

Global Solutions Summit 2019

A Personal Reflection

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I was invited as a guest to the **G20 Think Tank Initiative for Global Governance, the Global Solutions Summit 2019** free of charge, which took place on the 17th – 19th March, 2019 in Berlin, Germany . The conference venue was at the European School of Management and Technology (ESMT), Schlossplatz 1, 10178 Berlin, Germany. The Global Solutions Initiative (GSI) provides a new, permanent, supportive advisory structure to G20 and G7. Independent of the official processes, yet firmly connected with official engagement groups and working groups, the GSI delivers independent, long-term oriented policy briefs for world leaders. The summit addresses the key global issues such as financial resilience, sustainable development, migration, climate change and digitalization. The Global Solutions Summit 2019 was chaired by Professor Dennis J. SNOWER, President of the Global Solutions Summit, President of the Kiel Institute for the World Economy (IfW). The summit also draws on the excellent intellectual network of the Global Economic Symposium (GES), which comprises some of the finest thinkers on global issues, including Nobel Laureates as well as leading representatives of the Managing Global Governance Network from Brazil, India, China, Indonesia, Mexico, South Africa, Croatia, Hong Kong, etc.

On **Sunday, March 17, 2019** the Governing Mayor of Berlin, Michael Müller, invited us to the magnificent 200-year-old Rotes Rathaus. The building is his official seat in the city and he held an opening speech during the evening of March 17. Other opening speeches from Professor Dennis J. SNOWER, President of the Global Solutions Initiative Foundation, President of the Kiel Institute for the World Economy (IfW), and Dennis Görlich, Head of Global Challenges Center at Kiel Institute for the World Economy and Program Director of the Global Solutions Initiative, were also part of the summit.

After the first day of the summit on **March 18, 2019**, we were invited to the **Foreign Office**, the seat of German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas. On this evening, an opening speech was given by Minister of State Niels Annen followed by a dialog between Fatoumata Ba, Founder & CEO of Janngo.africa, and Anna Sauerbrey, deputy editor of Tagesspiegel, on changes for development through digital change. Frans Timmermans, First Vice-President of the EU Commission, in charge of Better Regulation, Inter-Institutional Relations, the Rule of Law and the Charter of Fundamental Rights, has also took part in the Global Solutions Summit 2019. In addition to this, one of the leading experts on inequality, Branko Milanovic, the author of "The Future of Capitalism" Paul Collier, and Colin Mayer, professor and researcher at the Oxford Said Business School were among the speakers at the Global Solutions Summit 2019. The first day debate on the theme "**Toward Global Paradigm Change**" was chaired by Evan Davis, Presenter of **BBC Radio 4**.

On the second day of the summit, speakers include German **Chancellor Angela Merkel** and **Finance Minister Olaf Scholz**. Moreover, Naoyuki Yoshino, Chair of T20 Japan 2019 and Dean of the Asian Development Bank Institute, Pascal Lamy, former Director-General of the World Trade Organization and Gunter Pauli, Founder and Director of Zero Emissions Research and Initiatives, the Federal Minister of Economics and Energy, Peter Altmaier and

the Federal Minister of Justice and Consumer Protection Katarina Barley, were also in attendance. The second day debate with the German Chancellor, Angela Merke was moderated by John Micklethwait, Editor-in-Chief, **Bloomberg**.



Figure 1: Angel Merkel, opening speech on the second day



Figure 2: Me on the podium with Professor Dennis J. SNOWER, President of the Global Solutions Summit Foundation, President of the Kiel Institute for the World Economy (IfW)



Figure 3: Me and Evan Davis, Presenter of BBC Radio 4



Figure 4: . Me and the Governing Mayor of Berlin, Michael Müller



Figure 5: Me and the representative of the Young Global Changers 2019

Concluding Remarks

The aim of the Global Solutions Summit 2019 was to provide policy recommendations on major G20 issues and thereby to serve as a stepping stone to the Japanese T20 Summit in May 2019 and the Japanese G20 Summit in June 2019. The summit brings together international research organizations, thought leaders, decision and policy makers from politics, media personalities and economists. Being a participant of the Global Solutions Summit opens doors to meet new friends from all over the world and learning how to provide a global solution to the global problems, responding to global market needs, addressing the role of education, Future Challenges for the G20, the role of China in Africa, etc. This by far the most enlightening experience for me and I would, therefore, give my strongest recommendation for any COINS member to apply and participate in the upcoming events of the Global Solutions Summit. Finally, I would like to thank COINS for covering my travel and accommodation costs to attend the Global Solutions Summit 2019 in Berlin.