

News Flash

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Finland Launches National Innovation Journalism Fellowship Program

Former Finnish Prime Minister Esko Aho announced this week that Finland has launched a National Innovation Journalism Fellowship Program. Finland has nominated three people to the Innovation Journalism program at Stanford.

The Stanford fellows will work with some of the world's best news rooms in covering innovation stories, participate in international workshops and present papers at the Third Conference on Innovation Journalism at Stanford, April 5-7 2006.

“Our innovation economy is becoming increasingly global and journalism needs to follow,” said Esko Aho, President of SITRA - The Finnish National Fund for Research and Development, and former Prime Minister of Finland. “This is why we will send Finnish Innovation Journalism Fellows to the Stanford program.”

The Finnish innovation journalism fellowship program is chaired by Dr Antti Hautamaki, Director of the SITRA Innovation Program. The secretary is Dr Seppo Sisatto, the Finnish media entrepreneur who has spearheaded the introduction of innovation journalism in Finland.

The steering group includes Mr. Janne Virkkunen, Editor-in-Chief, of Helsingin Sanomat - the largest newspaper in Finland, Dr. Juhani Wiio, Head of Development of the Finnish Broadcasting Corporation, Mr. Lauri Kontro, Editor-in Chief of Maaseudun Tulevaisuus, Mr. Jari Romanainen, Director, Tekes - The National Technology Agency of Finland, Prof. Aino Sallinen, President of the Jyvaskyla University and Dr. Jukka Koivisto, President of the TAT-Group.

“Since spring 2004 we have created four different Finnish initiatives: a course for students at the University of Jyvaskyla, courses for journalists at the University of Tampere, a large research program financed by Tekes, and now the Fellowship program that will be taking Finnish innovation journalists out into the world.” says Dr. Seppo Sisatto.

The program at Stanford aims to bring together leading journalists from different traditional beats and from different countries in order to discuss best journalistic practices, business models, integrity and other crucial issues.

“The Innovation Journalism program at Stanford will now bring together top journalists from Finland, Sweden and the U.S., the three most competitive economies in the world according to the World Economic Forum,” said Dr. David Nordfors, leader of the SCIL/VINNOVA Innovation Journalism Program at Stanford. “There can be no better start for the international professional community of innovation journalism.”

”The Innovation Journalism program is a part of Stanford's development into an international campus,” said SCIL co-director Stig Hagstrom, professor emeritus. ”International journalism is today mostly about how value is destroyed in conflicts between countries. The world needs international journalism that looks at how value is created in the interaction between countries. We are looking forward to seeing more countries join the innovation journalism program.”

For more information

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