

Young Muslim and Jewish Leaders to Converge in Vienna for the Annual Muslim Jewish Conference, under the Patronage of Dr. Heinz Fischer, President of Austria

In its fifth year as a successful interfaith conference, the Muslim Jewish Conference (MJC) will be held in Vienna, Austria from the 7th until the 14th of August, 2014. 100 young leaders from all over the world, with a common goal of establishing peaceful relations between peoples of both the faiths, will gather for the week-long event, which consists of interactive committee sessions, guest speaker sessions, open dialogue panels and social events.

The MJC 2014 will be held under the official Patronage of the President of Austria, Dr. Heinz Fischer, who has been a supporter of the MJC since its inception in 2010.

As a grassroots organization based in Vienna, the MJC has organized four international conferences since 2010 in Vienna, Austria; Kiev, Ukraine; Bratislava, Slovakia; and Sarajevo, Bosnia; and has reached out to more than 400 aspiring academics and community leaders from diverse cultural and professional backgrounds.

Over the years, the MJC organizing team has expanded to over 35 volunteers from Asia, the Middle East, Europe, and the Americas, including countries like Austria, Israel, Lebanon, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Turkey and the United States of America.

Ilja Sichrovsky, founder and Secretary General of the MJC: "Representing the University of Vienna at numerous international student conferences, I have witnessed inevitable misunderstanding and prejudices between young Muslims and Jews first hand. The 'Muslim Jewish Conference' was called to life, to be the first step together for young people creating the power to forge a link between possibility and reality."

The MJC is officially endorsed by the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) and the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The project is partly financed by the Karl Kahane Foundation as well as by private donors.

The vision driving MJC is the need to make the annual event much more than a week-long conference. Currently, our alumni are working in joint Muslim-Jewish projects that aim to challenge stereotypes in communities and also highlight the importance of a Muslim-Jewish alliance. As each year brings forth more projects, and expands our pool of alumni, MJC becomes an even more effective platform for real change in interactions between Muslim and Jewish communities. Our participants represent a new generation of thinkers and upcoming opinion leaders who are connected by their joint belief in a new era of cooperation.

Date: 07-14.08.2014

Place: Institute for International Development - University of Vienna c/o Institute for African Sciences - Campus - AAKH, Hof 5.1 A-1090 Wien

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