



Eschborn. June 29th, 2007. The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung showcased its work in democracy promotion at the Eschborn Dialogue in 2007. The high level annual event brings together the most significant actors from the international development community in Germany as well as international partners from around the world to encourage constructive analysis and the exchange of best practices on development issues. To illustrate how the FES has consistently been a leader in democracy promotion all over the world, Knut Dethlefsen, Resident Representative of the FES in the Palestinian Territories, presented one of many innovative projects aimed at empowering citizens through democracy.



“The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) seeks to aid young politicians in the Palestinian territories in regaining access to the Fatah movement and to incorporate them into the longer process of democratization” said Knut Dethlefsen. Together with Sabri Saidam, the Minister of Telecommunications in the last Fatah government, the FES developed the *e-Republic*. Through the internet, young people simulate governmental affairs. A second program aims to prepare young women for leadership roles. Sabri Saidam, who now works at the Birzeit University commented “The FES is a partner with which you can think through unconventional ideas and implement them.” These projects as well as those of the other political foundations demonstrate the impact of a project must not be directly proportional to its financial scope.

Not all six political foundations introduced themselves at the Eschborn Dialogue 2007 with one of their own projects. Only the Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung, the Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung für die Freiheit and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung invited international Partners to illustrate their work in democracy promotion.

The Hanns-Seidel-Stiftung (HSS) presented a project promoting the creation of continental parliamentary forum in Asia modeled upon the Council of the European Union entitled the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace (AAPP). The union is based upon a charter and is dedicated to establishing social stability in the region among other goals. The initiative is the result of lengthy cooperation between the HSS and the Philippine Parliament. José de Venecia, President of the Philippine House of Representative commented: Globalization obliges us to cooperate. “In the future, regional blocks will form, which must cooperate with one another. Paul G. Schaefer, Resident Representative of the HSS in Manila, said: The cooperation in creating the AAPP was largely successful because the HSS never viewed itself as a major actor in the process.



The Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung (FNS) in conjunction with their South African partner, the Democratic Alliance, promotes grassroots level political engagement “Democracy demands educated citizens and politicians”, said Eva-Maria Köhler-Renfordt, the Resident Representative of the Foundation in South Africa. Together with the Association of Democratic Councillors (ADAC) the FNS promotes the basic and continuing education of local level politicians. “The Foundation supports us with curricula, seminars, and the creation of a network of local level politicians” said ADAC representative Fred Nel. More than 4,000 people have been trained in more than 120 ADAC workshops since the year 2000. The courses serve as more than just learning material. They also allow for individuals to exchange personal experiences. A handbook for informs participants about the foundational work of local level politics.

Photo Top, Panel Discussion at the Eschborn Dialogue
Photo Left, Dr. Sabri Saidam with moderator Arnd Henze
Photo Right, FES Resident Representative Knut Dethlefsen