



HOMECOMING FORUM

Washington, D.C.

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Press Release

February 24, 2003

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Homecoming Forum

Saturday, March 8, 2003

9:30 AM – 4:30 PM

3910 Shoemaker St., NW

Washington, D.C. 20008

The New Generation Hungarian Professionals and Scholars in the United States - How to Utilize their Expertise for Hungary's Benefit

The *Homecoming Forum* is a joint initiative of representatives of the “*New Generation Hungarian Professionals*” of the Washington Metropolitan area (www.hungarianamerica.com/haza) and the *Embassy of Hungary*, under the patronage of Ambassador András Simonyi. The fact that this Forum has come about shows that Hungary has recognized the importance of keeping these professionals in the intellectual, cultural, and financial circulation of their homeland.

The Homecoming Forum purports to be a launch pad for a more continuous, systematic, and perhaps institutionalized exchange of information between Hungary's public/private sectors and the new generation Hungarian expatriates living in the U.S.

The ultimate goal of this Forum is to capitalize on Hungarian and Hungarian-American intellectuals, scientists, businesspersons, and celebrities living in the U.S. This may not strike as novelty, but the generation that we turn to, is *the* new one. Building on the lessons of the historic emigration, now the time has come to embrace the new generation more consciously and to address the issues that would help their participation in Hungarian-American matters, and thus contribute to the development of Hungary.

We believe that this Forum will be the first in a global campaign that will ultimately engage thousands of Hungarians around the world to reconnect them to their roots.

Goals

- To discuss and evaluate the experience of the new generation of Hungarian professionals and students in the US.
- To find ways for Hungary to benefit from their expertise and facilitate their return to Hungary.
- To tap into the talents and resources of young Hungarian-Americans.
- To show the support of the Hungarian Government for the return of Hungarian professionals and students.

Over

Expected Outcome

This Forum aims to produce concrete suggestions that can be implemented via governmental and private channels to boost the flow of intellectual, network, and material capital from the US to Hungary.

- A Final Report will be compiled on the results of the Forum, which will be submitted to respective ministerial portfolios, their opposition counterparts, and to relevant private organizations.
- Online resource center will be created for Hungarians studying and working in the US www.hungarianamerica.com
- Boost information exchange.
- Demonstrate the mutual benefits that Hungary and its expatriates could gain:
 - a) Hungary will be able to tap more into the underutilized resources and may regain some of the loss generated by the massive brain-drain of its human capital.
 - b) The expatriates will benefit from improved legal regulations, the creation of institutions, as well as online resource centers and databases that would facilitate their return to Hungary.

Topics

Topic headlines include (See detailed list in Press Advisory on the website):

- Contra-Brain Drain
- Contributions of new generation Hungarians from US
- Value Transfer
- Legal Status

Format

- One-day Conference
 - a) Participants: 50-60 participants; Representing various disciplines (Science & Technology, Arts & Humanities, Politics & Diplomacy, Business & Commerce/Corporate, International Organizations, Legal, and Media); Representing various regions of the US.
 - b) Sessions: 4 topical sessions with break for lunch; each session opened by keynote address (5-8 minutes) followed by discussion; (all plenary).

Closing Event at the Kossuth House:

Address: 2001 Massachusetts Ave., NW. Washington, D.C. 20036 Phone: 202 328-2630

- Event Closing Remarks
- Short Film Screening
- Wine & Cheese Reception - Informal Discussion

Contact Organizers:

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