



Transformation Thinkers

Strategies of Development and Transformation

Berlin, November 16 – 22, 2008

An interregional dialogue
on good governance
and democratic change

Political leadership is one of the keys to enhancing democracy and market economy worldwide.

Successful transformation requires leaders with inspiration and a strategic vision who will be able to drive their countries towards development, democracy, peace and security in a changing global and regional environment. In many cases, however, these agents of change are not given the opportunity to deal with the experiences and strategies of transformation systematically.

To meet this challenge, the Bertelsmann Stiftung in partnership with the German development agency Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH has created an innovative program. The Transformation Thinkers' mission is to enhance the international exchange of knowledge and experience and to form a global network of young decision-makers who share a vision of working towards democracy and a market economy.

“It was impressive that despite all our differences, we hold quite similar views on how to initiate and steer reform processes. There are certain fundamental values that we can agree on worldwide, across all cultural and regional specifics: the need for transparency, popular participation, democratic legitimation of the government and the broadest possible consensus on the course of reform.”

Rékiatou Madougou (Benin)



Eligible candidates:

- Young leaders under the age of 45
- Excellent knowledge of English
- Several years of professional experience and thorough familiarity with the dynamics and challenges of development and transformation processes
- Substantial practical working experience to promote democracy and good governance in the candidate's country of origin either as political actor (e. g. parliamentarian, government representative), civil society representative (NGOs, media, business) or as academic expert (universities, think tanks)
- Eager and open-minded to engage in an intercultural exchange on political experiences

What is the Transformation Thinkers program?

The Transformation Thinkers program is a high-profile international meeting of young leaders and decision-makers from countries in transition.

In contrast to existing programs, which promote either bilateral exchange or discussions with a regional or sectoral focus, the annual Transformation Thinkers' program is targeted to the rising generation of leaders from developing and transition countries in all regions of the world and from all sectors of society. During the five-day conference in Berlin, contributions by senior policy-makers and academic experts provide valuable insight into the dynamics of development and transformation.

Workshops and discussions among young democrats and reformers from all world regions further intercultural understanding and broaden the view on transformation processes.

Transformation Thinkers offers:

- A cross-regional, cross-sectoral forum, unique among comparable programs, for joint reflection on strategies for solving key problems associated with transformation and development
- An opportunity for exchange with experienced transformation actors and international support experts from the Bertelsmann Stiftung's and GTZ's international network
- Exchange of knowledge and opinions with participants from other countries
- The membership in a worldwide network of Transformation Thinkers and actors

The candidates chosen are expected to:

- Participate in the whole program and to contribute actively to knowledge exchange and discussions
- Provide presentations on specific aspects of transformation processes in their countries of origin and to take on tasks as moderators or rapporteurs
- Submit a detailed CV including fields of specialization and interest. They will be contacted by the organizers to determine specific tasks she or he could contribute to the program

The Organizers

| BertelsmannStiftung

The Bertelsmann Stiftung as one of the largest private and non-partisan German foundations considers itself an agent of social change for a sustainable society. Its goal as an operating foundation is to develop and implement exemplary solutions to societal problems. In light of globalization in politics, economics and society, it promotes international understanding and cooperation. The Bertelsmann Stiftung supports the transformation towards democracy and market economy by:

- The Bertelsmann Transformation Index (BTI), a global ranking on the quality of democracy, market economy and governance performance in 125 transition and developing countries;
- Strategies to manage change for selected countries and regions;
- Political consultancy of key players and institutions involved in transformation and development.

gtz

As an international cooperation enterprise for sustainable development with worldwide operations, the federally owned Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH supports the German Government in achieving its development-policy objectives. It provides viable, forward-looking solutions for political, economic, ecological and social development in a globalised world. Working under difficult conditions, GTZ promotes complex reforms and change processes in more than 120 countries. Its corporate objective is to improve people's living conditions on a sustainable basis. With its wide spectrum of services, the most important of which is capacity development, GTZ translates sustainable development into practice.

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For more information on the
Transformation Thinkers program see:

www.bertelsmann-transformation-index.de/english