the Eosander portal is due to be taken down in mid-July.

The Stiftung Humboldt Forum foundation in the Berlin Palace assumes that as a result, it will also be possible to open up large areas on the ground floor and the first floor to the public on a permanent basis this year. These include the exhibitions installed by the foundation on the history of the site in the sculpture hall in the eastern wing between portal 1 and 2, and in the historical palace cellar on the west side of the building. The museum shops in the Palace arcade and next to the Eosander portal, as well as cafés and restaurants in the Schlüterhof courtyard, will also be open to visitors. On the first floor with about 5,000 m<sup>2</sup>, the exhibition

of the Stadtmuseum Berlin Foundation / Kulturprojekte Berlin and the Humboldt Laboratory presentation by the Humboldt-Universität will be on display.

The exhibitions of the Ethnologisches Museum (the ethnology museum), and the Museum für Asiatische Kunst (the museum of Asian art), together with other special exhibitions on the upper floors, as well as the roof terrace with its restaurant, will be opened in a second opening stage, as previously announced.

The opening is also intended to mark the launch of the programme of events and placement offers. In collaboration with the other organisations involved, the Stiftung Humboldt Forum foundation is constantly assessing what options are available in light of the corona pandemic.

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