



MERCATOR KOLLEG FÜR INTERNATIONALE AUFGABEN

Klaus Scharioth appointed new director of Mercator Fellowship on International Affairs

Top German diplomat and former ambassador to Washington prepares university graduates for leadership positions in international organizations and NGOs

Bonn/Essen, 31 August 2011 – Dr Klaus Scharioth, who until June was Germany’s ambassador to Washington, has been appointed director of the Mercator Fellowship on International Affairs. Dr Scharioth is taking over from Heimo Richter, who was Germany’s ambassador to India until 2005; thus the Mercator Fellowship once again has at its helm a seasoned international diplomat who will be able to pass on his wealth of experience to the young fellows. The Mercator Fellowship on International Affairs is a project jointly run by the Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes (German National Academic Foundation) and Stiftung Mercator in cooperation with the Federal Foreign Office; its aim is to promote highly qualified German-speaking university graduates from all disciplines wishing to assume leadership positions in international organizations.

Dr Bernhard Lorentz, chairman of the Stiftung Mercator board of directors: “In Dr Klaus Scharioth, the Mercator Fellowship has succeeded in recruiting a diplomat with international expertise. The young fellows will profit from his far-reaching intercultural experience.”

“We are particularly pleased that the office of director is to be filled by Dr Klaus Scharioth, a former fellow of the Studienstiftung. With his many years of experience in the foreign service, he embodies in the best possible sense the internationality which characterizes the Mercator Fellowship”, says **Dr Gerhard Teufel**, secretary-general of the Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes.

“As the new director of the Mercator Fellowship for International Affairs, I am looking forward to preparing young managers for effective cooperation in an international environment with people from other countries and cultures, since only those who adopt an intercultural mindset early on will be able to make a key contribution to solving global problems,” says **Dr Klaus Scharioth**.

Born in Essen, Germany, Dr Scharioth stepped down as German ambassador to Washington at the end of June 2011 after a good five years in office. He has worked in the foreign service for 35 years, 15 of them abroad, and has held numerous high-ranking positions on the international stage, including at Germany’s Permanent Mission to the

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United Nations in New York, as Chef de Cabinet for several NATO secretary-generals in Brussels and as state secretary in Germany's Federal Foreign Office.

The Mercator Fellowship aims to promote young, German-speaking employees and groom them for leadership positions in international organizations and NGOs. During the course of the 13-month programme, the fellows will work in two or three international organizations or in globally active NGOs, non-profit organizations or business enterprises. The fellows choose their respective work placements during the year based on their individual project outlines. To accompany the placements, summer and winter schools are provided to help the fellows develop their leadership qualities and core skills; these include training in rhetoric, communication and negotiation. The stipend for the 13 months is around 17,000 euros, and all travel costs for foreign placements worldwide are paid. Additional grants are also available for conferences and language training.

During the Mercator Fellowship Summer School from 8 – 24 September 2011 in Essen and Berlin, the fellows will have the chance to discuss topical questions relating to international politics with such senior figures as Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Germany's former foreign minister, the German chancellor's foreign policy advisor, NATO's chief of planning and the ambassadors of the USA and Switzerland.

Links to further information:

www.mercator-kolleg.de
www.studienstiftung.de/mercator-kolleg
www.nefia.org

About Stiftung Mercator:

Stiftung Mercator is one of Germany's largest foundations. It initiates and funds projects that promote better educational opportunities in schools and universities. In the spirit of Gerhard Mercator, it supports initiatives that embody the idea of open-mindedness and tolerance through intercultural encounters, encouraging the sharing of knowledge and culture.

The foundation provides a platform for new ideas to enable people – regardless of their national, cultural or social background – to develop their personality, become involved in society and make the most of the opportunities available to them. In this sense it is committed to inspiring ideas. Stiftung Mercator takes an entrepreneurial, international and professional approach to its work. It has a particular affinity with the Ruhr area, the home of its founding family.

About Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes:

With around 11,000 scholars, the Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes (German National Academic Foundation) is the largest and oldest organization sponsoring the academically gifted in Germany. It is non-political and non-denominational.

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The Studienstiftung promotes future excellence in the areas of science, business, public administration, and the arts. Through its sponsorship programme, it promotes academic consolidation, interdisciplinary dialogue, a cosmopolitan world view and international experience. The Studienstiftung is financially supported and subsidized by the Federal Government of Germany, the German Federal States and local authorities as well as by a large number of private donors.

The German National Academic Foundation was founded in Dresden in 1925, dissolved in 1934 and re-founded as a registered association in Cologne in 1948. During its existence, it has sponsored more than 50,000 exceptionally gifted students and doctoral candidates. Each year, more than 2,500 new scholars join the Foundation.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us:

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