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Students challenge Nobel Prize winners

Experts and students discuss social consequences of climate change

What will be the consequences of environmental changes for politics, the economy and culture in developing and industrialized countries? How can society react to the consequences of climate change? Forty students across Europe will discuss these issues with Nobel Prize winners and other outstanding personalities on the occasion of "Challenge the Best", a thinking contest that will take place at the University of St.Gallen (HSG) on 17 May 2010. This trans-generational dialogue is being organized by the Student Union of the HSG. Students who would like to participate in the thinking contest are invited to submit their entries for the international essay and project competition, as of now.

"We would like to develop global solutions for the social consequences of climate change, and to stimulate dialogue on this subject," says HSG student Lars Repp about the selection of the topic of "Climate Change and Social Order – Evolution or Revolution?". Climate change, he continues, is publicly discussed at global and local levels, but its impact on social structures is only rarely elucidated.

During this event, experts and students will form small groups to develop visionary approaches to solving social problems which are caused by climate change. The 40 selected students will have an opportunity to engage in intensive discussions with Nobel Prize winners, international experts and (former) political leaders.

Students from all academic fields across Europe are eligible to apply for participation at **www.challengethebest.org from now until 31 March 2010**. From 14-16 May 2010, a preparatory seminar will take place in Switzerland. In their essays, students can expound their thoughts on the impact of climate change on social structures. Students may also enter the competition by submitting their own projects or initiatives of social engagement.

Further information at www.challengethebest.org

Contact

Student Union of the University of St.Gallen (SHSG) – Challenge the Best

Oliver Heimes, Tel. +41 (0) 77 4583618, Fax +41 (0)71 224 25 13, challengethebest@myunisg.ch

"Challenge the Best" initiative

Challenge the Best is an initiative of the Student Union of the University of St.Gallen (HSG) in cooperation with the Global Humanitarian Forum Geneva. The event will be chaired by Ambassador Walter Fust, CEO of the Global Humanitarian Forum Geneva, set up by Kofi Annan. The student organization team will be supported by an Advisory Board made up of HSG professors and the head of HSG Alumni, Alexander Burtscher.

www.challengethebest.org

Student Union of the University of St.Gallen (SHSG)

The Student Union (SHSG) is an official body of the University of St.Gallen (HSG) and makes active contributions to the HSG's development. It is based entirely on voluntary student commitment and channels this motivation into two directions: the representation of interests, as well as services and projects for students.

www.myunisg.ch

University of St.Gallen (HSG)

Internationality, practical relevance and an integrative perspective have been the trademarks of education at the University of St.Gallen in Switzerland ever since it was established more than a century ago. Today, the University of St.Gallen (HSG) educates 6,400 students from 80 nations in the fields of Business Administration, Economics, Law and Social Sciences. The HSG has shown itself to be highly successful, having been consistently ranked among Europe's leading business universities. Its holistic education, which meets the highest academic standards, has earned it the seal of approval of the EQUIS and AACSB accreditations. Academic degrees can be obtained at the Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral Levels. In addition, the University of St.Gallen offers first-class and comprehensive courses in Executive Education. Thanks to an increasing number of programmes taught in English, the HSG has shown itself to be attractive to international students. The focal points of research at the University of St.Gallen are crystallized in its 40 institutes and research centres, which constitute an integral part of the University. The institutes, which are largely autonomous and mostly self-financing, still remain closely connected to university operations.

www.unisg.ch