

# Sustainability in Commitment

**Alumni Conference**  
**26 April to 29 April 2013**  
**Berlin, Germany**

*You have participated in a German-African Exchange Program?*

*You are interested in turning your experiences into societal commitment?*

*...then, the Alumni Conference 2013 is made for you!*

COMMIT's central aim is to set up and expand German/African communication and partnership structures in key areas of society by the end of 2015. It is financed with funds from the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development. The activities aim at measurably increasing common and reciprocal commitment in civil society. Another aim is to help develop and spread contemporary and diverse images of respective living situations and realities. This will create a basis for partnering relationships between stakeholders in African countries and Germany.

The alumni conference is targeted specifically at persons who have experience in German-African programs and projects and who want to strengthen their commitment in new or existing ways.

At the conference, participants will not only enter into fruitful exchanges with participants from other generations and programs but also learn valuable skills in order to start managing their own projects in an atmosphere that is characterized by an intercultural setting. The way to deal constructively with this setting, which is also characterized by structural imbalances and possible forms of discrimination, will be one of the main topics of the conference. Participants will also learn about how to efficiently work in their alumni networks.

Requirements for participants:

- Being an alumni of an exchange or other program with a German-African component, preferably with expertise in intercultural project management;
- At the time of the German-African program participation (not the conference itself), be under 30 years of age;
- Be citizen from Germany and/or an Sub-Saharan African country;
- Submit your CV and a short written statement (not more than 250 words) on how you and/ or your project that you want to implement or are already implementing would profit from participation in the conference until 24 April 2013 (at the latest) to [commit-programme@lab-concepts.de](mailto:commit-programme@lab-concepts.de)
- Early applications are encouraged, as confirmation mails will be sent out on a rolling basis.

Other Details:

- Please consult the preliminary program for more information (also on the relevance for your personal/ project development);
- Based on the applications, funds for accommodation and travel costs can be provided for a limited number of participants from European departures. No funding can be guaranteed.
- The conference language is English.
- The number of participants is limited to 60.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to write to [alumniconference@german-african-partnership.org](mailto:alumniconference@german-african-partnership.org)

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**Preliminary Program**

The conference will enable participants to develop their practical skills in project management as well prepare them for the unique challenge to implement projects in German-African settings. These projects are to be implemented on a partnership approach, from project development to project evaluation. Pre-condition for such an approach is, however, that all participants raise their awareness about structural and individual forms of discrimination that can also impact on the project implementation.

The workshop participants will have several common plenary sessions but also divide into two workshop groups that deal with different but complementary aspects of the conference topics. The first group will mainly deal with skills of project management by dealing with concrete examples from the projects of participants, while the second group will mainly deal with intercultural factors in development cooperation. The two parts will be brought together in the public panel discussion and the common plenary sessions.

The workshops for each part are as follows.

Project Management (taking examples from the midst of participants)

...moderated by Yasmin Kumi and Andrew Aitken

Workshop - Part I: Initiating and Planning a Project

Workshop - Part II: Team-building and Communication

Workshop - Part III: Financing of a Project I (Overview of possible sources for funding and pitching)

Workshop - Part IV: Financing of a Project II (Financial management skills training - how to write a budget and follow it)

Workshop - Part V: Carrying Out and Managing a Project, Staff and Time Management

Workshop - Part VI: Stakeholder Engagement and Management,

Workshop - Part VII: Completing and Evaluating a Project

The intercultural perspective in project management and development cooperation

...moderated by Tzegha Kibrom and Lucía Muriel

Workshop - Part Ia: Self-reflection

Workshop - Part Ib: Empowerment

Workshop - Part II: Talk about own experiences

Workshop - Part III: Racism in development cooperation

Workshop - Part IV: Developing a constructive approach

Workshop - Part V: And now, how does this relate to project work?

(to be updated; separation of groups during most of the time)

*financially support by*

### **Friday, April 26**

- Until 6 pm      Arrival of Participants
- 6 pm              Welcome...  
**...by Thomas Krüger,**  
                        President of the Federal Agency for Civic Education (bpb)  
**...by Holger Ehmke** on the status of the different projects  
                        Head of Division for Public Relations, Information and Education, Federal  
                        Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)  
**...by Dr. Katja Böhler** on COMMIT  
                        Chairperson of the Partnership with Africa Foundation e.V.  
**...by Kai Striebinger** on the programme of the conference  
                        Chairperson of Go Africa...Go Germany Alumni Association
- 7 pm              Dinner
- 8 pm              Open Space

### **Saturday, April 27**

- 9-9.30 am        Presentation of the two topics by workshop moderators and selection of topic by  
                        participants
- 9.30-11 am       Workshops Parts I
- 11-11.30am      Break
- 11.30-1 pm       Workshops Part II
- 1 pm              Lunch
- 2.30 pm          Workshops Parts III
- 4 pm              Break
- 4.30 pm          Workshops Parts IV
- 6 pm              Dinner
- 8-10 pm          Public Panel Discussion

### **Sunday, April 28**

- 9.30-11 am       Workshops Parts V
- 11-11.30am      Break
- 11.30 am         Workshops Parts VI
- 1 pm              Lunch
- 2.30 pm          Workshops Parts VII
- 4 pm              Break
- 4.30 pm          Presentation of Results
- 6 pm              Dinner

### **Monday, April 29**

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|---------|--|
| 9-11 am | Project specific and general plenaries |
| 11-1 pm | Feedback                               |
| 1 pm    | Snack                                  |