



**The International Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy in Africa**

*The Rise of Africa -  
Strategies to confront the Challenges of the 21st Century:  
Does Africa have what is required?*

*(Berlin, July 14th - 17th, 2011)*





INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM  
ON CULTURAL DIPLOMACY  
IN AFRICA





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#### *The Rise of Africa - Strategies to confront the Challenges of the 21st Century: Does Africa have what is required?*

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**The last year has seen significant changes for many countries in Africa, and the coming months may prove to have a defining impact on the future of African nations. This apparent zenith presents an excellent opportunity to take a look back at the continent's achievements, and consider the next steps for addressing its remaining and future challenges.**

Over the past five decades, significant effort has been put into Africa's development on multiple fronts, ranging from economic growth to social and political stabilization. This determination has seen credible results and promoted Africa's stance in the International arena. The last year produced: The first African country to host a sporting World Cup; a resurgence of grass roots political will; the democratic birth of the World's newest country, and the growing influence and accessibility of digital technology.

However, with the rapid economic and political trend towards a global society, and the arrival of new global challenges, such as climate change, water scarcity, and the growing gap between rich and poor, there is now an urgent need for innovative new strategies to ensure an equitable and sustainable future for the African continent. Further to this, Africa faces its own tests in achieving its development and self-advocacy on the world stage. Managing lingering political unrest in parts of the continent, how to re-assert local culture and identity in the face of a growing global society, and in an age of interdependence, how the African Union can integrate further to create deeper pan-African cooperation.

„The Rise of Africa“ will explore the range of new ideas and initiatives being implemented in support of Africa's development, and assess the challenges and opportunities that will surface in the African continent in the near future.

### Symposium Participants

The program is open to applications from young professionals, students and scholars, civil society practitioners, private sector representatives, journalists, and other interested stakeholders from across the world. The application form for the conference can be accessed by clicking on „Conference Application Form“ on the left-hand-side.

### Symposium Speakers

Speakers during the Conference will include leading figures and experts from international politics, academia, the diplomatic community, civil society and the private sector, from across the world. These speakers will include a number of individuals from the ICD Advisory Board.



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### Certificate of Attendance

All participants of the conference will be awarded an official certificate of attendance at the end of the program. This certificate will confirm attendance and provide details of the speakers who took part during the program and the topics discussed. Each certificate will be signed by members of the ICD's Advisory Board.



### Conference Locations

The seminar will be based in Berlin and will be hosted at a number of important political, historic, and cultural locations across the city. The International Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy in Africa 2011 will be covered by the „Berlin Calendar“ Journalists.

### Sustainable Network

During the Symposium program, participants will have opportunities to network with one another, the speakers, and the ICD Advisory Board Members and partners. Symposium participants will become part of a growing international network of people from across the world with different fields of interest and levels of experience, who share a commitment to intercultural exchange. Participants will be able to remain in touch with each other through the ICD Networks.

### Symposium Agenda

The International Symposium on Cultural Diplomacy in Africa 2011 will focus in particular on the following issues:

#### **International Relations in the 21st Century: What Does a Fair Deal look Like and is it Possible in Today's Interest Driven Global Reality?**

*Several recent facts raise the question of the evolution of Africa in the global market. The recent admission of South Africa to the BRICS is perhaps a chance of a new cooperation between these five countries. While the director of the MIF resigned from his position, we can see the ambition of Africa to take such an opportunity of a possible leadership. It is important to think about the way to establish a fair partnership with international institutions that benefits for both sides of the world. Moreover, we witness in Africa a growing implementation of the Asian Tiger: China is now their second economic partner. While some claim it is a threat, others say that the European or American interests in Africa represent a bigger risk. In addition to the questions of Aid vs. Trade, it is necessary to ask ourselves about a fair arrangement between Africa and other parts of the world, to reduce the development disparities.*

- **A Partnership with International Financial Institutions: Is it Profitable for Both African and Western Countries?**  
(Focus: IMF, World Bank, International Trade, Resources)
- **A Case Study of an African Country: Confronting the Challenges of the Financial Crisis 2008-Present**  
(Focus: Ghana, Namibia, Nigeria, Liberia, Rwanda)



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- **The Implantation of China in Africa: A Windfall or a Threat?**  
(Focus: China and Africa, Partnership, Exploitation of Resources Trade, Hydrocarbons, India)
- **Will the Recent Adhesion of South Africa to the BRICS show significant results regarding Integration in the Global Economy?**  
(Focus: the South- South relations, the BRICS, Competition, Trade Money, International Transactions)
- **Are Economical Aid Initiatives Strong Enough to Bring About a Significant Change?**  
(Focus: Agriculture, Cooperatives, Fair Trade, NGO)
- **Multinational Firms Implanted in Africa: Opportunity or Disaster for the Development?**  
(Focus: Agriculture, Agribusiness, Multinational Firms, Monsanto, Resources, Interdependence)
- **Should the Debt of Africa Really Maintained?**  
(Focus: Global Market, Multilateral Debt, Lending, International Financial Institutions, Geopolitical Interests)

### **Cultural Diplomacy: Restoring Excellence to Africa's Values and Traditions – From Leadership to Traditional Knowledge Systems.**

*One of the main peculiarities of Africa is still the low level of urbanization. Despite the growth of urbanization from 14% to 32% during the 1950s to late 1980s, this process began to reverse in the 1990s. One of the traditions most under threat is the typical extended family. These peculiarities are far from the concepts of the mononuclear family, urbanization, and indirect democracy which have been identified by political scientists and economists as the main determinants of the transaction of the West into a modern society. Given this, is it possible to pursue an African construct of development?*

- **Western Education and African Development: Impairing or Misguidance?**
- **The Effect of Social Media and the Stability of the African Traditional Values**  
(Focus: Egypt, Tunisia, The Digital Revolution, New Social Technology)
- **Traditional Leaders' Involvement in the Political System**  
(Focus: Localized Concepts of Justice, Democracy, and Leadership; Promoting Local Interests)
- **The Extended Family: Benefits vs. Weaknesses**  
(Focus: Integrated Communities, Responsibilities, Stronger Society)
- **The Role of Culture: Can the Rural Traditions Survive in an Urban Environment?**  
(Focus: Grassroots Politics; Sustainable Development; Culture Tourism)
- **How to Govern the Process of Internal Immigration: Coercive vs. Incentive Based Methods**  
(Focus: Massai Mara; Two Speed Development; Inequality Gaps; Urban Gentrification; Integration between Rural and Urban Communities)
- **Reviewing the Effect of External Spiritual/Religious Belief Systems on Africa's Social Development**  
(Focus: Christianity, Judaism, Islam)



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### Crisis Management

*In light of the current crises that have swept North Africa and Cote' d'Ivoire, creating not only national but also regional instability, do African leaders and institutions have the will and the means to enact principled resolutions? Questions remain over whether the African Union and its tools, such as the African Peer Review Mechanism, are effective enough means to monitor and dissuade intra-state conflict. The debate still exists between Africa's wish to exercise continental self-determination in its affairs, but its ability to act when an international crisis arises, without the help of global actors. Tied into this is also the role of regional actors, such as South Africa, Nigeria, and Egypt whose own instability raises into question their ability to lead.*

- **The Power of Force Vs. Reason**  
(Focus: When is it justified to use force over diplomacy; Hard Vs. Soft Power; The Role of International Actors in Intra-State Conflict)
- **Responsibility, Justice & Leadership in an Imperfect System**  
(Focus: The Africa Union; Crisis-monitoring Mechanisms; Regional Leadership Roles)
- **The International Criminal Court (ICC)**  
(Focus: International Justice Vs. Western Influences; The Notion of Local Trial and Justice)
- **Democracy and Stability: Can We Create Peace and Promote Democracy at the Same Time?**  
(Focus: Peaceful Transitions to Democracy; African Models of Democracy; Strong Leadership in Times of Crisis)
- **Case Study: The Effectiveness of Three External Forces on Africa**  
(Focus: ECOMOG, AFRICOM, UNIFIL)

### On Center Stage and Calling the Shots: Giving Structure to the Vision and Strategy for the Rise of Africa

*The States of Africa, both internally and collectively, endure a number of challenges that need to be addressed, tackled with clear strategies, and implemented. In order for Africa to develop, action needs to be taken, and while these issues are not new, fresh initiatives, programs, and ideas will be presented and debated. These issues characterize the very real future for Africa, encompassing the most urgent aspects in need of reform across the political, economic, and cultural spheres. In discussing the central theme of the Symposium – Will Africa Have What it Takes to Confront the Challenges of the 21st Century? - it is impossible to answer that question without first considering if African countries have what it takes to confront their own challenges which currently exist.*

- **Health**  
(Focus: HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment, Malaria, Child Mortality, Food Security, Sanitation, Water Security, the Role of the WHO and FAO, Ghana Case Study: RHNP )
- **Education**  
(Focus: School Enrolment, Child Soldiers and the Diamond Trade, Literacy, The Role of NGO's in



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Education, Corruption in Education, University Partnerships, Brain-Drain/Brain-Gain, Financial Loss, Alternative Educational Models)

- **Economics**

(Focus: The Financial Crisis, Inequality, Sustainable Development after the 2010 World Cup, Trade and Tariffs, Oil and Natural Resources, Tourism, New Industries, Investment, the World Bank, the IMF, the African Currency Unions, the “African Century”, The Post-Colonial Effects of National Economic Models)

- **International Relations**

(Focus: The African Diaspora, The European Neighborhood Policy, the Arab Spring, Responses to Libya, Migration, Intergovernmental Cooperation, Africa’s Relationship to the BRIC States, South Africa’s Permanent Membership on the UN Security Council)

- **Agriculture-Policy**

(Focus: Irrigation, Subsistence Farming, Sustainable Agriculture, Cash Crops, Fair-Trade, Renewable Energy Possibilities, Mineral Wealth, Diversification, the Challenge of Urbanization, the Mining Industry, Genetically Modified Organisms)

- **Infrastructure Development**

(Focus: Electrification, Green Technology, Sustainable Development, the Widening Gap Between Rich and Poor, the New Relationship with China and India)

- **Rural Development**

(Focus: The Role of the United Nations, Transport Networks, Regional Development Agencies, and NGOs; Agricultural Training, Poverty and Hunger Alleviation; The Effect of Economic Concerns on the Rural Ecology and Communities)

### Managing the Will of the People

*African Leaders now have to balance the interests of so many different groups in society presenting equally valid and urgent needs, whilst attempting to retain some notion of national unity. Beyond this, they must also consider promoting interest with international investment, neighborhood relations, and global priorities. What should be the order of priorities for the next generation of African leaders, and how do they pacify the plethora of needs from the people they represent?*

- **Equality**

(Focus: The Emerging Middle Class, Distribution of Wealth, Ethnic Tensions, Racism, Two Speed Development; Religious/Spiritual Affiliations)

- **Security**

(Focus: Religious Sectarianism in Egypt and Nigeria; United Nations and Peace Keeping; Al Qaeda, the Arms Trade, the Drug Trade, Piracy, Genocide, the Protection of Children, Organized Crime, and Rape as a Weapon of War)

- **Foreign Relations**

(Key topics: UN and Africa, NATO in Africa, African-US relations, Migration, Indian and Chinese Investment, Africa’s New Foreign Markets, Economic Integration in East Africa)

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- **Regimes in Transition**

(Key topics: The Arab Spring, Youth Revolt and the Importance of the Digital Revolution, Islamist Threat, Elections and Voting, Representative Democracy, Civic Engagement, the Media Landscape-Freedom of the Press, Bribery, Nepotism,

- **Sustainable Development**

(Key topics: The Class Divide, Distribution of Wealth, The Challenges of Urbanization, Pollution, and Population Growth)



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Institute for Cultural Diplomacy (ICD)

Kurfürstendamm 207-208 - D-10719 Berlin, Phone: +49 (0)30 2360-7680, Fax: +49 (0)30 2360-76811

E-mail: [info@culturaldiplomacy.org](mailto:info@culturaldiplomacy.org), Website: [www.culturaldiplomacy.org](http://www.culturaldiplomacy.org)