

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

MRS JEANNETTE KAGAME ADDRESSES GOLDMAN SACHS 'GLOBAL LEADERS' IN NEW YORK

Mrs Jeannette Kagame, the First Lady of Rwanda, last month delivered a keynote address on "Transitions in Leadership" to the 2007 cohort of the 7th annual Goldman Sachs Global Leadership Institute, which was held in New York, USA.

The institute is organized in July every year by the Goldman Sachs Global Leaders Program, a joint initiative of the Goldman Sachs Foundation and the Institute of International Education (IIE). The program selects 75 second-year students from 17 universities worldwide to attend the week-long Global Leadership Institute in New York City.

In keeping with the theme of this year's 2007 Goldman Sachs Global Leaders Program,

Mrs Kagame spoke about Rwanda's leadership experience, citing the challenges and achievements it has faced since the 1994 genocide.

She said: "What happened in Rwanda was caused first and foremost by bad leadership, and what will save the country and guide it along a different path will have to be the complete opposite," and called on the young people present to lead a change in world view, reminding them that they had "what it takes to identify the failures of your predecessors, and to use this as an opportunity to make a difference."

Before ending with a special message from a group of young Rwandans, Mrs Kagame told the audience how the youth in Rwanda were stepping up to the challenges before them, saying: "I see

genocide from happening again, to how they could contribute to Rwanda's efforts through the different projects they are currently undertaking.

The Global Leaders' Program aims to develop and recognize talented second-year university students who have demonstrated potential for superior leadership. At the Institute, students participate in leadership training and seminars on timely international issues. They consult with renowned leaders in the public, civic and private sectors and build ties among themselves based on shared experiences and common goals.

Those who have been through the Program may apply for seed-grant funding for projects that encourage social enterprise and the continued development of leadership opportunities. Funded

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unfolding before me a new generation of young leaders, who, just like yourselves, believe in their capabilities and in the mutual advantages of partnership. Rwanda's youth are learning that they too have a big role to play in the development of our country, and in spite of their unfortunate past within them lies the potential, confidence and opportunity to stand alongside the best in the world and be counted as equals."

The address was followed by a question and answer session in which the students, most of whom were visibly moved by Mrs Kagame's speech, eagerly asked questions on Rwanda, ranging from the measures that Rwanda has put in place to prevent

projects to date have assisted with the creation of a community school in India, stopping the spread of malaria in Africa, and providing scholarships for orphans afflicted with AIDS in Thailand. To date, approximately \$230,000 in seed-grant funds have been allocated for social enterprise projects worldwide.

Past speakers at the Institute include former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, Ann Veneman, Executive Director of UNICEF, former White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry and Stephanie Bell-Rose, President of the Goldman Sachs Foundation.

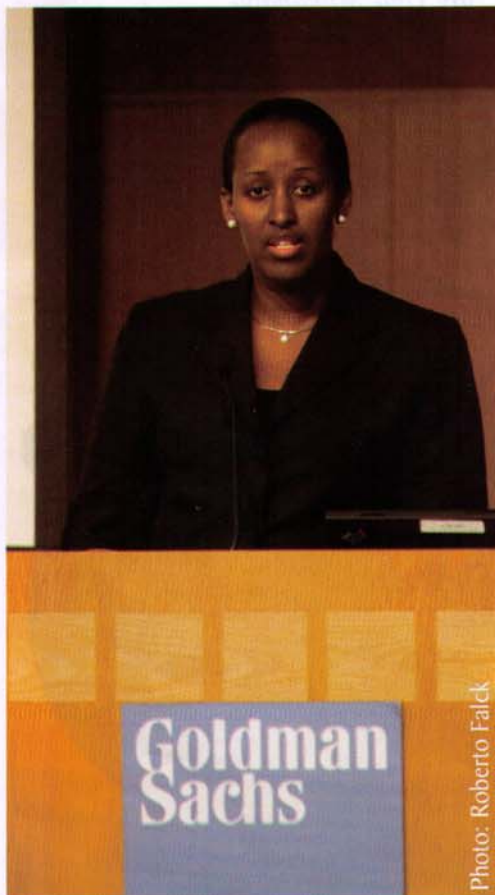


Photo: Roberto Falck