



Human Rights, Sustainable Development, Economic Equality & Global Risks

(Berlin, Geneva, Washington D.C., June 1st - July 28th, 2012)



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The International Symposia on Cultural Diplomacy

The International Symposia on Cultural Diplomacy 2012 is the world's leading and largest event in the field of cultural diplomacy. The Symposia 2012 will include five large-scale events incorporating the fields of cultural diplomacy, international politics and economics, and international human rights.

The events will take place in three different countries throughout the entire month of June and will include over 200 high level speakers and over 2000 participants. In addition to the main five events of the symposia, additional events will take place around the world in all 5 continents simultaneously during the month of June.

Introduction

In the year 2011, the international community witnessed historical events that changed the political landscape of the globe, ranging from the Arab Spring, to the "Occupy Wall Street Movement" and other protest movements around the globe. These transitions and protests were all facilitated and supported by the use of modern technology and the social media. These events represent, each in their own specific context, the people's will for a change, whether it is political, economic or social and their unified demand for more equality and justice.

The events were each highlighted by the possibility for the people to better organize themselves and express their will through the social media, allowing them to gather millions of supporters around them within a very short period of time. When one compares these transitions to similar historical events, one can see that such changes have traditionally taken many years, rather than days, however once they do occur, they are sustainable and broad changes that are not then reversed.

The ICD therefore decided to dedicate the 2012 International Symposia on Cultural Diplomacy to the common goal of the public for more equality in the political, economic and social spheres. The Symposia will be divided into five main themes and will be hosted in three major international cities, which were chosen due to their relevancy to the theme of the conference. The Symposia will analyze the current global situation as well as future trends, strategies and the potential to counter political, social and economic inequality around the world.





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Symposia Events

The following events will take place in June 2012:



The 2012 International Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy & Human Rights "Social & Cultural Inequality: Innovative Strategies to Promote Access to Human Rights and Equalize Globalization" (Berlin, June 1st - 4th, 2012)



The International Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy in Geneva 2012 "Cultural Diplomacy & Sustainable Development" (Geneva, June 13th - 15th, 2012)



The 2012 International Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy & International Economics "Political & Economic Inequalities: Bridging the Gap between Civil Society and the Public & Private Sectors" (Berlin, June 20th - 22nd, 2012)



The International Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy in the USA 2012 "Cultural Diplomacy, National Security and Global Risks" (Washington D.C, June 26th - 28th, 2012)



The International Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy in Africa 2012 "Cultural Diplomacy & Sustainable Development in Africa" (Berlin, July 25th - 27th, 2012)



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Symposia Partners









A Selection of Symposia Locations







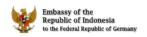




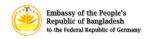


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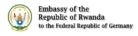
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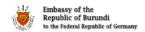
Embassy of Indonesia to Germany



Embassy of Bangladesh to Germany



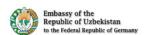
Embassy of Rwanda to Germany



Embassy of Burundi to Germany



Embassy of Morocco to Germany



Embassy of Uzbekistan to German



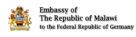
Embassy of Bulgaria to the U.S.



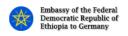
Embassy of Kyrgyzstan to Germany



Embassy of Lesotho to Germany



Embassy of Malawi to Germany



Embassy of Ethiopia to Germany



The 2012 International Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy & Human Rights

(Berlin, June 1st - 4th, 2012)

The 2012 International Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy & Human Rights

"Social & Cultural Inequality: Innovative Strategies to Promote Access to Human Rights and Equalize Globalization"

(Berlin, June 1st - 4th, 2012)

The events of the Arab Spring in 2012 demonstrated a unified call in Arab countries for social and cultural reforms, which should include greater access to basic human rights. The Arab Spring inspired individuals across the world to use this momentum to demonstrate for more equitable access to political, economic and social rights using modern technology and social media to enhance the promotion and spreading of their messages at an unparalleled speed.

These events were each highlighted by the possibility for the people to better organize themselves and express their will through the social media, allowing them to gather millions of supporters around them within a very short period of time. When one compares these transitions to similar historical events, one can see that such changes have traditionally taken many years, rather than days, however once they do occur, they are sustainable and broad changes that are not then reversed.

The 2012 International Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy in Berlin therefore will focus on analyzing the current global situation and will offer innovative strategies to promote greater access to human rights and to equalize the process of globalization, while using the practice of cultural diplomacy as a tool to enhance these processes.





The International Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy in Geneva 2012

(Geneva, June 13th - 15th, 2012)

The International Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy in Geneva 2012

"Cultural Diplomacy & Sustainable Development" (Geneva, June 13th - 15th, 2012)

The world financial crisis of 2008 has influenced the economic agenda of leading governments and organizations and caused a series of important events ranging from the collapse of corporations to the failure of EU member states and the downgrading of various countries' credit rating. These events forced significant austerity measures, which have affected the economic situation around the globe. Austerity measures have also had a social impact; there have been mass protests around Europe and the US calling for significant change and a more equal economic reality.

Sustainable development of nations and regions is of particular importance during this period of economic turbulence in order to mitigate the effect of these economic crises on communities around the globe. The great challenge facing sustainable development in the context of austerity measures is that it is harder to divert funds to promote sustainable development, especially if there are unsustainable development options which are less expensive; sustainability is not necessarily a priority in these circumstances.

The International Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy in Geneva will be held parallel to the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and will focus on the importance of sustainable development to the future of developed and developing countries. The conference will offer perspectives on how cultural diplomacy policies can assist in strengthening existing and future sustainable development policies and, in particular, how cultural diplomacy practices are necessary to express and mediate the rationale behind investment in sustainable development during this challenging period.









The 2012 International Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy & International Economics

(Berlin, June 20th - 22nd, 2012)

The 2012 International Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy & International Economics

"Political & Economic Inequalities: Bridging the Gap between Civil Society and the Public & Private Sectors"

(Berlin, June 20th - 22nd, 2012)

The consequences of the recent financial crisis have reinforced the notion that the proceeds of growth do not distribute equally across all sectors of society and that economic growth on its own is not sufficient to shelter the most vulnerable groups of society from the vagaries of economic change. Subsequent action such as the Occupy Wall Street movement demonstrate a widespread dissatisfaction with sustained economic inequality and add urgency to the need to address inequality. It is arguable that the social contract is starting to unravel in many countries; there are deep-rooted social imbalances which need to be addressed if confidence is to be restored.

However, the problem is not one simply of the divide between the rich and the poor. Economic inequality is encouraged by political inequality and inequality of opportunity, both at the national and supranational level. The wealthy and powerful have greater access to politics and media and so are often in a position to communicate their views and interests more effectively than others; lobbying and campaign contributions can have a major impact on politics.

Increasingly, financial crises today are characterised by economic problems crossing the boundaries of nation states. Moreover, in today's globalised world decisions made by politicians in one state can have serious effects for citizens of another state, even though the latter have no role in influencing the decisions in question. In other words, the territorial boundaries that specify who may participate in a democratic process are not necessarily equivalent to the populations affected. If the democratic ideal is maximum citizen participation, then there is reason to argue for a democratic deficit and thus political inequality at both the national and supranational level.





The International Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy in the USA 2012

(Washington D.C, June 26th - 28th, 2012)

The International Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy in the USA 2012

"A Global Dialogue about Cultural Diplomacy, National Security and Global Risks"

(Washington D.C, June 26th - 28th, 2012)

Governments in the twenty-first century are faced with a variety of global security risks including terrorism, war and conflicts, stereotypes/ misconceptions and ideological conspiracies, to name but a few. These risks have manifested themselves in a variety of different ways, by actual violent attacks on citizens (such as September 11th, , and the Madrid and London bombings) as well as "verbal attacks" against the private and the public sectors expressed via the internet, social media, blogg, and protests.

Following the events of September 11th, national security issues have had a far greater significance in the field of international relations and domestic politics and are occupying the minds and concerns of Americans in considerable ways, including both American politicians and American citizens, as well as having a large impact on American foreign policy, trade and investment. In addition, the rapid changes in our global world ranging from the rise of the BRIC countries, the unrest in the Arab world, the Iran Atomic Program to the financial crisis, have created an even greater burden for national security, and is forcing the American leadership in both the public and private sectors to constantly reevaluate and re-assess their policy priorities and strategies.

Despite its vital importance, the use of cultural diplomacy in addressing global risks remains largely underutilized. In many ways, the application of cultural diplomacy practices can complement the other, more traditional ways of increasing security (military measures or increased access to intelligence), by means of exposing and challenging destructive ideologies.

The International Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy in the USA 2012 will therefore focus on the role of cultural diplomacy in reducing global risks and increasing national security, in the context of international relations and international economics. The symposium will analyze and explore the opportunity of reducing global risks and increasing national security both in the USA and outside the USA by adapting cultural diplomacy practices into national and foreign policy strategies as well as private sector strategies.





The International Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy in Africa 2012

(Berlin, July 25th - 28th, 2012)

The International Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy in Africa 2012

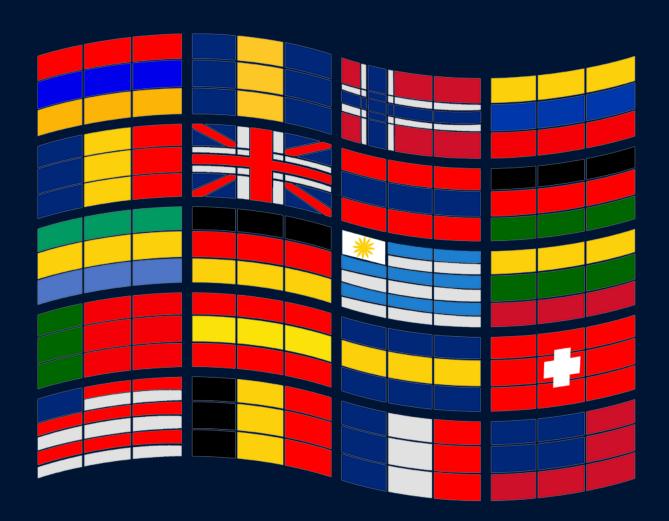
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The International Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy in Africa will be held after to the Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and will focus on the importance of sustainable development to the future of Africa. The conference will offer perspectives on how cultural diplomacy policies can assist in strengthening existing and future sustainable development policies and, in particular, how cultural diplomacy practices are necessary to express and mediate the rationale behind investment in sustainable development during this challenging period.





Institute for Cultural Diplomacy Ku'damm Karree, Kurfürstendamm 207-208, D-10719 Berlin Tel.: +49 (0) 30 2360 768 0

E-mail: info@culturaldiplomacy.org Website: www.culturaldiplomacy.org