Press Release, 2 May 2011

”Just Power”

41st St. Gallen Symposium

The 41st St. Gallen Symposium begins on Thursday, 12 May 2011 on the University of St. Gallen campus under the theme “Just Power”. Organised by the International Students’ Committee (ISC), the St. Gallen Symposium brings over 600 decision makers from business, politics, society and science together with 200 students and young talents from over 60 nations, providing a platform for constructive dialogue between the generations from 12–13 May 2011.

Outstanding speakers like Dominic Barton (CA), Global Managing Director, McKinsey & Company, Inc., Oswald Grübel (DE), Group Chief Executive Officer, UBS AG, and Haruhiko Kuroda (JP), President, Asian Development Bank, will contribute their points of view to the intercultural, interdisciplinary and intergenerational dialogue at the 41st St. Gallen Symposium.

Thursday morning, will feature a discussion about borders and the ambitions of international politics as well as the role of international institutions in a changing global political landscape. Speakers for the discussion will include Kamal Nath (IN), Union Minister for Urban Development of India, Yoshimasa Hayashi (JP), Former Minister of Defense of Japan & Member of the House of Councillors, HE Yafei (CN), Ambassador Extraordinary of the People’s Republic of China to the United Nations, and Wolfgang Ischinger (DE), Chairman, Munich Security Conference.

Friday afternoon, the panel “Giant but powerless?” will feature Robert Dudley (US), Group Chief Executive, BP p.l.c., and Jorma Ollila (FI), Chairman, Royal Dutch Shell plc, discussing their positions on the power of oil companies.

On Friday, Parag Khanna (US), Director, Global Governance Initiative, New America Foundation, will hold a Keynote Address under the title “Mega-diplomacy – a new way to run the world.” Mr. Khanna will highlight the necessary reallocation of power through all levels of society and the economy to meet new global challenges.

To gain a deeper insight into the content of this year’s symposium, including interviews with speakers like Fyodor Lukyanov (RU), Editor-in-Chief, Russia in Global Affairs, you will find the Programme of the 41st St. Gallen Symposium attached to this press release.

You can find the entire list of speakers on: www.stgallen-symposium.org

Global Perspectives Barometer

This year, for the second time the International Students’ Committee (ISC) in cooperation with Crédit Suisse conducted a survey of 625 current and former Leaders of Tomorrow in over 60 nations.
Every year, 200 Leaders of Tomorrow participate in the St. Gallen Symposium and enter into an intergenerational dialogue with other participants and speakers. The Leaders of Tomorrow compose 100 students, who have qualified through an essay competition as well as 100 selected young entrepreneurs and researchers.

By examining this international group of participants, the annual survey aims to reflect the current global mood of young people as well as provide the opportunity to determine trends over the next several years.

Within the framework of this year’s topic “Just Power” the participants were questioned about such themes as global power structures, communication behaviour and social media, as well as about the interaction of politics and economy. Following are a few of the findings and theses:

Findings:

1. The financial crisis has accelerated a global power shift in favour of both regulators as well as China. However, it no longer affects individual respondents outside the USA. The financial market has become attractive again. Policy concerns about the basic economic system concerns have declined and now the only great concern is a sharp increase of inflation. The discomfort that the state interferes too much in the economy is already increasing by some individualistic or materialistic young respondents.

2. The communications revolution is reflected significantly in the actions of global thinking people. The most impotent channel of information identified by respondents is the internet, and the majority perspective is that, Facebook has changed the world affairs.

3. The interviewed students, young scientists and entrepreneurs see themselves on the winning side of globalisation. For their own country they see the opportunities in the forefront, while uncertainty of the impact of globalisation on the world increased outside Western Europe.

Theses:

1. Expectations of globalisation are varied from respondent to respondent depening strongly on nationality. Even if many of these global minded young people see themselves as an individual winner of globalisation, today losers outside of rich countries are expected.

2. Thanks to their global network, the respondents quickly align themselves to changes in the globalised world. They keep themselves up-to-date and adjust their life more quickly to crisis situations than today’s elite as well as being more flexible in terms of their living conditions. Young, well educated people grew up as "Digital Natives" and are living a "Third Life" as a fusion of digital and real identity, intensely living in both worlds.

The summarised results of this year’s Global Perspectives Barometer are attached to this press release (in German).

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St. Gallen Symposium

The St. Gallen Symposium is an internationally significant dialogue platform for fundamental issues of management, the entrepreneurial environment, and the interfaces between trade and industry, politics and society. Annually for the last 40 years, it has brought together a global target group of entrepreneurs, top managers, politicians, academics, decision-makers of civil society, and students for open, interdisciplinary and generation-spanning discussions in an inspiring environment at the University of St. Gallen. The St. Gallen Symposium is an entrepreneurial initiative of the International Students’ Committee (ISC) and aims to trigger impulses for the sustainable success of companies and societies in a globalised world.

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 6,700 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. In the 2010 Financial Times European Business School ranking, the HSG was in 16th place among the 75 universities included in the ranking. 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.