

# **Summary of the comments to the seminar 2011 (February 11/12) Empowering people, empowering the future**

## **The atmosphere/organization of the seminar**

Congratulations for this wonderful event and best thanks.

“A very successful attempt at herding cats.

I always enjoy being “thrown into the ring” by you together with people who do very different things in life = the only way to tackle fundamental questions”

“ inspiring,

good/ interesting format to bring people/speakers together from different points of view”

“Very interesting participants, very interesting speakers”

“The seminar was well planned, coordinated and the papers were excellent

I wish to congratulate the Steering Committee

Es war ausgezeichnet!”

“What I liked:

Diversity of speakers

Location

Atmosphere

Networking opportunities”

“Thank you very much for the invitation to this interesting and enriching seminar”

“Thanks for organizing this inspiring seminar which was very interesting in the topics developed, in the contribution of the speakers and in the debates after each speech.

The convivial atmosphere was also “ausgezeichnet” among participants and thanks to the ability of the organizers”

“Some contributions in the first day were somehow too long”

“If I get invited, I’ll come back”

“I am looking forward receiving next year’s topic and agenda”

“Again, it was a great experience to debate and learn about this year’s topic of COF.

The quality of the participants and speakers was – like last year – outstanding.

Especially, the contribution of Janne Matlary was impressive and inspiring”

“This was really great and I fear it will be very difficult to do better next time.

Individual subjects were particularly well chosen for the global subject of “ Empowering People, Empowering the Future”

### **The subject of the seminar**

Headlines of the seminar as key instruments confirmed.

It all starts and ends with the individual. Social organizations come and go, but at the end they can be robust and live longer only if they are made by virtuous and well educated individuals who are pursuing positive and noble ends.

Without motivating people, nothing works!  
Business ethics must not be a “sunshine” fashion  
Turn “talkshops” into “workshops”

“As my feeling tells me that there was a common conviction among the seminar’s participants of the need of investment in people, empowering the people in business world, in governmental fields, in culture and society”

### **The Format and Proposals for next year’s seminar**

“The set-up was too much “old-school”, the speeches should be shorter, more interaction, some group working

“It would be helpful and nice to have at the beginning a short presentations from each participant about “who is who (even possible at the aperitif)

“ keep on going!! Empower people!”

“Let the papers be sent to the participants  
Let each year ideas/impulse be shared from a multi-cultural perspective  
Let COF develop a satellite with the East Africa (Tanzania) for Good Corporate Governance”

“I loved the variety of contributions (different cultures, professions, disciplines, point of view). This was very inspiring and should be part of further meetings.  
As well I liked very much the possibility of showing ideas with so different, but all very interesting and competent people through breaks.  
This should be provided in future as well.  
I did not expect Germany being so prominent among the participants, possibly in future Asia and Latin-America should be present as well”

“What I liked and could be even better:  
Format is very traditional – One speaker and then QA – suggestion to organize interactive workshops (there are many techniques to do so)  
Use the opportunity to brainstorm on some topic and hear each others experiences”

“Maybe we could have given more time for a general conclusion”

“Many aspects on the issue of empowering the people have been presented and discussed, I think it would be a nice idea for the future to elaborate a statement of conclusions which the seminar’s participants have and which may be published wherever it’s considered convenient.”

“It would help to structure the debate of each section with some short contributions of other competent participants or to prepare some questions in advance to guide the debate and set objectives so as to guide each section to bring a contribution to the whole seminar.

It’s a pity if all this stimulus does not reach a common report which is, of course, not a conclusion but a start of more punctual questions.”