

Media Information

25 May 2023

Intercultural Innovation Hub 2023.

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and BMW Group celebrate ten international organisations.

Munich/Berlin. Every day, people all around the globe strive to improve integration, inclusion and diversity in their immediate environment. Even where resources are scarce, passion for the topic remains high, with individuals determined to launch their own initiatives and play their part in creating a more just and tolerant society. In the course of the ceremony held for the **Intercultural Innovation Hub (IIH)** in Berlin, Germany on May 24, 2023, a total of ten such international grassroots projects were honoured for their outstanding commitment.

The IIH is a long-standing partnership between the **United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)** and the **BMW Group**, supported by **Accenture**. It recognizes and strengthens innovative grassroots projects that promote intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding, thereby contributing to peace, cultural diversity and an inclusive international community. The honoured organisation receive access to networks, funding, a comprehensive 12-month training programme to develop their in-house skills and professional mentoring from experienced coaches.

The ceremony in Berlin was led and moderated by **Dr. Mandeep Rai**, author of "The Value Compass", as well as **Miguel Ángel Moratinos**, UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for UNAOC, and **Ilka Horstmeier**, Member of the Board of Management of BMW AG, People and Real Estate, Labour Relations Director, both patrons of the IIH.

"Today, civil society is evolving in dynamic and impactful ways, with grassroots-level innovations at the forefront of driving meaningful change. The organisations we recognized through the Intercultural Innovation Hub exemplify just that. We are proud to amplify their contribution to diversity, mutual respect, and inclusion. Further, we celebrate our lasting collaboration with BMW Group as we continue to connect, empower, and elevate these grassroots initiatives," said **Miguel Ángel Moratinos**.

"At the BMW Group, we recognise that intercultural understanding enriches the communities we are acting in. That is why we are so proud of our strong

partnership with UNAOC. The Intercultural Innovation Hub enables us to highlight some of the remarkable cross-cultural work being done worldwide. Our commitment to the awardees recipients includes relevant resources we can offer that can promote these initiatives. This can make the crucial difference in turning an idea into practice that evolves local communities and improves people's lives," said **Ilka Horstmeier**.

The Intercultural Innovation Hub 2023 recipients are:

- **Fundación Barranquilla+20** (Colombia) – Women for Climate Justice
- **Fundación Ixcanul** (Guatemala) – Itinerant Travelling Cinema
- **Inspire** (Indonesia) – Pledge United
- **Mais Diferenças** (Brazil) – Literature in Multiple Accessible Formats
- **Oasis 'Reach For Your Dreams'** (South Africa) – Community Street Football/Netball
- **SWANS Initiative** (Germany) – More Leylas in Leadership
- **Tech2Peace** (Israel) – A New Reality: Israelis and Palestinians Innovating Together
- **Programa Adopte un Talento / PAUTA** (Mexico) – Empowering Girls and Adolescent Girls from Vulnerable Groups and Communities in Mexico with Science
- **Wasel for Awareness and Education** (Jordan) – Shabbek Wa Bader
- **Welcoming Australia** (Australia) – Welcoming Cities

For more information, please see the IIH's official website:
www.interculturalinnovation.org.

If you have any questions, please contact:

BMW Group Corporate Communications

Milena Pighi

Corporate and Governmental Affairs

Spokesperson Corporate Citizenship

Email: milena.pa.pighi@bmw.de

Telephone: +49-89-382-66563

Media website: www.press.bmwgroup.com

Email: presse@bmwgroup.com

United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

Alessandro Girola

Programming Coordinator

Email: alessandrogirola@unops.org

The BMW Group

With its four brands BMW, MINI, Rolls-Royce and BMW Motorrad, the BMW Group is the world's leading premium manufacturer of automobiles and motorcycles and also provides premium financial and mobility services. The BMW Group production network comprises over 30 production sites worldwide; the company has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2022, the BMW Group sold nearly 2.4 million passenger vehicles and more than 202,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax in the financial year 2021 was € 16.1 billion on revenues amounting to € 111.2 billion. As of 31 December 2021, the BMW Group had a workforce of 118,909 employees.

The success of the BMW Group has always been based on long-term thinking and responsible action. The company set the course for the future at an early stage and consistently makes sustainability and efficient resource management central to its strategic direction, from the supply chain through production to the end of the use phase of all products.

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United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)

The United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) is a United Nations entity that builds bridges between societies, promotes dialogue and understanding, and seeks to forge the collective political will required to accomplish these tasks. UNAOC works as a convener and facilitator to bring all sectors of society together to strengthen intercultural and interreligious dialogue to diminish hostility, and promote mutual respect and harmony among the people and cultures of the world.

A special initiative of the Secretary-General, UNAOC was established in 2005, at the initiative of the Governments of Spain and Turkey, under the auspices of the United Nations. In January 2019, H.E. Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos assumed the position of Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for UNAOC, succeeding H.E. Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, who succeeded H.E. Mr. Jorge Sampaio.

UNAOC's activities are fashioned around the five pillars of Education, Youth, Migration, Media, and Women as peace mediators in identity-based settings.

UNAOC maintains a global network of partners, including states, international and regional organizations, civil society groups, foundations, and the private sector, to improve cross-cultural relations between diverse nations and communities.

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