**Photographer Workshop**

**Value the Value of Religion for Development**

May 23 – 27, 2016, Berlin

**Background**

In 2008, the “Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit” (GIZ) - the German agency for development and international cooperation - decided to actively integrate art as a means of dialogue and development. The idea was to annually organize workshops on selected topics and have them interpreted by international photographers through photographic art. After the event, the best pictures were presented to the public in an exhibition. As both workshops and exhibitions have received wide attention, the GIZ Berlin Representation and the GIZ Sector Programme “Values, Religion and Development” will be implementing a photographers’ workshop from May 23 to May 27 2016 in cooperation with the “Ostkreuzschool of Photography in Berlin and the Ostkreuz Photo Agency. Ten photographers from all over the world will come together to collectively work on the topic value, religion and development. The workshop along with its exhibitions aims at inspiring people to engage themselves respectfully with sustainable development and religion through the medium of photography.

The topic of the workshop is “Value the Value of Religion for Development”. More than 80 per cent of all people worldwide affiliate with a religion. Religion contributes to people's welfare, providing support where state institutions come up against their limits; they help people deal with disasters and setbacks, and they confer a sense of identity. Religious actors build hospitals, run schools, and provide emergency relief. Many of the world’s largest development organizations are motivated by religion. Religion is also an important source of values. It influences people’s way of thinking and their actions. Religion has an influence on politics and can act both as a driver of development and an impediment to development. To date, however, there has been no systematic attempt to incorporate religion into development policy. Climate change, population growth, violent conflicts, the widening gap between rich and poor, increasing numbers of refugees, and shifting centres of power are all making themselves felt. Overcoming these challenges not only requires technical expertise but a shared value base and also new forms of cooperation - also with religious actors. Therefore, German development cooperation seeks to better harness the positive potential of religion for sustainable development and peace.

**Your contribution**

Together with photographers from Germany and several other countries you will **explore** the positive value of religion for sustainable development. As organisers we will try to bring together a group of 10 photographers with different religious backgrounds. During the workshop, special emphasis is placed on encouraging discussion among the photographers so that new perspectives on the given subject can be developed. The workshop will be conducted by our project partner, the “Ostkreuz School of Photography” ([http://www.ostkreuzschule.de](http://www.ostkreuzschule.de/)). The workshop will be held in English.

During the workshop in Berlin you will shoot a series of photos with regard to the mentioned subject. You will also get the opportunity to create a collage that symbolises the theme of interreligious dialogue. In order to do so, you will get the chance to visit different religious places and communities in Berlin. Back in your home country, you will explore the issue of religion and development on an individual basis while considering the religious and social context of your home country. After four weeks you will send us online a series of about ten photos on the given topic along with descriptions of the portrayed scene / image. On the whole, we would like to see photos that consider the following traditions: Bahai, Buddhism, Christianity, Daoism, Hinduism, an indigenous tradition, Islam, Judaism, and the Sikh Religion.

**Exhibition**

The most interesting pictures will be presented in exhibitions, in a high quality catalogue and online. The exhibition will be shown at the GIZ-House Berlin and abroad, possibly in New York (locations will be selected in the coming months).

**Procedure**

In case of a successful application (see attachment), you will be invited to Germany to participate in the workshop. The workshop, travel and accommodation costs will be covered by GIZ. A daily allowance will also be paid. You just need to bring your own camera equipment.

Should you be interested in taking part in the workshop, we kindly ask you to carefully read the enclosures and return your application along with all required documents until **April 22, 2016** to[photoworkshop2016@giz.de](mailto:photoworkshop2016@giz.de).

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at [photoworkshop2016@giz.de](mailto:photoworkshop2016@giz.de).

We are looking forward to your application.

With kind regards

Mohamed Ibrahim Khushwant Singh

GIZ Representation Berlin GIZ Sector Programme Values, Religion and Development