Development in the Age of Digital Platforms Conference

Date: April 1-2, 2020

Location: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
GIZ Building 1, Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5, 65760 Eschborn
(near Frankfurt, Germany)

Digital technology is transforming not only the industrialized world but rapidly affecting the developing world as well. The greatly reduced cost of internet-capable devices such as smart phones are making new business models and services in the developing world possible on a large scale. Based on these developments, digital platforms provide a wide range of services in new and innovative ways. Patterned after successful digital platforms in the consumer world (e.g. Facebook, ebay, etc.) firms have created many new platforms for industry. Now different organizations have also developed digital platforms for education, health care, agriculture, and other fields. Such models and services, however, must also be sustainable over the long term and should work to reduce inequalities and improve access for users around the world.

In this joint conference, the MÜNCHNER KREIS, the World Bank, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and the World Food Programme will bring together leading academics, policy makers, development practitioners, and industry representatives on the topic of digital platforms. These experts will discuss how digital platforms can influence and support development projects in the spirit of the Sustainable Development Goals. The conference will focus particularly on Africa but will also include examples from other developing countries. The main goals of the conference are to promote dialogue and knowledge sharing about platforms and to generate recommendations for a policy paper on designing and implementing platforms in a sustainable, equitable way.

Through a combination of deep-dive workshops, keynote speeches, and panel discussions, the conference will address the following questions:

1. How can platforms be designed and leveraged to support economic growth in developing countries, especially in Africa?
2. What are some existing examples of platforms that have been successfully leveraged for development?
3. How can platform business models be developed in a sustainable way?
4. What framework conditions and policies are needed to make sure platforms support the Sustainable Development Goals and work to close the digital divide?

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April 1st

09:00	Registration and Refreshments
09:45	**Introduction:** Moderator: Nozipho Mbanjwa
	Welcomes: Tanja Gönner, GIZ; Prof. Michael Dowling, Münchner Kreis; Samia Melhem, World Bank; Bernhard Kowatsch, World Food Programme
10:00	**Keynote 1: Academic Perspective – Introduction to Platforms** Prof. Dr. Helmut Krcmar, Technical University of Munich and Münchner Kreis
10:30	**Keynote 2: Industry Perspective, Opportunities for Development** Plamen Kiradjiev, Global CTO Industrie 4.0, IBM Germany
11:00	Coffee Break
11:30	**Keynote 3: Development Perspective on Digital Platforms** Nanjira Sambuli, World Wide Web Foundation and Dirk Assmann, GIZ
12:00	Panel Discussion with Keynote Speakers Moderation Samia Melhem, World Bank
13:00	Lunch
14:00	**Keynote 4: Technology and the Role of the Platform Economy for Societal Development:** Prof. Dr. Daniel Veit, University of Augsburg
14:30	**Parallel Workshops**

Session A: Manufacturing
Session B: Education, Vocational and Digital Skills Development
Session C: Health Care
Session D: Agriculture and Food Production
Session E: Energy
Session F: Mobility
Session G: Finance / e-commerce

16:00	Coffee Break
16:30	Parallel Workshops continue
17:30	End of Day 1
19:30	**Conference Dinner in Frankfurt**

09:00   **Keynotes and Panel Discussion: Digital Platforms in Africa**
- Lacina Koné, Director General, Smart Africa
- Ibrahima Guimba Saidou, Minister Special Advisor to the President of the Republic and CEO of ANSI, Niger
- Günter Nooke, BMZ's Commissioner for Africa, German Chancellor's Personal Representative for Africa

10:45   Coffee Break

11:15   **Parallel Workshops** continue

Session A:	Manufacturing
Session B:	Education, Vocational and Digital Skills Development
Session C:	Health Care
Session D:	Agriculture and Food Production
Session E:	Energy
Session F:	Mobility
Session G:	Finance / e-commerce

13:00   Lunch

14:00   **Reports from Workshops Leaders in Plenary**

15:00   Coffee Break

15:30   **Plenary Session**
Developing Framework Conditions: Eco-Systems for Platforms
Moderator: Nozipho Mbanjwa

17:15   Closing Remarks, Prof. Dr. Michael Dowling, Münchner Kreis

17:30   **Reception**

19:00   End of Conference

General Information

Development in the Age of Digital Platforms Conference

April 1, 2020 from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
April 2, 2020 from 9 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Location: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
GIZ Building 1, Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5, 65760 Eschborn (near Frankfurt, Germany)**

Conference language:	English
Organizers:	MÜNCHNER KREIS e.V. Tal 16, 80331 Munich, phone +49 89 223238, fax +49 89 225407, office@muenchner-kreis.de Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Dag-Hammarskjöld-Weg 1-5, 65760 Eschborn, phone: +49 228 44 60-0 info@giz.de The World Bank 1818 H Street, NW Washington, DC 20433 USA World Food Programme Accelerator 16 Buttermelcherstrasse, 80469 München
Registration:	Please register on https://www.muenchner-kreis.de/development_in_the_age_of_digital_platform from **January 28, 2020 to April 02, 2020**
Participation fee:	**200.00 €** per person. The fee includes the conference catering. VAT is **not** included in the fee.
Payment:	Payment must be made when registering on https://www.muenchner-kreis.de/development_in_the_age_of_digital_platform A confirmation and invoice will be sent upon receipt of registration.
Cancellation:	To cancel your registration, please contact us at office@muenchner-kreis.de Cancellations up to 7 days before the conference are subject to an administration fee of 50.00 €. After that date, no refunds will be issued. A representative may take the registered participant's place.

On-site registration:

The conference office is open
April 1, 2020 from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
April 2, 2020 from 8:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Hotels: A limited number of hotel rooms are available. Please contact them directly:

1. Mercure Hotel Frankfurt Eschborn Süd, www.mercure.com
T.: +49 (0) 6196 901-0
Keyword: Münchner Kreis + B-600701
available until February 18, 2020

2. Central Hotel Eschborn, www.central-hotel-eschborn.de
T.: +49 (0) 6196 930590
available until March 3, 2020

Directions: See attached PDF

Additional
Information: Photos, films and videos made during the conference will be used for the work of the MÜNCHNER KREIS and will be published on the homepage of the MÜNCHNER KREIS for public relations purposes and may be passed onto representatives of the media. By registering for the conference, participants give their consent to these recordings and/or photos and their use.