

Press Release

Berlin, July 22, 2017

ESMT Annual Forum 2017: “Agility. Leading in Transition”

- International decision makers debate agile methods in business
- Inauguration of Endowment Management Program
- Ferrero receives ESMT Responsible Leadership Award for sustainable palm oil supply

ESMT Berlin is holding the ESMT Annual Forum [“Agility. Leading in Transition”](#) on June 22, 2017. International business leaders and academics join the one-day conference to discuss the opportunities and challenges of agile business strategy and methods in the age of digitalization. Heinrich Hiesinger, Chairman of the Executive Board, thyssenkrupp; Carsten Kengeter, Chairman of the Executive Board, Deutsche Börse; Jean-Dominique Senard, Chief Executive Officer and Managing General Partner, Michelin Group; and Dr. Dieter Zetsche, Chairman of the Board of Management of Daimler, Head of Mercedes-Benz Cars, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the ESMT Foundation, are among the speakers.

At the conference, ESMT will inaugurate the Endowment Management Program (EMP) in a ceremony with Peter Pühringer, POK Pühringer Privatstiftung, and Joachim Faber, Chairman of the Supervisory Board, Deutsche Börse. Since September 2016, the Pühringer foundations have been supporting ESMT in the areas of endowment management and entrepreneurial finance. For the EMP, the business school received 10 million EUR as capital stock to be invested professionally by two portfolio managers. Additionally, [Henry Sauermann](#), Associate Professor of Strategy, has joined the international faculty at ESMT as the POK Pühringer PS Chair in Entrepreneurship. Formerly, Prof. Sauermann was Associate Professor of Strategy and Innovation at the Scheller College of Business at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

This year the [ESMT Responsible Leadership Award](#) pays tribute to Ferrero for establishing a responsible palm oil supply chain, thereby furthering its ongoing sustainability efforts. Carlo Vassallo, General Manager Ferrero Germany, will accept the award. Marco Vollmar, Member of the Board of Management of the international NGO World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF), will hold the laudatory speech. The ESMT Responsible Leadership Award honors deep commitment to the principles of sustainability. Past recipients of the award include Mario Draghi, President of the European Central Bank; Wendy Kopp, Founder of Teach For America and CEO and Co-founder of Teach For All; Güler Sabancı, Chairman and Managing Director of Sabancı Holding; and Mario Monti, former Prime Minister of Italy.

ESMT Annual Forum program information: <https://annualforum.esmt.org/program-2017>

ESMT Annual Forum livestream: <https://annualforum.esmt.org/livestream>

Press contact

Martha Ihlbrock, +49 (0)30 21231-1043, martha.ihlbrock@esmt.org

Tina Rettschlag, +49 (0)30 21231-1066, tina.rettschlag@esmt.org

About ESMT Berlin

ESMT Berlin was founded by 25 leading global companies and institutions. The international business school offers a full-time MBA, an executive MBA, a master's in management, as well as open enrollment and customized executive



education programs. ESMT focuses on three main topics: leadership and social responsibility, European competitiveness, and the management of technology. ESMT faculty publishes in top academic journals. Additionally, the business school provides an interdisciplinary platform for discourse between politics, business, and academia. The business school is based in Berlin, Germany, with Schloss Gracht as an additional location near Cologne. ESMT is a private business school with the right to grant PhDs and is accredited by the German state, AACSB, AMBA, EQUIS, and FIBAA. www.esmt.org