

Swiss Re opens Centre for Global Dialogue in Rüschtikon

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A new platform for discussion and debate about leading-edge developments in the fields of risk and capital management opened today in a small town outside of Zurich, Switzerland. The facility, named Rüschtikon for the town where it is located, was opened by one of the leaders in global reinsurance, Swiss Re. Rüschtikon will serve as a global centre of vision where internal and external participants can meet, exchange ideas and develop innovative solutions. The facility reinforces Swiss Re's role as a knowledge company committed to identifying future risks and opportunities that will ultimately benefit future generations.

Swiss Re's Centre for Global Dialogue nestles in the hills of Rüschtikon, just a few minutes from the city of Zurich. The complex comprises a neo-baroque villa and a modern seminar centre. In addition to furnishing a learning environment equipped with all the latest technology, the centre offers an integrated infrastructure, including hotel accommodation.

Translating research into solutions for clients

The head of the centre, Fritz Gutbrodt, together with his team of 20 experts, evaluates the content of future Rüschtikon programmes, taking into account the Swiss Re Executive Board's strategic targets as established in the centre's ABC:

- A = Applied research - where future issues are defined and discussed;
- B = Business solutions, or the translation of research results into appropriate solutions for clients; and
- C = Corporate development - in this area, events are planned involving corporate and strategic development and training.

This ABC approach to strategy makes clear the relationship between Rueschtikon's philosophy and practice. Results from dialogue in the areas of risk, finance, economy, technology and society will be translated into real solutions for the benefit of Swiss Re's clients and shared with the global community of risk managers and financial services providers.

Commenting on the opening of the centre for global dialogue in Rüschtikon, Swiss Re's Chairman of the Board of Directors Peter Forstmoser said, "With Rüschtikon, Swiss Re has made a decisive step towards establishing itself as a knowledge company for the benefit of society and our environment. "

International network of professors

Conferences planned at the centre will focus on the most pressing issues facing society and business today, including opportunities and risks of digital technology, the future of the legal system and demographic change. In keeping with the idea of global dialogue, the topics will be examined and debated by representatives from Swiss Re as well as prominent figures from the fields of economics, politics and research. Further, the centre possesses its own faculty network, an international group of renowned university professors who are on hand to provide input from their relevant fields of research. The traditionally close contact between Swiss Re and academia will thus be reinforced and concentrated in a single location. This network will ensure that the programmes developed in Rüschtikon take account of the latest trends in economics and research.

Fritz Gutbrodt, head of the new centre, summarises the meaning for Swiss Re stating, "In times of rapid change, knowledge has become one of the key resources for a global company. Rüschtikon is the place where we can meet with our partners to reflect on the challenges of the future and prepare new ways forward."

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