

23 May, 19 June and 24 October 2018

## Chapter Meetings of SID Vienna

### Report by the president

1 Collaboration with **Globale Verantwortung** – Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Entwicklung und Humanitäre Hilfe. The president attended the SDB watch meeting, the chapter is a member of the watch. The meeting stressed the necessity to narrow down the focus to food, agriculture, health and education. The ten year celebration of Globale Verantwortung and its annual general meeting will take place shortly. The president will attend both events.

2. Meeting of SID International in Rome – The new president of SID International Lawrence Cooley had convened a meeting in Rome in March 2018. Our president attended at his own expense. The problems of SID International included organizations and finance

Out of 90 member organizations only some 20 are active, 10 are either closing down or being established, e.g. Morocco. The idea of creating regional hubs was launched. SID Vienna could start an initiative which could include Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic ( Bratislava, Gyor, Sopron, and Brno) with the UN seat in Vienna as special attraction. However, this chapter does not have the capacity to make a great pitch.

Member organization's contributions alone cannot keep SID International running. A conference of SID Mexico, organized by SID International, left a heavy debt. A number of solutions were proposed to improve the financial situation and for that SID needs to become better known worldwide. Proposals included the organization of big events internationally with calls for help, the organization of brainstorming session, an initiative to organize a session in Davos and at the Forum Alpbach in 2019 as the concept of 'development' has slipped from the horizon and could put SID International into the spotlight again.

Some support had been promised by German chapters. There are several chapters in Germany. The most affluent is in Frankfurt because of the banks located in the city who are all members.

SID International is envisaging collaboration with the **The Club de Madrid**, an independent non-profit organisation composed of over 90 democratic former Presidents and Prime Ministers from more than 60 different countries, constituting the world's largest forum of former Heads of State and Government, who have come together to respond to a growing demand for support among leaders in two key areas: democratic leadership and governance; and response to crisis and post-crisis situations. <http://epd.eu/communityofpractice/club-de-madrid/> A member of the Club was present and indicated its willingness to collaborate, but any potential event would be fairly pricey, given the costs of VIPs.

## Planned Projects.

(i) A seminar on **New Evaluation Methods** – an introductory note has already been prepared by a member of the chapter. Two other members of the chapter have experience in evaluation from UNIDO. Potential participants are institutions and students. The Austrian Development Bank and Development Agency have already expressed interest. The Institute of Managing Sustainability of the WU could be a partner. Its head is a specialist in evaluation. A minimum of 10 to 12 participants should be available. Specific examples and hands-on experience would be useful.

(ii) Expert Group Meeting on **Financing the SDGs** – the Austrian Development Bank has interest in a discussion of the subject with experts . A member of the WU's Ecological Economics Department has developed an app on the topic which was already the focus of a big conference. However, she is currently in Lyon. The president will get in touch with her at the end of the semester.

The question of the difference between new evaluation methods and this proposal arises. This proposal would be looking at the standard bank routine in the light of the SDGs arises. The main line of the evaluation concept is policy and the projects that come with it.

(iii) **Excursion to the Waldviertel** to visit sustainable projects in the region. Two two-day excursions are planned (2-3 and 9-12 October, respectively). The first date will be reserved for chapter members. Some conclusions will be drawn for the second excursion which is intended for students interested in the field of sustainability.

(iv) Student **excursion and development work in a developing country** – for a small group preparing for a semester on project work in a developing country, linked to an app developed by a member of the chapter. The app is designed to make learning easier and more enjoyable and is scheduled to be launched for Android and Apple in September. The group would go on a study tour for two or three weeks to a developing country in Africa - e.g. Tanzania or Rwanda and subsequently work two months in the country to be followed by a debriefing workshop. Various options to finance the excursion were mentioned such as crowdsourcing, private companies, EU. A text for an introductory note was discussed and two chapter members volunteered to work on a draft. Then a business plan and an assessment of the total cost will be needed. Pitfalls and risks and possible safeguards were deliberated. More research will have to go into these aspects.

(v) Workshop on **sustainable development for 'PhD' theses students**. The existing "Joint seminars" with students from universities in Vienna, UNIDO, ADA and ADB are mainly awareness-raising in their nature. Given the expertise within SID, it would make sense to also target people already in the field of development and make use of the UNIDO Data Bank for in depth studies on sustainable development in the frame of Ph.D studies . There are informal international networks of Ph.D. students in existence which could be motivated to cooperate in a workshop. It became clear, however, that the topic of such an event would have to be more narrowly focused. Suggestions were made to concentrate on sustainable urban development, evaluation of project concepts and their implementation, etc. Timeline: End of winter semester (in January?) or summer semester.

## Presentation on Humanitarian Aid in Austria

Ambassador Bernhard Wrabetz of the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs gave a lecture on "The Role of NGOs in humanitarian aid and the nexus challenge"