

## **My Alpbach Experience**

I had the great opportunity to participate in the European Forum Alpbach – New Enlightenment. To be honest, I did not know what to expect from this Forum, but after all the seminars, the plenary sessions, the sunrise hiking, the concerts and all the people I met, I can say that being part of this Forum was a formidable experience that I will not ever forget and it changed in a positive way my vision of the world.

Fortunately, I did not go by myself to this forum. I got a scholarship from the Club Alpbach Upper Austria and I shared my life with all the scholarships holders for twenty days. Being in a group helped me to feel more integrated to this forum and it gave me the opportunity to discuss and debate what I have heard during the seminars and the plenary sessions.

I attended to two seminars. The first one was “World Water Resources and Human Well-Being at Risks Trends, Data and Governance”. This seminar was very interesting, because the specialists talked about scientific data, possible outcomes if the trends are correct and the possible solutions to the water shortage. The second seminar was Gender Issues in Complex Societies. It was a review of the feminism and its accomplishments. Both of the seminars were very good and I fully recommend them.

One of the things that caught my attention was the opportunity to talk and to discuss about the current situation of refugees with different Austrian ministers. I received official information about it and what the Austrian government is doing for the people that need our help.

But I did not only learn about what is happening with world, but also I could learn about different cultures. I could meet plenty of people with different nationalities and with different points of view. The exchange of ideas was amazing. Furthermore, I met people with the same interests that I have. That was very motivating, because I know that there are more people trying to make a positive change in our world. I felt that I was not fighting alone. There are plenty people fighting for the same cause with different projects and objectives.

I feel grateful with the European Alpbach Forum and with the staff of the Club Alpbach Upper Austria. The experience was amazing and I will try to be there next year. There is no doubt about it.

Alonso Ballon