

**The East-West: The Art of Dialogue Fellowship Program
Sponsored by the Shafik Gabr Foundation**

“As gaps in understanding between East and West open up at many levels, there is a need for significant bridge-building and new platforms for people-to-people communication perhaps more than at any other time in modern history” (Shafik Gabr)

The Shafik Gabr Foundation and Humanity in Action are pleased to announce the launch of the Gabr Fellowship. Funded by the Shafik Gabr Foundation and organized by Humanity in Action, the innovative international educational program will foster greater understanding and cooperation among emerging leaders from the west (US, UK, Canada) and the east (Egypt and the Arab world).

Annually a number of young emerging leaders will learn about the societies, art, governments, media, economies and countries they will visit in the east and the west with particular concern for the influence of religion, political systems, diversity and international relations in the two societies. The Fellowship’s goal of fostering mutual understanding, identifying common concerns and developing strategies for working together in this increasingly interdependent world reflects the mission of the Shafik Gabr Foundation which is funding the launch of the program and the first two years of group of Fellows.

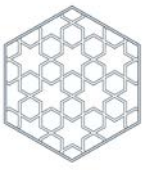
The East-West Dialogue Fellowship Program

The first East-West: The Art of Dialogue Fellowship Program will take place in the United States and Egypt in 2013. The first two-week phase of the Fellowship will take place in the United States in May and include visits to Atlanta, Washington, DC, New York City and Yale University in New Haven.

In early June the Fellows will meet in Egypt for the second two week phase of the Fellowship, which will include visits to Cairo and Alexandria and a retreat in Luxor. In both the U.S. and Egypt, the Fellows will engage in seminars and site visits that explore the religious, economic, social, art, political, cultural and diplomatic issues that characterize both countries. Using its extensive network, Humanity in Action will engage outstanding speakers from U.S. and Egypt, think tanks and NGOs, as well as from bilateral and multilateral organizations.

An Advisory Board that includes representatives of the Shafik Gabr Foundation, distinguished representatives from the west and east plus members of the U.S. and Egyptian private sectors will be organized and serve as resources throughout its implementation.

The Fellows’ Projects: Once the program has begun, international teams of Fellows will develop projects focused on bridge building between ‘east and west’ with the objective of leveraging their exchange experience to the peers and communities. In doing so, they will draw on their experiences in the program, the information presented in the seminars and site visits, and interactions with members of their group. Work will start on the projects during the first two weeks in the U.S. and continue throughout the program. The projects, which will be presented in September, will provide outreach to a broad public with the specific objective of enriching and strengthening the East-West Dialogue.



Recruitment: Recruitment is underway for the first group of East-West: The Art of Dialogue Fellows. Candidates must be 24-30 years old, in early or mid-careers, and have a record of accomplishments in the arts, science, media, law and both social and business entrepreneurship. They must demonstrate the ability to explore ideas and work collaboratively and be committed to outreach and help to sustain a network of young leaders concerned with the welfare of their societies.

Funding: A generous grant from the Shafik Gabr Foundation is funding the first group of East-West: The Art of Dialogue Fellows and their two year program. In the coming months, Humanity in Action and the Shafik Gabr Foundation will be seeking corporate and foundation partners to fund future groups.

The Shafik Gabr Foundation

The Shafik Gabr Foundation, a non-government philanthropic organization operates in Egypt and the US. Since 2006 the Foundation in Egypt focused on education, health, emergency aid, cultural and women's programs. In the US the Foundation supports health and education initiatives plus this program of East-West: The Art of Dialogue, that supports people to people exchanges and east-west bridge building.

In designing the East-West: The Art of Dialogue Fellowship, Mr. Gabr was inspired by his art collection of Orientalist Traveler Painters who visited from the US and Europe the Arab world in the early 19th and 20th centuries. Moreover Mr. Gabr drew his inspiration from his experience as an Egyptian whose world view was transformed by travel and friendship and lessons that resulted. The Gabr Fellowship program is designed to provide unique insights for participants into their respective societies, and a foundation for developing professional and personal relationships across cultures. For more information about the Gabr Fellowship program, see <http://www.eastwestdialogue.org/>

Humanity in Action

Humanity in Action was founded in 1997. Since then it has organized leadership training programs for more than 1,000 university students and young professionals from Europe and the U.S. who are committed to democratic values and the resolution of tensions and conflicts among majority and minority populations. In designing its fellowship programs, Humanity in Action has developed a unique method of identifying emerging and diverse leaders in many countries; engaging and promoting their interests in civil society, the arts and public diplomacy; and mentoring their careers.

Today, the HIA network of international partners extends to Bosnia, Denmark, France, Germany, Poland, the Netherlands, the United States and the Ukraine. Together, these young professionals are working to protect minority rights and instill respect for the values of diverse, democratic societies in a new generation of social, cultural and political leaders. The East-West Dialogue Fellowship is an exciting new initiative for Humanity in Action that will expand its work in Europe and, for the first time, bring its program to the Middle East. For more information about Humanity in Action, see <http://www.humanityinaction.org/>