

Irene Pritzker - President - IDP Foundation, Inc.
(Plenary Speaker)



Irene Pritzker became a founding member and President of the IDP Foundation, Inc. in 2008. The IDP Foundation is dedicated to developing programs that are sustainable and move away from aid dependent models. She believes that a combination of smart philanthropy and investment solutions can be galvanized to create the greatest sustainable impact.

Exemplifying this goal is the IDP Rising Schools Program, a carefully crafted microfinance initiative targeting existing but very poor private schools in Ghana. After a successful pilot with 105 schools with an initial enrollment of 27,000 children, the program is scaling up to reach a total of 580 schools by July 2016 and impacting 150,000 children.

In addition to program development, Irene has worked consistently with her wealth advisors and managers to ensure that the IDP Foundation is mission aligned in its investment strategy. The corpus of the IDP Foundation is currently 80% mission aligned with an additional portion earmarked for impact investing funds and seed capital for socially responsible companies that offer direct impact investment opportunities.

As a great advocate of sustainable and market-driven solutions, Irene Pritzker is frequently invited to share the work of the IDP Rising Schools Program at the United Nations and other international fora focused on education. In addition, she is asked increasingly to share her investment strategy with the rapidly increasing impact investing space.

In 2010, the Foreign Policy Association awarded Mrs. Pritzker the Global Philanthropy Award and in 2012 the IDP Foundation, Inc. was granted special consultative status to the United Nations.