
Press release dated August 14, 2008
on “Dialogue on Food, Health and Society”, September 29-30, 2008

International Conference and Dialogue on Food, Health and Society

The international conference „Dialogue on Food, Health and Society“ will take place on September 29 - 30, 2008, at the Swiss Re Centre for Global Dialogue in Rüschlikon. The event is first and unique in its own way: It focuses on the interfaces and exchange between the topics “food”, “health” and “society”. Renowned Swiss and European speakers will participate. Peter Forstmoser, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Swiss Re, will give his welcome to the international audience. The opening speech will be held by the Federal Councillor of Switzerland, Doris Leuthard.

In today's world the interaction of “food” and “health” within human “society” is subject to numerous influences: from obesity to eating disorders; from health care costs to technological innovation; from fear to fashion. The goal of the conference is to take a holistic view and to discuss the relationships between food, health and society, three of the most important cornerstones of nutrition. Key note presentations by national and international specialists will highlight different aspects of their work and research. The topic “food” is represented by the key note speakers Jan Maat, Unilever; Peter van Bladeren, Nestlé, and Erich Windhab, ETH Zurich. Hannelore Daniel, Technical University Munich, and Thomas Mattig, Health Promotion Switzerland, will give an insight into “health”. “Society” will be represented by Ingrid Hoffmann, Justus-Liebig-University Giessen, and Abbot Martin Werlen, Benedictine Abbey of Einsiedeln.

Discussion on the interactions

Workshops involving research, education, industry and consumers should initiate a public debate on our nutritional habits, thus paving the way to a sustained and informative dialogue on one of the greatest challenges facing the developed world, and, increasingly, emerging economies. The conference brings together key actors, stakeholder and experts to discuss the interactions between food, health and society and their proper balance with each other. The conference is organized by five partners (Departement Life Sciences and Facility Management of the ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences, Agroscope Changins-Wädenswil Research Station ACW, the economic development zone Zurich Park Side, Swiss Re Centre for Global Dialogue and the knowledge and technology transfer consortium W⁶). The conference language is english. 150 participants from industry, science and policy organizations are expected. For more information please visit www.swissre.com/cgd.

Media requests: Birgit Camenisch, Communication, Departement Life Sciences and Facility Management, ZHAW, Wädenswil
Tel. +41 58 934 59 54 / birgit.camenisch@zhaw.ch / www.lsfm.zhaw.ch/medien
Organisation requests: Cathy Kroll, s'kroll, Tel. +41 44 687 30 51 / info@s-kroll.ch

The first Dialogue on Food, Health and Society, taking place on September 29-30, 2008, will analyse and discuss the topics food (new products and their public perception), health (risks, behaviour and life style) and society (public responsibility and care) and will encourage the dialogue between the topic stakeholders.