

Fourth International Conference on Federalism Young Professional Concept

In the tradition of the past conferences, the Fourth International Conference will have a young professionals' (YP) component. As per agreement between the Forum of Federations and the Inter-State Council Secretariat, fifty young professionals will be invited to contribute and participate in the conference. This will include thirty international and twenty Indians.

Goals

The YP component provides an additional international facet to the conference. It also allows the Forum to expand its network by involving the next generation of experts and practitioners in its work. The YP program provides young practitioners and experts (under 35 years of age) a forum to interact with leading experts and practitioners from around the world earlier on in their careers. Ultimately, the YP program aims to contribute to the success of the conference by creating a product that is of value beyond the conference.

Framework

The Forum of Federations has been asked to lead on developing the YP component of the conference. In order to make YP international in scope, the Forum of Federations has identified individuals who have familiarity with the conference process, have had similar tasks at earlier conferences and/or are regionally representative to form the core of the organizing committee.

It will be the task of the organizing committee, in consultation with the Forum, to bring together a group of YP experts/practitioners in each region to contribute discussion papers on cases/issues related the four conference themes. The organizing committee will be responsible for organizing a regional roundtable in each region prior to the main conference. The roundtables will be expected to contribute outlines of the final product. The organizing committee will also propose ways in which YP participants may be integrated into the main conference and a format for the review and publication of discussion papers.

The selection of regional representatives will be on each from existing federations and aspiring federations. The list should include representatives from the following, regions:

North America

Latin Federations

Europe

Africa and Middle East

Asia-Pacific

Tasks

The tasks of the organizing committee will include developing a workable YP concept that identifies the how the YP program will be integrated with the main conference, what product it will produce and how, and how they include participation by almost 20 Indian YP in a meaningful and cost effective way. Finally, they will be asked to propose how to create a conference product that is global in conception rather than regional. They organizing committee will be expected to present a fully developed YP concept at the Pre-Conference in India. They will also be expected to identify YP practitioners from around the world, in consultation with the Forum.

Timetable

A timeline for the YP program is as follows.

Phase 1.1/Fall 2006

In Phase I of the organizing process the Forum of Federations will be organizing a steering committee meeting between the 13th and 15th of October 2006 in Switzerland.

The regional coordinators will be brought together for a two day work session with Forum staff. During the work session, the organizing committee will be briefed about the Indian conference and the guidelines for the Young Professionals Component (defined in the Young Professionals Concept). The goal of the meeting will be to produce a concrete component plan which will be shared with the Secretary, Inter-State Council Secretariat, and the Vice President of the Forum of Federations on the 15th of October.

Phase 1.2/February 2007

Present YP concept at the Pre-conference in India.

Phase 2/April 2007-May 2007

Organize Regional Roundtables.

Phase 3/August 2007

Circulate first draft of papers for the conference

Phase 4/November 2007

YP participation and review of papers.

Phase 5/March 2008

Finalization and publication of YP products.