

# May Festival Special Event

## Date & Time

Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> May 1012, 17:45-21:00

## Themes

- Knowledge sharing between young academics and business leaders and on how best to plan a career given the uncertainty facing Japan in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- The establishment of the university as a 'hub' for innovation and knowledge sharing in both the academic and business worlds, covering not just the discovery of new ideas, concepts and products, but also the dissemination of these ideas among the wider public.

## Programme

17:45-18:15            Registration

18:15 - 19:15            Workshop Session

*'Innovation: What does it mean to you and how do we create it?'*

The workshop will be centered on the idea of innovation. During this session participants will be divided into small groups of 5-7 people and asked to discuss the topic of innovation, how it relates to participants' lives and how we individually seek to innovate in our respective academic fields and professional lives. Each group will be assigned a facilitator and will seek to find similarities in participants' experience of innovation as well as to highlight common challenges that we will face in this decade and further into the future.

19:30 - 20:30            Panel Discussion

*Davos "Global Shapers Community" x St.Gallen "Leaders of Tomorrow"*

This discussion will seek to draw on the experiences of our panelists in their careers and research in order to gain a greater understanding of how innovation can be a key component of a successful career.

### Panelists:

Gen Miyazawa            - Yahoo, Founder & CEO of Cirius Technology (GSC, Leaders of Tomorrow)  
Yusuke Matsuda        - Founder & CEO of Teach For Japan (GSC)  
Ken Ogata                - Research Fellow of Cambridge University (Leaders of Tomorrow)

### Moderator:

Yoko Ishikura            - Professor at Graduate School of Media Design, Keio University

20:30 - 21:00            Free Discussion Session

This concluding session of the event will provide participants with an opportunity to continue their discussions in an informal setting. Drinks will be provided.

## **Venue**

Ito International Research Center (Multi-Purpose Space),  
Hongo Campus of The University of Tokyo

## **Fee**

JPY 1,000 per participant (Free of charge for students)

## **Background**

At the beginning of the second decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Japan faces a number of serious challenges, from an aging population to the need to retain international competitiveness in our increasingly globalized world; from the problems posed by recovery from the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake and the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Plant incident to need to reassert Japan's status as a major player in the global order. Perhaps, more than anything other single description, these fears and problems present in Japanese society are best characterized in the 'sense of stagnation' widely felt by young Japanese today.

Each of these problems poses unique and difficult questions for Japan and Japanese society, with it becoming increasingly clear that innovative thinking will be needed to find the solutions to these challenges. Innovation, traditionally characterized, along with creativity, as being one of Japan's weak points, is no longer optional. In the current context, it is rapidly becoming a necessity.

However, at the same time there is a growing recognition, that while perhaps more acute in Japan, this sense of stagnation is not a uniquely Japanese 'syndrome', but instead is become more and more common in the world's most developed economies. Given that this stagnation will have the greatest impact on young people, our leaders of the future, and that youth have the greatest potential for innovation, we feel it is important to gain a greater understanding of what innovation truly is and how we can all become innovators in our own lives.

## **Application**

Application Form: <http://bit.ly/Jt3aUY>

Due Date: Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2012, 9:00pm

If you are interested in participating in this program, please complete the form and submit it by 21:00 on Thursday, 17th May 2012.

Due to restrictions on the capacity of the venue, the number of the participants is limited and therefore your attendance should only be considered confirmed after you receive email confirmation of your selection, which will be sent by Friday, 18th May 2012 .