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Press Contact:

Benjamin Becker
Conference Coordination Team
German Fulbright Alumni Association
Tel: 0162 4160514
E-Mail: rc.berlin@fulbright-alumni.de

Meet your Entrepreneurship Mentor via “Speed Dating”

BERLIN, May 12, 2014 – “Entrepreneurship in a Borderless World” is the topic that will bring together entrepreneurs, graduates and students from around the world for a special three-day meeting in Berlin. Hosted by the German and French Fulbright Alumni Associations, this conference will take place from May 16-18 and will feature a variety of stimulating activities pertaining to the theme, “Entrepreneurship and Mentoring.”

What makes a venture successful? How do I make the transition from innovative idea to thriving enterprise? And what networks do I need to bring this to fruition? Over 140 entrepreneurs, economists and students from 22 countries will explore these questions together through personal interactions and discussions with one another.

“The aim of the conference is not only to motivate and to gain insight into the entrepreneurial process, but also to bring together experienced entrepreneurs and graduates on a global level,” said Florian Kühnel, President of the German Fulbright Alumni Association.

“Having a mentor is invaluable, especially for young entrepreneurs,” added Julien Vick, President of the French Alumni Association. “We hope that long-term mentoring relationships form, even those that cross borders.”

The conference participants are graduates of the Fulbright Program and come from, not only Germany and France, but also 20 other countries – some as faraway as Azerbaijan, Nigeria, Cambodia, Pakistan and the U.S. After a round of panel discussions and talks, the remainder of the conference on May 17 will dedicate itself to networking events, such as the Mentor-Mentee “Speed Dating” sessions. In this workshop, future mentors and mentees will be able to exchange ideas and experiences, as well as receive feedback and guidance on specific enterprising projects.

Depending on their project interests and ideas, participants were divided into four topic groups, which include: Technology; Social Innovation; Education; Law and Finance.

Keynote speaker for this event is Monica Dodi, Co-Founder/Managing Director for the Women's Venture Capital Fund. Ms. Dodi is an international, multilingual new media entrepreneur with a proven track record in creating, launching and building highly successful global brands. A visionary on the cutting edge of the virtual and high-tech landscape, she has founded four highly successful companies, spearheaded rapid turnarounds and negotiated numerous licensing deals with Fortune 500 companies.

“Entrepreneurship in a Borderless World” was organized in conjunction with the German and French Fulbright Alumni Associations and is supported by the U.S. State Department, as well as by the U.S. Embassies in Berlin and Paris. The opening of the conference will kick off on the evening of May 16 with a reception at the U.S. Embassy in Berlin, together with H.E. John B. Emerson, U.S. Ambassador to Germany. The gathering will then move to the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and to Microsoft Germany for the following two days of the meeting.

The full conference program can be viewed on page 3.

About us:

The Fulbright Program was founded by U.S. Senator William Fulbright in 1946 and is an international educational exchange program for students, scholars, teachers, scientists, professionals and artists between the U.S. and more than 180 countries in the world. The German-American Fulbright Program is one of the largest and most varied of the Fulbright programs worldwide and has sponsored over 40,000 Germans and Americans since its inception in 1952.

The German Fulbright Alumni Association is the main platform for former participants of the Fulbright exchange program from both sides of the Atlantic. Together with other Fulbright Alumni Associations from across the globe, it aspires to build a worldwide network with the goal of promoting Senator William Fulbright's visionary concept: The promotion of mutual understanding between our two countries through academic and bicultural exchange.

The **France Fulbright Alumni** association is the French Fulbright alumni association. It fosters friendly relationships and professional network among its members. Over the past 10 years France Fulbright Alumni has been working in order to tighten the ties between France and the United States, through regular meetings and events it organizes.





“Entrepreneurship in a Borderless World” Program

Friday, May 16

4:30 - 6:30 pm: Reception with H. E. John B. Emerson

Place: U.S. Embassy, Pariser Platz 2, 10117 Berlin

Saturday, May 17

8:30 - 9:00 am: Registration

9:00 - 9:15 am: Welcome remarks

9:15 - 10:15 am: Keynote by Monica Dodi, Co-Founder/Managing Director
Women's Venture Capital Fund

10:45 am –

12:45 pm: Panel Discussion:

Professor Dr. Katharina Hölzle
Chair for Innovation Management and Entrepreneurship,
University of Potsdam

Agnes von Matuschka
Director Center of Entrepreneurship
Technische Universität Berlin

Sophie Keller
Associated Expert
Institute of Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship, ESSEC

Charlotte Hochman
Co-Founder/CEO
WOW!Labs

Moderator: David Patrician, Delta Radio

12:45 - 2:00 pm: Mix-up lunch

2:15 - 4:15 pm: Mentor-mentee “Speed Dating”

4:15 - 5:00 pm: Presentations to the group

5:15 - 5:45 pm: Closing speeches

Place: Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Tiergartenstr. 35, 10785 Berlin

Sunday, May 18

10:00 am - 2:00 pm: Networking Brunch

Place: Microsoft Germany, Unter den Linden 17, 10117 Berlin