

Call for Applications: ME 2.0 The Palestinian-Israeli Young Business Leaders Forum

The *Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Liberty* would like to invite you to join its **"MIDDLE EAST 2.0 (M.E.2.0 Forum) – Israeli-Palestinian Young Business Leaders Forum."** The *ME 2.0 Forum*, which constituted itself in 2010, aims at bringing together accomplished young professionals and entrepreneurs striving to become Palestine and Israel's future business leaders. The forum seeks to provide its members with an opportunity to meet, network, exchange thoughts and converse with key actors of the Israeli, Palestinian and international business community and political arena. The overarching objective is to build a critical mass of high-profile young Israeli and Palestinian professionals and entrepreneurs that will eventually bring about concrete business partnerships and joint-ventures, as well as work towards affecting the necessary political and regulatory changes to promote and grow cross-border trade.

In the past year, the group, currently consisting of approximately twenty young professionals and entrepreneurs (up until the age of 40) has been meeting on a monthly basis. Speakers have included Yossi Beilin, former IL Minister of Justice, Basam Khoury, former Pal. Minister of Economics, Cherie Booth Blair, Founder of the Cherie Blair Foundation, Arie Saif, Vice President of the Israel Chamber of Commerce and one of the authors of the Paris Protocols as well as Dr. Samir Hazboun, Chairman of the Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce. Field trips of the ME 2.0 forum have included the Israeli Chamber of Commerce in Tel Aviv, Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce and production plants both on the Israeli as well as Palestinian side.

Having established a core group of entrepreneurs over the past year, we are seeking to enlarge the number of members and spectrum of businesses represented in the group (which is by invitation/application only). For the autumn and coming year, the ME 2.0 Forum is planning to continue conducting its monthly meetings and excursions exploring different economic aspects of the IL/PAL conflict. Furthermore, we are looking to begin developing and realizing concrete projects, activities and joint-ventures among the forum's members as well as beyond.

We look forward to having you join our **ME 2.0 – The Palestinian-Israeli Young Business Leaders Forum**. Please refer to the attached application for further information and note that the application **deadline is September 15th, 2011**.

Best regards,



Dr. Hans-Georg Fleck,

Director, Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Liberty, Jerusalem Office