10 YEARS INTERNATIONAL FUTURES
**International Futures**

was launched in 2007 and has been running successfully now for 10 years. The programme is conceived as a “diplomatic trip around the world”; participating countries are Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, South Africa and Germany, the host. It is the first programme within the Federal Foreign Office’s Training for International Diplomats to consciously build networks between international young leaders from the world of diplomacy and civil society with the aim of creating a global community.

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**Editorial**

**International Futures – IF** – an ambitious and successful programme celebrates its first ten years. **International:** six countries and Germany want to work for a common Future.

Young decision makers come to Berlin to experience how much more productive it is to tackle challenges and possible solutions together. IF interactively uses our participants’ skills. It spans only two short weeks but provides a heightened understanding of the complicated path humanity faces. Best of all: IF is not over after those two weeks. IF participants remain part of the community and can profit from contacts and insights.

In our Jubilee Year Germany holds the Presidency of the G20 – to which all participating countries belong in the common belief that humankind faces issues we can only confront together. Sadly the world has not become a more peaceful place. More than ever before statecraft and good governance are needed. IF enters its second decade facing as many new challenges as it did in the first. We will continue with a new IF group every year and strive to make their journey to Berlin a lasting success. Many thanks to all who have made this possible, but first and foremost to our splendid IF alumni.

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Ambassador (ret.) Peter Gottwald, Programme Director
10 years of **International Futures** – this wouldn’t have been possible without our amazing participants. Therefore we invited our alumni to share their thoughts on IF with us. Now it’s time to share these with you.

**Gabriela Canales:** “I not only encourage others to go to Germany and be part of IF, I encourage them to take this chance to see life as it should be and not as it is.”  
**MEXICO | MGG*-PARTICIPANT | IF 2011**

**Archna Negi:** “IF 1 was a very new and rewarding experience as I learned for the first time the potential of networking and bridge-building. The networks established have survived for a decade already – both through alumni networking programmes run by the Federal Foreign Office and through personal contact.”  
**INDIA | MGG-PARTICIPANT | IF 2007**

**Ana Paula Kobe:** “I can never deny the impact of IF on my life and career. My second posting abroad was India. Immediately I made the connection to what I had experienced in Berlin and met Indian colleagues who had taken part in the programme back in 2008.”  
**BRAZIL | DIPLOMAT | IF 2008**
Haibin Niu: “IF has played an important role by foreseeing the role of major emerging economies and rising powers in the future global order as well as global governance. [...] The dialogue and cooperative spirit of the IF programme is still very valuable and is now even more important for today’s world.”

Mome Saleem: “The global governance that seemed such a distant topic all of a sudden felt like something I am part of and around which my work revolves.”

Teresa Gutiérrez: “I was 8 years old when the Berlin Wall fell down. That made such an impression on me that being in Berlin was like a dream come true: being in a city with the constant reminder that no walls should separate human beings. IF was breaking down walls, too, by bringing people with different backgrounds together, by promoting discussion and searching for common ground and global solutions.”

Mbali Mahlobo: “UN Simulations was an ideal programme that captured my attention. Not only did it help me to grow and influence my perspective on the political world, I also learned the extent to which power and the economy (wealth) contribute to and influence international space.”

Heenry Cristoper Valdivia Sandoval: “IF has been a life-changing experience, which amazes me even more because it is an ongoing experience that has not finished, and it seems that it never will as long as we keep it alive.”

Andi Hakim: “I might say this is a long-lasting programme through sustainable networking where we can learn both theory and practice.”
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development – For the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), its cooperation with the Federal Foreign Office in the MGG-Programme sends an important message to partners and participants. It shows how different ministries within the German government are jointly supporting this global dialogue programme. The organisational and factual content of the International Futures seminar is a useful and pleasing addition to our part of the programme. Our international guests get to see different aspects of development and foreign policy in Bonn and in Berlin.

Rita Walraf, Division 100 – Policy issues of bilateral development cooperation; emerging economies

German Development Institute – “Fantastic speakers”, “rich content”, “unique exposure to German policy”: International Futures is one of the jewels of the MGG Academy. It complements the other elements perfectly by introducing the participants to the world of diplomacy. They interact with young diplomats, discuss foreign policy issues and practice their negotiation skills. We are most grateful for the intense cooperation with the Federal Foreign Office and the German Council on Foreign Relations. Who else could provide such an authentic, in-depth insight into the world of diplomacy and foreign policy?

Dr Tatjana Reiber, Head of MGG Academy

Partners of International Futures
When starting to work at Training for International Diplomats in 2006, I didn’t really score with my idea to introduce a unit on cooperation with civil society in all our courses. Then, one year later and thanks to a cooperation project with the BMZ, this wonderful cross-sectoral course IF appeared as a new unit in MGG and has brought together most brilliant and interesting people for ten years now. IF is meant to teach you foreign policy. But more importantly you teach us that the world can be changed for the better. So allow me to quote esteemed late Ambassador Sommer’s words at the farewell in Bonn in 2009: I love you all.

Gesa Giesing, Programme Manager International Futures 2007 –2014

To the (International) Future! – Since 2015 I have been coordinating IF, which connects people from civil society and diplomacy. I strongly believe both sides can not only profit from each other, they also complement each other. NGOs and think-tanks are pioneers of civil society and idea generators for governments worldwide. Yet only in collaboration with governments and their expertise it is possible to develop binding agreements to make this world a better place. Therefore I would like to thank all our former participants and everyone who wants to be part of IF in the future. We are looking forward to meeting you!

Isabel Reible, Programme Manager International Futures since 2015

German Council on Foreign Relations – With international challenges increasing, it is becoming more and more important to develop networks and channels for open, informal dialogue. Partnering with the Federal Foreign Office and the German Development Institute on International Futures is a unique opportunity to help build and shape a network of responsible leaders. Bringing together participants from a wide variety of backgrounds and countries lays the foundation for international understanding and cooperation – a prerequisite for a peaceful and responsible international community.

Dr Daniela Schwarzer, Otto Wolff Director of the Research Institute

Federal Foreign Office – This year we have celebrated 25 years of International Training for Diplomats. In more than 20 courses per year we help young diplomats from abroad to improve their professional skills and to learn about modern Germany, its politics and society. In this context, International Futures is a very special project, bringing together young diplomats with gifted representatives of civil society and business. Again and again this format creates fabulous encounters. Let’s move on to the next 10 years!

Stefan Biedermann, Head of Training for International Diplomats

Congratulations, IF!