



The Global Economic Symposium

Plön Castle, Germany,
4-5 Sep 2008



What the Symposium is about

Catalyst for change

The purpose of the Global Economic Symposium (GES) is to assemble leading decision makers from politics, business, academia and civil society to address the world's most important global problems, to create shared visions of the future, embodied in practical policy and strategy responses, and, to build networks and communities enabling decision makers to contribute concretely to the solutions of the global problems.

Strategic dialogue

The GES is a response to the challenges of an increasingly interdependent world. As the world becomes more interconnected, the need for cooperation is growing, among countries and disparate decision makers. Nowadays such cooperation is often lacking. Uncoordinated actions create serious problems, including climate change, environmental degradation, poverty, disease, skill deficiencies and social exclusion. Thus we need shared visions of the future, to motivate leading decision makers to contribute voluntarily to the global good. The purpose of the GES is to develop such visions, translate them into tangible programs of action and monitor their implementation.



Why the GES is different

The GES is global in scope, interdisciplinary in approach (spanning the policy-making, business, academic and civic communities), and international in reach. Furthermore, it has the following unique features. It is

Unique features

What distinguishes the GES is that it is:

Action-oriented: Its central question is “What is to be done?” It aims to formulate and review policy and business strategies for addressing global problems.

Research-based: Its sessions are all be supported by state-of-the-art research and its outcomes are meant to generate new research agendas.

Interactive: The GES stakeholders interact in the Virtual GES (the Symposium’s internet platform), as leverage to the exchange of ideas during the event.

What the GES covers

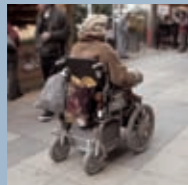
GES Themes

GES Sessions (provisional)



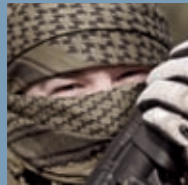
Environment
Dealing with **Climate Change**

- Global Policy Responses to **Climate Change**
- **Food versus Fuel**
- **Energy versus Climate Change**
- The Crisis of **Water Management**



Social Insurance
Promoting **Health and Welfare**

- How Globalization Transforms the **Welfare State**
- Tackling the **Ageing** Syndrome
- Financing **Health Care** for the Poor
- Investing in New **Medical Technologies**



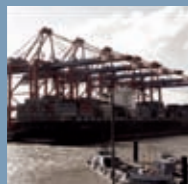
Security
Creating a **Safer World**

- Dealing with **Terrorism**
- Securing Access to **Energy**
- Strengthening **Financial Institutions**
- Tackling Systemic **Financial Risk**
- Reconsidering the **International Trading System**



Inequality
Tackling **Poverty and Social Fragmentation**

- **Inequality** and Globalization
- Empowering the World's **Poor Countries**
- Fighting **Corruption** in Developing Countries
- Tackling **Social Fragmentation**
- Preventing **Food Prices** from Creating Poverty and Malnutrition



Growth
Benefiting from **Globalization**

- Enabling Poor Countries to **Share Knowledge**
- **Globalization, Growth and Inclusiveness**
- **Skills** for the New Wave of Globalization
- Creating **Employment**
- Designing **Immigration** Policy



How the GES message is communicated

The Virtual GES is the Symposium's web-based information and communication platform. It provides the necessary research, policy and strategy background for the GES. Here, GES panelists can outline proposed strategies for dealing with the specified global problems, researchers can upload their research contributions, and all members of the GES community will have the opportunity to participate in strategy debates concerning responses to the global problems. Virtual GES will enable the participants of the GES to deepen their knowledge of the underlying issues before attending the Symposium, so that the exchange of ideas during the Symposium can proceed on a high, well-informed level.

Virtual GES mirrors the Symposium itself. In particular, Virtual GES is divided into Themes, each of which is subdivided into the topics of the sessions.

Each Virtual GES Topic Section will be organized by a Moderator (frequently the chairperson of the GES session) and have the following components:

Executive Summary

Strategy Perspectives: Proposed solutions – short statements by the GES participants, on suggested policy solutions and strategic responses to the problems covered in each session.

Strategy Forum: Discussion of Solutions – a virtual forum where the strategic responses are debated.

Virtual Library: Background information – Facts and Figures, more detailed background information, research contributions relevant to the session.

The research base and action-orientation of the Global Economic Symposium will be brought to the fore through these contributions to Virtual GES.



Who the GES is associated with

The GES stakeholders will be supported by the following associated initiatives:

Business and civic leaders: The **Global Economic Partnership** seeks to enable business leaders to align their activities with the world's major global challenges, in interaction with leaders from politics, academia and civil society. It provides a neutral platform to help business leaders shape the agenda on global problems and formulate strategic responses.

Academia: The **Global Economic Association** brings together research economists from around the world and provides, among other things, an open-access, open-assessment electronic publication outlet for research in global economic affairs. The GES is also associated with a Young Excellence Fellowship Program, which will build a community of the brightest young researchers in global economic affairs and offer them fellowships and support to conduct research at the Kiel Institute and attend the GES.

Policy: Whereas the core group of policy makers at the GES clearly does not require a new platform of interaction, the GES will establish a Policy Leadership Program to hone the economic policy skills of the next generation of policy makers. This program will include, among other things, a summer school that covers major topics of economic policy, addresses major global challenges, and emphasizes the application of economic principles to economic policy making.

What you need to know

Date, venue and other details

The Symposium is held annually.

Date: 4-5 September 2008

Location: Plön Castle, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany

Duration: 2 full days

Participants: A select group of about 300 people

Attendance fee: €1,500. Discounts are offered to young researchers and other participants

Sessions: The GES consists primarily of panel sessions, in which the panelists debate the session topics, after which the audience joins in. Each panel consists of about four panelists.

There are about six session slots per day. Each session slot has about two parallel sessions. Thus over the two days, there are about 24 sessions in all. Each session lasts 75 minutes. There are about four panelists per session. After each panel debate, there is an open discussion in which other session participants join the discussion.

There are also two plenary sessions, one identifying the world's major challenges and the other summarizing potential solutions.



Organisers

The Kiel Institute for the World Economy

The Ministry of Science, Economics and Transport of Schleswig-Holstein



Principal Sponsors

Fielmann AG

Wintershall Holding AG



Contact

info@global-economic-symposium.org

www.global-economic-symposium.org