



Cultural Bridges in Germany
A Forum for Young Leaders
Berlin, November 7th-11th, 2012





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Welcome

“Cultural Bridges in Germany: A Forum for Young Leaders” (CBG) is a network of young individuals, who share an interest in strengthening intercultural relations in Germany as well as exploring the challenges and opportunities facing Germany, both domestically and internationally. The forum provides a platform for interdisciplinary discussion on salient issues concerning German culture and society, as well as related political and economic subjects. At the international level, the program works to analyze the roles and responsibilities of Germany in the emerging world order. Through these discussions, “Cultural Bridges in Germany” plays a valuable role in strengthening relations between Germany’s cultural communities, and between Germany and its international partners.

Individuals can join the “Cultural Bridges in Germany” forum by taking part in one of the CBG Weeklong Seminars. These are held in Berlin every 3-4 months and focus on a specific academic theme related to the forum goals. During each Weeklong Seminar participants attend panel discussions, lectures, and seminars held by experts from the cultural, political (domestic and international), diplomatic, academic, civil society, and the private sector. In addition to these academic components, participants will take part in a range of cultural and social activities that will allow them to experience Berlin’s unique history and cultural landscape.

In addition to looking in greater detail at the history and development of cultural diplomacy, the next CBG Weeklong Seminar will focus in particular on the following main theme:

Unified and Multicultural: A Closer Look at Today’s Germany



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About the CBG Weeklong Seminar

The CBG Weeklong Seminar is an international and interdisciplinary program, gathering young individuals from across the world. The seminar provides an opportunity for young people to expand their knowledge of current and future developments in these fields, meet with current and former key players and build sustainable networks with each other.

The program will consist of speeches, panel discussions and seminars held by leading figures from the fields of politics, economics, diplomacy, academia, civil society, and the private sector. Speakers will offer a range of perspectives on German current and conceptual issues in the development of cultural policy within an international context, and the current and future potential of the relationship between Germany and the rest of the world.

In addition to the academic components, participants will take part in a range of social and cultural activities that will allow them to experience Berlin's unique cultural landscape. These activities will include group dinners and drinks, trips to artistic performances, concerts, and literary readings, and visits to important cultural and artistic landmarks.

Speakers · The speakers during the forum will include leading figures from the fields of politics, diplomacy, academia, civil society and representatives from the private sector.

Participants · The participants will include students and professionals with an active interest in German issues from around the globe.

Lectures & Discussions · A range of lectures will be held by experts from the fields of politics, economics, diplomacy, academia, civil society, and the private sector. These components will inform the participants about key perspectives related to the themes of the Weeklong Seminar, raise their awareness of other salient issues in Germany, and introduce them to the field of cultural diplomacy. Each lecture will be followed by a question and answer session with the speaker.

Networking, Social and Cultural Activities · Each Weeklong Seminar will include social and cultural activities for the participants. These components give participants the opportunity to see a different side to the cities, help to provide a more informal environment for the participants to get to know each other, and allow the participants to see cultural exchange initiatives that are already being organized. The ICD offers an expansive social agenda including: interactive panel discussions, roundtable discussions, workshops, debates, parties, film nights, conference concerts, embassy receptions, group dinners, and visits to cultural and historical sites.

Certificate of Attendance · Upon completion of the Weeklong Seminar, all participants will be awarded with an official certificate detailing the activity of the week and welcoming them to the ICD's Forum, which assists them in furthering their academic and professional prospects by engaging in a network of like-minded individuals around the world.



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Seminar Objectives

CBG Weeklong Seminars include the following components:

Workshops & Role Play · The timetable of each Weeklong Seminar will include interactive workshops that offer participants the opportunity to take part in structured discussions on subjects related to the seminar themes. Workshops provide a valuable counterbalance to lectures by providing an opportunity for participants to express their own opinions and learn from each other.

Round Table Discussions and Debates · These discussions offer a more intimate setting for speakers and participants to converse and debate openly. They also allow the participants to interact more directly with the speakers and their fellow participants in a more neutral, equal, and interactive manner. Not only are participants able to pose questions to the speakers, but the speakers may also pose questions to the participants, all while enjoying a more comfortable, informal, and interactive setting.

Group Visits · During the ICD events, participants are able to see the city from a different perspective. They will be able to experience all that Berlin has to offer, as well as partake in visiting Germany's top institutions including foreign offices, the city hall, the German parliament, and various embassies throughout the city.

Leadership Initiatives · Leadership initiatives are cultural exchange initiatives organized by members of ICD Forums with the support of the ICD. These initiatives are the foundation of the ICD's work, because they allow the principles of cultural diplomacy to be spread beyond the members of the Forum. At the beginning of the Weeklong Seminar participants will be given guidance on how to plan, develop, and execute leadership initiatives that have a constructive, sustainable influence on intercultural relations. The participants will then have the opportunity to present their projects to the group at the end of the week-long seminar. In addition, the ICD will outline how it can help to support the realization of these initiatives through its network and resources.





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Joining the Forum

The principal focus of Cultural Bridges in Germany: A Forum for Young Leaders (CBG) is to develop a network of young individuals committed to building and sustaining lasting ties within Germany as well as between the country and the rest of the world in the fields of politics, academia, science, media, business and culture, thereby strengthening relationships on a domestic and international level. The network is supported through a diverse range of ongoing activity and is highlighted each year by weeklong seminars for new members to join.

As an independently developed and organized program, CBG offers a unique opportunity to come together and foster wider, deeper Inter- and Intra-German relations on a business, cultural and political level. This in turn will develop a wider understanding of intercultural issues, promote personal growth, and contribute to the creation of innovative policy-oriented solutions to issues affecting the country.

Forum Objectives

- To establish a long-term, interdisciplinary network of young leaders that contributes on both a professional and personal level to dialogue and exchange within Germany and between Germany and the rest of the world.
- To educate, enhance, and sustain the Inter- and Intra- German relationship through the empowerment of the participants.
- To strengthen professional, economic, cultural, political, and scientific cooperation through close personal and professional relationships.
- To provide the participants with fresh insights and new perspectives to deepen their understanding of the German economic, political, cultural, religious, and social frameworks.
- To support and inspire valuable contributions to civil society in Germany through leadership initiatives that the young leaders will organize as part of the program.





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