

## **Istanbul to Host Global Thinkers Forum 2013**

### **Awards Ceremony & Forum for Excellence in Global Leadership to draw on the East-West perspectives of Leadership & Collaboration in societies in transformation**

London, July 8 2013: Global Thinkers Forum (GTF) announces that its Annual Awards Ceremony and global gathering for Excellence in International Leadership will be held 2-3 December 2013 in Istanbul, Turkey. The location was chosen in a survey of GTF 2012 Amman participants and the event will celebrate figures who are creating positive change by delivering innovative answers to some of the world's key challenges in government, business, technology, society and the Arts. They will be joined by international media and leading brands in front of a diverse local and worldwide audience. The main theme this year is 'Leadership & Collaboration in Shifting Environments'.

Global Thinkers Forum 2013 builds on last year's Amman event, which was held under the patronage of Queen Rania Al Abdullah of Jordan and the King Abdullah II Fund for Development. GTF 2012 attracted extensive media coverage throughout the region for its focus on Women Leaders in the Middle East and North Africa. It featured speakers such as Her Majesty Queen Rania, HRH Princess Sumaya Bint el Hassan, HRH Princess Rym, Professor Saska Sassen, Arianna Huffington, Fadi Ghandour, and sponsorship among others from Jordan Ahli Bank, Qatar Airways, Umniah and the King Abdullah II Fund for Development.

"I am delighted that Istanbul is the next destination for the Global Thinkers Forum," said Elizabeth Filippouli, Founder and CEO of Global Thinkers Forum. "As a country responding both to the global financial crisis and to its own internal debate on change, Turkey epitomizes the belief that the local and the global are inextricable today. Its approaches to key political, economic and social issues make Turkey an excellent context for our 2013 event. We are looking forward to another very stimulating and successful time in Istanbul".

GTF 2013 topics will include:

- Excellence & Collaborative Leadership
- Leadership Challenges & Domestic Transformation
- Women Leaders in the MENA Region
- Challenges & Opportunities Created by New Technologies & the Internet
- Ecosystems for Attracting Investment
- Energy as a Factor for Collaboration
- The Leaders of Tomorrow

Global Thinkers Forum 2013 has already formed additional strategic partnerships with The British Chamber of Commerce in Turkey, the Alumni Turk Network, Bloomberg, The World Policy Institute and Flint PR UK.

Maha Abouelenein, Head of Global Communications & Public Affairs for Google, MENA comments: "The Internet can be a powerful force to collaborate in our shifting environments - what excites me is how the Internet is playing a key role allowing women to lead in MENA and to share their ideas, grow businesses and take action with others around the world. The work of GTF in promoting issues relating to social transformation and positive change thanks to technology is pioneering. I am delighted to be a member of the GTF Advisory Board."

Global Thinkers Forum has also announced new appointments to its Advisory Board: Chris W.J. Gaunt, Chairman, British Chamber of Commerce in Turkey; Maha Abouelenein: Head of Global Communications & Public Affairs for Google, MENA; Dr Nakiye Boyacigiller, Dean of Sabanci School of Management at Sabanci University of Istanbul; Lucian Sarb, Director of News and Programmes at EURONEWS; Professor Saskia Sassen, Columbia University; Safa Uslu, Advisor to HE the President of Turkey, Mr Abdullah Gül; Nidal Eses, Founder of Eses Ventures; Geraldine Sharpe-Newton, President of the UK's Media Society.

#### *About Global Thinkers Forum*

*The Global Thinkers Forum (GTF) is a non-profit initiative and a platform to create dialogue and bring current and future leaders together to discuss governance, society, progress and the future. GTF takes place in various cities around the world and has been created to reposition perceptions about governance through a global perspective. GTF 2013 Istanbul (December 2-3, 2013) focuses on the roles and challenges for leaders in the region and globally.*

[www.globalthinkersforum.org](http://www.globalthinkersforum.org)

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