

First Annual Meeting of the Swiss Finance Institute

The Swiss Finance Institute will hold its first Annual Meeting in Zurich on November 14, 2006. Meant as a whole day event for researchers and practitioners in the field of banking and finance, the Annual Meeting will combine research, knowledge transfer and executive education activities.

■ **Knowledge Transfer: Discussion between Researchers and Practitioners**

The knowledge transfer session aims at engaging a discussion between researchers and practitioners on topics where new ideas of relevance for practice have recently been forthcoming. On November 14, 2006, the knowledge transfer session will focus on the financial market evolution for real estate. This includes in particular a discussion of property derivatives. The session will be organized by Professor P. Vanini, Head of Knowledge Transfer at Swiss Finance Institute and Chief Financial Engineer at the Zürcher Kantonalbank.

■ **Trends in Executive Education**

The knowledge transfer session will be followed in the afternoon by three consecutive executive education sessions focusing on recent trends in asset management, structured products and corporate banking respectively. Responsible for this part is Dr. Harry Hurlzeler, Director Executive Education of the Swiss Finance Institute.

■ **Research on current Topics in Asset Allocation, Behavioral Finance and Finance in generell**

In parallel and taking up the entire day, the research part of the event will be co-organized with the NCCR FinRisk under the responsibility of Professor R. Gibson. It will correspond to the 2006 version of FinRisk's Annual Research day. The morning research session will be devoted to topics in asset allocation focusing more specifically on behavioral finance, issues linked to return correlations and to long run investing. The afternoon research sessions will be devoted to keynote speeches by the first Swiss Finance Institute chaired professors and distinguished academics working at the frontiers of finance.

The Swiss Finance Institute Annual Meeting is open to the public and all interested parties are welcome.

Awards Ceremony and Roundtable Discussion Speech by Federal Councillor Pascal Couchepin

The day will close with a plenary session introduced by **O. Steimer, Chairman of the Swiss Finance Institute Foundation Board.**

After a brief award ceremony celebrating the winners of the 2006 «**Swiss Finance Institute Publication Awards**» and «**Swiss Finance Institute doctoral award**», a roundtable on the theme of «Catching up with the leaders in science and finance» will be introduced by **Federal Councillor Pascal Couchepin.**

It will include a discussion of the **European MIT** project and of alternative proposals aiming at closing the gap in knowledge generation between Europe and Switzerland on the one hand, the United States, on the other. The question underlying the discussion will be whether the **Swiss Finance Institute** stands a chance of meeting its stated objective of **becoming the leading banking and finance research and teaching institution in Europe** and what the best strategy should be to reach this ambitious objective.

Professor E. Hafen, President of the ETHZ and other representatives of the scientific and financial communities will participate in this forum lead by **Professor J.-P. Danthine, the Managing Director of the Swiss Finance Institute.**

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