

2011 Transatlantic Program-Young Technology Leaders (TAP-YTL): Water Management Germany, Oct. 30 – Nov. 7, 2011

Professional development for young leaders - get to know Germany as the world's leading provider of sustainable water technologies and meet with top industry and R&D experts

Program Description and Application Package

A. Program Summary

The German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest (GACCoM) is now accepting applications from **students and young professionals** for the third Transatlantic Program-Young Technology Leaders (TAP-YTL) with a focus of "Water Management." TAP-YTL will bring together 12 young leaders from the field of "Water Management" for an intensive delegation program to Germany, the world's leading provider for sustainable water technologies, from Oct. 30 – Nov. 7, 2011. GACCoM already successfully conducted TAP-YTLs on "Sustainable Architecture & Urban Planning" and "Logistics & Transport" in 2010 and 2011.

Participants chosen for the program will be able to explore Germany as the worldwide leading exporter of sustainable water technologies. Furthermore, they will learn about its efficient water treatment and distribution infrastructure, optimized water-efficient industrial manufacturing processes, as well as gain an understanding for the country's conservation-driven mindset and supporting legal and public policy frameworks. Planned program modules include visits in North Rhine-Westphalia, a water management R& D hotspot also boasting innovative water efficiency measures in an industrial setting. The 2011 European Green Capital Hamburg will also be on the agenda with its self-sustaining and climate-neutral sewage disposal and waste water heat recovery pilot projects for residential as well as Berlin, where delegates can meet with German policy makers on federal level also to receive an outlook on European water regulations. Generally, the agenda will consist of theme-focused site-visits and presentations, personal interaction with innovative companies and industry leaders, networking functions with peers, cross-cultural training and language building activities.



The overall goal of the program is to bring future decision makers from the US and Germany together at the beginning of their professional careers or late in their studies, to build networks and promote knowledge transfer through intensive, content-driven encounters and experiences. Applicants must be from the field relevant to the focus of each trip, interested in modern Germany and have a basic knowledge of the language. One of the key aspects of the program remains to promote professional development within a transatlantic

perspective through alumni activities. We encourage all participants to make use of our Alumni Network with its exclusive benefits. In addition, an upcoming program will focus on “Information Technology.”



TAP-YTL encourages colleges and universities whose students are selected to participate in the program to offer **course credits** for the intensive 8-day program. Between 30-35 hours of German language exposure and learning within the fields of “Water Management” will be provided throughout the trip (details on specific education programs and German language exposure during the trip will be made available in the coming months and can be sent to university administrators for this purpose). This is a specialized professional development program that will enhance the participant’s knowledge about the field of focus

while also promoting the participant’s understanding of German language and culture.

The Transatlantic Program-Young Technology Leaders is organized by the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest (GACCoM) with the financial support of the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology (BMWV), which generously provides funding from its European Recovery Program (ERP). GACCoM has considerable experience in organizing similar exchange programs, having conducted the Transatlantic Program (TAP) for eight years for both U.S. professionals and students and the TAP-YTL series since 2010.

B. Schedule and Program Details

Application Deadline:	Sept. 7, 2011
Applicant Interviews:	September 2011; exact dates TBD
Announcement of Participants:	Sept. 29, 2011
TAP-YTL in Germany:	Oct. 30 – Nov. 7, 2011
Alumni Reunion:	Summer 2012; exact date TBD



C. Eligibility Requirements

- Currently-enrolled college and university students (primarily targeted towards graduate and PhD students, but qualified undergraduates are welcome to apply), recent graduates and young professionals that are interested in expanding the skill set and experience

- Areas of concentration should be within one of fields of Water Management (such as Wastewater Management, Water Resources Engineering, Integrated Water Management, Environmental Engineering, Process Engineering and Water Policy).
- German majors and minors are welcome.
- Candidates with different backgrounds may apply if they feel that their background can offer a unique contribution. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis. We encourage and accept applications from any candidate who might be well-suited for this opportunity.
- Basic German skills
- Interest in modern Germany
- Work or practical experience in one's respective field is preferable
- Letter of recommendation either by a professor or an employer

D. Application and Selection Process

During the selection process, the participant's current/former major field of study and professional interests/current position will be taken into account in order to create the best possible fit between the program theme and the U.S. applicant. Besides the eligibility requirements mentioned above, we are looking for excellent TAP-YTL participants from across the United States who possess the following characteristics:

- Interest in applying lessons learned in the chosen profession
- Open-minded personality, flexible, curious
- Highly motivated to learn through first-hand experience about Germany and its respective technical field
- Interest in current German economic and political topics
- Interest in becoming an 'ambassador' for the US in Germany and vice versa
- Motivation to join the Alumni Network and to stay in touch with the German American Business community long term

The full application package must include:

1. Resume in English
2. Letter of motivation (1-2 pages) specifying reasons for student's interest in the program
3. Completed Questionnaire
4. Official transcripts documenting all studies
5. Signed letter of recommendation on official letterhead from a professor or from the applicant's supervisor at the company where he/she is currently working. An additional LoR (e.g. by a German Professor) is more than welcome.

Deadline to submit the full application is Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2011. Incomplete applications cannot be considered. An email application (including No. 1; 2; 3 listed above) is sufficient to meet the deadline; a paper version with official transcripts (No. 4) and original, signed documents (No. 5) needs to be received within one week of the deadline (Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2011) at the latest. Please mail your application to:

German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest Inc.
Attn. Daniela Daus, Manager, Consulting Projects & Transatlantic Program
321 N. Clark Street, Suite 1425
Chicago, IL 60654
Email: transatlanticprogram@gaccomm.org

GACCoM will evaluate the applications and conduct phone interviews in English and German with finalists before deciding on the final group of participants. Selection criteria will be the applicant's qualifications, his/her motivation for the program, basic German language skills and preferably work experience in the program field. Participation is limited to 12 individuals.

GACCoM will inform all applicants regarding the outcome of their application by **Thursday, Sept. 29, 2011**. Individuals accepted into the TAP-YTL 2011 will be asked to provide and fill out further documentation and forms on short notice. The first installment of the participation fee is due in October after the participants have been announced (see payment schedule in Section F).

E. Program Costs and Participant Responsibilities

This program receives significant funding support from the German government through its ERP. The remaining cost of a \$550 participation fee plus travel costs to and from Germany must be covered by each participant. The participation fee has to be paid in one installment (see Section F for more information).

- The program covers the following costs:
 - Overnight stays, meals and transportation while in Germany
 - Fees for programming and cultural events that are part of the official trip agenda
 - Organization of the program by GACCoM and its partners
- Health insurance is mandatory for the duration of the program. Participants should either keep their US insurance if it extends coverage to them during their stay in Germany, or purchase extra travel insurance coverage.
- Employers are encouraged to consider **sponsoring their young professionals** to participate in the program, as flight costs are not covered by the TAP-YTL.
- Participants are welcome to seek out additional stipends, scholarships or grants offered by universities, corporate sponsors or other organizations.



F. Program Fee

The program fee of \$550 is **due on Thursday, Oct. 13, 2011**. Payment can be made by personal checks or Visa or MasterCard. Checks have to be made out to “GACCoM” or “German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest.”

Please note that failure to submit payments on time may result in the forfeiture of a participant’s slot in the program. In this instance, the forfeited slot will be awarded to an alternate candidate. If a participant retracts his/her participation at any time after having accepted his/her spot in the program, he/she will not receive a reimbursement for payments rendered.

G. General Information

Overall, this program provides a fantastic opportunity for motivated, well-qualified young leaders in the U.S. and we look forward to working with you! Should you have any questions, please contact the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest in Chicago:

Program Manager: Daniela Daus, Manager, Consulting Projects & Transatlantic Program
German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest (GACCoM)
321 N. Clark Street, Suite 1425
Chicago, IL 60654
Email: daus@gaccomm.org
Phone: (312) 494-2177

Please also feel free to speak with participants of former TAP and TAP-YTL programs about their experiences in Germany and with our Chamber. We would be happy to connect you with our Alumni. You may also find information on participants, former programs and the upcoming TAP-YTL on our website at www.transatlanticprogram.org.



German American
Chambers of Commerce
Deutsch-Amerikanische
Handelskammern

**2011 TAP-YTL : Water Management Applicant Questionnaire
– Must be returned to GACCoM with application!**

PERSONAL INFORMATION (Please type or print legibly in **Black Ink**)

(Full legal name) Last First Middle Initial

Home Address Street City State Zip Country

() () _____
Home Telephone (with area code) Mobile Phone Email Address

Male Female Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____
City State/Province Country

Country of citizenship: _____ if other than US, do you have a US residence permit? Yes No

Passport Number: _____ Issuing Country: _____ Date of expiration: _____

Note: If you do not already have a valid passport, please apply for one as soon as possible. Passport processing times can take up to several months.

University: _____ Graduation Date: _____

Current Employer: _____

Have you already established personal contact(s) with Germany, especially in the relevant field of the trip?

Specific encounters, visits and projects you would be interested in for the 2011 TAP-YTL:

Please rate your knowledge of German on a scale of 1-5 (5 being the best) and let us know if you would be interested in attending a short intensive German language course with our partner, the *Goethe-Institut Chicago*.

Other things you would like us to consider:

Dietary Restrictions (if any): _____

How did you hear about the Transatlantic Program-Young Technology Leaders?

Friend Professor Employer Search engine Social Media Please specify: _____

Other Please specify: _____

Applicant's Signature

Please keep a copy of your entire application for your records