

Tagung Deutscher Wetterdienst am 27.10. 03 in Bad Orb  
(Dr. Steppeler)  
Meeting – German Meteorological Service

As mayor of the health resort Bad Orb I would like to cordially welcome you to your meeting. I hope that you will spend a pleasant time here in Bad Orb and keep this in good mind.

I would like to introduce your meeting place in a few words:

Bad Orb is a health spa since 1837 (eighteen hundred and thirty seven) with the indications heart and circulation disorders, Cardio-vascular disorders, rheumatism, mobility disorders, disorders of the spinal column and locomotory apparatus, ~~respiratory ducts disorders~~ <sup>and kidney disease</sup>. Bad Orb has three mineral, medicinal springs, is located at the foot of the Spessart and linked to the motorway A 66 (sixty-six).

Let me now try to familiarize you with some further details about my native town, the old, traditional and modern spa Bad Orb:

### The size:

4,772 hectares space, 69.9 % (sixty nine point nine percent) thereof wooded with 3 forest districts.

Almost 10.000 inhabitants and approximately 500 000 (five hundred thousands) guests overnight stays.

### The local health resort facilities:

The "Leopold-Koch-mineral brine-bath with more than 800 sq. m. area of water, natural mud- and fango applications, acupuncture centre, saline graduation works, the industrial monument from the times of salt extraction and today an open-air inhalatorium, 15 hectares total spa park area, 3 rehabilitation clinics.

### Our sights and places worth seeing:

Historical old city with half-timbered houses ( the so-called "Kleinstes Haus" – the narrowest half-timbered house in Hessia (Hessen), St. Martin's Church, museum, deer park, narrow gauge steam railway, nature-experience swimming-bath.

**The cultural scene** comprises among others: theatre, concerts, and exhibitions and an own opera production with young singers, open-air stages in historical surroundings, brass-band festival of the youth of Europe.

As mayor of the city of Bad Orb and managing director of the health resort facilities I undertake great efforts to help the city over a difficult time and to make the same safe for the future.

A great task thinking above all of the financial situation which gets more and more worse for the communities.

Since the spa companies are hanging on the drip of the city and due to the fact that, on the other hand, the cure is the only standing leg of the city we have to take an especially high hurdle here in Bad Orb.

This is why there is only the possibility at this moment to continuously try to reach the big target, namely the making safe for the future by a policy of graduation (Politik der kleinen Schritte).

With regard to that I have initiated and realized some attractions in the field of tourism in the recent years:

Our deer park was enlarged and offers now to the visitors besides wild boars and red deer also bison, wool-pigs, Corsican mountain sheep and a mini-zoo for children. It has become a great success, a magnet for the whole region.

A narrow gauge steam railway which is highly frequented runs from Bad Orb station on Sundays and public holidays.

This year we have started a combination which is the only one of its kind in the Federal Republic of Germany: a nature-experience bath with conventional swimming bath and a natural bathing pond and thus achieved a huge success.

The present objective consists in further extending Bad Orb as a middle centre. To achieve this, the expansion of areas for commercial enterprises and the settlement of further residential properties and housing estates is necessary. The inner city is to be made more

attractive by architectural and structural reshaping. The furtherance of the tourist field and above all the securing of the place of health Bad Orb enjoys top and highest priority.

A lot of projects and things have been initiated and realized making us full of hope.

Even the fact that we have many true guests, notable meetings and conferences in various fields, just as today the German meteorological service promote and encourage Bad Orb in its status.

I wish you a pleasant time here in Bad Orb, a good progress of your meeting and many steps forward.