



## SALZBURG SEMINAR

### NEWS RELEASE

Salzburg, AUSTRIA, Mr. Prashant Kumar Shukla was appointed as a Fellow to the Salzburg Seminar for its session *Immigration and Inclusion: Rethinking National Identity*, which was convened at Schloss Leopoldskron in Salzburg, Austria, March 27-April 1, 2007. The session gathered approximately 45 participants from over 20 countries, representing members of government, business, academia, think-tanks, media, and intergovernmental organizations.

Mr. Prashant Kumar Shukla's qualifications are in Developmental Studies, International Law and Diplomacy, Business Studies and he also holds Degree in Science. He is an experienced and dynamic professional with a broad European and Asian cultural, developmental and business background; he has expertise in migration, cultural exchange, demography, HIV/AIDS and substance abuses. He has served in various multicultural institutions on different positions along with the programme manager of UNDP-RBB/VOM in south Asia. He is member of the Immigrant Council of Ireland's Policy and Research Committee and also the member of steering committee of Tallaght Partnership project FMWEPON, and Advisor of the Drug Addicts Rehabilitation Network (DARN). His services were recognized nationally and internationally. The Secretary-General of the United Nations awarded a testimonial for the same in 1999.

Recently Mr. Shukla conceptualized and started working on an innovative project 'Integrating Indians'. The project 'Integrating Indians' is designed to bring the Irish-Indian community together, through comprehensive and sustainable efforts. This is aimed at developing the capacities of Indian professionals to equally engage in and draw upon their networks and structures in the workplace and in local communities.

#### **Immigration and Inclusion: Rethinking National Identity**

Never before in human history have such large numbers of people left their homes, to go and live in a different country or continent, as do so today. A small proportion of these human flows are driven by persecution or violence. Far larger numbers migrate in response to economic and demographic disparities between different parts of the world – especially (though by no means exclusively) between the industrialized global North and the underdeveloped or developing South. Wages, living standards and economic opportunities in the former far outstrip those in the latter, while birth rates have diverged in the opposite direction. There are thus very strong “pull” and “push” incentives for people to better their situations by migration.

Abundant research shows the benefits that migrants can bring to their new homelands – not only as laborers but as consumers, entrepreneurs and contributors to a more diverse and dynamic culture. But these benefits are not evenly distributed, and often not appreciated by the pre-existing population, parts of which tend to see immigrants as a threat to their material interests, their security and their traditional way of life. In Europe especially, national and local governments have been slow to grasp the need to develop strategies for

integrating new arrivals and their children into the host society, notably when the new are demarcated from the old by religion or skin color. Second- and third-generation children of migrants have grown up in ghettos, often facing high rates of unemployment, relative poverty and crime, and sometimes regarded by their “indigenous” neighbors with a mixture of fear and contempt.

This session studied different approaches and strategies for dealing with these problems, adopted by countries with significant minority communities of recent immigrant origin, notably in North America and Western Europe. It focused on efforts to ensure that members of these communities enjoy the full rights, and assume the full responsibilities, of citizenship, and are fully accepted as fellow-citizens by the rest of society. It examined the cultural barriers and prejudices that impede such efforts, and asked questions about the meaning of national identity and the extent to which values and culture need to be shared by different communities living together within a democratic State. The participants examined a variety of programs, policies and practices for integrating disparate communities, looking especially for examples that show clear signs of success, while taking due account of the widely different political, social and economic contexts in which such policies have been applied. To assist the analysis and exchange processes, a number of speakers were active in the program, providing views and ideas from a variety of perspectives and experiences.

In the seminar **Mr. Prashant Shukla proposed the theory of multiple identity and loyalties**, a universal and realistic approach in context of Immigration and Inclusion: Rethinking National Identity. Mr. Shukla further focused on regional perspectives i.e. Indian subcontinent and emphasized the analysis of migration from villages to cities, this turning the cities into population explosion and it is also adversely affecting the agricultural productivity in India and China. Mr. Shukla spoke on the Brain-Drain and described outsourcing in present globalize world also creating opportunities for Immigration from west to east. Mr. Shukla also analyzed the Integration/ Inclusion policies within the Europe and role of media for positive awareness in the society. He described Ireland could be a model for other EU member states, while states are framing public policies on Immigration and Integration / Inclusion, there is lot to learn from Irish state and media, which contributed significantly on the development of proactive policies.

**The speakers included:**

**Edward Mortimer** (Chair) Senior Vice President and Chief Program Officer, Salzburg Seminar, Austria, Director of Communications, Office of UN Secretary General 2001-2006, United Kingdom.

**Ian Buruma**, Henry R. Luce Professor of Democracy, Human Rights & Journalism, Bard College, New York; *Author of Murder in Amsterdam: The Death of Theo Van Gogh and the Limits of Tolerance*

**Rodolfo de la Garza**, Professor of Political Science, School of International and Public Affairs, and Director, Project on Immigration, Ethnicity, and Race, Columbia University, New York

**Kemal Kirisci**, Jean Monnet Chair in European Integration, Boğaziçi University, Istanbul

**Gregory Maniatis**, Senior European Policy Fellow, Migration Policy Institute, Washington DC

**F. John Packer**, Coordinator, Initiative on Conflict Prevention through Quiet Diplomacy, Human Rights Internet, Ottawa; former Director, Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities

**Tariq Ramadan**, Research Fellow, European Studies Centre and Middle East Centre, St. Anthony's College, Oxford University, Oxford

**Surrendra Santokhi**, Manager, Bureau of Citizenship, the City of The Hague

**Beate Winkler**, Interim Director, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, Vienna

**Ann Derry** (Resource Specialist), Managing Director, Television and Video, The New York Times, New York

**Hans Metzmakers** (Resource Specialist) - Senior Policy Advisor, Manager's Department, the City of The Hague

### **The Salzburg Seminar**

Since 1947, the Salzburg Seminar has been challenging current and future leaders to develop creative ideas for solving global problems. The institution convenes imaginative thinkers from different cultures and institutions, organizes problem-focused initiatives, supports leadership development, and engages opinion-makers through active communication networks, all in partnership with leading institutions from around the world and across different sectors of society. The Salzburg Seminar seeks to magnify the impact of individuals and institutions that bring just and humane values to bear on the global challenges facing their societies and the world.

The Salzburg Seminar is a non-profit organization, incorporated in the United States and Austria. The Seminar's work is primarily conducted at Schloss Leopoldskron, home to the Seminar in Austria since 1947. This Austrian historical monument has welcomed more than 26,000 individuals from 156 countries, all of whom have been struck by the way in which the splendor of the setting facilitates a unique quality of cross-cultural dialogue and engagement. Among the Seminar's former faculty and fellows are such leaders as Hillary Clinton, Hisashi Owada, Franz Vranitzky, Warren Christopher, Richard Goldstone, Kim Campbell, Federico Mayor, Jutta Limbach, Lawrence Egelburger, Vaclav Klaus, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Mamphela Ramphele, André Brink, Pascal Lamy, Astrid Fischel-Volio, Karmen Abu Jaber, and Leszek Balcerowicz. More information can be found at [www.salzburgseminar.org](http://www.salzburgseminar.org).

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