Background
The topic of development cooperation and humanitarian aid in Islamic contexts is often perceived as difficult and challenging. Countries such as Afghanistan, Iraq or Somalia are dominating the coverage. Far too often journalists, politicians and aid workers walk into a trap: existing conflicts such as increasing attacks by insurgents in Afghanistan against Western aid workers are contemplated from a culturalistic point of view. The alleged difference between Islam and Christianity serves as one prominent explanation for the exerted violence. Numerous studies, however, prove these assumptions wrong. Constructs of identity such as religion, nationality or ethnicity are rarely the true reason for conflicts. However political players use and exploit them for the mobilization of followers. The real causes for conflict fade into the background.

The consequences of the political exploitation of religion for development cooperation and humanitarian aid are serious: they lead to mistrust and prejudice amongst the needy population and aid workers and manifest in day to day life in different problems. Furthermore Countries with a Muslim majority are disadvantaged with respect to international development aid funds allocated predominantly by ‘Western’ donors. They do not receive the same attention as other countries, even though almost half of the estimated 1.3 Billion Muslims worldwide live in extreme poverty. Key indicators such as education, health, life expectancy, gender, illiteracy and poverty prove the need of the Muslim world for a stronger commitment in these areas.

For the above mentioned reasons, a discussion of the role of religion in development cooperation and humanitarian aid is vital. As one part of the problem is a general lack of knowledge about Islam and Muslim societies in Western countries and vice versa, the conference aims at generating a better understanding between Muslim and non-Muslim actors. By making visible the barriers to cooperation, we hope to strengthen the efficiency of development and humanitarian aid in Muslim countries and to improve the collaboration between Muslim and non-Muslim organizations.

**Agenda**

**Moderator: Marcel Pott, Publicist & Author**

**Monday, December 7th 2009**

14:00 Conference Opening & Welcoming Remarks  
Dr. Hany El-Banna - President, Islamic Relief Deutschland  
Bärbel Dieckmann - President, Welthungerhilfe

14:30 EU Humanitarian Aid in Islamic Countries  
Dr. Peter Zangl - Director General, DG ECHO

15:00 The Humanitarian Situation in Islamic Countries and the OIC’s Relief Interventions  
H. E. Ambassador Atta Al-Mannan - OIC Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Humanitarian Aid

15:30 Islam and the West, a Complex Relationship. Impacts on Development Cooperation.  
Dr. Gunter Mulack - Executive Director, Deutsches Orient Institut

16:00 Coffee break

16:30 Panel Discussion:  
Islam – Impulse or Impediment for Development?  
H. E. Ambassador Atta Al-Mannan - OIC Secretary-General’s Special Envoy for Humanitarian Aid  
Dr. Gunter Mulack - Executive Director, Deutsches Orient Institut  
Dr. Markus Loewe - Senior Economist, Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik  
Dr. Makram El-Shagi - Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung Halle  
Hossein Anvari - Superintendent, Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation

18:30 Reception & Dinner

**Tuesday, December 8th 2009**

9:30 Introductory Speech  
Dr. Hany El-Banna - President, Islamic Relief Deutschland

10:00 Working with the Target Groups in Islamic Countries: Opportunities and Barriers  
Dr. Bruno De Cordier - Universitäts Gent  
Amin Marco Obermueller - Country Representative Pakistan, Welthungerhilfe  
Arwa Hassan - Project Manager Governance, GTZ  
Hanyia Dar - Regional Programme Coordinator Horn of Africa, IRW  
Discussion

12:00 Lunch Break

13:00 Cooperation between Islamic and Western Organizations in Islamic Countries  
James Shaw-Hamilton - Director, Humanitarian Forum  
Chris Bain - Chief Executive Officer, CAFOD  
Dr. Moustafa Osman - Head of Humanitarian Department, IRW  
Hubertus Rüffer - Policy Advisor, Welthungerhilfe  
Discussion

15:00 Coffee Break

15:30 Situation of Islamic Organizations in Western Communities and their Perception by Donor Institutions  
Jonathan Benthall - University College London  
Susannah Pickering - University of East London  
Haroun Atallah - Director of Finance, IRW  
Dr. Franz Kogelmann - Universität Bayreuth  
Discussion

17:30 Conclusions  
Prälat Dr. Stephan Reimers - Supervisory Board, Welthungerhilfe  
Dr. Hany El-Banna - President, Islamic Relief Deutschland
Registration for Conference:

Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid in the Context of Islam:
Working Together for Constructive Policies and Partnerships

Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th December 2009

Please register via e-mail or fax:
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I will participate

Name: __________________________
______________________________

Address: ______________________
______________________________

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Wissenschaftszentrum
Ahrstr. 45
D-53175 Bonn

Directions
to Bonn main station
Airport Köln/Bonn – bus SB60
ICE train station Siegburg – subway 66

from Bonn main station to Wissenschaftszentrum
Subway 16 and 63 to Hochkreuz/Deutsches Museum Bonn
or bus line 610 to Kennedyallee
or bus 631 to Ahrstraße/Deutsches Museum Bonn

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