

AFS Global Conference

Global Competence: Our Future, Our Responsibility

26-28 September | Budapest, Hungary

conference.afs.org

#AFScon

Media Factsheet & Backgrounder

updated: 16 May

The 2018 AFS Global Conference brings together leaders across sectors to set a global competence agenda for preparing students, educators, volunteers and employees with the intercultural knowledge, skills and understanding needed to create a more just and peaceful world. Meet influencers and decision makers in this global movement.

Featured speakers (confirmed)

- **Dr. Andreas Schleicher**, Director for Education and Skills, and Special Advisor on Education Policy to the Secretary-General at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)/PISA
- **Prof. Dr. Anantha Duraiappah**, Director of the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP)
- **Mr. Clive Lee**, Chief Executive Officer, Yidan Prize Foundation
- **Ms. Kaya Henderson**, Global Learning Lab for Community Impact, Teach For All
- **Dr. Diane Robinson**, Global Special Projects Lead, Teach For All
- **Dr. Mattia Baiutti**, Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Udine
- **Ms. Soraia Arroyo Lynch**, MBA Vice President of Marketing, at GMMI, Inc.
- **Dr. Vishakha N. Desai**, Chair of the Board of Trustees of AFS Intercultural Programs, Senior Advisor for Global Affairs to the President of Columbia University
- **Mr. Peter Mather**, Chairman of BP Europe, BP UK and BP Exploration Operating Company
- **Mr. Barry van Driel**, International Director for Teacher Training and Curriculum Development at Anne Frank House

The conference will address these global challenges and opportunities:

- Defining global competence as an essential 21st century skill
- Strategies, funding and frameworks required to empower primary and secondary teachers

- Best practices to foster global competence in higher education, NGOs and as part of professional development training.
- How to align stakeholders from all sectors to meet the growing demand for global competence

CONFERENCE BY THE NUMBERS

- 500 participants
- 45 sessions
- 60 countries
- 2.5 days of collaboration

ATTENDEES

- Educators and global competence experts
- Business leaders and social entrepreneurs
- UN, UNESCO, Council of Europe, OCED
- Community organizers, volunteer leaders

Why an AFS Global Conference?

In an increasingly globalizing, interconnected and diverse world, educating people of all ages to become globally competent and able to learn, live and work together is more important than ever. Isolationist politics, international conflicts and clashes of ideologies add even greater urgency to this need. AFS Intercultural Programs and our distinguished partners are organizing the 2018 AFS Global Conference to address these pressing issues.

Who supports the conference?

Among confirmed content partners for the 2018 AFS Global Conference are the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP), Yidan Prize Foundation, Teach for All, the World Bank, the Association for Teacher Education in Europe (ATEE) and the American Chamber of Commerce in Hungary (AmCham). The event is sponsored by BP, a global energy company, and GMMI, a provider of cost containment and medical risk management solutions. Our featured media partner is the PIE News, a news and business portal for international education professionals.

About AFS Intercultural Programs

A global nonprofit international education organization, AFS has been at the forefront of the intercultural learning and global competence movement for more than 70 years. We develop active global citizens through our study abroad, volunteer and community social impact programs.

With a global network that expands 94 countries and a community of more than 1 million global citizens, AFS is uniquely positioned to convene and mobilize all sectors to work together. We work directly with educators and understand the needs and demands for globalizing classrooms. AFS also provides global competence training to organizations in the public and private sector.

Our advocacy work leverages working relationships and alliances with the UN, UNESCO, and the Council of Europe. We also work with more than 5,000 local, regional and national Ministries of Education, governments, schools and NGOs.

AFS IN NUMBERS:

- 98 countries where AFS has program activity
- 61 national AFS organizations
- 23 education ministries recognize AFS worldwide
- US\$26.5MM in donations for scholarships and initiatives
- 50,000+ active volunteers
- 12,000+ study abroad participants
- 8,500 host families

AFS GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP AGENDA:

AFS focuses on six main areas to support the global citizenship education movement:

1. AFS helps the world learn to live together. We are committed to fostering intercultural exchanges, learning and understanding as a powerful and productive way to build a more just and peaceful world.
2. AFSers embrace differences and believe our world is stronger because of them. AFS stresses the importance of diversity and inclusiveness in our policies, programs, organizations and public outreach efforts.
3. AFS is committed to expanding the role of young people in leadership and the decision-making processes of AFS and society at large. We share our findings and recommendations to help organizations and communities better leverage the potential of their young volunteers and leaders.
4. AFS advocates—along with educators, policy makers and others—to integrate intercultural learning and global citizenship education into national agendas and public school curriculums.
5. AFS works closely and creatively with schools, universities, humanitarian and peace groups, governments and other NGOs on the issues that reflect our mission and support global citizenship education.
6. AFS proactively supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and believes they provide a roadmap to help make our world a better place for all people.

AFS supports the UN Sustainable Goals #4 (Quality Education) and #16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

Contact information

Please contact us to discuss a media partnership during the AFS Global Conference:

- Sheryl Tucker (Sheryl.Tucker@afs.org), Chief External Affairs Officer at AFS Intercultural Programs (based in New York, USA)

- Milena Miladinovic (M.Miladinovic@afs.org), Senior Writer & Social Marketing Specialist (based in Belgrade, Serbia)