



INSTITUT ASPEN FRANCE

Institut Aspen France was founded in 1983 as a nonpartisan, nonprofit, international center for discussion and dialogue. Based in Lyon since 1994, Aspen France has two goals: to help leaders identify the challenges they face and seek solutions to contemporary problems; and to facilitate informal meetings of leaders from different geographical, cultural, and professional worlds.

Aspen France organizes policy programs and leadership seminars to address the major economic, social, and political issues of the day. Recently, Aspen France set up two discussion clubs—in Paris and in Lyon. Named “Danzan,” these clubs of roughly 20 young leaders spend time discussing what the future will look like in ten years’ time with leading experts on a variety of topics.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

New Seminar for Young Scientific Researchers

Aspen France held the first session of a new leadership seminar for young scientific researchers in the spring. Its acronym “BANG” refers to the four major fields where important discoveries are expected in coming years:

Bits, or information technologies; Atoms and nanotechnologies; Neuroscience; and Genes and biotechnologies. While young researchers are usually very well-trained in mathematics, physics, biology, or other scientific disciplines, they are not prepared to exercise leadership.

The 22 participants in our 2009 program have been selected from a large field of applicants with doctorates in various scientific disciplines. Roughly half of them work in publicly funded research, while the rest are employed in the research-and-development departments of large companies.

Young Political Leaders

The 2009 franco-phone edition of this



Luxembourg Prime Minister and Eurogroup Chairman Jean-Claude Juncker talks about exercising political leadership at the closing gala dinner for the 2008 class of Young Political Leaders in the Salons de l’Hotel de Lassay, Residence of the President of the National Assembly, Bernard Accoyer, in Paris.

leadership seminar began in the spring. About 30 young elected politicians meet four times a year for a two-day seminar to study ways to be effective in the political sphere. Topics include: how to negotiate, convince, implement reforms, and build credibility. These French-speaking politicians come from France, Belgium, Switzerland, Canada, and Lebanon.

A more international version of this seminar is taking place in May, for the second year, this time in Divonneles-Bains on the shore of Lake Geneva. Conducted in English, last year the first edition of this seminar gathered young elected politicians from all over Europe and from countries such as Lebanon, Morocco, Canada, the United States, and Russia.

Lyon without Borders

This small group of foreigners and French business leaders living in Lyon meet regularly for dinner. They listen to a non-French specialist present his work on an international issue and discuss the topic. They also exchange views on their experiences and the ways it has changed their outlooks on the world.

Aspen Europe-India Dialogue

When Aspen France and Aspen India initiated a dialogue last year, nobody knew how much the economy would change within a year. The conference: “Europe and India: Facing the First Economic Crisis of a Globalized World,” took place in Paris and in Lyon, March 12–14.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 20: European Parliament Elections Debate

June 11–12: Colloquium: A Tribute to Raymond Barre (1924–2007), former French prime minister, mayor of Lyon, and president of Aspen France

June 18–20: Young Political Leaders Seminar—first session

July 6: Conference on the effects of globalization

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Secretary of State for European Affairs Jean-Pierre Jouyet participating in the Third Forum of European Think Tanks in Paris, September 19–20, 2008.



ASPEN INSTITUTE GERMANY

The Aspen Institute Germany is a non-partisan organization dedicated to values-based leadership in addressing the toughest policy challenges of the day. Aspen Institute Germany is devoted to promoting dialogue between key stakeholders on important strategic issues and to building lasting ties and constructive exchanges between leaders in North America, Europe, and the Near East. The Institute achieves this by bringing together groups of decision-makers and experts from business, academia, politics, and the arts who might otherwise never meet. We convene in small-scale conferences, seminars, and discussion groups in order to consider complex issues with the spirit of open-mindedness needed for a genuine search for common ground and viable solutions.

Aspen's small staff organizes three different types of activities: public programs, open to the Friends of Aspen Berlin and to select invited guests; a closed, invitation-only series of policy programs; and a leadership program.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

In the second half of 2008, Aspen Germany held its Gala Dinner in Berlin's historic Schloss Charlottenburg. In honor of the first joint meeting of the boards of trustees of The Aspen Institute (USA) and The Aspen Institute Germany in over 30 years, and on the occasion of the Berlin meeting of the international committee of the board of the Aspen Institute, Aspen Germany hosted a cocktail reception, organ concert, and dinner for board members from Aspen France, Italy, Romania, Japan, and India as well as 37 American board members and their spouses. High-ranking speakers, such

as the Federal Minister of the Interior Dr. Wolfgang Schäuble and Career State Secretary in the Federal Ministry for Economy and Technology Bernd Pfaffenbach addressed Aspen's 150 guests on the global financial crisis and the state of the



Hans-Gert Pöttering, president of the European Parliament



Mircea Geoana, Leonard Lauder, Federal Minister of the Interior Wolfgang Schäuble, and Dr. Paul Achleitner

transatlantic relationship. Aspen Institute President and CEO Walter Isaacson urged a new era of cooperation between the Aspen Institutes in Europe and the United States.

The program also featured an exclusive dinner discussion with former US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State J. Scott Carpenter on "Taking Seven Years Later: Back to Realism?" and a presentation by Professor Hans-Gert Pöttering, the president of the European Parliament, on the relations between the European Union and the United States.

Aspen Germany's policy programs also offered interesting events in the second half of 2008. For instance, with its ninth conference in the series of events on Iranian civil society in November, a conference on the topic of "Digital Media and Journalism in Iran" provided a platform for dialogue and networking among bloggers, journalists, scholars, and activists from Iran, Europe, and the United States, thereby enhancing the development

of civil society in Iran. Also in November, the Aspen Lebanon Civil Society Program, the most recent Aspen policy program, hosted a conference to discuss the upcoming 2009 elections in Lebanon and the potential risks to election monitoring as a tool of democratization.

After its Istanbul conference, "A New Transatlantic Dialogue with young leaders from Germany, the United States, and Lebanon," in October 2008, the Aspen Leadership Program has shifted its focus to include leaders from the Balkans. The Aspen Institute Germany hosted a conference in May with leaders, entrepreneurs, policymakers, journalists, and academics from the United States, Germany, and the Balkans to discuss the topic of "Trust and Friendship," especially with regards to state- and nation-building in South-East-European post-conflict regions.

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ASPEN INSTITUTE INDIA

The Aspen Institute India (AII) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to in-depth discussion of global issues, development of values-based leadership, and a high-level exchange of opinions, information, and values. Its mission is to bring a new perspective to the most important issues of the day and represent the forum of choice for convening and developing leaders in India. Focusing on India's challenges, business community, and society, it invites top industrial, economic, financial, political, social, and cultural leaders to discuss these issues in settings that encourage candid and open debate.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

Outreach Programs

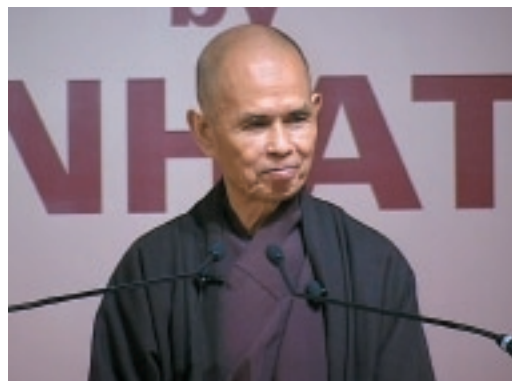
There was much speculation in India about the impact a new American administration would have on ties with India and on South Asia as a whole. As a result, Aspen India organized several sessions with notable dignitaries on this subject, including Ambassador Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations; Ambassador Frank Wisner; Philip

Gordon, senior fellow for US Foreign Policy at the Brookings Institution; and Gideon Rachman, chief foreign affairs commentator for *The Financial Times* (UK). Aspen India also organized a session on "The Art of Leadership" with the former Nobel Peace Prize Nominee and Vietnamese Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh.

Aspen India also helped launch several notable books, including *The Indian Renaissance: India's Rise After a Thousand Years' Decline* by



Prof. Abhijit Banerjee, economics professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Tarun Das, president of Aspen Institute India, participate in the "Are We Fighting Poverty Effectively?" roundtable.



Vietnamese Zen Master and Nobel Peace Prize Nominee Thich Nhat Hanh speaks at an Aspen India event.

Sanjeev Sanyal; *An Outsider in Politics* by Krishna Bose; *Billions of Entrepreneurs: How India and China are Re-shaping Their Future and Yours* by Prof. Tarun Khanna; and *Understanding Your Mind* by Thich Nhat Hanh.

Public Policy Programs

In May 2008, Aspen India, in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), hosted a roundtable titled "Are We Fighting Poverty Effectively?" The keynote speaker was Abhijit Banerjee, Ford Foundation professor of economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The session addressed crucial issues contributing to high poverty figures in India, including livelihood and health challenges. Dr. Banerjee drew on his extensive experience as the head of MIT's Poverty Action Lab, which is running several projects in rural India.

India Leadership Initiative

Aspen India graduated the first batch of fellows of the India Leadership Initiative (ILI) and will launch Class II of the fellowship program in September 2009. The new

batch of fellows includes 24 men and women who are already making a mark in their respective fields through their values-based approach.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 7-8

India-Israel Dialogue

September

Aspen India Seminar: Leadership, Values, and the Good Society

September 9-13

Third Session of the India Leadership Initiative, Class II

December 17-19

Ideas India 2009

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ASPEN INSTITUTE ITALIA

Aspen Institute Italia remains a leader in promoting enlightened dialogue in Europe and across the Atlantic, organizing a number of conferences, seminars, and roundtables each year on economics, business, politics, and security. Its quarterly, *Aspenia*, is read in Italy and abroad, and has been judged one of the best foreign affairs journals in the world. Aspen Italia conferences gather prominent figures in every field thanks to its more than 300 international board members.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

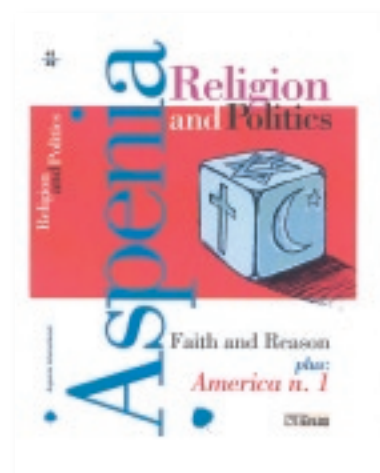
The Institute's series dedicated to Italy's current affairs and to the country's national interest continue. Events in the first half of 2009 included roundtables on public investment to reinforce Italy's real economy, reforming the country's pub-

lic administration, alternative energy sources to cover Italian demand, multinational companies on Italian territory, and supporting Italy's poor. Topics for the next session include relations between Italian businesses and universities, Italian talent around the world, broadband on national ter-

ritory, and the country's banking system. Other roundtables featured several discussions of the global financial crisis and how Europe might best respond, as well as a debate on different cultures and religions.

The Institute's international programs dealt with health care issues, including welfare reform and the G8 in light of Italy's 2009 presidency. The annual Aspen European Dialogue and World Economy conferences focused on market reform and on fighting poverty. Toward the end of the year, the Transatlantic Dialogue intends to analyze President Obama's first year in office.

As always, two editions of the Aspen Seminars for Leaders—an innovative and distinctly European interpretation of the Aspen Executive Seminars—are scheduled for the year. The first was held in May in Venice and the second will take place in October. Please contact the Aspen Italia Milan offices for information about participating in these seminars. The Friends of Aspen held their annual spring roundtable and will gather for a conference in the fall. The new, but already successful, tradition launched by



Cover of the latest issue of *Aspenia* in English (N. 41-42) released in February 2009

the Aspen Junior Fellows also continues: The Aspen Seminar on values and society, in collaboration with the Aspen Institute, was held over two weekends in March.

With issue 43—"America n. 1"—*Aspenia* launched an accord with Italy's top news program; each issue will be covered on national television. The March issue of the journal was dedicated to demography, specifically to the broad geopolitical and economic consequences of population growth and migration trends. Early in the year, the English-language edition of *Aspenia* "Religion and Politics" came out. Please contact aspenia@aspeninstitute.it to receive a copy.

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E.J. Dionne, senior fellow at The Brookings Institution, and Marta Dassù, editor of *Aspenia* and director general for International Activities at Aspen Institute Italia, participate in *The Aspen Transatlantic Dialogue Sixth International Conference* held in Washington, DC.



ASPEN INSTITUTE JAPAN

Aspen Institute Japan, like other partners of the Aspen international network, is a nonprofit organization committed to enhancing values-based leadership in contemporary society. Evolved from the Tokyo liaison office of the Aspen Institute and Aspen Institute Japan Council, AIJ was formally established in 1998. Its flagship program has been the Nippon Aspen Executive Seminars, in faithful emulation of its prototype model. The Institute offers three seminars annually, providing the leaders and future leaders of Japan with reflective experiences through “moderator-led” dialogue based on extensive readings of texts from both classic and contemporary authors and from the Western and non-Western world. In addition to the seminars, the Institute offers other executive seminars tailored to the needs of national and local government officials and young business executives. It also organizes periodic lecture programs for the alumni of the seminars.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

Tenth Anniversary Celebration Symposium

To celebrate the tenth anniversary of the founding of AIJ, a symposium devoted to the theme “Leadership and Philosophy” was organized last October in Tokyo. Featuring two keynote addresses—“Leadership and Creativity” by Walter Isaacson, president of the Aspen Institute, USA; and “Philosophical Aspects of Business Management” by Atsutoshi Nishida, president of Toshiba Corporation—the symposium was attended by more than 300 leaders from business, government, academia, and the media. The symposium was attended

by representatives from the United States, Germany, France, and Italy, and was followed by a reception and dinner. Abstracts in Japanese of the keynote addresses and subsequent panel discussions were published in the AIJ quarterly magazine *Aspen Fellow* (No. 18, January 2009).



Symposium participants in Tokyo



Yotaro Kobayashi, Chairman of Aspen Institute Japan, delivered the opening speech at the Aspen Institute Japan 10th Anniversary Celebration Symposium.

Inauguration of the Junior Aspen Seminar

In commemoration of AIJ’s tenth anniversary, the Junior Aspen Seminar was inaugurated in the fall of 2008. Designed to provide young Japanese high school students with the opportunity to become acquainted with the world of the classics, the Junior Aspen Seminar is comprised of three sessions, guided by veteran moderators and spaced over a three-month period. With a successful test run last fall, with 23 junior-year student participants chosen from five highly selective private high schools in Tokyo, this new initiative of the Institute is expected to be integrated into its annual program.

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 26–28

Young Executive Seminar
Tokyo, Japan

July 17–22

NAES
Osaka, Japan

July 31–August 2

Young Executive Seminar
Tokyo, Japan

September 2–5

Seminar for National
Personnel Authority

October 16–18

Young Executive Seminar
Kantanga, Japan

October 31–November 3

Seminar for Ishikawa
Prefecture

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INSTITUTUL ASPEN ROMANIA

The new Institutul Aspen Romania, founded in December 2006, is a politically and ideologically neutral organization. Its membership represents a broad range of opinion from the corporate, academic, political, and other sectors in the country; its focus is on development of leadership networks and the promotion of democratic values and principles, the rule of law, and economic efficiency.

Aspen Romania, governed by an Executive Board of eight members elected annually by a General Assembly of founding and associate members, is supported financially through the payment of membership fees, corporate sponsorship, and participation fees for Aspen Romania programs. It hosts Executive Seminars, policy programs, and a Young Leadership Program.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

In October 2008, Aspen Romania and the Academy of Romania organized a book launch for *Sixty Years of the Marshall Plan: Lessons for the Future*, edited by Eliot Sorel, a Romanian-American professor at George Washington University. The event was co-hosted by Mircea Geoana, of Aspen Romania, and Mugur Isarescu, governor of the Romanian National Bank and vice-president of the Academy. The debate focused on the global economic situ-

ation, with some stern advice from the governor on fiscal discipline and responsible corporate governance.

The Parliamentary elections toward the end of last year brought about a change of government in Romania. With the formation of a new coalition in January 2009, Aspen Romania set up an informal occasion for our members and the new Ministers to discuss the impact of the global financial crisis in Romania. A working lunch took place in February and was attended by the prime

minister and eight of his most senior cabinet colleagues for an in-depth debate on how Romania could best weather the economic challenges ahead. The American Chamber of Commerce, the Romanian Business Association, and the Foreign Investors Council each presented brief position papers to the government outlining their primary concerns as major players in the Romanian economy.

Aspen Romania has been involved with two other book launches this spring, both looking at human rights.

In March, Aspen Romania co-hosted with the Human Rights Committee of the Romanian Parliament an event to discuss the issues raised in a collection of essays on Democracy, Populism and Minority Rights, edited by two Members of the European Parliament, Jan Marinus Wiersma from the Netherlands and Hannes Swoboda from Austria. The discussion between parliamentarians and civil society was particularly timely given the tense situation for Romanian nationals and especially the Roma community in southern European cities.

In April, Dr. Kerry Kennedy visited Romania for three days to launch her book on human rights defenders, *Speak Truth to Power*. In partnership with the R K Kennedy Foundation Europe, we hosted a symposium on human rights advocacy and gender issues in Romania, opened by the president of Romania and Dr. Kennedy. The event was attended by more than 200 people. We were also instrumental in securing funding and Romanian Ministry of Education approval for an

interactive human rights education project for high schools, which uses debate as a means of learning. Both the subject and the style of learning have still to be widely disseminated in the Romanian education system.

FUTURE EVENTS

June

16-21

Aspen Romania Young Leaders
Module 2

Danube Delta

24

Roundtable on Energy Efficiency

Bucharest

September

11

International Aspen Panel
Twenty Years Back, Twenty Years Forward

Bucharest

13

Aspen International Committee and Aspen Institute/Aspen Romania Joint Board Meeting
Transylvania, Romania

21-25

Aspen Romania Young Leaders
Module 3

October

Aspen Romania Celebration of NATO's 60th Anniversary

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Aspen Romania Working Lunch with the government of Romania, February 2009: Prime Minister Emil Boc addresses the Aspen Romania Members.