

# **KSG STIFTUNG**

## **TOP TEN FROM TÜBINGEN - APRIL 2016**

### **WELTETHOS INSTITUT TÜBINGEN (WEIT) CHINA CENTRUM TÜBINGEN (CCT)**

#### ***Highlights from the activities of the WEIT and CCT in April 2016***

##### **1. WEIT Hosts 'Profit with Principles' with Siegfried Gänßlen (05.04)**

WEIT hosted special guest Siegfried Gänßlen for the latest installment of its 'Profit with Principles' seminar series on 5 April, jointly organised with the German industry network Manufaktur für Führungskultur im Mittelstand. Around 50 guests from across the Baden-Württemberg region, including WEIT donor Prof. Karl Schlecht and wife Brigitte, enjoyed the insights of Mr. Gänßlen, whose innovative management style has most famously overseen the development of the 'three-litre shower', and engaged in a lively discussion around the idea of 'values as accelerators of innovation'.



##### **2. WEIT Takes Part in 'Theologie des Zusammenlebens' Conference (15.04-16.04)**

Dr. Jonathan Keir represented WEIT with a presentation at the 'Theologie des Zusammenlebens' ('Theology of Living Together') Conference, jointly organised on 15-16 April by the University of Tübingen's Centre for Islamic Theology and Faculties of Catholic and Protestant Theology. Sharing the podium with Prof. Lejla Demiri from the Centre for Islamic Theology and Weltethos co-founder Prof. Karl-Josef Kuschel, Dr. Keir presented his own radical take on Hans Küng's vision of a 'new theological paradigm' for the 21st Century, in which the role of revelation in the Abrahamic religions is subordinated to the dictates of moral self-cultivation, as the only lasting solution to the challenges of religious fundamentalism and extremism.

### 3. WEIT Visits Friedrich Naumann Stiftung in Hamburg (19.04)

WEIT Director Prof. Claus Dierksmeier gratefully accepted the invitation of the Friedrich Naumann Stiftung für die Freiheit to visit Hamburg on 19 April. After a live-streamed interview with journalist Christophe Giesa on 'Self-Determination and Global Citizenship', which received 11,000 hits in the first 24 hours, Prof. Dierksmeier then took part in an evening podium discussion at the Thalia Theatre, 'Culture Builds Peace Worldwide', raising the Weltethos profile in the north of Germany and leading to a series of follow-up speaking invitations.

### 4. WEIT Discusses the Future of the Humanities in Utrecht (19.04-20.04)

Dr. Jonathan Keir was fortunate to travel to the Netherlands for an important conference on the future of the humanities, 'What it is to be Human? On the Humanities and Practical Self-Understanding', organised by the University of Utrecht on 19-20 April. Dr. Keir's paper, 'Experience Itself as Knowledge: Rescuing the Humanities from Scientism' was well received by an international audience of philosophers and humanists keen to reassert the autonomy of the humanities from the natural and social sciences. Through its participation in ongoing international debates on the place of humanistic learning in globalised education, WEIT hopes to play a long-term role in improving public understanding of the importance of the humanities for moral self-cultivation and in defending the importance of humanistic education in economics and business.



### 5. WEIT World Citizen School Tackles Curriculum Change via UN PRME Initiative (20.04)

The Head of the WEIT World Citizen School, Michael Wihlenda, travelled to the Vienna University of Economics and Business on 20 April to discuss curriculum change with members of the UN Principles for

Responsible Management Education (PRME) German-language chapter. The PRME initiative is a worldwide network of over 600 business schools and Economics Departments engaged in the implementation of ethics and sustainability-oriented curriculum reforms. A central goal of the PRME agenda is the incorporation of student-led initiatives for reform under the umbrella of the UN Global Compact. WEIT'S World Citizen School represents a paradigm example of PRME values and practices, including impact assessment of student-led curriculum change activities.

The World Citizen School would also like to announce the formation of a new student leadership group in the 2016 Summer Semester to support Mr. Wihlenda in the management of the school's diverse initiatives. For more information please consult the following link: <https://sway.com/QOseus035XyS4VKp>

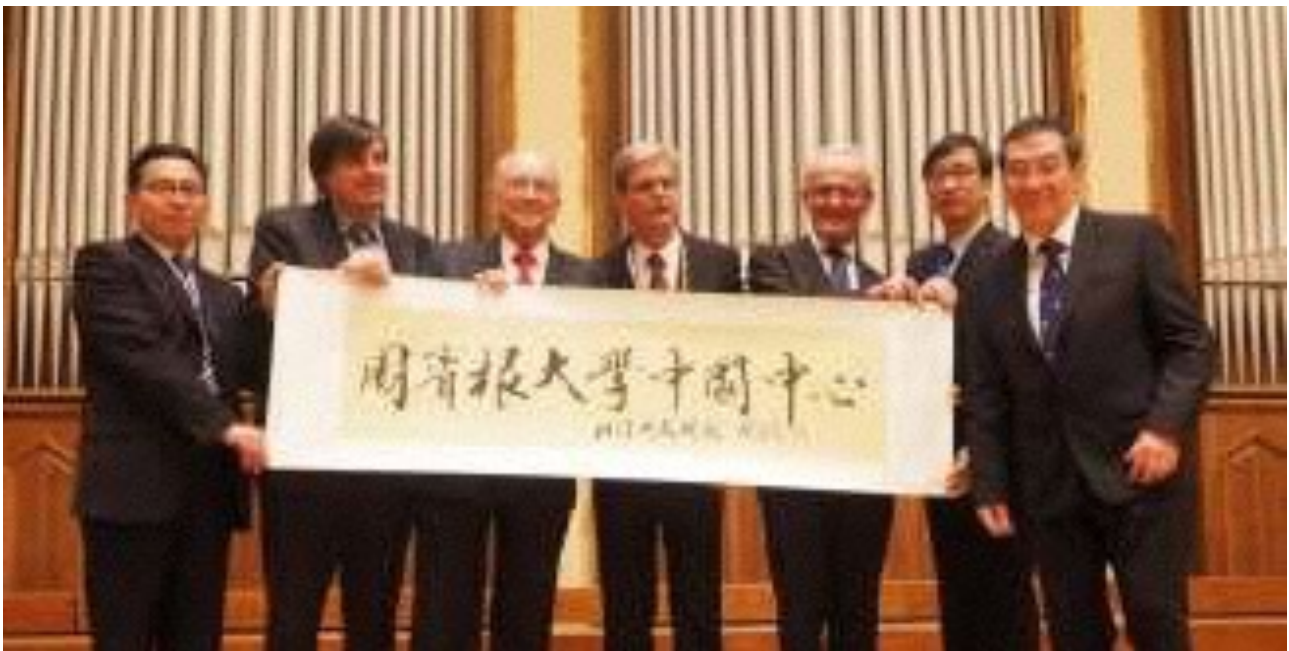


## 6. WEIT Launches New 'World Citizen Café' Format (20.04)

Members of the WEIT World Citizen School student network gathered to mark the start of the new Summer Semester on 20 April for a 'World Citizen Café' hosted by Weltethos friend and business coach Dr. Raban Fuhrmann. During the event, budding student entrepreneurs and project managers were offered professional advice from Dr. Fuhrmann on goal-setting and communication strategies. The WEIT World Citizen School team was also in attendance, both to orient the group discussion and to garner ideas for improving the management of the World Citizen School itself. For more detail on this highly successful event, please see: <https://sway.com/RdBUE6QyxA8G9fX2>

## 7. Tübingen Celebrates CCT Opening (21.04)

The China Centrum Tübingen opened with a bang on 21 April with an official ceremony in the University of Tübingen's Neue Aula Festsaal. After speeches from University of Tübingen Rector Prof. Bernd Engler, CCT sponsor Prof. Karl Schlecht, CCT Director Prof. Helwig Schmid-Glitzner, guest of honour Prof. Tu Weiming of Peking University presented a memorable keynote address. Guests were also treated to the musical talents of German-Chinese trio Nikola Lutz, Zhang Zhenfang and Yu Lingling before enjoying a Chinese buffet dinner. CCT Prof. Matthias Niedenführ would like to thank all those involved in the organisation of this historic event. The CCT now looks forward to becoming a key feature on Tübingen's intellectual and academic landscape, and to act as an important new bridge between China and Europe over the years ahead.



Prof. Tu Weiming was also on hand on 25 April to deliver the inaugural lecture in the CCT's Public Lecture Series, organised under the auspices of the University of Tübingen's Studium Generale programme. Prof Tu's lecture was enjoyed by a 200-plus crowd of all ages who seized the chance to catch the world's leading Confucian philosopher in the flesh. Over the coming weeks, the CCT's Public Lecture series will feature a total of 12 international guests, and is set to conclude on July 11 with a joint presentation by WEIT's Prof. Claus Dierksmeier and Dr. Jonathan Keir.



## 8. WEIT Hosts TTIP Public Meeting (22.04)

The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) has been the subject of much recent public discussion. Given the global ethical dimensions of the TTIP issue, WEIT was delighted to host a political debate on the TTIP question on 22 April, featuring Norbert Lins MdEP (CDU), Martin Rosemann MdB (SPD), Chris Kühn MdB (Grüne) and Heike Hänsel MdB (Linke). Around 180 guests, including many members of the 'Kippt TTIP' citizens' initiative, enjoyed a lively debate and discussion. WEIT Managing Director Dr. Bernd Villhauer was also on hand to moderate the debate and to highlight some of the shortcomings of all four parliamentarians' arguments. Dr. Villhauer reminded the audience that if agreement on details could not be reached, a consensus on the basic goals of TTIP remains vital. 'Anyone who is reluctant to speak about values should also shy away from talk of value creation,' Dr. Villhauer concluded.



## 9. WEIT Hosts Historic WEIT-WEIB-CCT Meeting with Prof. Tu Weiming (22.04)

WEIT and the CCT hosted their first joint meeting on 22 April by welcoming a five-person delegation from the World Ethics Institute Beijing (WEIB) headed by Peking University Professor and Director of the Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies Tu Weiming. During the 90-minute meeting, WEIT Director Prof. Claus Dierksmeier presented his theory of 'qualitative freedom' as a complement to

Prof. Tu's 'spiritual humanism' before the tripartite talks explored avenues for closer cooperation, particularly in the sphere of business ethics. The meeting was followed by an engaging lunchtime conversation with Prof. Tu about the challenges faced by WEIB in pursuing its humanistic agenda in the contemporary Chinese political context. WEIT looks forward to deepening its ties with its sister institute in Beijing over the coming years via joint research and teaching activities, and would like to thank the CCT's Prof. Matthias Niedenführ for his efforts in making this historic meeting possible.

## 10. Putting the Heart into Business: Author and Management Consultant Ulf Posé Visits WEIT (27.04)

Well-known German management guru Ulf Posé offered his vision of a more ethical economy to a group of invited guests at WEIT on 27 April. According to Posé, managers can no longer treat their staff as rational self-maximisers without taking seriously the complex emotional and psychological elements of the human personality. The early example of the Jesuit tradition, Posé argued, can still be a model for us today, as demonstrated by the pioneering work of German theorist Rupert Lay.



