

stars Switzerland symposium 2025

Think the Unthinkable

19-22 September 2025

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, 19 September 2025 - 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
COMPLEXITY IS DESTINY!			
16:45	Plenary Discussion	John R. ALLEN Strategic Advisor, Microsoft; Four-Star General (Ret.), United States Marine Corps; Former Commander, Nato International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and US Forces in Afghanistan; Former Special Presidential Envoy, Global Coalition to Counter the Islamic State; Member, stars Global Advisory Panel, Washington DC, United States Peter MAURER President, Basel Institute on Governance; Former President, International Committee of the Red Cross ICRC; Member, stars Global Advisory Panel, Berne, Switzerland Sophie Wushuang YI Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, Schwarzman College, Tsinghua University; Research Fellow, Marine Studies Center, Grandview Institution; stars Alumna, Beijing, China	
18:15	Cocktails hosted by the Canton of Thurgau		Foyer
19:00	Group Picture		
19:15	Dinner		Panoramasaal
	Dinner Speech	Luca RENDA Economic Development Office Thurgau; stars Alumnus, Frauenfeld, Switzerland Thomas SALLMANN Co-CEO, ISA Sallmann, Amriswil, Switzerland	
	Intermezzo	Valeriya KURLCHUK Musician (Violin), Ukraine	
	Night Cap		Remise Wolfsberg

Saturday, 20 September 2025 - Wolfsberg

07:00 Breakfast

Restaurant

LEADERSHIP: SUCCESS IN BUSINESS AND BEYOND

08:30 Individual Interviews

Simone HOLLENWÄGER Head Capital Market Advisory, Zürcher Kantonalbank, Zurich, Switzerland
LIM Siong Guan Former Group President, GIC; Former Head of Singapore Civil Service; Member, stars International Board, Singapore
Markus NEUHAUS Chairman, Galenica and Jacobs Holding; Vice Chairman, Barry Callebaut; Member of the Boards of Baloise Holding; Vice Chairman, stars Foundation Board, Zurich, Switzerland
Katja ROTH PELLANDA Group General Counsel, Zurich Insurance; stars Alumna, Zurich, Switzerland
Fabian RUPPRECHT CEO, Helvetia Group, St. Gallen, Switzerland

Auditorium

10:00 Networking Coffee

Auditorium Foyer

10:30 Leadership Dialogues (in Breakout Groups)

Breakout Rooms

Simone HOLLENWÄGER Head Capital Market Advisory, Zürcher Kantonalbank, Zurich, Switzerland
Moderator:
Markus PRANDINI Professor, Entrepreneurship and International Business, Kalaidos University of Applied Sciences; stars Alumnus, Zurich, Switzerland

LIM Siong Guan Former Group President, GIC; Former Head of Singapore Civil Service; Member, stars International Board, Singapore
Moderator:
Hans HENGARTNER Co-Founder, stars Foundation, Zurich, Switzerland

Markus NEUHAUS Chairman, Galenica and Jacobs Holding; Vice Chairman, Barry Callebaut; Member of the Boards of Baloise Holding; Vice Chairman, stars Foundation Board, Zurich, Switzerland

Katja ROTH PELLANDA Group General Counsel, Zurich Insurance; stars Alumna, Zurich, Switzerland
Moderator:
Christoph SCHMID Member, stars Foundation Board, Zurich, Switzerland

Fabian RUPPRECHT CEO, Helvetia Group, St. Gallen, Switzerland
Moderator:
Mark DITTLI Co-Founder and Financial Journalist, The Market, Zurich, Switzerland

12:00 Buffet Lunch

Panoramasaal

CIRCULAR ECONOMY (CE) AS GAME-CHANGER

Saturday, 20 September 2025 - Wolfsberg

	Moderator	Gordana KIERANS Circular Economy Consultant, Managing Director MGT OPEN; Supervisory Board Member, Circle Economy Amsterdam; President, stars South-East Europe Alumni Chapter, Grižane, Croatia	Auditorium
13:30	The Importance of CE: Introductory Keynote	Walter STAHEL Founder and Director, The Product-Life Institute, Geneva, Switzerland (online)	Auditorium
13:45	The Importance of CE: Panel Discussion	Cynthia CORDOBA SERRANO Independent Member of Legislative Assembly, Costa Rica; stars Alumna, San José Al-Hamndou DORSOUMA Manager, Climate and Green Growth, African Development Bank; stars Alumnus, Abidjan, Ivory Coast	Auditorium
14:30	The Challenge for Corporates and Institutions	Ivonne BOJOH CEO, Circle Economy, Amsterdam, The Netherlands	Auditorium
15:00	Networking Coffee		Auditorium Foyer
15:30	The Voice of Entrepreneurs	Domagoj BOLJAR Co-Founder and CEO, Earthbound, Zagreb, Croatia Bernadette CASEY Senior Fashion and Textile Specialist, Wellington, New Zealand Leo CHANG International Marketing Director, UWin Resources Regeneration, Taiwan Dozie IGWEILO Founder and CEO, Quadloop Technologies, Lagos, Nigeria Stuart PENA FELIZ Co-Founder and CEO, MacroCycle Technologies, United States	Auditorium
16:30	Time at your Disposal		
17:00	Departure		Auditorium Foyer
18:00	Walk through the Mainau Island (www.mainau.de)		Mainau Island
	Welcome Address	Count Björn BERNADOTTE af WISBORG Managing Director, Mainau Island; stars Alumnus, Mainau Island, Germany Countess Bettina BERNADOTTE af WISBORG Managing Director, Mainau Island; stars Alumna, Mainau Island, Germany	Mainau Castle
	Dinner Buffet		Palm House, Mainau
22:00	Night Cap		Remise Wolfsberg

Sunday, 21 September 2025 - 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; Former Commander, Nato International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and US Forces in Afghanistan; Former Special Presidential Envoy, Global Coalition to Counter the Islamic State; Member, stars Global Advisory Panel, Washington DC, United States
Joerg WUTTKE Partner, DGA Group; President Emeritus EU Chamber of Commerce in China; Member, stars International Board, Washington D.C., United States
YU Jie Senior Research Fellow on China, Asia-Pacific Programme, Chatham House, London, United Kingdom

Auditorium

09:30 Emerging Powers (Plenary Discussion)

Cynthia CORDOBA SERRANO Independent Member of Legislative Assembly, Costa Rica; stars Alumna, San José
Al-Hamndou DORSOUMA Manager, Climate and Green Growth, African Development Bank; stars Alumnus, Abidjan, Ivory Coast
Beatriz SANCHEZ Former Member of the Executive Committee and Chair Americas, Bank Julius Baer, Zurich, Switzerland
Saraban TURIN CEO, Turtle Venture; stars Alumna, Dhaka, Bangladesh

10:30 Networking Coffee

Auditorium Foyer

11:00 Deep Dive Breakout Group 1: "Great Powers Today"

John R. ALLEN Strategic Advisor, Microsoft; Four-Star General (Ret.), United States Marine Corps; Former Commander, Nato International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and US Forces in Afghanistan; Former Special Presidential Envoy, Global Coalition to Counter the Islamic State; Member, stars Global Advisory Panel, Washington DC, United States
Joerg WUTTKE Partner, DGA Group; President Emeritus EU Chamber of Commerce in China; Member, stars International Board, Washington D.C., United States
YU Jie Senior Research Fellow on China, Asia-Pacific Programme, Chatham House, London, United Kingdom

Auditorium

Deep Dive Breakout Group 2: "Emerging Powers"

Cynthia CORDOBA SERRANO Independent Member of Legislative Assembly, Costa Rica; stars Alumna, San José
Al-Hamndou DORSOUMA Manager, Climate and Green Growth, African Development Bank; stars Alumnus, Abidjan, Ivory Coast
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Saraban TURIN CEO, Turtle Venture; stars Alumna, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Moderator:
Ueli FREI Director, Fundes International, Frauenfeld, Switzerland

Breakout Room

12:30 Buffet Lunch

Panoramasaal

Sunday, 21 September 2025 - Wolfsberg

THINK THE UNTHINKABLE: GLOBAL HEALTH MATTERS

14:00	Covid-19, Cancer: The Promise of mRNA Technology	Özlem TÜRECI Co-Founder and Chief Medical Officer, BioNTech, Mainz, Germany	Auditorium
	Icebreaker Questions	Jana Felicitas SCHADER Physician Scientist, Balgrist University Hospital, Zurich, Switzerland Joel ZINDEL Surgeon-Scientist and Assistant Professor for Tissue Repair, ETH Zurich; stars Alumnus, Zurich, Switzerland	
	Plenary Discussion		
15:30	Networking Coffee		Auditorium Foyer

PEERS-EXCHANGE

16:00	Session 1 in Breakout Groups		Breakout Rooms
	Discover Central Asia: Potential and Opportunities	Aida AIDARKULOVA Executive Director, CAPS Unlock; stars Alumna, Almaty, Kazakhstan Moderator: Herbert WANNER Founder, Wanner Management Services, Ottoberg, Switzerland	Breakout Rooms
	The Art of Business Ecosystem Leadership	Roland DEISER Senior Drucker Fellow, Professor for Organizational Politics, Founder and Chairman, Center for the Future of Organization, Drucker School of Management, Claremont Graduate University, Los Angeles, United States Moderator: Markus PRANDINI Professor, Entrepreneurship and International Business, Kalaidos University of Applied Sciences; stars Alumnus, Zurich, Switzerland	Breakout Rooms
	Ethical Leadership in an unlevelled Playing Field: Impact for Governance and Compliance	Vanessa HANS Director, Private Sector, Basel Institute on Governance; stars Alumna, Basel, Switzerland Moderator: Christoph SCHMID Member, stars Foundation Board, Zurich, Switzerland	Breakout Rooms
	Uniting Engineers, Transforming Lives: Engineers Without Borders' Initiatives	Kapil Dev REGMI President-Elect, Engineers Without Borders International; President, stars Nepal Alumni Chapter, Kathmandu, Nepal Moderator: Mark DITTLI Co-Founder and Financial Journalist, The Market, Zurich, Switzerland	Breakout Rooms
	Shaping the Future of Surgery - Innovation at the Intersection of Medicine, Science and Industry	Jana Felicitas SCHADER Physician Scientist, Balgrist University Hospital, Zurich, Switzerland Moderator: Hans HENGARTNER Co-Founder, stars Foundation, Zurich, Switzerland	Breakout Rooms
17:00	Networking Coffee		Auditorium Foyer
17:30	Session 2 in Breakout Groups		Breakout Rooms

Sunday, 21 September 2025 - Wolfsberg

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18:30	Time at your Disposal	
19:30	Cocktails	Restaurant
20:00	Dinner	Restaurant
	Night Cap	Remise Wolfsberg

Monday, 22 September 2025 - Wolfsberg

07:00 Breakfast (Check-out till 8.15)

Restaurant

EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES RESHAPING POSSIBILITY

08:30	AI - Driven Change Management	Andrin BERNET Assurance Leader and Partner and Management Board Member, PwC; stars Alumnus, Zurich, Switzerland	Auditorium
09:00	What the Future of Robots might do to Humanity	Roland SIEGWART Professor of Autonomous Systems, ETH Zurich; Founding Co-Director, Wyss Zurich; Member, stars Scientific Board, Zurich, Switzerland	
09:30	Internet or Inter-Threat: Cybersecurity and the Next Generation of the Internet	Martin BOSSHARDT CEO, Anapaya Systems; Member, stars Scientific Board, Zurich, Switzerland	
10:00	Networking Coffee		Auditorium Foyer
10:30	Agentic AI and the Future of Work	Philipp AEBY Co-Founder and CEO, RepRisk, Zurich, Switzerland	Auditorium
11:00	Plenary Discussion	Philipp AEBY Co-Founder and CEO, RepRisk, Zurich, Switzerland Andrin BERNET Assurance Leader and Partner and Management Board Member, PwC; stars Alumnus, Zurich, Switzerland Martin BOSSHARDT CEO, Anapaya Systems; Member, stars Scientific Board, Zurich, Switzerland Roland SIEGWART Professor of Autonomous Systems, ETH Zurich; Founding Co-Director, Wyss Zurich; Member, stars Scientific Board, Zurich, Switzerland	
12:00	Concluding Remarks	Toni SCHOENENBERGER Founder and Executive Chairman, stars Foundation, Weinfelden, Switzerland	
12:15	Buffet Lunch		Restaurant
13:15	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](#).

20 September 2025

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