

Expanding Finance to the Agri/Food, Healthcare, Sustainable Cities & Education Sectors

Announcing the judging panel for the Support Disruption for Good Challenge and extending the deadline

Zurich, Switzerland, March 15, 2018 – The organizers of the Responsible Finance & Investment Summit are pleased to announce the judging panel for the Support Disruption for Good Challenge. The judging panel will select one winner in each category, against transparent criteria of each entrant’s relevance to the Priority Sectors (agri/food, healthcare, sustainable cities and education), adoption potential within the financial industry, and potential to support equitable, inclusive and sustainable access to finance.

The judges, who serve in their personal capacity, are:

- Dr. Mohammed Kroessin, Head of Islamic Microfinance, IRW
- Rachel Zedeck, Director, Climate Smart Agri & Impact Investment Strategies at Peterson and Control Union
- AlDana Banihashem, General Manager, Al Naser Engineering
- Conrad Young, MBA, Managing Director, Food Forward Ltd
- Dr. Farid Khan, Executive Chairman, Simply Capital Partners
- Dr. Natalie Schoon, Principal Consultant, Formabb Ltd
- Julian Osborne, Head of Operations, Swiss Finance + Technology Association
- Boris Battistini, Partner, Metellus AG

The Support Disruption for Good Challenge will focus on identifying technology companies, including FinTech companies, whose products are gaining market traction and whose technology helps the financial sector to increase the scale of its financing & investment in the Priority Sectors.

In order to ensure a very diverse pool of applicants, the entry period is being extended until Monday, March 19, 2018. The winners will be invited to be recognized and have the opportunity to present their company to the assembled representatives of the responsible finance industry at the Responsible Finance & Investment (RFI) Summit 2018.

Organized around the theme of “Impact Finance and Technology”, the RFI Summit 2018 is the ideal location for innovative technology companies to gain exposure through the Support Disruption for Good Challenge. The RFI Summit 2018 will host 200 leaders from across responsible finance from 26-27 April in Zurich, Switzerland and focus on the objective of making ‘impact finance’ relevant across the financial sector, including Islamic finance.

Blake Goud, CEO of the Responsible Finance & Investment Foundation (RFI) said: “We have assembled an excellent panel of judges who bring diverse perspectives covering all of the Priority Sectors in the Challenge. We are looking forward to welcoming the winners in Zurich and connecting them with key leaders from the responsible finance industry.”

Mounir Khouzami, Co-Founder & President of the Swiss Arab Network (SAN) said: “We are excited to see innovative ways that technology and the financial sector are being combined to expand access to finance in sectors that are critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.”

Please visit the Summit website at www.rfisummit.org to see the list of judges, download the Challenge requirements, judging criteria and entry form. All nominations must be received by 19 March 2018.

About the Responsible Finance & Investment Summit 2018

The Summit, to be held on 26 and 27 April 2018 at the Atlantis Hotel by Giardino in Zurich, Switzerland, brings together key stakeholders within responsible finance to build connections to new growth opportunities and more measurable impact. The RFI Summit will play a vital role in connecting representatives from across the responsible finance industry to build on the growing cooperation between SRI, ESG and Islamic finance. The RFI Summit in Zurich is an initiative of the RFI Foundation and Swiss Arab Network to build awareness of shared values that can bring socially responsible investing (SRI), environmental, social and governance (ESG) and Islamic finance together to increase their positive impact.

About RFI Foundation

The RFI Foundation is a non-profit organisation with a mission to identify a neutral, nonpartisan and universal value proposition that encourages convergence of responsible finance practices. RFI evolves Sustainable, Responsible, Impact Investing (SRI), Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and the Islamic finance sectors towards a convergence of their shared standards, and engages stakeholders to build the responsible finance industry as a catalyst to support equitable, inclusive and sustainable economic development. Visit us at www.rfi-foundation.org

About Swiss Arab Network

The Swiss Arab Network (SAN) is a non-profit networking organisation with headquarter in Zurich and affiliations in the Arab world that strives to bridge gaps, promote sustainable exchange and intensify the mutual understanding among Swiss and Arab people. SAN is a networking platform and organises events and gives speeches on topics like Swiss and Arab finance, business, culture, art and film. Established and high-profile organisations from Switzerland and the Arab world are members of the network. Visit us at www.swissarab.org

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