

ITT Alumni Seminar 2018: "Knowledge-to-Practice" Steps to Promote Sustainable Development Goals



Participants of the ITT Alumni Seminar 2018 in front of the Congress Center DJH Köln Rhiel, Germany (Photo by Janina Rosch)

Timeline
Apr 2018 - Dec 2018

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Funding
DAAD

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The Alumni Seminar 2018 targeted the ITT's International Alumni Network who are professionally involved in the advancement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or contribute to achievement of 2030 Agenda in a direct and/or indirect way, and those who are working for academic or educational institutions, development organizations, industries, NGOs or private enterprises. The Alumni Seminar 2018 aimed to foster exchange among its selected group of alumni for innovative project ideas in the field of science, research and practice by facilitating cooperation, knowledge co-creation and discussing concepts of development in the form of joint research project proposals concerning their international, national or local experience and knowledge.

The ITT considers each alumni member to be an individual agent of change. With the Alumni Seminar, the ITT aimed to provide a platform to communicate, display and evaluate innovative project concepts and share best practices to leverage the full potential of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development promotion at national, subnational and local scales. The seminar was organized and hosted by the Institute for Technology and Resources Management in the Tropics and Subtropics (ITT) at TH Köln/University of Applied Sciences with funding from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

The Alumni Seminar had three phases starting from April 2018 until December 2018:

1. Online Preparation Phase

During this phase, applicants took part

in activities such as self-study, webinars, group-work, as well as in feedback and discussion rounds to develop research project proposals based on expertise and related SDGs. The evaluation of project proposals followed the online phase, and 25 candidates were selected to participate in the present phase.

2. Present Phase

Selected Alumni members participated, presented and discussed the project proposals developed and best-practice examples in Cologne. According to the project, only nationals of DAC listed countries who currently live and work in DAC listed countries could receive funding for travel and accommodation.

3. Post-Present Phase

The result of the previous phases was finalized, documented and evaluated through collaboration with participants and their feedback. At the end of the seminar, participants developed concrete fundable project proposals, practicable research concepts in the form of "research-based business models", exchanged research ideas and possible cooperative propositions via networking with alumni members, scientists, experts and interested parties. We promoted feedback showing how each individual, as an agent of change, can make impacts in their communities and how these alumni meetings contribute to the development of such accomplishments.

By Mahsa Motlagh