

stars Switzerland symposium 2026
Unknown Unknowns: Prepare for Resilience!
4-7 September 2026
Wolfsberg, Ermatingen

Objectives:

- Broaden the mindset to better understand major global trends which will impact business and society over the next couple of years, like **Disruptive Technological Developments, AI-Innovation, Geopolitics and Geoeconomics, Circular Economy, Health and Leadership**
- Engage in interdisciplinary **dialogue across geographies, cultures and industries**
- Contribute to the **personal development to drive responsible and sustainable actions**

Background Information: Link

Friday, 4 September 2026 - Wolfsberg			
12:00	Opening of Conference Check-in		Lobby
15:30	Welcome Coffee		Foyer
16:30	Welcome Address	Toni SCHOENENBERGER Founder and Executive Chairman, stars Foundation, Weinfelden, Switzerland	Auditorium
16:45	Complexity is Destiny - Orientation in Times of No Direction	Peter MAURER President, Basel Institute on Governance; Former President, International Committee of the Red Cross ICRC; Member, stars Global Advisory Panel, Berne, Switzerland	
18:15	Cocktails hosted by the Canton of Thurgau		Foyer
19:00	Group Picture		
19:15	Dinner		Panoramasaal
	Dinner Speech		
	Night Cap		Remise Wolfsberg

Saturday, 5 September 2026 - Wolfsberg

07:00 Breakfast Restaurant

LEADERSHIP: SUCCESS IN BUSINESS AND BEYOND

08:30 Individual Interviews Auditorium

John R. ALLEN Strategic Advisor, Microsoft; Four-Star General (Ret.), United States Marine Corps; Member, stars Global Advisory Panel, Washington DC, United States
LIM Siong Guan Former Group President, GIC; Former Head of Singapore Civil Service; Member, stars International Board, Singapore
Fabian RUPPRECHT CEO, Helvetia Group, St. Gallen, Switzerland
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10:00 Networking Coffee Auditorium Foyer

10:30 Leadership Dialogues (in Breakout Groups) Breakout Rooms

John R. ALLEN Strategic Advisor, Microsoft; Four-Star General (Ret.), United States Marine Corps; Member, stars Global Advisory Panel, Washington DC, United States
LIM Siong Guan Former Group President, GIC; Former Head of Singapore Civil Service; Member, stars International Board, Singapore
Fabian RUPPRECHT CEO, Helvetia Group, St. Gallen, Switzerland
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12:00 Buffet Lunch Panoramasaal

CIRCULAR ECONOMY (CE) AS GAME-CHANGER

13:30 Moderator Auditorium

Gordana KIERANS Circular Economy Consultant, Managing Director MGT OPEN; Supervisory Board Member, Circle Economy Amsterdam; President, stars South-East Europe Alumni Chapter, Grižane, Croatia

15:00 Networking Coffee Auditorium Foyer

16:30 Time at your Disposal

17:00 Departure Auditorium Foyer

18:00 Visit of the Mainau Island (www.mainau.de) Mainau Island

Welcome Address Mainau Castle

Countess Bettina BERNADOTTE af WISBORG Managing Director, Mainau Island; stars Alumna, Mainau Island, Germany
Count Björn BERNADOTTE af WISBORG Managing Director, Mainau Island; stars Alumnus, Mainau Island, Germany

Walk through the Mainau Island Mainau Castle

Saturday, 5 September 2026 - Wolfsberg

Dinner Buffet

Palm House, Mainau

22:00 Night Cap

Remise Wolfsberg

Sunday, 6 September 2026 - Wolfsberg

07:00 Breakfast

Restaurant

GEOPOLITICAL AND GEOECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE

08:30	Great Powers Today (Plenary Discussion)	John R. ALLEN Strategic Advisor, Microsoft; Four-Star General (Ret.), United States Marine Corps; Member, stars Global Advisory Panel, Washington DC, United States Volker PERTHES Senior Advisor, German Institute for International and Security Affairs; Former Under-Secretary-General, United Nations; Member, stars Scientific Board, Berlin, Germany YU Jie (tbc) Senior Research Fellow on China, Asia-Pacific Programme, Chatham House, London, United Kingdom	Auditorium
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09:30	Emerging Powers (Plenary Discussion)	Pelayo COVARRUBIAS (tbc) Presidente, País Digital; Director Relaciones Institucionales, Universidad del Desarrollo; stars Alumnus, Santiago, Chile N.N. N.N.	
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10:30	Networking Coffee		Auditorium Foyer
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11:00	Deep Dive Breakout Group 1: "Great Powers Today"	John R. ALLEN Strategic Advisor, Microsoft; Four-Star General (Ret.), United States Marine Corps; Member, stars Global Advisory Panel, Washington DC, United States Volker PERTHES Senior Advisor, German Institute for International and Security Affairs; Former Under-Secretary-General, United Nations; Member, stars Scientific Board, Berlin, Germany YU Jie (tbc) Senior Research Fellow on China, Asia-Pacific Programme, Chatham House, London, United Kingdom	Auditorium
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	Deep Dive Breakout Group 2: "Emerging Powers"	Pelayo COVARRUBIAS (tbc) Presidente, País Digital; Director Relaciones Institucionales, Universidad del Desarrollo; stars Alumnus, Santiago, Chile N.N. N.N.	Breakout Room
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12:30	Buffet Lunch		Panoramasaal
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THINK THE UNTHINKABLE: GLOBAL HEALTH MATTERS

15:30	Networking Coffee		Auditorium Foyer
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PEERS-EXCHANGE

16:00	Session 1 in Breakout Groups		Breakout Rooms
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17:00	Networking Coffee		Auditorium Foyer
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17:30	Session 2 in Breakout Groups		Breakout Rooms
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18:30	Time at your Disposal		
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Sunday, 6 September 2026 - Wolfsberg

19:30	Cocktails	Restaurant
20:00	Dinner	Restaurant
	Night Cap	Remise Wolfsberg

Monday, 7 September 2026 - Wolfsberg

07:00 Breakfast (Check-out till 8.15)

Restaurant

EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES RESHAPING POSSIBILITY

08:30	AI - Driven Change Management	Gustav BALDINGER CEO, PwC Switzerland; stars Alumnus, Zurich, Switzerland	Auditorium
09:00	Agentic AI and the Future of Work	Philipp AEBY Co-Founder and CEO, RepRisk, Zurich, Switzerland	Auditorium
09:30	N.N.	N.N.	
10:00	Networking Coffee		Auditorium Foyer
10:30	Internet or Inter-Threat: Cybersecurity and the Next Generation of the Internet	Martin BOSSHARDT CEO, Anapaya Systems; Member, stars Scientific Board, Zurich, Switzerland	
11:00	Plenary Discussion	Philipp AEBY Co-Founder and CEO, RepRisk, Zurich, Switzerland Gustav BALDINGER CEO, PwC Switzerland; stars Alumnus, Zurich, Switzerland Martin BOSSHARDT CEO, Anapaya Systems; Member, stars Scientific Board, Zurich, Switzerland N.N.	
12:00	Concluding Remarks	Toni SCHOENENBERGER Founder and Executive Chairman, stars Foundation, Weinfelden, Switzerland	
12:15	Buffet Lunch		Restaurant
13:00	Shuttle to the Airport or to the Railway Station		Meeting Point: Lobby

Moderation:

Mark DITTLI, Co-Founder and Financial Journalist, The Market, Zurich, Switzerland

The symposium is held under the Chatham House Rules.

stars reserves the right to make any necessary changes to the programme. The full terms and conditions of stars are available [here](#).

1 December 2025

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