stars
FOR LEADERS OF THE NEXT GENERATION

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**

Recommended Reading: 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
19:15	Dinner, including first course from 'Swiss Lachs'		Panoramasaal
	Dinner Speech: Thurgau as a Business Location	**Christoph GASSER** Deputy Head, Regional Employment Center RAV Thurgau, Department for Economy and Labour Thurgau; stars Alumnus Frauenfeld, Switzerland **Lukas RÖSCH** Managing Director, Startnetzwerk Thurgau, Amriswil, Switzerland	
	Night Cap		Remise Wolfsberg

Saturday, 5 September 2026 - Wolfsberg

07:00	Breakfast		Restaurant

LEADERSHIP: SUCCESS IN BUSINESS AND BEYOND

08:30	Leadership Insights	**Andrea BÜTLER** Vice President, Data Centers, Power & New Energy, Worley; stars Alumna, Zurich, Switzerland **Clint HINOTE** Strategist, Advisor to Fortune 500 Companies, Ret. United States Air Force Lt. General, Washington DC, United States **Farmina HOSSAIN** Director, Operations, BURO Bangladesh; stars Alumna, Dhaka, Bangladesh **Stefan RAEBSAMEN** Board Member, Georg Fischer, SMG Swiss Marketplace Group, TAKKT Group; Member, stars Foundation Board, Zurich, Switzerland **Fabian RUPPRECHT** CEO, Helvetia, Basel, Switzerland	Auditorium
09:45	Networking Coffee		Auditorium Foyer
10:30	Leadership Dialogues (in Breakout Groups)		Breakout Rooms
		Andrea BÜTLER Vice President, Data Centers, Power & New Energy, Worley; stars Alumna, Zurich, Switzerland **Moderator:** **Regula BROGER** Managing Partner, Broger Management, Weinfelden, Switzerland	
		Clint HINOTE Strategist, Advisor to Fortune 500 Companies, Ret. United States Air Force Lt. General, Washington DC, United States **Moderator:** **Mark DITTLI** Co-Founder and Financial Journalist, The Market, Zurich, Switzerland	
		Farmina HOSSAIN Director, Operations, BURO Bangladesh; stars Alumna, Dhaka, Bangladesh **Moderator:** **Markus PRANDINI** Professor, Entrepreneurship and International Business, Kalaidos University of Applied Sciences; stars Alumnus, Zurich, Switzerland	
		Stefan RAEBSAMEN Board Member, Georg Fischer, SMG Swiss Marketplace Group, TAKKT Group; Member, stars Foundation Board, Zurich, Switzerland	
		Fabian RUPPRECHT CEO, Helvetia, Basel, Switzerland **Moderator:** **Christoph SCHMID** Member, stars Foundation Board, Zurich, Switzerland	
12:00	Buffet Lunch		Panoramasaal

CIRCULAR ECONOMY (CE): FROM NET ZERO TO NET POSITIVE

	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

Saturday, 5 September 2026 - Wolfsberg

13:30	Value in Secondary Materials	**Agata FRANKIEWICZ** Founder and CEO, Deko Eko and Circular Consulting; stars Alumna, Poland **Nic MEYER** Co-Founder and Board Chair, Climate Week Zurich; stars Alumnus, Switzerland **Hilde VAN DUIJN** CEO, Circle Economy; stars Alumna, Rotterdam, The Netherlands	Auditorium
14:45	Networking Coffee		Auditorium Foyer
15:15	Financing the Circular Economy	**Agata FRANKIEWICZ** Founder and CEO, Deko Eko and Circular Consulting; stars Alumna, Poland **Luca ZERBINI** Co-Founder and CEO, Una Terra Early Growth Fund, Zurich, Switzerland	Auditorium
16:30	Time at your Disposal		
17:00	Departure		Auditorium Foyer
18:00	Visit of the Mainau Island (www.mainau.de)		Mainau Island
	Walk through the Mainau Island		Mainau Castle
	Welcome Address	**Count Björn BERNADOTTE af WISBORG** Mainau Island; stars Alumnus, Mainau Island, Germany	Mainau Castle
	Dinner Buffet		Wappensaal
22:00	Night Cap		Remise Wolfsberg

Sunday, 6 September 2026 - Wolfsberg

07:00	Breakfast		Restaurant

GEOPOLITICAL AND GEOECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE

08:30	A World Beyond Trump: Anticipating Geopolitical Futures (Plenary Discussion)	**Heribert DIETER** Research Unit Global Issues, German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Berlin, Germany **Clint HINOTE** Strategist, Advisor to Fortune 500 Companies, Ret. United States Air Force Lt. General, Washington DC, United States **Yanran YAO** Lecturer in Chinese Politics, King's College London, United Kingdom	Auditorium
09:30	Anticipating Emerging Powers Futures (Plenary Discussion)	**Miriam Stefany GASTELUM AISPURO** Executive Director, Coppel Foundation; stars Alumna, Culiacan, Mexico **Sarah MTHINTSO** Executive Director, SAB Foundation; stars Alumna, Johannesburg, South Africa **Asif Ahmed NOOR** Vice President and Head, Product and Campaign Risk Management, Enterprise Risk Management, bKash Limited; stars Alumnus, Dhaka, Bangladesh	
10:30	Networking Coffee		Auditorium Foyer
11:00	Deep Dive Breakout Group 1: A World Beyond Trump: Anticipating Geopolitical Futures	**Heribert DIETER** Research Unit Global Issues, German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Berlin, Germany **Clint HINOTE** Strategist, Advisor to Fortune 500 Companies, Ret. United States Air Force Lt. General, Washington DC, United States **Yanran YAO** Lecturer in Chinese Politics, King's College London, United Kingdom **Moderator:** **Mark DITTLI** Co-Founder and Financial Journalist, The Market, Zurich, Switzerland	Auditorium
	Deep Dive Breakout Group 2: Anticipating Emerging Powers Futures	**Miriam Stefany GASTELUM AISPURO** Executive Director, Coppel Foundation; stars Alumna, Culiacan, Mexico **Sarah MTHINTSO** Executive Director, SAB Foundation; stars Alumna, Johannesburg, South Africa **Asif Ahmed NOOR** Vice President and Head, Product and Campaign Risk Management, Enterprise Risk Management, bKash Limited; stars Alumnus, Dhaka, Bangladesh **Moderator:** **Ueli FREI** Director, Fundes International, Frauenfeld, Switzerland	Breakout Room
12:30	Buffet Lunch		Panoramasaal
14:00	Investing in Human Capital: The Rapture of Doing the Right	**Hannes SCHMID** Founder, Smiling Gecko, Cambodia	Auditorium
15:30	Networking Coffee		Auditorium Foyer

PEERS-EXCHANGE

Sunday, 6 September 2026 - Wolfsberg

16:00	Breakout Groups		Breakout Rooms
	Hollywood as a Laboratory for 21st Century Leadership and Organization	**Roland DEISER** Founder and Chairman, Center for the Future of Organization, Drucker School of Management, Claremont Graduate University; stars Alumnus, Los Angeles, United States **Moderator:** **Regula BROGER** Managing Partner, Broger Management, Weinfelden, Switzerland	
	Addicted by Design: AI, Persuasive Software, and Emerging Systemic Risks	**Sophia REICH** Head, Motor, Swiss Re; stars Alumna, Zurich, Switzerland **Moderator:** **Christoph SCHMID** Member, stars Foundation Board, Zurich, Switzerland	
	The Future of the Health Sector: Diagnostics, Precision Oncology	**Bernd BODENMILLER** Associate Professor, Quantitative Biomedicine, ETH Zurich; stars Alumnus, Switzerland **Doron MERKLER** Deputy Head, Division of Pathology, Geneva University Hospital; stars Alumnus, Switzerland **Moderator:** **Hans HENGARTNER** Co-Founder, stars Foundation, Zurich, Switzerland	
	Transforming Conservative Industries in the Age of AI – Technological Disruption, Organisational Inertia and Resilience	**Andreas TARAS** Professor, Institute of Structural Engineering and Member of the Department Leadership, D-BAUG/Department of Civil, Environmental and Geomatic Engineering, ETH Zurich; stars Alumnus, Zurich, Switzerland **Moderator:** **Stefan RAEBSAMEN** Board Member, Georg Fischer, SMG Swiss Marketplace Group, TAKKT Group; Member, stars Foundation Board, Zurich, Switzerland	
17:00	Coffee Break		
17:30	Breakout Groups		Breakout Rooms
	Deep Dive: Africa's New Frontiers	**Nonzuzo MAKANDA** CEO, National Financial Literacy Advocacy; stars Alumna, Johannesburg, South Africa **Sarah MTHINTSO** Executive Director, SAB Foundation; stars Alumna, Johannesburg, South Africa **Joyce RUGANO** Founder and CEO, Ecorich Solutions Limited; stars Alumna, Nairobi, Kenya **Sara SBAI** Senior Consultant, Rina Italy, stars Alumna, Bouskoura, Morocco **Moderator:** **Markus PRANDINI** Professor, Entrepreneurship and International Business, Kalaidos University of Applied Sciences; stars Alumnus, Zurich, Switzerland	
	Deep Dive: China's New Frontiers	**Chunli CHEN** Co-Founder & Chief Business Officer, ESIGAME PTE. LTD; stars Alumna, Singapore **Yingzi LI** Director of Media Business Division, China.com; stars Alumna, Beijing, China **Qiyu ZHANG** Sales Director, ECOLAB; stars Alumnus, Shanghai, China **Yingying ZHANG** Influencer Marketing Overseas Marketing AI Agent Marketing Communication, HOCOMO INC; stars Alumna, Rowland Heights, United States **Moderator:** **Mark DITTLI** Co-Founder and Financial Journalist, The Market, Zurich, Switzerland	

Sunday, 6 September 2026 - Wolfsberg

18:30	Time at your Disposal	Breakout Rooms
19:00	Cocktails	Restaurant
19:30	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	**Christian WESTERMANN** Partner and AI Leader, PwC Switzerland, Zurich, Switzerland	Auditorium
09:00	Agentic AI and the Future of Work	**Philipp AEBY** Co-Founder and CEO, RepRisk, 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	Co-Creating the (AI)Agentic Enterprise	**Roland DEISER** Founder and Chairman, Center for the Future of Organization, Drucker School of Management, Claremont Graduate University; stars Alumnus, Los Angeles, United States	Auditorium
11:00	Plenary Discussion	**Philipp AEBY** Co-Founder and CEO, RepRisk, Zurich, Switzerland **Martin BOSSHARDT** CEO, Anapaya Systems; Member, stars Scientific Board, Zurich, Switzerland **Roland DEISER** Founder and Chairman, Center for the Future of Organization, Drucker School of Management, Claremont Graduate University; stars Alumnus, Los Angeles, United States **Christian WESTERMANN** Partner and AI Leader, PwC Switzerland, Zurich, Switzerland	
12:00	Concluding Remarks	**Toni SCHOENENBERGER** Founder and Executive Chairman, stars Foundation, Weinfelden, Switzerland	
12:15	Buffet Lunch		Restaurant
13:30	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.

6 September 2026

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