

18:00–19:30

Special Session A**Reflections on the Economic Crisis – Social, Moral as well as Economic**

The prevailing reality in the business world presents only a scant opportunity to view the current economic crisis from a fundamental perspective; the co-ordinates are changing too fast, and what yesterday seemed cast in stone is being superseded all too quickly. A look at the economic data also offers little chance of guidance. And because the low point – and thus an opportunity to take stock of the situation – is not yet in sight, it is all the more difficult to understand the economic crisis in its entirety. It seems clear that this is far more than a mere economic downturn. Much more is now open to question: the global capitalist system with its dynamics and its fundamental message of progress; globalisation with its downsides, which now appear to be catching up with its former beneficiaries; the cracks in society that can no longer be papered over with cheap money and excessive consumption; and last but by no means least, a value system that's the cause of great uncertainty in many societies.

This Special Session will attempt to take a fundamental look at current events. M. Shafik Gabr, Chairman of the Egyptian ARTOC Group and a pioneering entrepreneur in emerging markets, will be in discussion with Riz Khan, the cosmopolitan British anchor for the Al Jazeera International TV channel. The session will be led by one of the St. Gallen Symposium's chairmen, Lord Griffiths of Fforestfach.

Speakers:

M. Shafik Gabr (EG)
Chairman & Managing Director
ARTOC Group for Investment and Development
Cairo

Riz Khan (GB)
Anchor
Al Jazeera International
Washington

Chairman:

Lord Griffiths of Fforestfach (GB)
Vice Chairman
Goldman Sachs International
London

Biography M. Shafik Gabr

Born in 1952. Shafik Gabr holds a Bachelor of Arts in economics and management from the American University in Cairo and a Master of Arts in economics from the University of London.

Prior to his present engagements, Shafik Gabr was the Chairman of the Common Market of East & South Africa Business Council (COMESA), a member of the Conference Board and a member of the Executive Board of the International Chamber of Commerce and the Prince of Wales Business Leaders Forum. He also was a member of the World Bank's Council of Advisors for the MENA region and served as a director on the Board of the Holding Company for Metallurgical Industries. Furthermore, Shafik Gabr was a founder of the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt in 1982 and served as its first Egyptian President from 1995 until 1997. At present, Shafik Gabr is Chairman and Managing Director of ARTOC Group for Investment and Development, a multi-disciplined investment holding company with affiliates and subsidiaries that operate in diversified fields such as aerospace, automotive, infrastructure, consumer products, publishing or value added services.

Additionally, Shafik Gabr is Chairman and a founding member of Egypt's International Economic Forum. He serves on the Egypt – U.S. President's Council and is a member of the Council of 100 Leaders, the Board of the Egyptian Center for Economic Studies and the International Business Council of the World Economic Forum. Shafik Gabr joined the Business Advisory Board of the International Organization for Migration in 2005 and the International Advisory Council of Zurich Financial Services in 2007. He is a member of the Egyptian Businessmen's Association.



M. Shafik Gabr (EG)

Biography Riz Khan

Born in 1962. Riz Khan grew up in the then British colony of Aden in the former South Yemen and was educated in Great Britain. After having received a degree in medical physiology, he switched to journalism for his post-graduate studies.

Riz Khan became the BBC's first South Asian news presenter and launched the start of BBC World Service Television News in 1991. After eight years at the BBC as a presenter and reporter, he joined CNN in 1993. Three years later, he launched his successful international interview shows *Q&A with Riz Khan* and *Q&A Asia with Riz Khan*, for which he became widely known. On these shows, Riz Khan interviewed more heads of state, business leaders, entertainers and sport stars than any other global interactive news show presenter. During his time at CNN, he also acted as Senior Anchor and first South Asian talent for the network's global news shows and special events. After eight years as one of the network's highest profile personalities, he left CNN in 2001 in order to found and run an independent production company, where he worked as an author, media consultant, and moderator of high-profile international conferences and conventions. In 2005, Riz Khan joined Al Jazeera Network as a worldwide director of the English-language channel, which he set up. Currently, he is Anchor at Al Jazeera International in Washington and hosts the network's flagship programme *Riz Khan*, a daily, live and interactive global show, and *Riz Khan's One on One*, a weekly profile show.



Riz Khan (GB)

Biography Lord Griffiths of Fforestfach (Chairman)

Born in 1941. Lord Griffiths graduated from the London School of Economics.

Following his graduation, he taught at the London School of Economics from 1965 to 1976, before changing to the City University in 1976, where he was appointed professor of banking and international finance. During the years 1982 to 1985, he was Dean of the City University Business School, while serving as a director of the Bank of England from 1983 until 1985. Lord Griffiths was Head of the Prime Minister's Policy Unit from 1985 until 1990. In his role as special advisor to Margaret Thatcher, he was responsible for domestic policymaking and was one of the chief architects of the government's privatisation and deregulation programmes. He was made a member of the House of Lords in 1990. Since then, Lord Griffiths has been Vice Chairman of Goldman Sachs International and is an international advisor to Goldman Sachs concerned with strategic issues relating to their United Kingdom and Asia operations, business development activities worldwide and private equity. He is also Chairman of the European Audit, Business Practices and Compliance Committee.

Additionally, Lord Griffiths has served on numerous corporate boards including at present Goldman Sachs International, Herman Miller and Times Newspapers. He chaired the School Examination and Assessment Council during the years 1991 to 1993 and the Centre for Policy Studies from 1991 to 2000. Currently, he is also Chairman of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lambeth Fund and Christian Responsibility in Public Affairs.

Lord Griffiths has written and lectured extensively on economic issues and the relationship of the Christian faith to politics and business, and has published various books on monetary policy and Christian ethics.

Lord Griffiths of
Fforestfach (GB)