

World Economic Forum Launches Global Shapers Community in Caracas

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- Half of the world ' s population is under the age of 27, but the voice of youth has been largely absent from global decision-making platforms and processes
- The World Economic Forum brings its 41-year experience of building multistakeholder communities to a global platform for this dynamic generation
- Global Shapers are 20 to 30 years of age, with great potential for future leadership roles in all sectors of society.
- For more information about the Global Shapers community, visit: www.weforum.org/globalshapers

Caracas, Venezuela, 23 December 2011 – The World Economic Forum is launching the latest branch of its Global Shapers Community in Venezuela to tap into the potential of the youth generation.

The Global Shapers Community is a worldwide network of hubs led by 20 to 30 year olds who are exceptional in their achievements and drive to make a positive contribution to their communities. The network and its link to other communities in the World Economic Forum provide these talented individuals with a global platform to shape the future and develop their leadership potential to serve society.

Global Shapers represent all walks of life and share a spirit of entrepreneurship in the public interest. As individuals, they are selected and mentored by the Young Global Leaders, another community of the Forum, and stand out as people who have already delivered major projects, founded companies or organizations, or have contributed significantly to society.

“ With 50% of the world ' s population under the age of 27, the majority living in urban areas, a new global dynamic is emerging, ” says Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum. “ We are becoming increasingly aware that solutions to our global challenges must purposefully engage youth at all levels – locally, regionally, nationally and globally. This generation has the passion, dynamism and entrepreneurial spirit to shape the future. ”

There are currently 140 Global Shaper hubs around the world, the first of which was started in September 2011.

The Caracas hub is mentored by lawyer and human rights activist Alfredo Romero, who is a partner at the law firm Rosich Himiob Romero and specializes in public and International Law. He also represents victims of political violence in Venezuela, having founded VIVE (Venezuelan Victims of Human Rights Abuse), an NGO responsible for lawsuits before the International Criminal Court.

Alfredo Romero says: “ These prominent young Global Shapers will be essential for making proposals for social and economic change. Young leaders, such as students, musicians, artists and sport figures have already been examples of commitment and perseverance in a complex society. I believe these young potential leaders are already representatives of hope and examples of how to make good things happen. ”

The Global Shapers in these hubs will be tasked with using their talents to foster fresh ideas and entrepreneurial solutions to some of the most pressing problems within their local communities. They will also collaborate with other hubs worldwide to share ideas on tackling global problems. The Venezuela community includes:

- Daniela Paoli, an e-Government specialist in the Organization of American States who has worked with over 180 Latin American municipalities to improve the delivery of services through e-government solutions.
- Alejandra Otero, a journalist, actress and stand-up comedian.
- David Capacho, a musician, producer, professor and director of the Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra.
- Juan Jose Pocaterra, a lawyer and entrepreneur whose company Group InTech has developed software for traffic management centres to reduce travel times and improve the quality of life for the citizens of Caracas.

Juan Jose Pocaterra says: “ The time has arrived for those of us with the will to make a difference to come together and drive change. This is an opportunity to get out of our comfort zone and undertake a global initiative that empowers leaders in different areas and cultures. ”

Daniela Paoli says: “ Throughout my life, my deepest aspiration has been to work for the development of my country and serve the most needed. This being my goal, I have searched the international community for the best training and professional experience as a springboard to return to Venezuela and work in the implementation of sustainable developing programmes. ”

The thinking behind the creation of the Global Shapers Community is to provide this unique group with access to the Forum ’ s Members and constituents, including top leaders from politics, business, civil society, media, science, arts and culture, faith and academia, with the objective of providing maximum possibilities for interaction and cross-mentoring.

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