Auswärtiges Amt

Internationale Diplomatenausbildung
Training for International Diplomats

2018

Jahresheft
Yearbook

Diplomacy by Networking

Auswärtiges Amt
Federal Foreign Office

Akademie Auswärtiger Dienst
Foreign Service Academy

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Jahresheft
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»Willkommen | Welcome«

Liebe Freundinnen und Freunde,
wenn man in den Nachrichten, in Geschichtsbüchern oder sozialen Medien über internationale Abkommen und Projekte, über Sanktionen oder Kriege liest, werden meist nur wenige Namen genannt. Doch Außenpolitik wird von vielen gemacht. Zahlreiche Diplomaten eines jeden Landes setzen sich Tag für Tag für die internationale Zusammenarbeit ein.

Bei der Internationalen Diplomatenausbildung bringen wir einige dieser Akteure zusammen, kreieren gemeinsame Lern- und Erfahrungsräume, schaffen Erlebnisse, die zu lebenslangen Erinnerungen werden, und tragen somit letztendlich ein Stück zum Frieden in der Welt bei. In diesem Sinne war 2018 ein erfolgreiches Jahr für uns. In 28 Lehrgängen und Programmen lernten fast 350 Diplomaten bei Exkursionen, Workshops, in Gesprächen und Vorträgen beispielsweise wie in Deutschland Demokratie gelebt und gefördert wird, wie Journalisten in ihrer Rolle als vierte Gewalt agieren, wie man sich kritisch mit der eigenen Geschichte auseinandersetzt oder wie europäische Bürger von offenen Grenzen profitieren. Dabei lernten sie nicht nur Deutschland, sondern oft auch noch ihre Kollegen aus den eigenen Nachbarländern kennen. So wurden aus Fremden und Kollegen Freunde und Partner. Das gilt nicht nur für unsere internationalen Gäste, auch Deutschland gewann Vertraute in der ganzen Welt. Unser Netzwerk umfasst mittlerweile mehr als 3.800 Alumni; mit vielen davon sind wir in regelmäßigem Austausch. Bei unseren themenspezifischen Alumni-Treffen lernen alle drei Monate unsere ehemaligen Teilnehmenden neue Perspektiven und Lösungsstrategien für aktuelle Herausforderungen kennen.

Wir bei 1-DA möchten der Außenpolitik Gesichter und Geschichten geben. 2018 ist uns das dank Ihrer Beteiligung gelungen. Möge 2019 ein genauso erlebnisreiches Jahr für uns alle sein!

Herzliche Grüße aus Berlin,
Ihr Stefan Biedermann

Dear friends,
When the press, history books or social media deal with international agreements, projects, sanctions or wars, they tend to mention only a small cast of characters. But it takes a lot of people to make foreign policy. Large numbers of diplomats from every country work hard to advance international cooperation on a daily basis.

With our Training for International Diplomats, we bring some of those players together, build spaces in which to learn together and share experience, create lasting memories and thereby ultimately do our bit for peace around the globe. In that respect, 2018 was a successful year for us. Almost 350 diplomats participating in excursions, workshops and discussions across 28 different courses and programmes learned, for example, how democracy is done and fostered in Germany, how journalists fulfil their role as the fourth estate, how nations can revisit their own history with a critical eye and how Europeans benefit from open borders. While here, they got to know not only Germany but, in many cases, their counterparts from other countries in their own regions. Strangers and colleagues have become friends and partners. And I'm not just referring to our international guests; Germany, too, has gained new friends all over the world. Our network has grown to more than 3,800 alumni, and we are in regular contact with many of them. Every three months, our themed alumni meetings give former participants fresh prospects and strategies for tackling current challenges.

At Training for International Diplomats, our mission is to inhabit foreign affairs with real faces and stories. Thanks to your involvement, we fulfilled that mission in 2018. Here's to a repeat of that success in 2019!

Best wishes from Berlin,

Stefan Biedermann
Leiter Internationale Diplomatenausbildung
Head of Training for International Diplomats

idl

42. Internationaler Diplomatenlehrgang

17. Januar – 27. Februar 2018

1. Reihe von links nach rechts:
Meritxell Font Vilaginés (Andorra), Thitiwoot Techapun (Thailand), Ilze Jankava (Lettland), Rusudan Vardoshvili (Georgien), Staatsminister Michael Roth, Liliia Honcharevych (Ukraine), Estefania González Muñoz (Kolumbien), Magdalena Acewicz (Polen), Zuzana Liptáková (Tschechien), Khadijeh Kazem Alilou (Iran)

2. Reihe von links nach rechts:
Corina-Cristina Lefter (Rumänien), Lars Neal (Hospitant), Hugo Matias Almang (Argentinien), Hiroaki Matsuyama (Japan), Lusine Sargsyan (Armenien), Patricia Reid (Kanada), Verena Michaeli (Programmkoordinatorin), Donatas Aškinis (Litauen)

3. Reihe von links nach rechts:
Javier Foxon Calvo (Chile), Stephan Langley (Vereinigte Staaten von Amerika), Botschafter a. D. Dr. Axel Berg (Programmdirektor), Xiao Lu (China), Akram Ochilov (Usbekistan), Stefan Biedermann (Leiter Internationale Diplomatenausbildung)

idl

»…wie leicht es sein kann, persönliche Barrieren in einer vibrierenden internationalen Umgebung zu überwinden.«

Corina-Cristina Lefter (Rumänien)
Teilnehmerin IDL 42

Auch mit zunehmender Digitalisierung und Entwicklung künstlicher Intelligenz vertrauen wir in der Diplomatie noch immer darauf, dass es Menschen sind, die sich der zwischenstaatlichen Probleme annehmen, die die Botschaften ihrer Regierungen vermitteln und das erläutern können, was durch soziale Medien zu kurz und zu schnell vermittelt wird. Dafür brauchen wir eine moderne und zeitgemäße Ausbildung, eine Ausbildung, die wir beim 42. Internationalen Diplomatenlehrgang gefunden haben.

Während unseres sechswöchigen Kurses im Auswärtigen Amt waren wir beeindruckt von der Fülle an Informationen und der Breite unserer Diskussionen. Wir haben praxisorientierte Kurse wie das Mediationstraining oder die Oxford-Debatte erlebt. Wir haben uns engagiert gezeigt bei Vorträgen zu aktuellen außenpolitischen Entwicklungen, zu Sicherheitspolitik und Europäischer Union. Unser Unterricht wurde ergänzt durch Studienreisen nach Brüssel zu NATO und EU, nach Straßburg zum Europarat oder nach Thüringen, um zu sehen, wie der deutsche Föderalismus funktioniert. Zusätzlich zum offiziellen Teil haben wir besonders profitiert von der fantastischen Gelegenheit, mit Diplomaten aus der ganzen Welt, von Andorra bis China, von Lettland bis zu den USA oder von Argentinien bis Iran zusammenzuarbeiten.

Als Beispiel möchte ich das Medien-Training nennen, das mir persönlich gezeigt hat, meine Angst vor Auftritten in der Öffentlichkeit abzubauen und Redenhalten als eine meiner Stärken zu sehen. Innerhalb von drei Tagen, an denen wir die Reden zunächst vorbereiteten, sie dann, begleitet von einer Kamera, vortrugen und schließlich vor der ganzen Klasse analysierten und Feedback erhielten, konnten wir alle die rasche Verbesserung bemerken.

Für all diese Erfahrungen möchte ich dem Team des Auswärtigen Amtes danken, insbesondere Botschafter Axel Berg und Verena Michaeli für ihre Organisation, Koordinierung und Begleitung. Deutsche Effizienz ist doch kein Mythos. Last but not least möchte ich meinen Kollegen für die großartige Gelegenheit danken, Freundschaften in 18 andere Ländern auf der ganzen Welt zu schließen.

Ich will auch nicht Berlin als Kulisse für unseren Kurs vergessen. Diese großartige Stadt war genauso ein Teil unserer Lernerfahrung wie der Unterricht selbst. Eine meiner liebsten Erinnerungen ist der Fernsehturm, Berlins berühmtes Wahrzeichen, auf dem wir am vorletzten Tag noch einmal zusammenkamen. Dort konnten wir noch einmal das ganze Panorama Berlins bewundern und, diesmal von oben, all die Orte sehen, an denen wir gewesen waren: den Bundestag, das Bundeskanzleramt, den Berliner Westen, den Osten Berlins, beide mit ihrer besonderen Geschichte und Geographie. Hier spiegeln sich die vielen Facetten Berlins und mit ihnen die noch reichhaltigeren Facetten der Deutschen und Europäischen Geschichte wider. Nach sechs Wochen zwischenkulturellen Austausches konnten wir ein sehr wertvolles Souvenir mitnehmen: der einzigartige und faszinierende Eindruck, wie leicht es sein kann, persönliche Barrieren in einer vibrierenden internationalen Umgebung zu überwinden. Genau wie Berlin selbst.

Please watch the programme's video using the QR Code and visit our website for the English version of this article: diplomatictraining.alumniportal.com/programmes-2019/internationaler-diplomatenlehrgang

idp

9th International Diplomats Programme

30th January – 7th June 2018

From left to right:
Saori Tonomura (Japan), Yu Shi (China), Karim Bennani (Morocco), Leen Barghouti (Palestine), Ambassador (ret.) Hermann-Josef Sausen (Programme Director), Walter J. Lindner (State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office), Stefan Biedermann (Head of Training for International Diplomats), Marwen Kablouti (Tunisia), Nisreen Alsabban (Saudi Arabia), Ilan Masson (Programme Intern), Edouard Huot (Canada), Philipp Wiesener (Programme Coordinator), Maximiliano Gastón Gianmichelli (Argentina), Gülşah Cumurcu (Turkey), Ala Alghizzawi (Jordan), Mohd Azmi Bin Abdullah (Malaysia), Alexey Skorina (Russia), Haider Liwaa Khalid Abo-Tabikh (Iraq), Nader Mohamed (Egypt), Vipul Bawa (India)

Absent: Angus Acton Cavanough (Australia), Víctor Manuel Jiménez Segovia (Mexico)

»Diplomacy: Building Bridges, Connecting to Success.«

Nisreen Alsabban (Saudi Arabia)
Participant of IDP 9

Diplomacy is an instrument for tactfully settling diverse issues and disputes through negotiation. The world is constantly changing, however, and the way we engage with other countries and their citizens must be continually updated and adapted. To be an effective diplomat, you need efficient and broad networks. No matter what job you are doing or where you are doing it, you need to know who to talk to, who makes the decisions and who wields influence; you then need to engage with those people. Diplomats are only as good as their networks, and obviously you need an excellent network in the country where you are posted to be able to build bridges and promote understanding between your country and the host country. Furthermore, you need to be observant and curious about everything that goes on around you, to have good communication skills, to know how to address the press and communicate with people, to be open to change and to be able to identify opportunities in any given encounter. A diplomat once said that being a diplomat is a great profession, describing it as a life art and an ongoing learning process. He noted that diplomats are observers in foreign societies, making them great writers, and that unlike other professions, where the job is mostly based on technique, a diplomat's job is largely dependent on his or her personality.

The International Diplomats Programme (IDP), organised by the German Federal Foreign Office, provides diplomats with a deep insight into the host country from various angles. We had the opportunity to travel to many parts of Germany, beginning with Hamburg, where we visited the Senate Chancellery of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg and met representatives of *Der Spiegel* magazine and Airbus Operations GmbH. We also travelled to Dresden, Leipzig, Stuttgart, Erfurt, Weimar and Jena, visiting places such as the Volkswagen factory and the Federal Administrative Court in Leipzig, Daimler AG / Mercedes Benz and the State Ministry of Baden Württemberg in Stuttgart and the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History in Jena. In addition, we had the pleasure of meeting State Secretary Walter Lindner at the Federal Foreign Office, where he spoke about his experience as a diplomat. He pointed out that our career as diplomats will involve hard work and high responsibility, so we need to fill our lives with rewarding hobbies such as music and art. The programme, the ninth of its kind, showed how Germany attracts the best and brightest young people to travel, study and work in Germany, forming new cultural partnerships between countries.

Please watch the programme's video using the QR Code and visit:
diplomatictraining.alumniportal.com/programmes-2019/international-diplomats-programme

IDP is a part-time programme for diplomats on a posting to Berlin.

idp

wb

8th Executive Seminar for Diplomats from the Western Balkans

14th February – 6th March 2018

Sitting, from left to right:
Agnesa Fejzullahu, Jelena Grbović, Milica Radojičić, Meral Todri, Stefan Nedeljković, Ivan Kovačević, Višnja Letica

Standing, from left to right:
Simon Kanevche, Magdalena Vladeva, Marko Potić, Torsten Liebig (Programme Coordinator),
Michael Roth (Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office), Chiara Ebert (Programme Intern),
Nejra Sarić, Zulfi Ismaili, Erenik Shllaku, Stefan Biedermann (Head of Training for International Diplomats),
Ivana Bulatović, Dunja Livaja, Ambassador (ret.) Gudrun Steinacker (Programme Director)

wb

»A reflection of where do I find myself as a diplomat and which actions should I undertake in order to help in the development and implementation of our policies.«

The 8th Executive Seminar for Western Balkans has been a complimentary contribution towards my progress as an individual in personal and professional means.

Firstly, the programme structure with visits to German government institutions in the executive, judicial and legislative branches of government at the federal and state level enabled our group to grasp the system through which Germany functions and the ways in which policies are formed and implemented.

Secondly, the interactive trainings where we were given cases and had to solve them through negotiations and interface with one another have been the real depiction of our future career and helped us to gain skills which are essential to possess. The interaction required by trainings has enabled the reflection of myself as an individual and triggered a reflection towards the policies which are implemented by our governments' public administration. A reflection of where do I find myself as a diplomat and which actions should I undertake in order to help in the development and implementation of our policies. In the negotiation training we had a case study where we had to negotiate oil prices between two states selling oil in another state. This case study showed us the importance of details which should be given attention even prior to sitting on the table to negotiate and the ways in which elements of policy are combined to achieve a desired result for actors involved.

Thirdly, social events enabled interaction with one another and to get acquainted with each participant individually. The highlight of the social dimension of the programme has been that despite differences in history and politics we have been able to overcome them and socialise. The cohesion of this seminar's group was to be applauded and a real treat to be a participant, an objective which is hard to attain in such seminars. Watching the video compilation of our programme shuffled back memories of the moments we had together and the interconnection of our group.

One of the best nuances which I received from the 8th Executive Seminar for Western Balkans in Berlin, and I believe that this is the situation with all of the participants is that we have established contacts with the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs. For me this has been portrayed in practice where one of the participants by whom I was contacted for information regarding a visit of our Minister of Foreign Affairs to her country and we were able to communicate more efficiently.

Last but not least, the added value of the seminar has been the personal dimension where I have gained friends whom I can invite to my wedding and have them as friends for life.

Agnesa Fejzullahu
Participant of WB 8

Please watch the programme's video using the QR Code and visit:
diplomatictraining.alumniportal.com/programmes-2019/western-balkans

ukr

8th High Level Experts Programme Ukraine

5th March – 23rd March 2018

1st row, from left to right:
Viktoriia Khaladzhy, Philipp Engstler (Programme Coordinator), Olga Matiagina, Mariana Kuleba, Michael Roth (Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office), Ambassador (ret.) Dr Hans-Dieter Heumann (Programme Director), Valentyna Lisovska, Yuliia Ushchapovska, Viktoriia Boiko, Stefan Biedermann (Head of Training for International Diplomats)

2nd row, from left to right:
Sergii Pun, Hannah Clement (Programme Intern), Marta Spodaryk, Hanna Lys, Snizhana Zhytnikovska, Oleksandra Fedorko

3rd row, from left to right:
Maksym Sadovoi, Elisa Brocksieper (Programme Intern), Oleksandr Natiushyn, Liliia Mosol, Vyacheslav Paliy

»... it is vital to take more action, and it is cool to be diligent and hard-working.«

Oleksandra Fedorko (Ukraine)
Participant of UKR 8

What a journey we had! I will not tell you too much, dear reader, as I only have this single page. Instead, I will share with you my innermost impressions, so get ready to join the adventures of the 8th High Level Experts Programme Ukraine team in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Our very first welcome dinner and tour of Berlin were a foretaste of the programme's tempo and tone: it was going to be a speedy, challenging, informative and especially delicious three-week stay. One possible connotation of "stay" is a "stop, halt or a pause", yet in our reality everything was completely different – we were locked in constant movement, progress and development.

Indeed, the High Level Experts Programme Ukraine was an opportunity for continuous growth for all of us. We had numerous lively discussions with top German politicians, diplomats, experts, officials, academics and journalists. All these meetings encouraged us to constantly analyse what we heard, compare German and Ukrainian experiences, and envisage alternative outcomes in world affairs. Alongside the useful information received, we also trained the skills of attentiveness and critical thought, which we are able to apply in our further professional careers. We were challenged, and were challenging ourselves. Every single day, we discussed the most topical issues, which were sometimes especially difficult and personal for all of us. Right now, we are witnessing a significant change in the world's balance of power, and Ukraine is among the first countries forced to face the consequences. In this context, we were particularly delighted to find that we had so many supporters among our German colleagues; we could see that we were not alone in our endeavour to preserve Ukraine's sovereignty.

At the same time, we realised that, despite the dangerous politico-military situation, Ukraine wishes to be welcomed as an equal member of the EU as soon as its internal "repairs" – implementation of the Association Agreement and lasting progress with regard to reform – are properly and qualitatively accomplished. No excuses, one must stick to the rules of the game in order to play fairly. So we still have a lot of preparatory work to do.

However, our German colleagues demonstrated that it is vital to take more action, and that it is cool to be diligent and hard-working. Well-organised, intelligent, educated and curious – they inspired us to constantly develop ourselves and polish our strengths. Our German coordinators worked hard to make this programme useful, intensive and unforgettable. So despite severely cold weather, Germany welcomed us extremely warmly, brightly and joyfully thanks to their efforts.

Our diverse programme activities and trips to several cities in Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands were not only about learning new information, discovering beautiful architecture and contemplating historical sites. They were mainly about gaining insights into different ideas, attitudes, and even patterns of behaviour. Most importantly, they were about establishing new professional connections within our German and Ukrainian teams. I truly believe that all these skills, knowledge and useful connections made by HLEP will stay with us for the rest of our careers, and will give rise to creative joint projects and initiatives in the future.

By the way, did I understand correctly that HLEP alumni network is the cherry on this delicious cake?

Please watch the programme's video using the QR Code and visit:
diplomatictraining.alumniportal.com/programmes-2019/ukraine

ukr

chn

6th Executive Seminar for Diplomats from the People's Republic of China

10th March – 18th March 2018

1st row, from left to right:
ZENG Siqi, XU Min, LIU Pengcheng, ZHU Huilan, Ambassador (ret.) Dr Wolfgang Moser (Programme Director), YAN Yuqing, QIN Bojun, JI Xiaoxue, PENG Yalin, KONG Xiangwen

2nd row, from left to right:
GU Pan, AN Chen, WU Wenchang, Corinna Fischer (Programme Coordinator), GONG Yun, Walter J. Lindner (State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office), Stefan Biedermann (Head of Training for International Diplomats), Marcel Courté (Trainee, Federal Foreign Office), David Vehlies (Programme Intern), WU Yucheng, LIU Jun

chn

»The future of the world is in the young generation's hands.«

During my stay in Berlin, I learned a lot about Germans' rigorousness and about their tendency to make sure everything is well prepared. When I arrived at my apartment, I found a cute orange umbrella ready for the rainy German weather in March. Fortunately, we didn't need it for our first day when we visited the remnants of the Berlin Wall.

Our guide – a historian – told us about its fall, which began on 9 November 1989. The Wall was demolished within only a few months. I asked how long it took to build the Wall, and the answer was thought-provoking, namely four years! On the one hand, a wall can be erected in four years and divide people for more than 28 years; on the other, it just needs a short period of time to tear it down if people on both sides share a mutual desire and hope to be reunited.

Similarly, from my perspective, it wouldn't take much to tear down the "wall" – not a physical one, but one in the minds of people consisting of prejudice and misunderstanding – between Germany and China. We would only have to sit down and communicate sincerely with each other.

Germany and China are important trade partners, and even if there are some "walls" between these two countries with regard to trade and investment, those problems could be solved if we worked harder together on mutual understanding and communication. This requires efforts to be made by young diplomats on both sides.

The Executive Seminar for Diplomats offers an important platform for exchanging views on a wide range of issues. The frank discussions with German diplomats and employees from NGOs were impressive and shed light on various topics from different perspectives. Besides this, we visited the German Bundestag and had a discussion with two of its Members on the day on which Angela Merkel started her fourth term. In a sense, we were witnesses to a special moment in history.

Finally, I would like to cite a Chinese sentiment that was also quoted by Ambassador Wolfgang Moser at a meeting of the seminar: "The world is yours, as well as ours, but in the last analysis, it is yours. You young people." As a young diplomat, it was a great pleasure for me to take part in this programme and to contribute to the dialogue between German and Chinese diplomats.

As the world is in our generation's hands, we must focus on enhancing trust and promoting mutual understanding to make it a better place to live in.

ZHU Huilan (China)
Participant of CHN 6

Please watch the programme's video using the QR Code and visit:
diplomatictraining.alumniportal.com/programmes-2019/china

asp

11th Executive Seminar for Diplomats from Asia and Pacific (with focus on small island states)

10th April – 8th May 2018

1st row, from left to right:
Antonina Browne (Cook Islands), Lafita Foai Paeniu (Tuvalu), Svenja Matthiesen (Programme Coordinator), Kane Amandus (Nauru), Malaeoletalu Ulia-Malaki (Samoa), Undi Pelobule (Solomon Islands), Elsie Fukofuka (Tonga), Andrea Muller (Marshall Islands), Sofie Natalie Bonnelame (Seychelles), Chaz T. Sugiyama (Palau)

2nd row, from left to right:
Akshay Luv Demunger (Mauritius), Andreas Michaelis (State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office), Mariyam Suha (Maldives), Bethelle Kasir (Papua New Guinea), Marcel Courté (Trainee, Federal Foreign Office), Stefan Biedermann (Head of Training for International Diplomats), Majorie May Wells (Vanuatu), Viktoria Rossi (Programme Intern), Ambassador Dr Heinz-Peter Behr (Programme Director), Mary Meita (Kiribati), Adi Mere Uluivuda (Fiji)

»This programme provided a crucial platform to learn from peers and build and strengthen networks and partnerships.«

Elsie Fukofuka (Tonga)
Participant of ASP 11

The 11th Executive Seminar for Diplomats from Asia and the Pacific provided an invaluable insight into German diplomacy, politics and history. I was particularly pleased that climate change and renewable energy was the topic chosen for this seminar. Climate change remains the key security challenge for Tonga and Pacific island countries. Achieving renewable energy targets is crucial to mitigating the effects of climate change. I relished the opportunity to travel and spend time in Germany, one of the world's first major renewable energy economies. The programme provided participants with the opportunity to interact and speak with key members of the Government, Parliament and non-governmental organisations. This was important as regards gaining a better understanding of the varying perspectives of different stakeholders, especially on issues that were important to us as individuals, as well as to our countries.

I was particularly thankful for the opportunity to meet with lawmakers in the Bundestag, where we had very frank and interactive discussions. The learning process there was two-fold. On the one hand, it allowed participants to present the climate challenges of small islands to these key policymakers, and, on the other, it provided an occasion for participants to learn of the realities that exist in Berlin in addressing these issues on the political front. We were also treated to excursions outside Berlin. Two memorable visits we made were to Schloben and to Feldheim in Brandenburg, both self-sufficient villages. In Tonga, we have made efforts towards achieving 50% renewable energy by 2020. As a small country heavily reliant on fossil fuels, our limited resources make this somewhat difficult. Witnessing the various forms of energy including wind, biogas and solar integrate to produce 100% energy for these villages assured me that achieving our renewable energy targets is possible. Visiting these villages also opened doors to Tonga for possible future cooperation. Berlin itself is a vibrant city promising new learning opportunities outside of the programme itself. Most weekends were free so participants were given a chance to explore. It was a sobering experience visiting famous sites that marked key moments in our recent history. These included the longest remaining part of the Berlin Wall, the Brandenburg Gate, Checkpoint Charlie and the many museums that loom over what was once largely East Berlin, to name just a few. My most cherished moment in Berlin was visiting the Political Archive in the Federal Foreign Office and being presented with the original Treaty of Friendship between Tonga and Germany signed in 1876. This is one of the oldest treaties Tonga has ever signed with a foreign country so it was a very special moment. It also underscored the long and cordial relations Tonga has shared with Germany. There is a relatively large German community in Tonga, and there are many Tongans who have made Germany their home. These are the significant strands that have kept our bilateral bond strong.

This programme, importantly, provided a crucial platform to learn from peers from the Indian and Pacific oceans and to build and strengthen networks and partnerships as we work together to achieve our countries' goals of building a safer, sustainable and more peaceful world. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the German Government and the Federal Foreign Office for this opportunity. I should also thank, in particular, the Programme Director, Ambassador Dr Heinz-Peter Behr, whose guidance and wisdom has been an invaluable gift. Special acknowledgement should also be given to Ms Svenja Matthiesen, Programme Coordinator, and her team Viktoria and Stefan, with whom it was an absolute delight to spend every day. In Germany, we have made friends who will last us a lifetime! Malo, 'Ofa atu.

Please watch the programme's video using the QR Code and visit:
diplomatictraining.alumniportal.com/programmes-2019/asia-and-pacific

asp

hsp

2nd Helmut Schmidt Programme on Global Issues

23rd May – 30st May 2018

1st row, from left to right:
Franziska Sophie Frank (Programme Coordinator), Maya Sivagnanam (United Kingdom), Nicola Del Medico (Italy), Loren de Montserrat Cruz Sandoval (Mexico), Kim Debenham (Australia), Ursula Holland (Canada), Julien Bouchez (France), Germán Proffen (Argentina)

2nd row, from left to right:
Ken Toko (United States of America), Stefan Biedermann (Head of Training for International Diplomats), Alexey Pogonin (Russia), Marcel Courté (Trainee, Federal Foreign Office), Gary James Smith (South Africa), Walter J. Lindner (State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office), Ambassador Dr Heinz-Peter Behr (Programme Director), Leandro Zenni Estevão (Brazil)

hsp

»Our challenge as diplomats is to come up with appropriate responses for the years and decades to come.«

First of all, I was delighted to learn that I had been chosen to take part in the second Helmut Schmidt Programme on Global Issues that would take place in Berlin, Hamburg and Paris. Participating in this programme would help me become more familiar with my new posting to work on German affairs at the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, bring my knowledge on France and Germany's strong relationship up to date and give me an opportunity to speak with my counterparts about the geopolitical challenges of our time.

For this second edition, representatives from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, South Africa and the United States participated along with those from France, Italy, Mexico, the United Kingdom and Russia. Most of the participants were mid-career diplomats, appointed to various posts, from counsellors on Europe or Germany or colleagues working in consular roles, to negotiators on trade issues or on the Paris Climate Agreement. The wide-ranging profiles of the participants and speakers made for high-quality discussions on global issues concerning security, the economy, digitalisation and the climate.

Beyond global issues, this programme helped me become fully immersed in the German administration, press and civil society, thereby providing me with operational knowledge of Germany's institutional and academic landscape and German views on today's international and European problems.

During the programme, participants had numerous interactions with many departments at the Federal Foreign Office and the Federal Chancellery, heard from a think tank on the development of artificial intelligence and its repercussions on foreign affairs, and visited the Helmut Schmidt Foundation and the offices of the widely read weekly newspaper *Die Zeit*. They also took part in the Global Solutions Summit where Olaf Scholz, Deputy Chancellor and Federal Minister of Finance, spoke, and met with the head of the Sherpa G7/G20 team of the Federal Chancellor.

The programme's visit to Paris provided an opportunity to show how important the Franco-German partnership is. In this extensive high-level programme, we were able to compare the approach of our closest partner, Germany, to today's challenges. We were also able to observe the attention that the two countries focus on building this relationship to form global leadership.

As Helmut Schmidt would say, "If you want to meet a far-off goal, you have to move towards it one step at a time." Our group is fully aware that the issues we were discussing are those that are shaping the world. Our challenge as diplomats is to come up with appropriate responses for the years and decades to come. With this in mind, Helmut Schmidt and his approach to the global issues of his time are examples to follow in our profession.

On behalf of the programme participants, I would like to thank Ambassador Dr Heinz-Peter Behr, Franziska Sophie Frank, Marcel Courté and the entire team at the German Foreign Service Academy very much for this highly successful programme.

Julien Bouchez (France)
Participant of HSP 2

Please watch the programme's video using the QR Code and visit:
diplomatictraining.alumniportal.com/programme-archive/helmut-schmidt-programme

khm lao

1st Executive Seminar for Diplomats from Cambodia and Laos

23rd May – 12th June 2018

Left page, from left to right:
Joshua Hofert (Programme Coordinator), Max Heubeck (Programme Intern), Pathoummath Philaphandeth (Laos), Soulasack Phichit (Laos), Pechrachna Rin (Cambodia), Boonroong Chum (Cambodia), Sophany Outh (Cambodia), Alomlangsy Rajvong (Laos), Sokhaley Chieng (Cambodia), Socheath Mor (Cambodia), Dr Bärbel Kofler (Member of Parliament)

Right page, from left to right:
Nguon Kim (Cambodia), Malita Keopaseuth (Laos), Soulideth Sengmany (Laos), Chandavone Phanthavong (Laos), Ambassador (ret.) Klaus-Peter Brandes (Programme Director), Akthita Prom (Cambodia), Khamnang Vilayvanh (Laos), Iris Reinl (Deputy Head of Training for International Diplomats), Chan Pheakdey Seng (Cambodia), Soukthavanh Phetsavong (Laos)

»A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step in Germany.«

Malita Keopaseuth (Laos)
Chan Pheakdey Seng (Cambodia)
Participants of KHM LAO 1

The 1st Executive Seminar for Diplomats from Cambodia and Laos was a good start for us, newbies to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as we began our diplomatic journey. During the three-week training marking the 50th and 60th anniversary of German diplomatic relations with Cambodia and Laos respectively, we learned a lot about the history, institutions and policies of Germany and the EU, about negotiation and mediation, public speaking and much more. Amongst others, we visited the Bundesrat, the Bundestag, the Federal Court of Justice, the ZDF studios and the European Parliament.

The course which impressed us most was on effective public speaking and press statements. At first, speaking in the training sessions was not our strong point due to the fact that the crowd, microphone and camera seemed to us to be real enemies. As we were jittery and self-conscious, we had to repeat our speeches several times in front of our classmates. Watching the recordings afterwards, it just seemed ridiculous to listen to our own voices surrounded by so many people.

We used to firmly believe that a speech must always be formal and that we could not use informal language on official occasions, such as Independence Day. In contrast, the Federal Foreign Office trainers encouraged us to appeal to our audience's hearts and minds. Beyond the formal content, we learned to activate emotions by acting naturally when we are on stage and not letting the microphone turn us into zombies. Plus, advice from our trainers that stuck in our minds was to practice a lot, speak fluently and be confident. This is the only way to improve one's speaking skills and techniques to be a mature diplomat.

Communicating with the media is also crucial for country representatives as they are often asked for a statement on a given hot issue. In fact, the training on delivering press statements was strange to us as we had never had to deal with the press thus far. When we had to answer provocative questions from journalists in the training session, we felt as if we were in a battlefield surrounded by powerful enemies even though it was only a role play. Even though talking to the press is part of the daily work of an official representing a country, it is not easy for those who have just started their diplomatic careers and have never spoken to journalists or been trained in how to deal with the situation.

The two-day course which taught us to deliver better speeches and communicate with journalists in a friendly environment was only a small part of the Executive Seminar. Both came to an end in the blink of an eye. Nevertheless, departing from Berlin was not the end of the story. The Executive Seminar left us with networks, friendships, knowledge and good memories to further consolidate the bilateral and multilateral relations of our countries. We owe all this to the Federal Foreign Office which organised this invaluable training course. Danke!

Please watch the programme's video using the QR Code and visit:
diplomatictraining.alumniportal.com/programme-archive/cambodia-and-laos

khm lao

afr

12th Executive Seminar for Diplomats from Africa

4th June – 29th June 2018

From left to right:
Ambassador (ret.) Hartmut Krausser (Programme Director), Iris Reinl (Deputy Head of Training for International Diplomats), William Carew (Sierra Leone), Olivia Charléne Eyumane Assoumou (Gabon), Desire Shambakumanja (Zimbabwe), Hilal Durak (Programme Intern), Blice Grincia Okemba Bondo (Congo), Patricia Marie (Seychelles), Syahuka Moses Bwambale (Uganda), Miangola Rajaona (Madagascar), Michelle Müntefering (Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office), Grace Inegbenose Udo-Aluya (Nigeria), Kisa Doris Mwaseba (Tanzania), Hamdi Ahmed Ali Hassan (Somalia), Michelle Beyanga Farmer (Namibia), Christian Modjel (Cameroon), Sergio Roberto Nunes da Costa (Angola), Clara Neubert (Programme Coordinator), Dutee A. Donzo (Liberia), Yahaya Amantana Mahama (Ghana)

afr

»Negotiation begins with confrontation and ends with cooperation between both parties.«

Through the 12th Executive Seminar for Diplomats from Africa we gained lifelong memories and in-depth academic, social and professional knowledge. Although the main objective was to enhance our professional aspirations for the future of our countries, the seminar deepened our knowledge on modern diplomacy, governmental institutions, good governance and civil society. It also provided good opportunities for networking and lasting friendship among the participants. Furthermore, it will play a very important role in our policy formulation, decision-making and execution in the fields of conflict resolution, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and sustainable governance. These strategies were eloquently referenced in the sessions on current German policymaking, especially on Africa. They revealed commendable aspects of German history, politics, business, culture and international relations on crucial matters.

I noticed that among the participating countries only Nigeria has a similar federal system to Germany. The huge disparity in population and governance prompted my curiosity through objective engagement with diplomats, politicians and business community leaders. This engagement will support our professional careers and bring greater hope for Africa. It can be achieved through solid negotiation strategies.

Two significant points I learned in simulation exercises were to define the goals carefully and that my interest is of paramount importance, as the opposition does not necessarily have to share my values. Negotiation begins with confrontation and ends with cooperation between both parties. The public speaking lectures provided the participants with an opportunity to improve their practical skills and prepared them for the tasks ahead. Another major highlight was the visit to Buchenwald Memorial. This was indeed a sobering occasion, as it reminded us of the challenges the Germans had gone through.

For this, we congratulate the German Government for its continuous support of and emphasis on democracy, human rights, international peace and security.

Geographical locations may be far apart, but the recurring expression of "Africa is our neighbour" during the seminars showed the open-mindedness of the German people to Africa. There is no doubt that the AFR 12 and the alumni group are cohesive and represent a long-term investment for our bilateral relations. Indeed, the academic and professional experiences gained during the four-week programme were fulfilling and transforming. These achievements would not have been possible without the support and hospitality of the German people. Hence, on behalf of my colleagues, I extend special thanks to the organisational team for a good learning environment and for their patience and professionalism. Many lecturers strongly encouraged us to learn more during the training.

We will ensure the promotion of greater cooperation between our respective countries and Germany. Together we can make the world a better place.

Grace Inegbenose Udo-Aluya
(Nigeria)
Participant of AFR 12

Please watch the programme's video using the QR Code and visit:
diplomatictraining.alumniportal.com/programmes-2019/africa

egy

5th Executive Seminar for Diplomats from Egypt

8th July – 27th July 2018

1st row, from left to right:
Aly Montaser, Soha Abdelaziz, Karim El Sharkawy, Hadeer Ibrahim Abdelmagid, Ahmed Hosny, Mohamed Hamdi

2nd row, from left to right:
Pauline Mathieu (Programme Intern), Mina Takla, Mohamed Kassib, Yasser Fergany, Mohamed Ahmed Nabil Elsayed El Badry, Nihal El-Banna, Omneya Tawfik, Ahmed Goher, Mohamed Hussein Aly, Mohamed Ousama Rajab, Erika Balzer (Programme Coordinator)

3rd row, from left to right:
Abdelrhman Farid Hegazy, Helena Rietmann (Programme Coordinator), Ambassador (ret.) Bernd Erbel (Programme Director), Abdelrahman Ahmed Atta, Ahmed Sayed-Ahmed Aransho, Niels Annen (Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office), Mohamed El Saady, Fouad Hetta, Ahmed Aboulnaga, Stefan Biedermann (Head of Training for International Diplomats)

»The trip to Germany has left a mark on us.«

Fouad Hetta (Egypt)
Nihal El-Banna (Egypt)
Participants of EGY 5

Memories of our time with our fellow junior diplomats at Training for International Diplomats in Berlin in the summer of 2018 will always remain vivid in our minds. Truth be told, we had been looking forward to this excursion ever since we first joined the Egyptian diplomatic institute! After arriving in Berlin we felt as if we had found a home right off the bat. Looking back at our time there, we can safely say that our overall experience in Germany was one of the most incredible, enjoyable and enlightening experiences of our lives.

The programme was so well tailored and diverse that it truly widened our horizons on several levels. Our visits in Berlin opened our eyes both to Germany's multilayered past of war sorrows and division and to Berlin's concerted efforts to become more optimistic about its future primarily by welcoming young people from different countries.

The course provided a perfect mix of theory and practice – and this did not only apply to cultural and historical aspects, but also to the diplomatic skills training we received. We commend the well-designed and invaluable training on public speaking, international negotiating and debating. We specifically recall the excitement in the module on debating skills of having a crowd cheering for you after you gave a persuasive speech with the guidance of inspiring moderators.

We feel truly grateful, as we were given incredible opportunities to explore the culture, history and federalist nature of Germany, which is quite different to our own country. The discussions with officials at both the Federal Chancellery and the Federal Foreign Office about German policies on the EU, as well as on North Africa and the Middle East, were intriguing. At all times we felt particularly welcomed as Egyptians in Germany since many of us had numerous encounters with Germans who were particularly captivated by Egyptian antiquities and ancient history. Our visit to the Neues Museum highlighted such connectedness. And each one of our group loved the sunny trips to Potsdam and Munich.

The excursion to Munich cemented our understanding of the identity of Bavaria and the incredible industrial hub that it is. We analysed trade and technology issues with officials from the State Chancellery in Bavaria and representatives of the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy and the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. The BMW factory in Munich was perhaps one of the most intriguing visits we undertook, as it gave us insight into the incredibly advanced technologies put to use in manufacturing one of the most widely sold automobiles in the world. It also posed interesting questions on the future of employment given the emergence of fully automated manufacturing processes with the use of robots. Despite this, it was inspiring to see that the differences between the various Länder help complement each other rather than act as barriers to unity.

Ultimately, it would not be an exaggeration to say that the trip to Germany has left a mark on us more than most other excursions. Waiting for the trip was well worth it; it was rewarding and fulfilling in every regard. Therefore, we hope that it will not be too long before we can enjoy a delicious Apfelstrudel in one of Bavaria's beer gardens or walk through the vibrant streets of Berlin again.

Please visit our website:
diplomatictraining.alumniportal.com/programmes-2019/egypt

egy

dk

13. Diplomatenkolleg

27. August – 11. Dezember 2018

1. Reihe von links nach rechts:
Aliisa Tornberg (Finnland), Mariann Fabók-Buzás (Ungarn), Hélène De Bock (Belgien), Bertrand Jadot (Frankreich), Hans Oseas Langaker (Norwegen), Mari Aru (Estland), Oltion Ismaili (Albanien), Gvantsa Chkhvimiani (Georgien), Dulguun Ganbat (Mongolei), Myrat Ozbekbayev (Turkmenistan), Zuzana Chrištofová (Tschechien)

2. Reihe von links nach rechts:
Viktoriia Kononenko (Ukraine), Stefan Biedermann (Leiter Internationale Diplomatenausbildung), Botschafter a. D. Dr. Otto Lampe (Programmdirektor), Maximilian Kutzner (Hospitant), Laura Carolin Freitag (Programmkoordinatorin), Staatsminister Michael Roth, Mikael Johansson (Schweden), Shir Gideon (Israel), Philipp Wiesener (Programmkoordinator), Stephanie Illingworth (Großbritannien)

Abwesend: Orlando Pinto (Luxemburg)

dk

»Der Paternoster, die Blaue Halle oder die dicken Tresortüren des Politischen Archivs im alten Gebäude des AA erweckten ein Gefühl von Nostalgie, denn sie sind die Spuren der gesellschaftlichen Veränderungen in der Geschichte der Bundesrepublik.«

Dulguun Ganbat (Mongolei)
Teilnehmer DK 13

Ich denke, der Leitsatz „Deutschland – Perspektiven erleben“ fasst alles zusammen, was wir in vier Monaten im Rahmen des Diplomatenkollegs (DK) erfahren haben. Wir, gut ausgebildete und zielstrebige Diplomatinnen und Diplomaten aus 16 Ländern, haben begeistert an dieser Initiative des Auswärtigen Amts teilgenommen, die seit 2006 junge, in Deutschland akkreditierte Kollegen aus Europa, dem Südkaukasus und Zentralasien einlädt und ihnen ein vertieftes Verständnis von Deutschland und Europa vermittelt. Ich denke, jeder von uns hatte eigene Erwartungen an das Diplomatenkolleg. Als jemand, der in Deutschland aufgewachsen ist, war für mich interessant, „meine zweite Heimat“ aus einer anderen Perspektive zu erleben. Meine Vorstellungen wurden voll und ganz erfüllt. Das Auswärtige Amt öffnete uns seine Türen und gab uns einen Einblick in die Arbeitsweise des deutschen Auswärtigen Dienstes. Der Paternoster, die Blaue Halle oder die dicken Tresortüren des Politischen Archivs im alten Gebäude des AA erweckten ein Gefühl von Nostalgie, denn sie sind die Spuren der gesellschaftlichen Veränderungen in der Geschichte der Bundesrepublik.

Die vielen Fachgespräche innerhalb und außerhalb des Auswärtigen Amts gaben uns eine Vorstellung der aktuellen Probleme aus deutscher Sicht und beantworteten dabei viele Fragen. Es waren hochgeschätzte Gesprächspartner wie MdB Otto Fricke, MdB Axel Schäfer, Staatsminister Michael Roth, Staatssekretär Martin Jäger, Prälat Dr. Karl Jüsten, Prof. Herfried Münkler, Prof. Lars Feld, Frau Düzen Tekkal, die uns tiefe Einblicke gewährten und ihre Meinungen offen mit uns teilten. Es wurden viele Fragen diskutiert, unter anderem die Zukunft Europas, Digitalisierung oder Integration, für die man bessere Lösungen sucht. In Gesprächen mit Vertretern der Presselandschaft erfuhren wir, dass Desinformation und „Fake News“ auch Deutschland vor neue Herausforderungen stellen. In den gemütlichen, warmen Herbsttagen, die sich an den zweitheißesten Sommer seit Beginn der Aufzeichnungen anschlossen, wurden wir auch Zeugen von Ereignissen, die die deutsche Gesellschaft spalteten und große Veränderungen mit sich bringen werden. Es waren Nachrichten, wie zum Beispiel über Ausschreitungen in Chemnitz oder den Verzicht von Bundeskanzlerin Angela Merkel auf den Parteivorsitz, die das Programm und die Gesprächsthemen des DK bestimmten.

Das Diplomatenkolleg gab uns auch die Möglichkeit, andere Teile des Landes zu besuchen und dort interessante Gespräche zu führen. Zusätzlich zu Reisen nach Brüssel und Hamburg machten wir zwei weitere Exkursionen nach Bonn und Freiburg. Dabei hat mich insbesondere der Besuch in Freiburg beeindruckt. Beim Rundgang mit Herrn Jürgen Oser, Referatsleiter im Regierungspräsidium Freiburg, zum Themenschwerpunkt Trinationale Metropolregion Oberrhein, haben wir an konkreten Beispielen gesehen, wie grenzüberschreitende Zusammenarbeit auf den Weg gebracht werden kann. Ich war persönlich sehr beeindruckt von Herrn Oser, der so überzeugend über europäische Werte und voller Stolz über seine Tätigkeit sprach.

Auch das gesellige Zusammensein kam nicht zu kurz. Es sind Momente, wie im Hamburger Rathaus, auf dem Balkon des Jakob-Kaiser-Hauses und dem Dach des Futuriums oder der Besuch des Weinguts in Staufen, die einem in Erinnerung bleiben. Die 15 Programmtage im Diplomatenkolleg machten es möglich, uns besser kennenzulernen, Erfahrungen auszutauschen und Freundschaften zu bilden.

Das alles wäre nicht möglich gewesen, ohne die Hingabe und Fürsorge des Programmteams. Dafür möchte ich mich im Namen aller Teilnehmenden ganz herzlich bedanken.

Das Diplomatenkolleg ist ein mehrmonatiges berufsbegleitendes Programm für Diplomaten, die in Berlin akkreditiert sind.

For the English version of this article please visit our website: diplomatictraining.alumniportal.com/programmes-2019/diplomatenkolleg

lak

13th Executive Seminar for Diplomats from Latin America and the Caribbean

30th August – 27th September 2018

From left to right:
Ivet López Rodríguez (Cuba), Marino Emilio Cáceres Bogaert (Dominican Republic), Jhonson Alexandre (Haiti, CARICOM), Ilan Masson (Programme Intern), Gweneth Joyann Forde (Barbados), Santiago Daniel Alonso de Souza Viera (Uruguay), Stefan Biedermann (Head of Training for International Diplomats), Lhuana Pamella López Amorim (Panama), Walter J. Lindner (State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office), Ana Maricela Ávila Becerril (Costa Rica), Corey Whyte (Jamaica), Stéphanie Thomas (Haiti), Clemens Bohl (Programme Coordinator), Lourdes Noemí Zelada Araujo (Paraguay), Lina María Otálora Muñoz (Columbia), María del Pilar Irala (Argentina), Vere Aaron (Antigua and Barbuda), Guillaume Robardet (Intern), Ambassador Dr Heinz-Peter Behr (Programme Director), José Roberto Chávez Morán (El Salvador), Jürgen Carl Ulrich Budike (Suriname), Jaime David Jensen López (Mexico), María José Cifuentes González (Chile)

»In today's world, there is a need for new influential actors to step up and play a more active role on the international stage.«

Jhonson Alexandre (CARICOM)
Participant of LAK 13

I had always wondered why such a great model of democracy and donor of technical and financial assistance has kept a low profile on the international stage while other countries continue to impose their rules in a very imperial way. During my short stay in Germany for the 13th Executive Seminar for Diplomats from Latin America and the Caribbean in September 2018, I realised how good Germans are at using soft power to achieve their objectives. Through my interactions with high-ranking German officials, I also learned that the adverse part of German history is behind this posture. Contemporary German authorities have recognised the harm done to humanity by some of their predecessors and have subsequently decided to maintain a low international profile. But one should ask whether Germany is the only country in the world that has caused pain to humankind.

While other developed countries have recently demonstrated a completely reduced interest in global affairs, Germany has been steadfast in providing assistance worldwide and in contributing to peacekeeping missions around the world. In today's world, some countries are becoming more protectionist and embracing unilateralism. However, Germany has reaffirmed its commitment to multilateralism and has spared no effort to help needy regions by remaining committed to the 2015 EU target of allocating 0.7% of GNI to ODA.

Germany has been one of the longstanding development partners of the Caribbean Community. It was also instrumental in adding the issue of climate change, one of the major concerns of the small island states of the Caribbean, to the agenda of the United Nations Security Council, thereby raising global awareness and acceptance of climate change as a serious threat to global security and stability. Following the catastrophic effects of Hurricane Maria on the Caribbean Island of Dominica in September 2017, Germany was a contributor to the hurricane relief efforts.

Germany's commitment to a more stable world is illustrated by the declaration by Foreign Minister Heiko Maas at the opening of the 16th Ambassadors Conference in Berlin on 27 August 2018, where he said "We will have to exert greater influence where Washington is withdrawing – not only financially, but above all politically." This statement speaks to the willingness of the German authorities to fill the void left by other major developed countries. In addition, Germany has renewed its commitment to multilateralism as an alliance in which all partners, be they big or small, have a role to play. During its term as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the 2019 – 2020 period, Germany intends to work with reliable partners that place an emphasis on dialogue and cooperation.

In today's world, there is a need for new influential international actors to step up and play a more active role on the international stage. The recognised horrible acts taken in the past by a country should not be a reason to take a back seat.

My participation in the 13th Executive Seminar for Diplomats from Latin America and the Caribbean has thus changed my perception of Germany and the people of this nation. For this, I wish to thank the Federal Foreign Office for giving me the opportunity to visit and for facilitating access to information on Germany's history, political system and economy, and more importantly, its foreign policy.

Please watch the programme's video using the QR Code and visit:
diplomatictraining.alumniportal.com/programmes-2019/latin-america-and-the-caribbean

lak

afg

17th Executive Seminar for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries

31st August – 28th September 2018

1st row, from left to right:
Malik Umair Khan (Pakistan), Sören Hellmonds (Programme Intern), Hailiang Hu (China), Mehrdad Pahlavani (Iran), Walter J. Lindner (State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office), Baheej Nastaran (Afghanistan), Omid Rashid (Afghanistan), Muzhgan Noory (Afghanistan), Tianqing Kou (China)

2nd row, from left to right:
Rahmanullah Masoud (Afghanistan), Mostafa Afshari (Iran), Pesarlay Hakimi (Afghanistan), Ambassador (ret.) Ortwin Hennig (Programme Director), Stefan Biedermann (Head of Training for International Diplomats), Ambassador (ret.) Dr Alexander Mühlen, Mengyan Bao (China), Eva Hörtner (Programme Coordinator)

afg

»Understanding a culture makes it easier to connect with people and to forge long-term relationships in pursuit of peace and prosperity.«

Umair Khan (Pakistan)
Participant of AFG 17

I am a diplomat from Pakistan who is starting his career. I am thankful to the German Government for providing this wonderful opportunity to participate in the 17th Executive Seminar for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries. The course focused on enhancing our professional skills, as well as bringing us into dialogue with people from all walks of life, including politicians, journalists, academics, members of civil society, etc. These dialogues helped us to understand both the viewpoints of the participants from different countries and the German perspective. And most importantly, they helped us to frame our own position in a way to make it more comprehensible or relatable to others.

Perhaps the most interesting parts of the course were the visits to other cities including Hamburg, Bonn and Potsdam. It is always a good idea to explore and compare different parts of a country to achieve a holistic approach towards the people, culture, politics and economy of that country.

For me, the most surprising thing was the preservation of all the historical buildings and monuments. How Germans have dealt with their troubled past is remarkable. It is very difficult to understand the motives of human behaviour, especially during times of conflict. And it takes a lot of courage to critically reflect on the role the young GDR troops played in guarding the wall during the Cold War or to decide to save some of the graffiti on the walls of the Reichstag (now Bundestag) made by Soviet soldiers. And most importantly, this was decided in a democratic and inclusive fashion by including all the stakeholders in the decision-making process.

Before joining the course I was excited not only to learn about theories and skills necessary for diplomats, but also to explore Germany from political and cultural viewpoints. For me, Germany was the dialectics of Hegel, the strategies of Bismarck, the class-consciousness of Marx, the complexities of Nietzsche, the follies of Versailles, the darkness of Hitler, the absurdities of the wall and the promises of reunification. But now I also see Germany as the Reformation by Luther, the symphonies of Beethoven, the sensitivities of the Wall Memorial, the unity in diversity principle of its federalism, the beauty of the Rhine, the scientific excellence of DESY, the cooperative outlook on the world, and most importantly, the resilience of its people.

After attending this course I am confident in saying that I now understand the importance of diplomacy by networking. Understanding a culture makes it easier to connect with people from that culture and to forge long-term relationships in pursuit of peace and prosperity. All this would not have been possible without the efforts of our coordinators and the programme director who not only organised the activities, but also provided us with valuable insights whenever needed. I hope such programmes may continue in the future in order to forge new bonds and strengthen existing ones.

Please watch the programme's video using the QR Code and visit:
diplomatictraining.alumniportal.com/programmes-2019/afghanistan

if

15th International Futures

30th September – 12th October 2018

From left to right:
Denisse Dali Barragán Sánchez (Mexico), Sylvia Nonkululeko Nyembe (South Africa), ZHANG Bei (China), Hety Apriliastuti Nurcahyarini (Indonesia), Yvonne Mbalenhle Mbatha (South Africa), Ana Margarita Martínez Mendoza (Mexico), CUI Yan (China), Ambassador (ret.) Peter Gottwald (Programme Director), HONG Xiaobing (China), Isabel Mancuso (Germany), Thurstan Jean Vivian Matthee (South Africa), Mia Rachelia (Indonesia), João Vitor Faria Domingues (Brazil), Prathit Charan Misra (India), LIU Chen (China), Palesa Mgaga (South Africa), LIU Wei (China), Franziska Sophie Frank (Programme Coordinator), Isabel Reible (Programme Coordinator), Ingrid Barbosa Fang (Brazil), Eva Binkert (Germany), Marina Carrilho Soares (Brazil), Vinicius Scofield Siqueira (Brazil), Cristian Becerra Monroy (Mexico), Walter J. Lindner (State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office), Katrin Grunwald (Germany), Carolina de Cresce El Debs (Brazil), Iris Reinl (Deputy Head of Training for International Diplomats), Mayukh Hajra (India), Ujjwal Kumar (India), Gargi Sharma Goel (India), Radhitiono Wicaksono (Indonesia), Noory Oktharizа (Indonesia), Yaseen Lagardien (South Africa), Magdalena von Drachenfels (Germany), Archith Ashok (India), Patricia Georgina Barquet Diaz (Mexico) Fulya Karin Yarasir (Programme Intern), Simon Happersberger (Programme Intern), Sarah Pagung (Germany)

»A greater connect between research and diplomacy could be extremely helpful in solving pressing issues.«

Ujjwal Kumar (India)
Participant of IF 15

It is my firm belief that to shape the future of the world allied to the shared Global Goals for Sustainable Development, three key elements pave the way forward: knowledge, strategy and diplomacy. The knowledge paves a path, the strategy aspect allows for the journey, and diplomacy ensures availability of the resources needed to shape the future. International Futures (IF) provided me with just the right platform to further substantiate my beliefs.

Today, when we stand at the crossroads of irreversible climate change, when we see the great gender disparity brazenly rearing its head, or acknowledge the swelling odds for use of nuclear weapons, I feel that a greater connect between research and diplomacy could be extremely helpful in solving pressing issues, and my time here with IF helped me understand this better.

We, as researchers, record first-hand accounts of policy implementations and their impact on people. Our field work keeps us close to the grassroots and hence in a unique position to gauge the shortcomings of ideas while finding ways of improving upon them, the intent being to develop and share knowledge for better policy formulation.

For analysts, a significant effort goes into strategising practical solutions for the issues at hand. Local researchers, for example, are best placed to give pragmatic solutions for local issues. The same could be extrapolated to global concerns wherein research strategists from across the world come together to create universal solutions. I understand that it is easier said than done, but so was walking on the moon, at a point in time.

The role of diplomats then comes into the picture. Diplomats, with their expertise, skills and know-how are best suited to turn those ideas into reality. They play a crucial role in the formulation of national positions and approaches to global issues such as disarmament, immigration and trade. They work at multiple levels including summit-level talks or back-channel negotiations for getting regional and global consensus on policies. This makes them ideal for integrating policies generated by researchers and strategists into national strategies and for making sure that they are absorbed at the global level.

It is my intent, and understanding, that we could work on three different timelines to effect a change. In the near future, we can look to create forums, dealing with one issue or multiple ones, by bringing together researchers and diplomats to forge stronger ties. In the medium-term, we could establish a multidisciplinary forum which could effectively facilitate the chain of operations, as mentioned above. And in the long term, we could look at creating international corps of diplomat-researchers with the training and skill set to see an issue through from studies to implementation.

International Futures has been an extremely eye-opening experience for me in this regard and I believe that with such forums to guide and influence minds, innovative ideas could be further explored and indeed put into practice.

Please watch the programme's video using the QR Code and visit:
diplomatictraining.alumniportal.com/programmes-2019/international-futures

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lka

1st Executive Seminar for Diplomats from Sri Lanka

8th October – 19th October 2018

1st row, from left to right:
Galagama Arachchige Dona Sachini Chathurika Dias, Pubudini Mihiravi Dissanayakage, Stefan Biedermann (Head of Training for International Diplomats), Supun Deshaprema Kariyawasam Manage, Niels Annen (Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office), Gajithra Navan, Thulan Kavindu Bandara Manathunga Mudiyanselage, Sarah van Bentum (Programme Coordinator)

2nd row, from left to right:
Erik Schreiner (Programme Intern), Athuraliyage Thivanka Upachala Athuraliya, Diana Damayanthi Perera Mampitiya Arachchilage, Sasireha Shanmugam, Herath Mudiyanselage Dulanji Rasanga Herath, Thimuthu Sanjika Dissanayake, Nishanthini Victor, Priya Nagarajah, Dinushi Sonali Rupathunga Hettiwelige

Ika

»We were impressed by Germany's efforts to establish a stable future based on its own past experiences through regional cooperation, open government and honest dedication.«

I was delighted to find that I had been selected to attend the First Executive Seminar for Diplomats from Sri Lanka, organised by the Federal Foreign Office, along with my colleagues at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sri Lanka. It was a great privilege to participate in this training as new members of the Sri Lankan Foreign Service, at a historic moment when Sri Lanka and Germany were celebrating the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations. This is definitely a milestone in our career development.

While we were impressed by Germany's efforts to establish a stable future based on its own past experiences through regional cooperation, open government and honest dedication, the training offered was a valuable opportunity to interact with high-level officials of the German Foreign Service and to discuss and share thoughts and experiences, exploring German technology, culture, history and cuisine. The session with Minister of State Niels Annen at the FFO and our visit to the Bundestag following discussions with some of its members were politically very insightful. It was really exciting to visit the EUREF-Campus, where we had the opportunity to find out a great deal about R&D projects and the UN Campus in Bonn. The visit to the House of History represented a sudden escape from the present, and we felt as if we were walking along the streets of the past. It is noteworthy that the public speaking training we were offered was one of our favourite parts of the programme. The sessions were most informative and interactive.

Since the day we landed at Berlin, we received a warm welcome and a constant assistance from the team, Ambassador Heinz-Peter Behr, Sarah van Bentum and Erik Schreiner. The two-week programme was well organised and, of course, we were able to strengthen our network with German colleagues. We are looking forward to reciprocating the friendship and kindness of our German colleagues back in Sri Lanka. We hope that future generations will continue to benefit from this opportunity as well, in order to strengthen "diplomacy by networking".

Apart from the academic insights, I brought back home from Germany memories of the exciting paternoster at the FFO, late-night walks in beautiful Bonn and the panoramic views in the autumn at the Foreign Service Academy, which I will always cherish.

On a final note, thank you Germany for this wonderful experience: great memories, great training and great people.

Dinushi Sonali Rupathunga Hettiwelige (Sri Lanka)
Participant of LKA 1

Please visit our website:
diplomatictraining.alumniportal.com/programme-archive/sri-lanka

irq

7th Executive Seminar for Diplomats from Iraq

6th November – 28th November 2018

1st row, from left to right:
Wasan Abdul Ameer Kareem Mubarak, Fidwah Abdulhussain Manea, Nibras Raad Kamil, Muthana Yousif Morad Al-Fatla, Anne-Kristin Piplica (Federal Foreign Office), Suhad Ziyad Khalid, Abualhakm Adnan Al Saadi, Andrea Rubner (Federal Foreign Office), Iris Bartelt (Programme Coordinator), Lilly Marie Schmidt (Programme Intern), Hossein Mohamed Magtoof Al-Taei

2nd row, from left to right:
Abdulrahman Nawaf (Embassy of Iraq), Ahmed N. Hasan Alsahhaf, Stefan Biedermann (Head of Training for International Diplomats), Omar Awadh Fakhri Al-Adhami, Bashar Fawzi Al-Bander, Ambassador Dr Heinz-Peter Behr (Programme Director), Hawrre Al-Talabani (Embassy of Iraq), Alaa Sami Mohammed, Raad Al-Jammaly, Sarah van Bentum (Federal Foreign Office), Erik Schreiner (Programme Intern)

»Learning from the past shapes the future.«

Alaa Sami Mohammed (Iraq)
Suhad Ziyad Khalid (Iraq)
Participants of IRQ 7

We are Alaa Sami Mohammed and Suhad Ziyad Khalid, young Iraqi diplomats who participated in the 7th Executive Seminar for Diplomats from Iraq, organised and generously hosted by the Federal Foreign Office in Berlin from 6 to 28 November 2018. It is a privilege for both of us to have the opportunity to jointly write this article and share our experiences and impressions about this intensive course.

The seminar programme was a mixture of sightseeing and cultural visits, academic lectures, simulations and practical exercises in negotiation, public speaking and diplomacy. It also included excursions to the State of Hesse and Hamburg. Our group of twelve diplomats shares the opinion that the programme organisers were very successful in compiling and communicating intensive academic and practical information, and at the same time making the programme interesting and lively.

The lectures provided an excellent and unique opportunity for us to learn closely about Germany, its federal system, the organisational structure of the FFO and the experiences and perspectives of German diplomats on a number of topics such as protocol, global issues and the role of Germany in the international arena as well as conflict management and peacekeeping, including their views on the Arab region and our country Iraq.

The courses on negotiation skills, public speaking, and the simulation game on peace mediation and conflict transformation are directly related to the core of our practical work as diplomats and were a new experience for us, especially the modern learning methods, which made us very keen to share them with our diplomatic service institute. We believe that diplomats would love to see more of such topics in future programmes.

On the other hand we realised that reading alone is not enough to know everything about Germany. Three decades after the fall of the Berlin Wall, we learned about many of the events that took place in the last century, we saw a lot of evidence related to the post war period, which holds lessons on which all the German people should build their future, and we noticed that the Bundestag dome is made of glass and erected on top of the reconstructed building to symbolise the reunification of Germany as well as Berlin's attempt to move away from its past. Accessible spaces are designed to allow citizens to actually see their representatives at work. At the same time, a glass enclosed parliament represents the idea of transparent democratic institutions.

We admired the massive efforts that have been dedicated to preserving and reconstructing the history of every monument, building and city we visited. It taught us the importance of history, which promotes unity, and the lessons learned from it, which will help us to improve our future. We have been inspired by the German people, how they were able to get back on their feet again and rebuild Germany as a sanctuary for freedom, tolerance and human rights. These lessons have inspired us with hope for the future of our country Iraq, which has faced similar hardships due to terrorism.

We had the pleasure of meeting Dr Heinz-Peter Behr and his efficient young German team and getting to know them well during the course of our training programme. Dr Behr has a personality that combines German seriousness with a sense of humour. We often laughed at his delightful jokes and sarcastic comments, which made his presence with us an additional fun factor. We would like to extend our gratitude to him and his team for all their efforts, which ensured the success of this seminar.

Please watch the programme's video using the QR Code and visit:
diplomatictraining.alumniportal.com/programmes-2019/iraq

irq

mag

4ème Stage de formation pour les diplomates du Maghreb

7 novembre – 29 novembre 2018

De gauche à droite:
Amine Medjkane (l'Algérie), Amine Mansouri (l'Algérie), Abdallah Bounasri (la Tunisie), Anand Sundar (Stagiaire), Marouene Jetlaoui (la Tunisie), Iris Reinl (Directrice-Adjointe de la Formation des diplomates étrangers), Raoudha Ben Mansour (la Tunisie), Abdelkrim Haddid (l'Algérie), Hamza Mouldar (le Maroc), Kaouthar Chelbi (la Tunisie), Mourad Belharizi (l'Algérie), Anne-Sophie Mignon (Coordinatrice du programme), Stefan Biedermann (Directeur de la Formation des diplomates étrangers), Ambassadeur (ret.) Michael Witter (Directeur du programme), Abderrahmane Mahfoud (le Maroc), Ahmed Boumediene (le Maroc), Fakhri Amamri (la Tunisie), Samir Madadi (l'Algérie)

mag

« Une expérience riche en partage et en émotions. »

Kaouthar Chelbi (Tunisie)
Participante MAG 4

« Au premier voyage on découvre, au second on s'enrichit ». Après trois semaines de découverte et d'immersion au cœur d'un pays que j'ai eu le plaisir de visiter auparavant, je ne peux qu'apprécier cette expérience qui m'a permis de m'enrichir davantage tant sur le plan professionnel que personnel.

La formation pour les diplomates du Maghreb a été une occasion exceptionnelle pour jeter de nouveaux jalons afin de consolider les relations d'amitié et de coopération entre les pays du Maghreb et l'Allemagne notamment en vue de la réalisation des objectifs du développement durable.

Le programme de cette formation alternant les visites, les cours et les échanges m'a agréablement transportée dans le temps et dans l'espace d'un pays étroitement attaché à sa « culture de la mémoire » pour « ne pas oublier » mais aussi d'une Allemagne tournée vers un futur portant les valeurs universelles d'un État de droit, de démocratie et de liberté et dotée d'un secteur industriel des plus pointus au monde.

De Buchenwald aux usines de BMW et AIRBUS en passant par le magnifique port de Hambourg, ce ne sont pas seulement quelques décennies écoulées que l'on découvre mais surtout une volonté ferme de femmes et d'hommes qui ont cru et œuvré pour l'ancrage d'un modèle politique et économique, forçant le respect de tous.

L'Allemagne a opté pour un système fédéral extrêmement organisé où la démocratie participative est la valeur essentielle permettant à tous les Länder d'avoir leur mot à dire.

Férue de littérature et d'histoire de l'art, je ne peux qu'exprimer ma fascination à l'égard de l'esprit avant-gardiste de la Duchesse Anna Amalia et sa bibliothèque illuminée encore aujourd'hui par le génie de Goethe et de Schiller.

Enfin, cette découverte d'un pays aux facettes multiples ne pouvait se concrétiser sans tous les échanges si fructueux avec des intervenants de qualité et une équipe d'organisation si attentive et disponible.

Cette expérience extrêmement positive, qui a atteint son objectif de faire découvrir la politique allemande et ses orientations, son histoire et sa culture, a fait naitre également une forte cohésion et de nouvelles amitiés entre les participants tunisiens, algériens et marocains. J'ai eu le plaisir et le privilège, tout au long de ce séjour, de partager avec mes collègues allemands et maghrébins autant nos expériences et nos projets d'avenir que d'agréables moments de convivialité.

Dans l'espoir d'une prochaine rencontre, un grand merci à nos amis allemands pour leur accueil si chaleureux, leur hospitalité ainsi que leur disponibilité qui ont permis l'excellent déroulement de notre séjour.

Veuillez regarder la vidéo du programme en utilisant le code QR et visitez le site web:
diplomatictraining.alumniportal.com/programme-archive/maghreb

»Creating and Cultivating Networks in Berlin.«

by Stephan G. Langley

Stephan G. Langley is an American diplomat, who is currently posted in Frankfurt, Germany, and participant of IDL 42.

The German Federal Foreign Office's International Diplomatic Training division has brought together more than 3,800 diplomats from every country in the world over the past 25 years to improve practical skills, provide professional development opportunities, convey insights into the workings of German government and remind diplomats that people are behind the creation of foreign policy. The six-week Diplomatic Training Executive Seminar hosted by the German Foreign Office in Berlin is geared toward German-speaking diplomats from around the world who have, ideally, already served abroad. This year's demanding program, held entirely in German, was packed with more than 50 meetings with German and European Union (EU) officials in eight cities. Twenty participants from around the globe participated in intensive public speaking exercises, Oxford-style debates, mediation exercises and useful cultural training that permitted the diverse group to work closely for the duration of the course without cultural differences getting in the way. Core course topics included international economic policy, peacekeeping, conflict prevention and human rights. The open format of meetings with representatives at the city, state, federal and EU-level allowed participants to freely incorporate current topics of interest into the discussions. This year, diplomats from Canada, China, Japan, Latvia, Ukraine, Colombia, Poland, Armenia, Uzbekistan, Georgia, the Czech Republic, Thailand, Argentina, Chile, Romania, Andorra, Lithuania and Iran made the trip to Berlin. While everyone spoke advanced or fluent German, a few participants had never before traveled to Germany, or anywhere outside of their home country, which added to the diverse makeup of the group. Meetings were generally held inside the German Foreign Office, where participants could wander the halls and freely mingle with their German colleagues and meet with senior Foreign Office staff, including an afternoon with the Deputy Foreign Minister, who underscored the strategic significance of the training programs role in establishing robust diplomatic networks worldwide.

The first week's focus was to familiarize the participants with Germany's capital and the immense Foreign Office building, which formerly housed both the central bank of the Third Reich during World War II and the central committee of the Socialist Party of East Germany until the fall of the Berlin Wall. The Foreign Offices training staff provided practical and condensed versions of

»The relationships that formed between participants provided a sense that Germany's experiment could hold promise – fostering free and open dialogue between the people who have a role in shaping their countries' foreign policy and helping them to build a foundation for partnership-based cooperation on global issues.«

their challenging 24-month training curriculum. The exercises significantly strengthened the participants' German language skills. This helped during meetings with prominent public figures, politicians, career ambassadors and representatives from private sector organizations.

After providing a brief introduction, each speaker relied on the participants to drive discussions about current events or other areas of interest, related to the "America First" foreign policy philosophy and other factors influencing current U.S. foreign affairs. The program director of the Executive Seminar for International Diplomats, an ambassador well-known in Berlin's political and diplomatic circles, remained with the group at all times to assign daily control officers and to ensure everyone participated actively and, most importantly, communicated exclusively in German.

As the program progressed, participants were grouped into teams and competed in negotiation exercises and debates, and created videos that were critiqued by both German diplomats and fellow participants. By the second or third week, the projects and competitions became more intense—nations, governments, and political and cultural differences started to disappear, and the status of diplomatic relations between countries seemed to have little effect on the bonds that formed between participants as they teamed together to win debates and prepare engaging questions for the speakers and guests. The relaxed atmosphere of the more informal events that followed the strenuous days further helped break down the differences. Most evenings were filled with organized cultural events, dinners, team activities, sporting events and museum visits. The course also included trips to the EU parliament and NATO headquarters in Brussels and the German Supreme Court in Karlsruhe.

Sobering visits to the Buchenwald concentration camp and other remnants of the Weimar Republic gave participants a better understanding of the problematical nature of recurring German nationalist movements.

Throughout the six-week program, participants learned about Germany, each other and themselves. The opportunity to exchange stories and experiences, and explain and defend an American view of world events to diplomats from countries such as Iran or China, some who had never before met an American, made for a truly unforgettable experience. The Federal Republic of Germany, too, benefited from the training, as it gained new friends from all over the world who now have a greater understanding of German life and its governmental processes, as well as insights into some of the challenges facing the country's leadership. The relationships that formed between participants provided a sense that Germany's experiment could hold promise - fostering free and open dialogue between the people who have a role in shaping their countries' foreign policy and helping them to build a foundation for partnership-based cooperation on global issues.

In addition to the annual six-week executive seminar, the German Foreign Office offers several other courses open to American diplomats at all levels. The Foreign Office's Diplomatic Training portal has more information and lists all upcoming programs, as well as regional networking opportunities for diplomats posted overseas.

Stephan G. Langley, General services officer at Consulate General Frankfurt.

The story was published in State Magazine, a digital magazine published by the U.S. Department of State, in June of 2018.

»2018, a great year!«

[KHM LAO 1]

[IF 15]

[LAK 13]

[ASP 11]

[UKR 8]

[AFG 17]

[EGY 5]

[HSP 2]

[LKA 1]

[IDP 9]

Alumni

»Building bridges«

Fernando Javier Valdés Vicencio, alumnus of LAK 3, chatting with Gesa Giesing, Programme Manager, Alumni and Partners at Training for International Diplomats

Hey Gesa! Look, I just found this nice photo of the two of us! ☺ Remember – we were standing on this bridge between Germany and Switzerland during the Network Consolidation Meeting on Cross Border Cooperation last year. It really impressed me to see how open borders in Europe allow people from different countries to interact during their everyday lives so easily. People work together, create projects together, contribute to each other's economies…. It really helped me understand what peace in Europe means! Anyway, how has your year been?

Dear Fernando, Thank you for your really kind message! Indeed – I, too, was fascinated by how a town like Rheinfelden exists in two countries at the same time. 2018 was a great year for us! We had two Regional Network Meetings: one in Georgia on sustainability, and one in Nairobi that focused on the links between migration and education. Besides that, we hosted three Network Consolidation Meetings in Germany and organised many other smaller activities in Berlin. We've reached the 800 participant milestone for our alumni events.

Wow, out of 3,800 alumni in total? That's a good number! Keep up the good work! ☺ What have you planned for 2019?

Sayan Samanta, India,
alumnus of IF 9

Fernando Javier Valdés Vicencio, Gesa Giesing (right)

In March, we will explore the topic of "Peace Building and Peace Keeping" in Islamabad. Furthermore, we are planning a mediation training session in Berlin, another programme on Cross Border Cooperation in the border regions between Germany, Switzerland and France, and a Regional Network Meeting in Kyiv.

Nice! I hope I can join another one at some point. The ifa Academy was also involved in the Cross Border Cooperation Programme. Will you continue working with them?

Yes, we will, and we will even deepen our cooperation in 2019. Our very positive and fruitful cooperation with the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) has, however, come to an end. In addition, we regularly invite alumni from other international programmes that can enrich our network of diplomats based on their profile. Indeed, there are many other good initiatives that have the same goals we do.

What are your common goals, then?

We want to help bright minds (like yours ☺!) grow their networks, train diplomatic skills that they can use in everyday work and bring people from all over the world together, thus fostering international cooperation. Briefly: We connect people, just like this bridge in Rheinfelden does. ☺

Yes, that is exactly what I observed in your programmes that I had the honour to participate in. I am still in touch with many of my fellow participants. It was for instance especially enriching to share what I learned about European Cross Border Cooperation with colleagues from the US, where I live. I must say that I really support your work. There are a lot of good practices in Germany – a country that truly reflects critically on its own history – that are worth sharing! So please continue your activities!

Thank you, Fernando. ☺ **We are also looking forward to welcoming you again during one of our future activities! And don't forget to let us know in case you change posts or email addresses, so that our invitations and emails will always reach you.** ☺

No worries, I'll do that! All the best to you, Gesa. I have to go now; I have another meeting … Talk to you soon!

All the best to you, too, dear Fernando!

The partnership between Training for International Diplomats and IPS
For some years, Training for International Diplomats and the International Parliamentary Scholarship (IPS) have cooperated with the aim of connecting the alumni of both networks. In the context of this partnership, IPS alumni are invited to participate in our alumni events. These events include round-table discussions in Berlin as well as programmes lasting several days, like Network Consolidation Programmes in Berlin and Regional Network Meetings abroad.

Fidan Damer is an alumna of the International Parliamentary Scholarship and joined our network in 2015.

TRAINING FOR INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATS' REGIONAL NETWORK MEETING IN TBILISI

A report by Fidan Damer

Training for International Diplomats' alumni network brings together international alumni from a number of German organisations and foundations. It comprises not only former participants of its executive seminars for international diplomats, but also participants of various German programmes and foundations such as the Bundestag's International Parliamentary Scholarship. One of the network's main benefits is that it serves as a platform for establishing new contacts and sharing experiences with colleagues from different countries. This year, the Federal Foreign Office invited diplomats as well as alumni from the Carl Friedrich Goerdeler-Kolleg for Good Governance, the Bosch Foundation and the International Parliamentary Scholarship to gather in Georgia's capital Tbilisi.

The programme focused on an interesting topic area: "Global Challenges – Local Answers? Towards Modernisation and Sustainable Development." What exactly does sustainable development entail? How can it be promoted? During the three days of the meeting, participants tried to find answers to these questions.

The Regional Network Meeting started with a welcome reception hosted by Germany's Ambassador to Georgia, H. E. Dr Peitsch, during which participants had the opportunity to get to know representatives from various countries. The programme included a number of discussions with high-profile dialogue partners, including, inter alia, Niels Scott, UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP Resident Representative and UNFPA Representative in Georgia; Felix Hett, Director of the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung South Caucasus Office and high-ranking Georgian politicians. Furthermore, we were given the opportunity to visit the office of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in Tbilisi and learn about GIZ's role in fostering sustainable development in the region. We also gained wide-ranging insights into the EU's approach to sustainable development in various countries. Discussions went beyond the regional approach during an exchange of ideas, where participants presented and discussed projects related to sustainable development from their respective home countries.

My personal highlight of the meeting was definitely our trip to the Kakheti region in the east of Georgia, where we discovered a local project related to the SDGs and also visited the small and beautiful town of Sighnaghi, known as the "city of love".

For me, the trip to Georgia and the experiences I gained there were highly enriching, not only for my professional work on my dissertation, which focuses on the South Caucasus, but also personally. Indeed, it seems that personal experiences like the Regional Network Meeting are important elements of continuing education.

After my tenth visit to Georgia, I can certainly say that I always find it difficult to say goodbye. I think that the beautiful ancient architecture, its modern art and its hospitality make Tbilisi a fascinating city which attracts people from all over the world.

Diego Bassante Gavilanes (Ecuador), Participant of LAK 2 (2007) and RNM Mexico City (2017) Current occupation: Head of Public Policy Andean Region, Facebook

da Impact

»Looking back at your time at Training for International Diplomats today, in what way has the seminar had an impact on your professional occupation?«

INTERVIEWS WITH TWO OF OUR ALUMNI

Diego Bassante Gavilanes: The seminar in Berlin was a milestone in my professional training. Not only was it a superb learning experience on issues related to German and European foreign relations, but also on the mechanisms and institutions through which those relations are carried out. The opportunity to talk to policy-makers and visit European institutions was part of the hands-on process that I truly appreciated. The networking experience is also something that has proven to be quite fruitful in my career since. I've crossed paths with many colleagues from Latin America and Germany and I can say that the participation in Training for International Diplomats provides a bonding factor that persists throughout the years.

Do you recall any particular event or experience from your stay in Berlin?

I think that one of the greatest takeaways that my stay in Berlin provided was the experience of effectively representing my country in a diplomatic setting. For someone who is training to be a foreign service officer but not one just yet, putting yourself in the shoes of an actual diplomat before being one is priceless. And, as with all jobs, nothing quite gives you the experience you need other than actually living it. I will always remain grateful for that.

In 2017, you participated in our Regional Network Meeting in Mexico City. What motivated you to participate in this alumni event, ten years after your seminar at TFID?

The positive experience I had back in 2007 motivated me to keep up to date on activities and opportunities to reconnect with the colleagues and teachers I met in Berlin. I found the 2017 encounter very constructive both to learn firsthand how the issues I studied a decade ago have evolved, and also to reminisce and learn from experiences we've all accumulated since we first met.

Mihai Alexandru Grădinar: It certainly had an impact. As a Romanian diplomat at the beginning of his diplomatic career, the seminar in Germany offered me the possibility to interact with one of the most solid and respected foreign services in the world. The experience accumulated in the period I spent in Bonn and Berlin was and still is a valuable asset in my career. The way in which the programme was designed, especially the internship in the offices in Werderscher Markt, I am sure, had a certain impact on the careers of the participants, most of them at an early stage. And the occasion at this stage of the career to talk and work with experienced German diplomats, participate in different meetings - the general approach of the German colleagues towards us as if we were part of their team and service was incredible. I want also to underline the important networking component of the seminar - contacts we made then and that could have been used in our careers, as many of the participants are still active in various foreign services. Personally, I am still in touch, after 15 years, with some of the participants in MOE 23 and meet also different diplomats that graduated the programme.

Did the seminar change the way you perceive Germany? If so, how?

Yes and no. Yes, because I was happy to experience the openness for the foreign participants of the German foreign service and the will to contribute to integrate young diplomats from around the world in an international seminar. And no, because I was expecting the seminar to be useful, well-organized and results-oriented, what was, in the end confirmed during the course and are important pillars of the German society.

Mihai Alexandru Grădinar (Romania),
Participant of MOE 23 (2003),
Current posting:
Ambassador of Romania to Denmark

What would you consider the most important change in the field of diplomacy in the last 15 years?

There are many changes that we experience. In the current period where the world order is challenged in different ways, diplomacy is in the place, more than ever, to contribute to maintaining peace and stability around the globe. Huge crisis - as the financial crisis, migration crisis, hybrid warfare, are challenging the classic diplomacy, but also providing the framework to use diplomatic tools in areas where maybe in the past this was not needed.

Interview by Tim Bosch, one of our alumni programme coordinators in 2018.

Charbel Dadde is an alumnus of the International Parliamentary Scholarship and joined our network in 2018.

»Awareness needs to be raised, policies must be harmonised, capacities should be built, and the protection of vulnerable people who are victims of human trafficking, smuggling or any kind of violence should be greatly increased.«

TRAINING FOR INTERNATIONAL DIPLOMATS' REGIONAL NETWORK MEETING IN NAIROBI

A report by Charbel Dadde

As an advocator of human rights in Lebanon, a country that has hosted more than a million Syrian refugees, I was invited by the Federal Foreign Office's Training for International Diplomats to the Regional Network Meeting focusing on "Education and Migration".

The meeting, held in Nairobi, was of great inspiration to me, especially in that it gathered together diplomats and professionals from all over the world, all passionate experts in education and/or migration. The programme started with a gathering at the residence of the German Ambassador to Kenya, Annett Günther, who welcomed us cordially, invited us for dinner and with a motivational speech launched the conference.

On the second day we embarked into the world of migration through a presentation held by Mariam Yessin, Somali Federal Government Special Envoy on Migrants' and Children's Rights, starting with basic yet crucial questions such as What is migration? Who is a migrant today? Who benefits from the migration process?

Indeed, to each of these questions an infinite number of answers cross the mind; the perspectives are diverse and opinions might be subjective; however, there is one truth that no one can deny: millions of people are forced to migrate all over the world in order to survive. While it seems that we cannot put an end to the migration "crisis" and while most of the solutions to its root causes have been ineffective, better migration management is urgently needed. Therefore, Silke Hampson, the Regional Coordinator of GIZ Kenya/Somalia, offered an insight into GIZ's work and stated that it is crucial to distinguish a refugee from an asylum seeker from a migrant; migration as a holistic concept can cover both other forms but might also be none of them. Those categories matter because only some (refugees, recognised victims of trafficking ...) receive protection, whereas those who are experiencing violence, exploitation, abuse and/or rights violations might not be protected within their migrant status. For these reasons, awareness needs to be raised, policies must be harmonised, capacities should be built, and the protection of vulnerable people who are victims of human trafficking, smuggling or any kind of violence should be greatly increased. Another important conclusion drawn from this session was that education can reduce migrant vulnerabilities and facilitate the process of migration: the more educated we are, the smoother the process of migration is and the more successful it becomes.

Indeed, the session given on the third day by Walpurga Englbrecht, the Deputy Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Kenya, shed more light on the efforts invested in order to provide refugees with education in the Kenyan context and on its importance. Definitely, education as stated in the 1951 Refugee Convention, is a basic human right. What is crucial here is access to education: "What distinguishes one child from another is not ability, but access. Access to education, access to opportunity, access to love," says Lauryn Hill. Education is beneficial to all: it empowers a refugee, giving knowledge and skills to live decently and independently, and offers protection from exploitation and abuse; it contributes to the prosperity of the host country by creating production, and enlightens the mindset to strive and rebuild the communities the refugee comes from. Moreover, Dr Marangu Njogu, the Executive Director For Windle Trust Kenya (WIK), explained how to provide and sustain education within vulnerable communities spread into two main refugee camps in Kenya. This session ended with a great example of transformational change driven by education, with Mr Feisal Hussein

Regional Network Meetings, gathering alumni of various programmes and featuring a specific topic, have been organised abroad at least twice a year since 2013. The objective of these regional meetings is to strengthen the existing personal relationship networks, offer additional training, as well as to open up the network to other interesting partners and guests. The Regional Network Meeting in Nairobi took place in October 2018 on "Questions on Migration and Education".

Ibrahim, a Somali refugee, telling his story about how education changed his life from a refugee to the leader of the DAFI Kenya Students Organisation (DAFIKESO).

To illustrate migration in more detail, the programme included a film screening of the movie "When Paul came over the sea", made by Jakob Preuss, a lawyer, human rights activist and film director and participant in the Regional Network Meeting. The movie reflects the hard journey of Paul, a 30-year-old Cameroonian. Jakob himself filmed the documentary while accompanying Paul throughout his journey. While watching, you migrate, you feel deception, confusion, danger, and you wonder "How many victims did the sea swallow into its deepest depths to spit out later on along its shore as an eternally silent corps?" Moreover you are surprised that in the 21st century we still have walls that separate humanity; one of them is the fence of Melilla that hundreds of Africans try to climb hoping to reach the other side of the wall.

The dream of Europe has kept haunting many Africans since the period of colonisation, one of the root causes of migration. Migration can be the result of war and persecution, but many people, in spite of having a decent and safe life in their country, decide to migrate voluntarily looking for better life opportunities such as better education. Thus Dr Helmut Blumbach, Director of the German Academic Exchange Service in Kenya (DAAD), and Dr Alexander Puk, Political Counsellor and Head of Press at the German Embassy in Nairobi, joined the conference in order to explore how education is a tool to influence migration trends. Nowadays, thousands of well-qualified migrants are pursuing their education in Germany. Again this has its price: brain drain.

The programme ended with an optional educational visit to Giraffe Center. When in Kenya, it is vital to have a close look at the wildlife, since Kenyans believe that to live peacefully is to live in harmony with the nature around them.

Back in my country, I feel so thoughtful about all the migrants who cross the seas and climb the fences in order to survive, yet I have lots of hope inside of me. It is definitely shocking how human rights are being abused in the world and how humanity is being tortured; however, there are brave people who fight for humanity to transform migration from a crisis into an opportunity.

[1]

[2]

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[4]

[5]

2018 Events

February

22 February | Berlinale: It has become a tradition for some of our Berlin-based alumni to visit the well-known Berlinale Film Festival at the beginning of the year. This time, our alumni joined the participants of the 42nd Executive Seminar for International Diplomats for the screening of the movie "Museo" by Mexican film director Alonso Ruizpalacios.

March

1 March | Writing workshop: For the third time, Training for International Diplomats and the nefia network (Netzwerk für Internationale Aufgaben) cooperated in organising a four-hour writing workshop for alumni held by author and journalist Stephanie von Hayek.

April

23 – 27 April | 8th Network Consolidation Programme: 17 alumni came back to Training for International Diplomats for the programme on "Peace Mediation and Crisis Diplomacy in Action: New Dynamics for Stable Stalemates through Mediation." Participants discussed the increasing importance of peace mediation and received input from a number of high-profile guest lecturers. The course provided analytical frameworks as well as theoretical insights while also examining practical case studies and contemporary conflicts. The programme was organised in close cooperation with the Center for Peace Mediation at the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder) and took place in Berlin and Frankfurt (Oder). [3]

June

27 – 29 June | Regional Network Meeting in Tbilisi: "Global Challenges – Local Answers? Towards Modernisation and Sustainable Development": This motto was at the heart of the Regional Network Meeting, which took place in Tbilisi with 27 alumni from 16 countries. Matters of sustainable development were discussed from a regional perspective, with visits to local projects related to the SDGs in Tbilisi and the Kakheti region. [1]

August

27 August | DK 13 opening: The Diplomatenkolleg (DK) is a programme for young diplomats from Europe, the Southern Caucasus and Central Asia who are on a posting in Berlin. Once again, Berlin-based alumni who had participated in the preceding seminar joined the group of participants for the official DK opening at the Federal Foreign Office. [4]

27 – 31 August | UNSSC Summer Academy: 13 international diplomats, scholars and internationally oriented executives from our alumni network participated in the UN Summer Academy of the United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC). A diverse group of experts gathered in Bonn to discuss questions of sustainable development under the motto "Bringing the 2030 Agenda to Life". Some participants organised their own workshops. At the same time, the academy provided an opportunity for networking with other organisations and international leaders. Scholarships for the event were provided by Training for International Diplomats, the UN Summer Academy and the German Bundestag's International Parliamentary Scholarship. Thank you for the fruitful cooperation! [5]

31 August | Alumni join DK 13 for a working lunch with Professor Herfried Münkler: DK-Alumni joined the participants of the 13th Diplomatenkolleg for a working lunch with Professor Herfried Münkler, one of Germany's most renowned political scientists. Professor Münkler presented his ideas on Germany's new role in contemporary Europe. [2]

2018 Events

September

23 – 28 September | 9th Network Consolidation Programme: Organised in close cooperation with the ifa Academy, this course focused on the subject of cross-border cooperation. For the first time, an alumni programme took the form of a study trip through Baden-Württemberg, including visits to France and Switzerland. A very diverse group of 15 alumni explored cross-border cooperation initiatives on the ground in Stuttgart, the Lake Constance region and the border triangle near Basel as well as in Freiburg and Strasbourg. Due to the keen interest in the topic, we are planning to organise another Network Consolidation Programme on cross-border cooperation in the region in 2019. [8+11]

October

25 – 28 October | Regional Network Meeting in Nairobi: In a city that owes its current size to migration, a group of 30 alumni from all over the world gathered to discuss links between migration and education. Through the input of representatives from UNHCR, IOM, government officials, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and Windle International, many different perspectives and facets of migration were discussed. We were happy to host this very harmonious and lively group in this vibrant and beautiful city and hope to see you again soon! [6+7]

November

12 – 16 November | 10th Network Consolidation Programme: 17 alumni from 13 countries met in Berlin for this programme, which focused on the subject of communication as an essential element of successful diplomacy. The seminar was held in German and included various workshops and trainings, thus taking a practice-oriented approach to the topic with the aim of improving communication skills. Furthermore, participants undertook excursions to relevant institutions in Berlin, such as the Museum for Communication. One day was dedicated to media and public relations and included a panel discussion as well as visits to the Bundespressekonferenz (Federal Press Conference) and to a Maybritt Illner talkshow debate. [9]

14 November | Panel discussion on disinformation, fake news and hate speech: In the context of the 10th Network Consolidation Programme, alumni were invited to attend a panel discussion on "Disinformation, fake news and hate speech in public discourse and on social media". Several Berlin-based alumni joined us at the Federal Foreign Office for the debate and to discuss this topical issue with experts from research, journalism and the Federal Government. [10]

December

6 December | Alumni join DK 13 for a discussion with Dr Florian Langenscheidt: Dr Florian Langenscheidt is the author of several books and one of Germany's most well-known publishers. Participants and alumni of the Diplomatenkolleg met Dr Langenscheidt for a discussion on the role of German companies in a globalised world, but also on the pursuit of happiness, what happiness means and how it can be found – a matter that has long been of great interest to the author and publisher.

ALL YEAR ROUND

Alumni in Kyiv have regular German get-togethers. ▪ More than 900 alumni have subscribed to our monthly newsletter "Deutsch-Rundbrief" to improve their German language skills. ▪ Our Berlin-based alumni are regularly invited to various joint events with participants in current seminars at Training for International Diplomats. ▪ DGAP and JungeDGAP very frequently open the doors of their events to our alumni. Thanks!

[6]

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Moving

THE AMERICAS

Hugo Barbosa
Nationality: ***BRA***
Has moved on to ... ***Boston, USA***
Participant of: ***IF 12***

Margaret Campbell
Nationality: ***USA***
Has moved on to ... ***Washington, DC, USA***
Participant of: ***IDL 39***

Gabriela Canales
Nationality: ***MEX***
Has moved on to ... ***Guadalajara, Mexico***
Participant of: ***IF8, GDL 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8, RNM Rio, RNM Mexico City***

Sabine Fouda Tsilla
Nationality: ***CMR***
Has moved on to ... ***Ottawa, Canada***
Participant of: ***AFR 3***

Corina Lefter
Nationality: ***ROU***
Has moved on to ... ***New York, USA***
Participant of: ***IDL 42***

Lhuana Pamella López Amorim
Nationality: ***PAN***
Has moved on to ... ***Panama City, Panama***
Participant of: ***LAK 13***

Mateja Rot
Nationality: ***SVN***
Has moved on to ... ***Chicago, USA***
Participant of: ***RNM Tbilisi***

Pratyush Sharma
Nationality: ***IND***
Has moved on to ... ***San José, Costa Rica***
Participant of: ***IF 13***

Gretchen Tietje
Nationality: ***USA***
Has moved on to ... ***Washington, DC, USA***
Participant of: ***IDL 40***

Patricia Vázquez
Nationality: ***MEX***
Has moved on to ... ***Mexico City , Mexico***
Participant of: ***IF 2***

AFRICA

Koffi Azilan
Nationality: ***TGO***
Has moved on to ... ***Lomé, Togo***
Participant of: ***AFR 5, WEP 6***

Aly Ba
Nationality: ***MRT***
Has moved on to ... ***Nouakchott, Mauritania***
Participant of: ***MAG 2, RNM Nairobi***

Webster Tafadzwa Chiyangwa
Nationality: ***ZWE***
Has moved on to ... ***Harare, Zimbabwe***
Participant of: ***AFR 3***

Patrick Luna
Nationality: ***BRA***
Has moved on to ... ***Nairobi, Kenya***
Participant of: ***IDL 36, RNM Rio***

Canisio Tanyanyiwa
Nationality: ***ZWE***
Has moved on to ... ***Harare, Zimbabwe***
Participant of: ***AFR 5, WEP Wittenberg, RNM Addis Abeba***

Mohamed Zeid
Nationality: ***EGY***
Has moved on to ... ***Nairobi, Kenya***
Participant of: ***IDP 7***

EUROPE

Fauzi Agustian
Nationality: ***IDN***
Has moved on to ... ***Cologne, Germany***
Participant of: ***IF 10, RNM Jakarta***

Mohammad Abdulzahra Mohisn Alasadi
Nationality: ***IRQ***
Has moved on to ... ***Rome, Italy***
Participant of: ***IRQ 6***

Mesaid Alkulaib
Nationality: ***KWT***
Has moved on to ... ***Istanbul, Turkey***
Participant of: ***NMO 12***

On

In a constantly growing network – with more than 3,800 alumni all around the world – knowing who is where is as hard as it is crucial. We place great value on keeping in touch with our alumni. "MovingOn" is our online form for updating contact details, supporting communication on two levels: among you and your network as well as between our alumni and us. Find out more about our alumni who had a change of scene.

Gustavo Argueta
Nationality: ***SLV***
Has moved on to … ***Geneva, Switzerland***
Participant of: ***LAK 4***

Jérôme Collard-Proulx
Nationality: ***CAN***
Has moved on to … ***Geneva, Switzerland***
Participant of: ***IDL 41***

Nayeli Damián
Nationality: ***MEX***
Has moved on to …
Copenhagen, Denmark
Participant of: ***IF 9, RNM Mexico City***

Carlota de Azevedo Bezerra Vitor Ramos
Nationality: ***BRA***
Has moved on to … ***London, UK***
Participant of: ***IF 13***

Boris Mirchevski
Nationality: ***MKD***
Has moved on to … ***Skopje, Macedonia***
Participant of: ***IDL 30, WEP Wittenberg, WEP 2 and 5, RNM Budva***

Elsadig Mohammed Ahmed
Nationality: ***SDN***
Has moved on to … ***Vienna, Austria***
Participant of: ***AFR 11***

Fitor Murati
Nationality: ***KOS***
Has moved on to … ***Brussels, Belgium***
Participant of: ***WB 5***

Fitim Nuhii
Nationality: ***MKD***
Has moved on to … ***Pristina, Kosovo***
Participant of: ***WB 2, WEP 10***

Branislava Perin Jaric
Nationality: ***SRB***
Has moved on to … ***Düsseldorf, Germany***
Participant of: ***WB 3, DK 4, WEP 5***

Olena Tsybukh
Nationality: ***UKR***
Has moved on to … ***Kyiv, Ukraine***
Participant of: ***HLEP UKR 2013***

Zsuzsa Nora Vincze
Nationality: ***HUN***
Has moved on to … ***Oslo, Norway***
Participant of: ***DK 8, EU***

ASIA

Noorullah Kaleem
Nationality: ***AFG***
Has moved on to … ***Kabul, Afghanistan***
Participant of: ***AFG 6***

Dr Imtiaz Kazi
Nationality: ***PAK***
Has moved on to … ***Astana, Kazakhstan***
Participant of: ***GG WS 1***

Dr Chotirat Komaradat
Nationality: ***THA***
Has moved on to … ***Suratthani Province, Thailand***
Participant of: ***IDL 36***

Methaq Mohammed
Nationality: ***IRQ***
Has moved on to … ***Tokyo, Japan***
Participant of: ***IRQ 6***

Sherin Mouawad
Nationality: ***EGY***
Has moved on to … ***Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia***
Participant of: ***IF 8***

Abrar Raslan
Nationality: ***EGY***
Has moved on to … ***Beijing, China***
Participant of: ***NMO 16***

Mustafa Songür
Nationality: ***TUR***
Has moved on to … ***Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates***
Participant of: ***DK 12***

AUSTRALIA / OCEANIA

Noosh Azar Saleh
Nationality: ***AFG***
Has moved on to … ***Canberra, Australia***
Participant of: ***AFG 14***

»Your moves in 2018«

www.diplomatictraining.alumniportal.com/nc/networking-activities/moving-on

Global Diplomacy Lab

Redefining the borderline of traditional diplomacy

The nature of diplomacy is evolving. It is no longer the strict purview of national governments and international organisations. The Global Diplomacy Lab (GDL) is a platform for exploring a new and more inclusive form of diplomacy that goes beyond traditional politics. Creative professionals from various fields are thus needed to explore new communication tools on the basis of mutual trust and to redraft an agenda for collective action. Find out more about how we grew, experienced and learned in 2018.

Strategies for Overcoming Urban Violence: Exploring Global Perspectives and Engaging for Local Prevention

8th Lab | Incubator Lab | 17 – 20 June 2018 | Berlin, Germany
9th Lab | Impact Lab | 18 – 21 November 2018 | Chicago, USA

The Incubator Lab focused on gaining a better understanding of the issues of violence and segregation that affect urban youth globally. Examples from Berlin were contrasted with those from other regions of the world, thus allowing members to gain a global perspective and to connect to the global landscape in order to identify common trends before delving into the particular context of Chicago. Additionally, the members' skills were enhanced and specific questions were addressed for the Impact Lab.
In order to address the fragmentation problem in its full complexity, the GDL acknowledged the importance of incorporating all relevant stakeholders during the Impact Lab. New strategies were developed, addressing violence and segregation among urban youth in Chicago to create a common set of tools for urban areas struggling with the same issues elsewhere in the world.

Peace and Security, the Environment and Digital Technology on a Collaborative Platform

Paris Peace Forum
11 – 13 November 2018 | Paris, France

Three GDL members had the opportunity to engage with people during the event by promoting a more inclusive diplomacy through their own areas of competence. Furthermore, they explained the GDL mind-set to the audience by using different topics such as the prevention of urban violence, the links between inclusive planning and the concept of smart cities, and the prevention of mass atrocities.

Design Thinking for Public Policy
18 – 21 October 2018 | New York, USA

GDL and Bosch Alumni Network members met to pool their ideas and tackle the problem by examining the very specific issue of Uber & Co. vs. taxis. They had the opportunity to explore the human needs involved, reframe the problem, brainstorm on crazy and novel ideas, study prototypes, and test-drive different approaches in order to transfer them to other sectors of the rapidly growing online sharing economy, as well as to apply these techniques to their own respective fields.

Uber & Co. vs. Taxis – Test-driving Design Thinking in a Real-world Public Policy Challenge

Influence and Diplomacy in a Diffuse Digital World

The Hague Digital Diplomacy Camp
1 – 2 February 2018 | The Hague, Netherland

Using an unconference format, the Camp served as a platform for exchanging knowledge and ideas on digital public diplomacy, discussing the effects of digital technology on international affairs, sharing practical tools and designing solutions for global challenges such as the SDGs, humanitarian aid and climate change.

Raising Awareness of Unconscious Bias

UN Global Festival of Action for Sustainable Development
22 April 2018 | Bonn, Germany

How can oppression be mitigated in a classroom? What can be done in the case of inequity? These were some of the questions addressed at the workshop on Raising Awareness of Unconscious Bias in the Classroom through Forum Theatre. Uncovering unconscious bias in the classroom is a step in the right direction towards providing equitable and inclusive education to all learners (UN Sustainable Development Goal #4).

Bled Strategic Forum
10 – 11 September 2018 | Bled, Slovenia

This year's topics at the Bled Strategic Forum focused on overcoming some of the traditional perceptions in order to achieve an effective, inclusive and transparent dialogue while benefiting from today's advances in technology and enhanced interconnectivity. Two GDL members participated in the event by holding a Night Owl Session on achieving gender equality today and joining the panel discussion on "The European Union: What Keeps us United".

Bridging the Divide

Global Media Forum
11 – 13 June 2018 | Bonn, Germany

Deutsche Welle's Global Media Forum (GMF) is an international media conference that brings together decision-makers, influencers, journalists, political scientists, members of civil society and academics. This year's GMF was all about global inequalities. Participants discussed various facets of inequality, as well as obligations and responsibilities.

European Week of Regions and Cities
8 – 11 October 2018 | Brussels, Belgium

Media freedom is a core EU value and a cornerstone of democracy, making it a central part of the whole set of democratic and legal reforms implemented by Eastern Partnership countries. Consequently, it is a topic of great relevance in the political dialogue between the EU and its partners in which the GDL has served as a creative and influential platform.

Freedom, Independence and Plurality of Media in EaP Countries

Creative Tensions in Women-friendly Urban Planning

www.global-diplomacy-lab.org

START

Play this Game with a simple dice and use anything that represents players. All players agree upon the rules together.

Dedicate the following two rounds to preparation of the Lab. Preparation will pay off: add three points to every step you make in the next round.

PRIOR AND PROPER PLANNING

Every year, the EAC and the Secretariat hold six face-to-face planning meetings and workshops before the Labs and around sixteen online meetings. The EAC puts in numerous voluntary hours to ensure prior and proper planning and is supported by an elected Methodological Lead, who additionally dedicates many pro bono hours to planning the GDL's annual curriculum.
In Lab 7 the joint planning consisted of the following elements:
See next bubbles.

*DIPLO_LAB_

FACILITATION

With the right partner, participants, background tools and settings in place, the final element to success were the nine EAC and Member facilitators who conducted 18 sessions, including the co-creation session at which the ESMA Memory Site Museum was presented with five possible solutions to its challenge question. The participants from the Museum were inspired by the solutions and began thinking on a larger scale. They are now planning to work with a variety of GDL Members to create a network of museums and memory sites that can collectively help ensure "Never Again".

Your peers would like to hear about the knowledge you gained on your path during the Lab. Go back to the position of the last player and share your stories.

1 and 2
RESTAURANTS
Four different restaurants

3 and 4
SITE VISITS
Five site visits

5 and 6
DINNERS/ RECEPTIONS
2 dinners and 1 reception

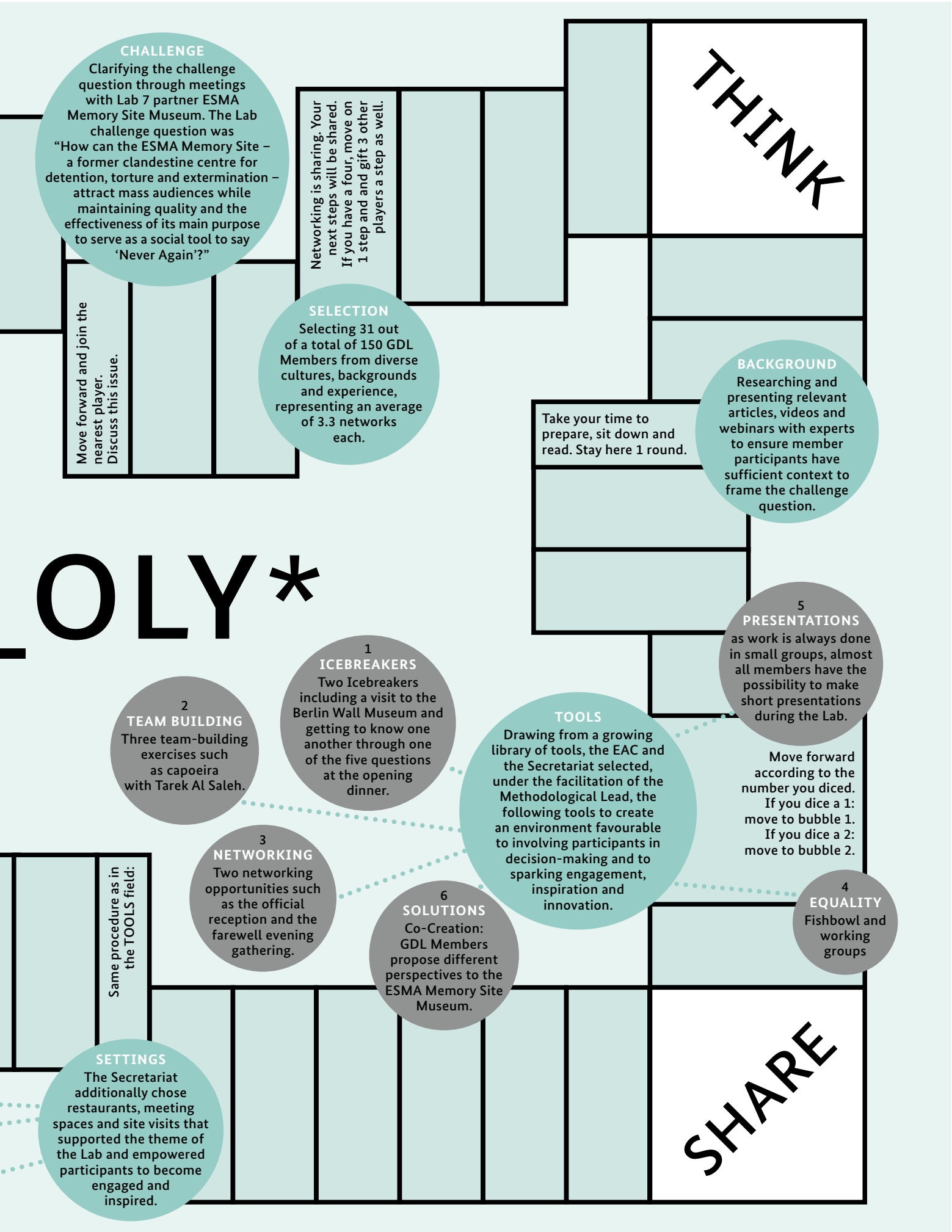
Three more steps: you can see the finish line from here!

MOVE

Congratulations!

You are now ready to use your newly found wisdom on networks to foster memory, truth and justice.

Idea and graphics: Julie August


CHALLENGE
Clarifying the challenge question through meetings with Lab 7 partner ESMA Memory Site Museum. The Lab challenge question was "How can the ESMA Memory Site – a former clandestine centre for detention, torture and extermination – attract mass audiences while maintaining quality and the effectiveness of its main purpose to serve as a social tool to say 'Never Again'?"
Networking is sharing. Your next steps will be shared. If you have a four, move on 1 step and and gift 3 other players a step as well.
THINK
Move forward and join the nearest player. Discuss this issue.
SELECTION
Selecting 31 out of a total of 150 GDL Members from diverse cultures, backgrounds and experience, representing an average of 3.3 networks each.
BACKGROUND
Researching and presenting relevant articles, videos and webinars with experts to ensure member participants have sufficient context to frame the challenge question.
Take your time to prepare, sit down and read. Stay here 1 round.
_OLY*
5
PRESENTATIONS
as work is always done in small groups, almost all members have the possibility to make short presentations during the Lab.
1
ICEBREAKERS
Two Icebreakers including a visit to the Berlin Wall Museum and getting to know one another through one of the five questions at the opening dinner.
2
TEAM BUILDING
Three team-building exercises such as capoeira with Tarek Al Saleh.
TOOLS
Drawing from a growing library of tools, the EAC and the Secretariat selected, under the facilitation of the Methodological Lead, the following tools to create an environment favourable to involving participants in decision-making and to sparking engagement, inspiration and innovation.
Move forward according to the number you diced. If you dice a 1: move to bubble 1. If you dice a 2: move to bubble 2.
3
NETWORKING
Two networking opportunities such as the official reception and the farewell evening gathering.
6
SOLUTIONS
Co-Creation: GDL Members propose different perspectives to the ESMA Memory Site Museum.
4
EQUALITY
Fishbowl and working groups
Same procedure as in the TOOLS field:
SETTINGS
The Secretariat additionally chose restaurants, meeting spaces and site visits that supported the theme of the Lab and empowered participants to become engaged and inspired.
SHARE

1-da

Team

Internationale Diplomatenausbildung
Training for International Diplomats

»Team«

Internationale Diplomatenausbildung
Training for International Diplomats

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»Programme 2019«
»Programmes 2019«

IDL | 43. Internationaler Diplomatenlehrgang ..... 15 January – 27 February

AFR | 13ème Stage de formation pour les diplomates d'Afrique ..... 15 January – 5 February

IDP* | 10th International Diplomats Programme ..... 29 January – 6 June

ZAS | 2nd Executive Seminar for Diplomats from Central Asia ..... 8 – 28 February

NMO | 17th Executive Seminar for Diplomats from the Middle East and North Africa ..... 4 – 29 March

UKR | 9th High Level Experts Programme Ukraine ..... 3 – 24 May

WB | 9th Executive Seminar for Diplomats from the Western Balkans ..... 12 June – 10 July

ASP | 12th Executive Seminar for Diplomats from Asia and the Pacific ..... 13 June – 11 July

LAK | 14th Executive Seminar for Diplomats from Latin America and the Caribbean ..... 26 August – 23 September

DK* | 14. Diplomatenkolleg ..... 29 August – 6 December

AFG | 18th Executive Seminar for Diplomats from Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries ..... 11 September – 8 October

IF | 16th International Futures ..... 14 – 28 September

Alumni Events in Germany and Abroad

Regional Network Meeting in Islamabad ..... 12 – 15 March
Network Consolidation Programme on cross-border cooperation ..... 20 – 24 May
Network Consolidation Programme on peace mediation ..... 2 – 6 September
Regional Network Meeting in Kyiv ..... Autumn

Global Diplomacy Lab

Incubator Lab – Accra, Ghana ..... 16 – 19 June
Impact Lab – Berlin, Germany ..... 27 – 30 October

* Programme for Diplomats on a posting to Berlin

Die folgende Tabelle führt alle Länder mit den zugehörigen Alumnizahlen auf, die seit 1992 an Programmen der Internationalen Diplomatenausbildung teilgenommen haben. Die ehemaligen Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmer kommen aus insgesamt 188 Ländern. Die Weltkarte veranschaulicht, wie viele Alumni jeweils aus einem Land kommen.

The following chart shows all countries and respective numbers of alumni who have participated in the programmes of Training for International Diplomats since 1992. Participants come from 188 countries. The world map illustrates the number of alumni coming from the same country.

»Unsere Alumni in der Welt«
»Our Alumni Worldwide«

Afghanistan	155	Botswana	11	Cyprus	2	Guatemala	8
Albania	45	Brazil	78	Czech Republic	45	Guinea	5
Algeria	32	Brunei Darussalam	14	Denmark	3	Guyana	4
Andorra	3	Bulgaria	50	Djibouti	4	Haiti	6
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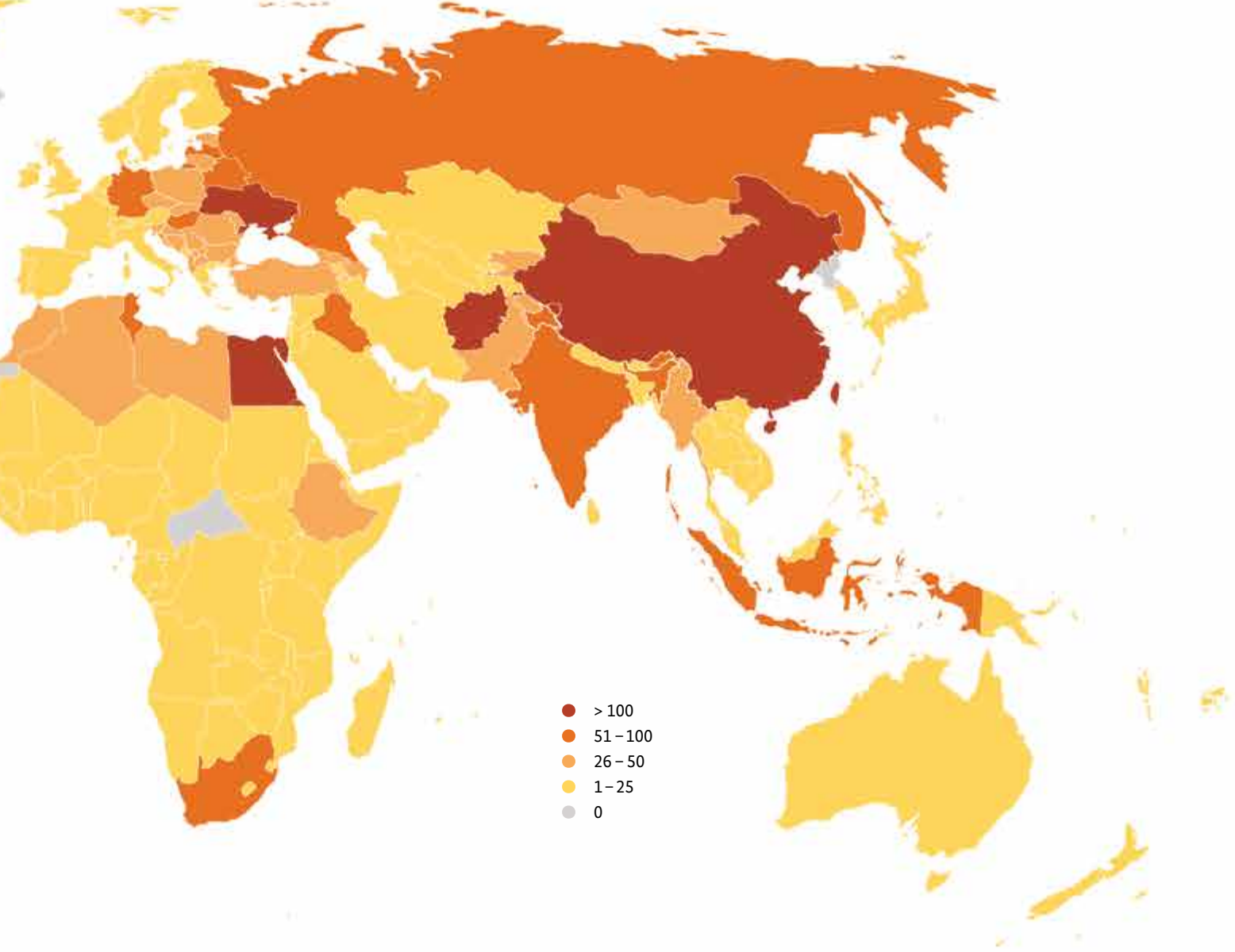

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