



RESPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

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Professor George Kohlrieser says responsible leadership starts with the leader as a person

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Responsible leadership is rooted in an ethics of care driven by a desire to serve others. This implies a certain degree of humility and modesty as well as an inclination to support others, specifically stakeholders, and to care for their interests and needs. This was the message delivered by George Kohlrieser, IMD Professor of Leadership and Organizational Behavior, during his session earlier today at the Responsible Leadership Summit. He emphasized that leaders should set high personal standards of behavior in order to be a model for others who will be influenced by those same principles.

“Responsible leadership starts with the leader as a person – his or her integrity, values, mission, personality and life experiences,” he stated. This helps to create an organization characterized by respect, honesty, trust and caring beyond the leader’s own self-interest.”

Participants examined how to leverage strengths and how to focus team members toward continuous learning through on-going feedback. The participants analyzed the techniques that successful business leaders, world-class athletes, outstanding musicians and artists rely on to achieve great results, and how to create and lead highly effective teams. In short, these are the core skills needed to deliver outstanding performance consistently.

“Responsible leadership manifests itself in defining moments, in which leaders have to make fundamental decisions with a long-term effect on people, the environment and the future of the organization,” said Professor Kohlrieser. “Such moments reveal the character and integrity of a leader. Responsible leaders reconnect in those leadership moments to their fundamental values base, maintain personal and professional integrity and make decisions using values as a moral compass.”

Professor Kohlrieser sees a direct correlation between the current economic crisis and leadership breakdowns.

“We only need to look at the recent failures in leadership to see how massively



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destructive leaders can become to themselves and to others. In the end, leaders have great power. The question is: Has the leader learned how to be 'truly human enough' to use that power for positive social influence?"