

Speakers From 100 Nations Share Their Ideas On What Makes A World Citizen



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- World Speech Day is a day to celebrate speeches and speechmaking through live public speaking events across the globe on 15th March
- Speakers around the world will be sharing their views on world citizenship, what are the challenges, opportunities, potential
- The wide diversity of events: from schools and universities to community groups and NGOs
- Eminent experts and first-time speakers: all will be involved, as we reach out to unexpected voices everywhere.

World Speech Day (15th March), now in its fourth year, is taking place in some 100 nations. This year's broad theme is "World Citizenship: It's a state of Mind". Speakers from a huge range of cultures and backgrounds will be giving their view on what makes a world citizen, what world citizenship can offer

and what each individual can contribute. And there's an extraordinary diversity of events – and thus voices – contributing: from schools in India to speakers clubs in Estonia, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea; from Oxford University to universities in Guatemala, Nigeria, Russia, and Japan.

“It's going to be a unique and truly global perspective on world citizenship,” says Simon Gibson, Founder, World Speech Day. “And what's just as fascinating is that these views and ideas are coming from such an extraordinary range of people and organizations. This is most definitely not the “usual suspects” talking, we are reaching out to unexpected voices across communities, across the globe. Technology makes global citizenship possible, and we are collecting people's views on what we can do with this new dimension.”

Anyone can host a world speech day event and anyone can speak. The result is remarkable diversity: for example, one event in Kuala Lumpur features speakers in 12 languages. Many will be first-time speakers. In a number of countries WSD event hosts have been running speaker training programs, for instance at schools, and an excellent example has been with secondary schools in Lagos, Nigeria. This year, there has also been the pioneering program to teach public speaking to young men and women in Malawi, using Skype and trainers from across Europe.

“World Speech Day has grown from a “what if” to real live public speaking events in some 100 nations across the globe in just 4 years,” says Simon. “And I think the reason for this rapid development has been that people recognize the power of speeches to bring communities together and share ideas.

“Whenever something important happens, someone makes a speech. But equally, when someone makes a speech, something important happens. Imaginations connect, thoughts transfer and take new shape in other minds.”

World Speech Day takes place each year on 15th March. The majority of events are free and people give freely of their time to arrange events and video speeches for subsequent sharing via social media.

For further information, please contact Simon Gibson, Founder, World Speech Day on simon@worldspeechday.com

Extensive event photography is available on request. Interviews with individual event organizers also arranged.



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